

# FBI should have released JFK files long ago—Weisberg

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The release of a 40,000-page report by the FBI on the John F. Kennedy assassination was applauded by a local author who has researched the subject, if only for its availability.

Harold Weisberg of Old Reciver Road, author of a series of books delving into the JFK and Martin Luther King assassinations, noted Thursday that although the material should be made available to the public, "the delay has resulted in news management," causing a waste of time.

Weisberg described the FBI release as a "good thing done in a bad way."

According to the Associated Press, the 40,000-page report still does not answer the two questions uppermost in the minds of Americans.

Did Lee Harvey Oswald murder the president on his own and if so, why?

The report, according to preliminary readings, describes the days following President Kennedy's murder on Nov. 22, 1963.

But according to Weisberg, the release of such a huge volume at one time means making them "indigestible to even the best reporters."

"I mean by this that the FBI has again engaged in news management," explained the local author. "My own Freedom of Information requests of the FBI for this material have gone for almost a decade without compliance. If

the FBI had released this information in the manner required by the law, it would have come out in comprehensible units. Now you have it all lost in a great indigestible mass," Weisberg stated.

Weisberg indicated that the issuance of the files by the FBI amounts to lawlessness within the bureau.

"I have some 25 Freedom of Information requests for John Kennedy information going back to 1968 with which the FBI has not complied. The most recent is more than two years overdue, yet the law requires compliance within 10 days. If other people do this, the FBI charges them with crime," Weisberg said.

"The FBI does it and the major media oohs and aahs revelling in exaggerated and unjustified compliments to the FBI for its diligence," Weisberg noted.

"What the FBI has done in releasing 40,000 pages at a time is to kill most of the possible stories and to leave the major media and the important political leaders of the country to believe that anyone who questions it is a nut. Generally, these releases are little more than one day sensations," Weisberg continued.

"Other stories take the attention of the reporters and editors and most of the information (such as the 40,000 page report) is never seen. This is why instead of complying with the law and permitting scholars to have the records when requested under the law, the FBI violated the law and contrived a situa-

tion that really defies the best efforts of the country's most competent journalists," Weisberg explained.

Probably one of the most prominent facts emerging in the newly released report, is that within two hours after the President's death, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover believed the crime was committed by Oswald, whom he placed in the category of a "nut."

"An example of how the FBI contrives records to serve its own purposes is reflected in the morning papers. The FBI generated internal records making it appear that it was opposed to a press release covering a nine-volume report it gave to the Warren Commission on Dec. 9, 1963," Weisberg stated, explaining the predetermination of Kennedy's assassin by Hoover.

"The records show that Chief Justice

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Warren said he would resign the commission chairmanship if that report was released. What these stories do not show is that the FBI leaked that report. For years, this proof was illegally classified top secret and was withheld from me by the government. Finally I obtained the transcripts of most of the commission's executive sessions. These were secret sessions where the members did not even permit the staff to be present," he explained.

"Immediately after the content of the FBI's report appeared in the papers, the commission held an executive session at which it questioned Nicholas Katzenbach. Katzenbach was then Deputy Attorney General of the United States and with the tragedy to Robert Kennedy, became defacto Attorney General. When the commission discussed the

leaking of the FBI report with Katzenbach, he told them that while Hoover pretended to be conducting a diligent investigation, the actuality is that only Hoover could have leaked the report.

"The leaking of these predeterminations without a full investigation inhibited what the Warren Commission thereafter could do. Hoover decided that there was a lone nut assassin, and nobody dared oppose him," explained Weisberg.

The local author found other backing of the Hoover "decision" when he obtained the transcript of the commission's session of Jan. 22, 1964.

"The commissioners confessed their fear of opposing Hoover and actually said that they knew he wanted them to fold their tents and go home, that he solved the crime and there was nothing

left for the commission to do. This discussion ended with the former head of the CIA, Allen Dulles, who was a member of the Warren Commission, moving that the transcript of these admissions and confessions of fear of Hoover be destroyed," continued Weisberg.

"The little known facts represent the reality that Hoover's predeterminations reached prior to any investigation and never supported by a real investigation became the official explanation of how the President was killed," Weisberg concluded.

The 40,000 pages, which would reach twice as high as the average ceiling in a home, rehash many of the events following the death of Kennedy. For \$4,000 the pages are available to anyone who would be interested in reading them.