

*Had's archive
C. Arnold 07*

August 25, 1975

Clarence M. Kelley, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Thank you for your letter of July 11, 1975. I've not had a chance to respond since I have been busy with school until today.

I requested a copy of the original handwritten statement of Mrs. Carolyn Arnold, a typed copy of which appears in volume 22 of the Warren Commission's Hearings and Exhibits, at page 634. Your letter requests that I obtain a release from Mrs. Arnold before you turn the original statement over to me. I have studied the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552 (1975) and I can find nothing therein which justifies such a requirement of me before I might gain access to a record which should not be withheld from the public. If your request that I obtain an authorization was based on the FOIA, I would like to know which section and how it is relevant.

I do resent the implication in your letter that I desire this document to obtain a specimen of Mrs. Arnold's handwriting or signature. I have entirely legitimate research objectives in mind as the basis for my request, and in fact my concern overlaps with what I feel should be a proper FBI concern, namely, allegations of misreporting by FBI agents. There were numerous such allegations made before the Warren Commission, none of which the Commission investigated to my knowledge. The Commission made no investigation of Mrs. Arnold. In one case where the record reveals a witness's handwritten statement as well as a typed version, there is ample cause for concern about the integrity of FBI reporting. Special Agent Richard J. Barnett took a statement from Dallas Police Officer Marrison Baker on September 23, 1964. The written version, in the Commission's file No. 1526, reveals that Agent Barnett actually did the writing and Baker merely signed, crossing through some words in the statement and making other corrections with initials. However, the typed copy, in File No. 1546, does not include Baker's corrections although it represents him as having corrected it.

Thus, I hope you appreciate that I have serious research purposes in obtaining the handwritten version of Mrs. Arnold's statement, and I would also think the FBI has an interest in making such public records freely available when the integrity of the FBI is in question as it is in all instances relating to its relationship with the Warren Commission. Again, I request a copy of the handwritten statement. I'd like this request treated as made under the FOIA.

Sincerely,

Howard Hoffman
912 SW 7th Ave., Apt. 3
Gainesville, Fla. 32601