

Dear Jim, FBI personal files on me

HW 8/13/77

I have spent the day to 5 p.m. going over the files I've received. I'm taking a break and will return to them. I've gone through what appears to be those on the helicopter suit and the State Department firing.

This is by far the smaller part. Not much over a half-inch thick. But the records are so false I've made extensive notes for the future, now a dozen single-spaced pages.

There are countless references to records apparently not provided.

There is no explanation of any withholding except that one record says it was examined last year and found to be exempt from the automatic declassification schedule, under both 2 and 3. There is no explanation of any obliteration, including with records more than 15 years old, going back to 1947. (There are references to records of earlier date not provided.)

One of the more interesting omissions, one I forgot to note in the notes I've made, is the sudden appearance of false records saying the State Department never asked the FBI to investigate me and that it also never asked for a name check. They did the latter and there was no need for the former. It is irrelevant. Its purpose is the usual FBI diversion. It had lied to the State Department in response to the request for a name check.

I am sure that at least two of the reasons for the deliberate lie ^{are} they could not dare let any official proceeding examine any of those records, not one of which is honest and accurate; and that they had a file on a Congressman under espionage. (FYI, Marcantonio was the most completely independent politician I ever met. He was not a Communist although he openly associated with them, including some leaders. He was in the International Labor Defense, which had many Communists, I'm sure, and defended such people as the Scottsboro men accused of rape. He was also editorially condemned by the Daily Worker and he had fascists I came to know among those with whom he associated. They were his constituents. One ran a small cafe. His brother was one of Mussolini's bodyguards. He was initially a LaGuardia-style Republican and ran LaGuardia's successful campaign for Congress. He was also an assistant DA in New York. Political life and the grinding poverty and great needs of his constituency radicalized him, by the standards of that day. Almost all he espoused has come to be the national way of life and national policy. He was just ahead of his day. One is fair employment practises. I drove him to the White House the day he came out with FDR's promise to appoint such a commission if Marc would drop his campaign for having it legislated. You will find that in World War II there was this FEPC. I came to know him only through the Dies business. He became my friend when he undertook to defend me. Incidentally, I also had fascists with whom I associated on a personally friendly basis during my employment at State. One was a relative of Trujillo's who still kept his Dominican citizenship.) But none of this or my subsequent friendship with Trujillo's son-in-law or brother-in-law and his military attache is in these records.)

The FBI even has me doing research for the Dies committee, it is that godawfulbad.

Doing anything now is premature, except making a record. That I am doing and it will take much time. I hope to continue straight through this before there is more King material to go over. So I'm just letting you know. We will have to contest some of the many withholdings. When you speak to one of these people please ask them for worksheets so I can see what basis they claim for withholding. Of course the worksheets will not disclose what they pretend they do not have, and that to this point is a fair number of records that are referred to. I happened to notice another in the next record when something caught my eye. I do not think we should do more than say that we want to be able to check the claim made for each obliteration. I'm sure some are going to be called personal. But with 1959 records and those earlier I think the case is weak for withholding at best. When I have finished we'll have a record with indication of withholdings in the margin opposite each. It will not then be a big job to list the records withheld according to the records provided. After review, according to Kelley's letter, too...With the notes I'll be providing I think Dave will find use for this as another case study, in time.