

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg

7/28/78

Appeals from FBI withholdings in JFK assassination/Oswald files

Attached are a copy of my June 24, 1978 letter to Paul Hoch, not typed until yesterday, and copies of the pages of FBI records referred to in this letter.

To save time I am using this letter as specifics of the appeal from withholding. To do this, because the entire letter is not addressed to specifics of appeal, I have marked the portions that constitute the appeal in the margin. I have also indicated that these records are also the subject of a prior FOIA request with which I have not had any direct compliance from the FBI.

I have a request for the pre-assassination Oswald file. If the FBI is not going to comply with that request by providing copies of those records - which I would prefer because I do want a separate file of these pre-assassination records - then at the ~~least~~ least I believe it should provide me with a complete list of the contents of that file together with an itemized list of the withholdings from it.

I have seen nothing indicating that the FBI has obtained any of the relevant records from LEGAT, Mexico City. I believe they are relevant. Some of the LEGAT's records are reflected in what is within the public domain by means ranging from news stories and the Warren Commission to disclosure by the CIA. In processing these important records I believe the FBI should make an effort to be aware of what is no longer secret and not to perpetuate its withholdings of what is within the public domain.

(A minor example of this is the Jesse Core withholding in the enclosed records provided to Hoch. This is public domain not only from my friendship with Core. It is in the Warren materials. And there should be at least one earlier record relevant to that one from what Core told me.)

With regard to the classifications, especially of Secret, in these and other relevant records, I believe that with the passing of time, with all that is now known, whether or not to the processing agents, and particularly because of the new executive order, all these classified records should be reviewed now. Otherwise there will be greater cost and trouble to the Department beginning in a few months and the purposes of the Act will be defeated.

To facilitate this I believe the FBI can recognize me as an historical researcher and consult me where it may have questions. I also recommend that it recognize Hoch in the same way and for the same purpose.