

April 3, 1975

Jane F Smith
Director
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National Archives and Records Service
Washington DC 20408

Dear Ms Smith

Thank you for your letter of March 25, itemizing by date and cost the transcripts of the executive sessions of the Warren Commission; and listing those still withheld from research.

May I impose further on your time and patience and ask you to clear up a number of puzzling details?

I have problems with the "Number of pages" column. These developed when I compared the Archives' numbers with pages and pagination in the copyrighted reproductions published under the title Document Addendum to the Warren Report (Sightext Publications, Calif., 1968). I compared eight of the Archives' listings under the heading Transcripts with Sightext reproductions. Two, the transcripts of January 22 and 27, 1964, were not included in Sightext and could not be compared.

In only one instance of eight is there correspondence in the numbers. For the session of September 18, 1964 the Archives' listing is "6;" Sightext published pages #7652-57 inclusive. In the other seven instances compared the Archives' number is greater than Sightext's by two pages - Jan. 21, March 16, April 30, June 4, 1964 - or three pages - December 5 and 16, 1963; February 24, 1964.

The listing for December 16 demonstrates the problem. The Archives' listing is 54 pages. Sightext published pages 1-61 incl., less pages 23-32 incl. which were and still are, your letter confirms, withheld from research. The exclusion of ten pages reduces the total published by Sightext to 51 or three less than the Archives' number. How account for this and the other differences?

An additional problem relates to the transcript of December 5, 1963. The Archives' listing is 45 pages, with pages 43-68 withheld from research. Sightext published pages 1-42 incl. Page 42 ends with the beginning of a paragraph in the course of remarks by Chairman Warren: "I think that we ought to have perhaps psychiatrists to go into" The following page is blank and bears a notation, partly typed - "Pages 43-68 of this transcript are withheld from research under" - and partly handwritten - "the terms of 5 U.S.C. 552." These pages relate to the employment of personnel by the Commission." There is no signature. If 45 pages of this transcript are available for research and pages 43-68 are withheld, should one conclude that the number 45 includes 1) the first 42 pages and 2) three pages beyond 68? Can you advise me? What is

the total number of pages of this transcript, including those available and those presently unavailable for research?

Yet other problems arise from the transcript of January 27, 1964, which was declassified in 1974 and was published by Harold Weisberg as part of the content of his "Whitewash IV JFK assassination transcript." Pages of the reproductions of transcripts published by Sightext bear the stamped notation - "Classification Canceled/ By authority of the/Archivist of the United States" - including handwritten signature initials and a date. This stamp is not found on the pages of Weisberg's reproduction on which the stamped words, capitalized, TOP SECRET, at the top and bottom of each page, are crossed out. Do these differences signify anything?

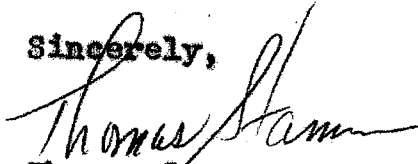
The Archives' listing for this transcript is 118 pages. Weisberg's reproduction begins with the title page which bears the notation, "Pages 127-212;" the text begins on numbered page 128 and continues without interruption of pagination or content to the middle of page 212. Pages 127-212 inclusive are only 86 pages, two less than the Archives' listing of 88 pages.

A possible explanation for this particular discrepancy lies in the omission by Weisberg of an unnumbered page listing those present and giving the place and time at which the sessions were held. I noticed in the Sightext reproductions of the transcripts of the sessions held on December 5 and 16, 1963 such unnumbered pages are included; while in the other Sightext reproductions such pages are unnumbered: January 21, 1964-page 1; February 24, 1964-page 1596; March 16-page 2732; April 30-page 5850; June 4-page 6652; September 18-page 7652.

If I am correct, if such a page exists, may I purchase electrostatic copies to supplement Weisberg's reproduction? Inasmuch as the amount is trifling and will not affect either the Archives' or my budget materially I am anticipating a favorable reply and am adding a small sum to the cost of a reproduction of the transcript of the executive session held on January 22, 1964 (13 pages) at the rates quoted in your letter. I would like three copies of the "missing" page of the transcript of January 27, 1964 and one copy of the entire 13-page copy of the transcript of the session of January 22, 1974. A check is enclosed.

Please allow me to thank you in advance and to apologize for the inroad I make on your time and patience. Your courtesy is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,


Thomas Stamm

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