

PA - F101
Re Changed Serials, King assassination records

Harold Weisberg 5/23/80

PA request Abstracts
HSCA request
Removal of records from 44-38861

In the abstracts for the records in Sections 86-91 of 44-38861 there is a series of "changed to" forms representing the shifting of a number of records pertaining to the King assassination investigation to another file, 62-117290, where in all cases they have X in their new serial numbers. They appear to be insertions into existing serialization.

My records indicate that 62-117290 also includes the request of the House assassins committee for my FOIA requests.

All of these shifts appear to have been on three different days.

The clear purpose was to remove records I had been promised in O.A. 75-1996 from the MURKIN file. Otherwise, Not Recorded serials would have been used. I appeal this.

If the records pertain to me or to HSCA, they are within two other requests, one for all records on me, the other for all provided to HSCA.

At this one point 26 MURKIN records are removed, from Serial 6133 to Serial 6235.

Because this seems unusual and because I regard your prior explanation about removed serials as inadequate and based on an atypical matter I asked Ms. Barrett to check the records as provided to me. If the blue ink copies at all I will attach her notes. I do request that you ask the FBI for an explanation, because each and every one of these removed records was properly a MURKIN record and they are a fair representation of the MURKIN file in general. Moreover, each and every one is involved in my requests and appeals on which you have not acted. I am saying that the FBI removed records that are material to appeals you have done nothing about.

Among the topics of the removed records are where the FBI's records were moved to; what HSCA was investigating; what records it was examining in Memphis; ticklers not provided to me; FBI Morris Davis; McCullough and the black fireman who were transferred from the scene of the crime just before Dr. King was killed; the Clifton Baird matter (for your information, fabrications that defamed both the FBI and me and a number of

For example, if you were to check the MURKIN file in evaluating my appeal you'd not find this pertinent record, and having been persuaded incorrectly by the FBI about this "changed to" ^{matter} things would not have any reason to go further.

Serial 6222 ~~XXXX~~ passes on prejudicial information to HSCA, that the racist J.B. Stoner ^{federally} represented an indicated lawyer named James Travis Buckley. It also quotes Stoner as having said exactly what I informed ISD in 1969, leading to another FBI fabrication of defamation of me. Naturally this was basis enough for the HSCA to select, from all possible lawyers, only Buckley to represent Mrs. Carol Pepper, James Earl Ray's sister, when it refused to permit her to have counsel of her choice, Jim Lesar. (Mrs. Pepper insisted she wanted Lesar, after one experience with Buckley, he then persisted, HSCA backed down, and the effort to frame her as a bag woman who allegedly funnelled to her brother James, who she'd not seen since she was a baby, the money her other brothers allegedly got in bank robberies, the FBI's conspiracy theory, ~~substantiated~~ collapsed.) Buckley was only too aware of the federal charges against him and he did nothing that would displease anyone in Washington the one time he represented Mrs. Pepper.

Of course, this is only coincidence, as is the removal of 25 other clearly MURKIN records from the MURKIN file rather than following its normal practice, of filing duplicate xeroxes. Perhaps the FBI will argue that it was cheaper to make no cash outlay and to waste clerical time of considerably higher cost not to have to pay Xerox the approximately half-cent a page it charged for use of its automatic machines?

I am aware that you told me on 5/19 that you are doing nothing about the King case, even though the judge involved you in it. I am also aware that you have done virtually nothing about two file drawers of King records appeals I have filed. I knew of your staff turnovers and that the Department has not replaced the lost personnel. However, this case is not going to go away, I had serious purposes in filing all these appeals, and the abstracts are a very important record. I therefore inform you in this appeal and again request action on all the "changed to" removals of records from all pertinent files in all cases. There is no doubt that these records belong in the file from which they were removed and are necessary for evaluation of my appeals.