

PA

JFK assassination records and Privacy Act request appeals Harold Weisberg 11/25/79
Improper withholdings - to hide defamations?
Defamations, with underlying records still withheld four years after request
and appeals

From my examination of the FBI's general JFK assassination records releases it is becoming apparent that the FBI's means of avoiding direct confrontation with legitimate and necessary criticism of it had two aspects which were and are defamatory of me. One was to make false and defamatory charges, not supported by fact or even based on fact and the other was to lump me with those who I regard as irresponsible and who among authentic scholars are regarded as irresponsible.

Consistent with this, as I have reminded you often enough, both the Director and the Attorney General failed to make any response to my requests, long in advance of these general releases, to be able to exercise my rights under the Privacy Act. As an expectable result they enabled the FBI to dump its fabrications on a trusting press and people under conditions that made and make rebuttal impossible.

Today I came upon two other such records, both "Enclosure Behind Files" or EBF's, bulkies, Serials 6004 and 6121.

As the bracketing at the top of page two of the second record shows, those processing the records initially planned to withhold my name. It was left in. It thus states that "Mark Lane and Harold Weisberg, both of whom have communist backgrounds ... are attacking the right-wing philosophy of Dr. (Carl) McIntire through his flunky/FBI informant Edgar Eugene Bradley, who initiated a 'Draft J. Edgar Hoover for President' movement." In all elements this is false as it relates to me. It is defamatory in alleging that I have a "communist" background. No such records have been provided by the FBI in response to my information requests and my specific appeals for records of this character.

Serial 6004 relates to William Turner. Like Lane he is neither my friend nor associate. Here what follows my name is withheld. What is withheld could be the exact words quoted above. If so that also would be defamatory. A reasonable explanation for the withholding is the fact that those processing these records knew it was false.

Memorandum

1 - Mr. C. D. [unclear]
 1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop
 1 - Mr. A. Rosen
 DATE: January 29, 1968

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Mr. W. C. Sullivan
 Mr. W. A. Branigan

1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
 1 - Mr. R. E. Lenihan

CT JOE PYNE SHOW
 SUNDAY EVENING
 JANUARY 28, 1968

The Joe Pyne Show which appeared on Washington TV Station Channel 5 from 10 p.m. to 12 p.m., 1/28/68, had among its guests Edgar Eugene Bradley. New Orleans District Attorney James C. Garrison has charged Bradley with being involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Set forth below is a brief summary of data discussed by Bradley and Pyne:

BACKGROUND OF BRADLEY:

Edgar Eugene Bradley, North Hollywood, California, is the West Coast representative of Dr. Carl McIntire, the New Jersey radio broadcaster. Dr. McIntire is Pastor of the Bible Presbyterian Church, Collingswood, New Jersey. He has associated himself with the extreme right-wing element in this country and he broadcasts over a chain of several hundred radio stations in this country.

During the past ten years Edgar Eugene Bradley has contacted the Los Angeles Office on numerous occasions furnishing information on individuals he suspected of having communist leanings. He has also volunteered information regarding racial matters and concerning individuals connected with the John Birch Society.

In 1963 he and his associates initiated a "Draft J. Edgar Hoover for President" movement. At the Director's instructions, the Los Angeles Office contacted Bradley and requested that he and his group desist in their efforts to draft the Director as a Presidential candidate.

BRADLEY'S STATEMENTS ON JOE PYNE SHOW: REC-19

FEB 7 1968

During his appearance on the Joe Pyne Show, Bradley speculated that Garrison's act in arresting him on the assassination charge may be part of a plot by Garrison and his advisers to get Dr. McIntire off his radio programs. Although Bradley did

ENCLOSURE ON BRADLEY

CONTINUED - OVER

62-109060
 REL:as (7)

Tape recording program made by FBI and is attached.

5/1/68

Memorandum

REC-09

Tolson	
DeLoach	
Mohr	
Bishop	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
Felt	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

in file
Rosen

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY NOVEMBER 22, 1963, DALLAS, TEXAS

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
 1 - Mr. J. P. Mohr
 1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop
- DATE: January 4, 1968
- 1 - Mr. A. Rosen
 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
 1 - Mr. R. E. Lenihan

The January, 1968, issue of "Ramparts" magazine contains an article entitled "The Garrison Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy," which was authored by former Special Agent William W. Turner

Turner is the self-centered, embittered individual who has made frequent scurrilous attacks upon the Director and the Bureau since his dismissal.

Turner also wrote an article in the June, 1967, issue of "Ramparts" magazine entitled "The Inquest". In such article, Turner summarized the wild accusations of New Orleans District Attorney James C. Garrison and used information from individuals whom we found to be completely unreliable during the course of our investigation of the assassination. In such article, Turner's arguments consisted of innuendoes, part facts and numerous outright falsehoods.

Turner's current article in the January, 1968, issue of "Ramparts" magazine is largely a rehash of the allegations made by New Orleans District Attorney Garrison during the last ten months. The vast majority of such data has previously been analyzed by us and appropriate dissemination made to the White House and to the Attorney General.

In the first three pages of his current article, Turner goes to great length to praise Garrison and to alert his readers that Garrison is conducting his probe under most difficult conditions. At one point, Turner states that Garrison "tried the life of an FBI Agent but found the role too circumscribed to be stimulating." Turner fails to point out Garrison was a Special Agent for less than five months and that after he resigned from the FBI to enter military service on July 24, 1951, he wrote a letter to the Bureau

Enclosure
 62-109060
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REC-69 62-109060-8004

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PERC. DIV. UNIT

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Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
62-109060

approximately two weeks later asking the Bureau to get him - released from Army duty so he could again resume his duties in the FBI. Turner also fails to note that when the Bureau informed Garrison it would take no action to interfere with his military duties, approximately two weeks thereafter Garrison contacted Army medical authorities and disclosed his psychiatric background and obtained an Army medical release.

Surprisingly, Turner identifies Jack S. Martin as the individual who informed Garrison of an alleged association between Lee Harvey Oswald and David William Ferric. It was this information which caused Garrison to launch his intensive probe of the assassination. We have previously pointed out Martin is well known as an alcoholic and was previously committed to a hospital in New Orleans for a mental condition.

Throughout his article, Turner speculates that Oswald was a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent and was in frequent contact with CIA and individuals who were being used by CIA in various secret endeavors. He also is critical of the FBI and accuses the FBI of disregarding information from various individuals interviewed whereas Garrison has found the information furnished by such individuals highly significant. Such allegation is completely false since our investigation was extremely thorough and every attempt was made to verify the information involved. Actually, Garrison has constantly used this type of information (rejected by the Warren Commission) to build his case.

Turner makes a plea to his readers that they join with him in demanding that President Johnson release documents in National Archives which are now withheld from the public. He falsely alleges that such documents include evidence of Oswald's role as a CIA "double agent." Other authors critical of the Warren Commission have made similar demands that the data withheld from the public at National Archives be made available to them. Included are Mark Lane and Harold Weisberg, [redacted] who have continually attacked the Warren Commission, President Johnson, the Director and other high Government officials. Lane and Weisberg are in frequent contact with Garrison in New Orleans.

ACTION:

For information. We are sending a copy of Turner's article to the Dallas and New Orleans Offices for review and analyses to determine if any new material is contained therein. A copy of "Ramparts" magazine containing Turner's article is attached.