

287 11/12/78
To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg RA request - overlap into 3/26/78
JFK and King assassination records

While it is probable that those who espoused views the FBI did not approve assume that the FBI kept extensive records on all of them, whether or not the FBI did, and while there was a time when I did not believe that the FBI kept systematic records on me because it really would have served no point, records I have gone over recently and the permeating dishonesty of responses I have received lead me to believe that the FBI has many records it has not provided and given the willingness to retrieve them will have no trouble doing this. It merely does not want to because it was involved in improper activities and serious transgressions against my First Amendment rights.

The problem with compliance, in addition, is the false pretense that a good faith search has been made. Failure to make a proper search, and deliberateness in this, the FBI knowing its own business very well, range from a steadfast refusal to make a real Baltimore and Frederick residency search to shunning those Divisions at FBIHQ which I now know were deeply involved in these operations. Places like "General Crimes" of Orwellian name, the Laboratory - actually - and the General Investigative and Domestic Intelligence Divisions. There are records stamped "Crime Research," because I write what the FBI does not like. Every HQ component should be asked for records or proofs of destruction of any.

There have been "reviews" of my books not provided. Tapes neither provided nor indicated where I've spoken in public, transcripts and summaries withheld.

Sometimes commercial services have been used.

Every time I see a new record it becomes apparent that the FBI has provided falsehood about it. An example or the plural, examples I've seen recently run from New York to the West Coast. NY FO certainly knew it had more records than it provided in limited RA response and I now have some and when I sent you a record indicating that an informer of the San Francisco office tried to do me in on a talk show I believe I said there had to be other SF records. Well, I now have proof.

All of this and more is inextricably intertwined with the FBI's records on political assassinations. I am now satisfied that it can retrieve what is an important part of this

this subject historically, the records it kept and actions it took against those of us who from sometimes radically different positions disagreed with it and its work.

Of course I would not expect the FBI today to be proud of interference, actual acts of interference in my life and work. But I have to now provided you with proof of it, ranging from trying to hurt me in my public appearances to, if I may use favorite FBI boilerplate, its "vicious and underhanded" distribution of fabricated and distorted records throughout the Government including on the highest levels.

The FBI did not do this and could not do this without having records on which it could draw. By now I've provided you with proof that a number of components had instant access to such records. They can and should be produced in response to my requests.

To now I recall no occasion on which the FBI ever checked any of this "vicious and underhanded" stuff out with me or others. The reason is apparent- it wanted to be able to distribute this poison and did distribute it for intended purposes that I now have reason to believe were accomplished.

Last week I provided you with records I had just seen in which the FBI states I had some kind of association with a Soviet national inside the Soviet Embassy and that a person or persons from that Embassy was our guest. The FBI did not provide any such records in response to my RA request. It is fairly obvious that if true these were matters of serious interest to the FBI and were instantly retrievable. It likewise is true that no record containing any such proof, even suspicion, has been provided as the basis for the records I've found in spite of the FBI. There has to be a basis for the records I did provide last week. The FBI has to be able to lay hands on it and copy and send those records.

The internal records are strident in proclamations of my alleged factual error but in no single case do they cite an actual error. (Of course merely being able to allege this required reviews or analyses or whatever it terms its internal propaganda operations.) The semantics are childishly obvious. It is because my work is accurate and was factual exposure that the FBI had this great interest in it that now is visible. Its concern is not misplaced, as it will learn more than to now it has learned.

One of the people with whom it dealt, whether or not it knew him well enough to understand or was satisfied with his official function, was a Tennessee Assistant Attorney General, Henry Haille. Ultimately he was fired over his political excesses. He saw red in every white cloud and became his own thunderstorm. He told me when he was over at their building and he later acted like a man they had turned on. He also managed to use some uniquely picturesque language in court about me.

While his trip to Washington can be attributed to and undoubtedly did include other purposes (like a free honeymoon and consulting Department lawyers) it followed FBIHQ dispatch of unspecified records about me to Memphis with directives to spread them around and report back on its smearing. I have not been provided with the reporting back. I have reason to believe where there was smearing was apparent.

As I believe I've told you in an earlier appeal other similar improprieties have come back to me, some well intended as they relate to third persons, but all indicative of the misuse of such stuff by feeding it to those working on the records I seek and providing and processing them. Unless I misjudge his character I believe a man like Horace Beckwith would not explode in a courthouse corridor under normal circumstances. He did, with witnesses, right outside the courtroom and prior to my informing that Court of his unfortunate situation.

There is reason to believe that there is fairly widespread knowledge within the FBI of the content and existence of records not provided.

Subsequent to my seeing the last records of which I gave you copies I have seen others for the first time. Some need not reflect the kind of record the FBI can retrieve about me but I am now not willing to assume this. It appears that a number of people were influenced by my writing and wrote the FBI about it. 62-1090⁹00-(probably) 545 is ~~such~~ ^{such} a letter. It did cause internal record-generation. It was not merely ignored. Note that it received DeLoach attention. (None of those I here mentions were provided under PA.)

Serial 563 has a clear file number and the above is correct. This record, relating to me, was sent to Baltimore, which managed not to find it under PA. Note that it also has the names of two Lab agents added and again went to DeLoach. When the FBI did not provide the

information this reporter requested he turned to me. I did a show with him, an hour or two. Other records lead to the belief that it was taped. If so no additional record was provided. Because the Lab did such taping where possible and because my work cited was critical of the two agents to whom records were sent - even though Mosbrook's letter did not spell this out - I believe there may be such a tape and related records.

(The recurrence of names and initials indicate who was keeping tabs and had knowledge of records, etc.)

Serial 519 was not provided by the NY PG in response to my request although it did manage not to withhold some of its WNEW-TV records. I am certain there are others. Please note again that of all Bureau components NY directed this to "Crime Records." The related Not Recorded Serial of 11 days later, which is also 4253 in another file, has all the names marked for FBIHQ indexing, aside from indexing in NY. The communication from ^{NY} / 1 is not attached. I do not know if I have it. The transcript has not been provided, nor has any commentary or analysis of it. Naturally well in advance of airing. (I have my own reasons for believing that in advance of the airing the FBI had something to say to WTTG.) Page two is explicit: Domestic Intelligence, the Lab and both the Criminal and Civil Rights (?) Sections of GID reviewed, the FBI's word, the transcript. All these records are within my requests. They also have historical interest because this was the ^{nationwide} first/TV treatment of this nature. The reviews were to be written and submitted by 11/3, more than a week before airing. As a result a memo was to be prepared, for unspecified but easily conjectured purposes. [#]None of these records have been provided under any request.

(I describe as "nationwide" what the FBI reports indicate as local because there was extensive syndication, from coast-to-coast.)

I have personal knowledge of what Carlabit Cunningham omitted from the 11/3/66 memo that appears to be Serial 539 because I was with Marion Johnson when he had phone conversation with Cunningham. The request was not for "portions of investigative reports." [#]This was immediately after issuance and publication of the 10/31/66 executive order requiring the transfer of all evidence to the Archives. I asked for the results of the spectrographic

examinations. Johnson repeated aloud what Cunningham told him not in a single conversation but when he called back, that all the spectrographic results were in the 11/23/63 report to Dallas police chief Curry. This embarrassed Johnson, who knew well enough that what Cunningham said was impossible because spectrographic examinations were made after the date of the report to Curry.

And this also was the beginning of the asending of the investigatory files exemption.

The record is self-serving, incomplete, and refers to records I have not yet been provided. Because there was so short a period between Johnson's call to the FBI and Cunningham's return this record was created later or was contrived after the fact in the recommendation that the FBI could not assist. In fact I was referred to the Curry report.

Unless the Lab had instant electronic provisions years in advance of their invention Cunningham has to have had in the Lab what enable him to include the defasations of me, one being entirely new to me and the other being a scabination of falsehood and distortion. Until seeing this record a few days ago for the first time I did not know that "Bufiles reveal he has had previous contact with Soviet Nationals at the Russian Embassy." Since first seeing this I have thought more and still think of nothing other than a few professional and very ordinary, entirely impersonal "contacts," which betokens other than what was true with me.

But in this connection I remind you again of what I have characterized as false and knowingly false FBI denials on any kind of surveillance. Obvious this is a distortion of some form of surveillance, one or more. This information is not only within my RA requests. It is a specific item in G.A. 75-1996.

That the FBI was not truthful even with its Director is made clear by his hand note. All this material had not been turned over to the archives.

If I have not already made a special appeal from the withholding of what is obliterated from the first paragraph and other parts of Serial 553 I do it now.

Pages 1,2,5 and 7 only are provided. Indications are that these were not copied at the same time and on the same machine.

At least part of what is withheld is reasonably segregable - the signatory, Obviously defaced

It also is clear that ~~it~~ as / provided this Serial is composed of parts of two records, prepared on different typewriters. The first page has no caption. The last page is captioned in a manner that only in FBI irrationality can have any connection with me because I had no connection with Soviet or Communist Party Officials' reaction to the crime.

The first page bears no classification therefore cannot be withheld as classified.

There can, in fact, be more than two records from the appearance of these pages.

The first remaining paragraph of the first page indicates earlier "information" was provided to the White House. It has not been provided to me, not identifiably.

Under "Action" on page 2 there is additional evidence that Domestic Intelligence had relevant files that still should be searched, as they have not been.

The last words on page 5 make it clear that some of page 6 at least is reasonably segregable.

Including reference to a 12/1/65 Brannigan to Sullivan memo is not accurately identifiable from what is provided on page 7.

There remains no word of content relating to those of us who were critical of the Warren Report, the White House request. All are described as "left-wing," which is not true, unless those of John Birch persuasion are left-wing. (Perhaps to the FBI anyone not to the right of Attila the Hun is left.)

Once again copy to "SOVIET SECTION" and once again I ask its files be searched.

There is a Brannigan-Sullivan 12/1/66 memo in a different file, 62-109060-4322. The opening paragraph does coincide with the thrust of that of the DeLoach memo above. This does appear to be that memo. However, what is withheld in the DeLoach memo is not withheld in the Brannigan memo and there appears to have been no need to withhold. There are no excisions in the Brannigan memo, which for no apparent reason was classified Confidential rather than either the absence of any classification on the first part of Tolson's or the Top Secret of the second part. My name is mentioned as an attachment not attached here. That may be the ST ~~light~~ous one I've provided earlier. If so then the files available to Brannigan should have been checked for compliance.

The Not Recorded 12/15/66 from SF FO obviously should have been provided under Ea by FBING. (If it was by SF recently I sent you a copy.) Also obviously the FBI was monitoring me pretty much everywhere. This kind of record can't stand alone so there is more, in SF at least. And once again, as always, the info was sent to "Crime Records." Where there appears never to have been a search.

I believe that last week I provided a copy of what I here repeat on the chance I didn't, one of those cuties where the FBI considered "stopping" me by a frivolous libel suit. Once again, DeLoach is among the many who got copies, none of whose files appear to have been searched. Once again a copy to the Lab also. This is in two files, Not Recorded in 62-109090 and 4473 in 62-109060.

Although Serial 593 has a notanot to acknowledge there appears to be part of another filing indication on the letter of this woman who wrote the President after reading my first book. Date 2 4/24/67. She was indexed and a number of stamps were added.

These records, new to me, make out a case of serious intrusion into my First Amendment rights. Here go with the other recent records I sent you, including efforts to rig my appearances against me and spreading "vicious and underhanded" libels.

If there is ever a good-faith search more will emerge. I have, relating to the enclosed, a very clear recollection of the abrupt change in all arrangements made at WTTG and with this a large waste of time and costs for me. I recall clearly the open antagonism of reporters reputedly close to the FBI, one in particular from a paper of which this is not mere rumor. These were people I'd never met or spoken to.

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While I believe that the attached Not Recorded Serial from 62-109090, dated 2/7/67, was included with what I gave you last week, I've found this loose copy and add it because it also went to DeLoach and upward and because I now see something I may not have last week.

This appears to state that the Legal Research Desk made its "review" of the book in question.

No such review has been provided.

It should be and this tells where to look, as with due diligence the FBI would have looked on its own.