

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg PA 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 PC certainly knew it had more records than it provided in limited PA 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

Mr. Mohr

1/31/67

J. J. Casper

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11/22/63
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING

Warren Commission

62-109090-4473

Attached memorandum of 1/26/67, captioned as above, from Mr. W. D. Griffith to Mr. Conrad, concludes by recommending that the Legal Research Unit determine whether the statements made against FBI Laboratory Examiner SA Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt are libelous. For the reasons shown below, the Legal Research Unit concludes that the statements are libelous and that SA Shaneyfelt has a cause of action against the author of Whitewash II.

The statements made in the book definitely are libelous as to any ordinary person. They go far beyond the range of fair criticism and clearly charge, in their total context, that Shaneyfelt is a liar, forger, etc. They provide an ample basis on which the ordinary person could sue for libel, slander or defamation of character as the case may be.

A special problem arises in Shaneyfelt's case, however, because he is a public employee who has come to some public attention as a result of the use of his examinations in the work of the Warren Commission on the assassination of the President. If Shaneyfelt is now a "public official" his case would be determined by a rule different from that used in deciding an action for libel brought by an ordinary person. This rule was laid down clearly by the Supreme Court in New York Times, Inc. v. Sullivan, 376 U. S. 254 (1964), and reads as follows:

ENCLOSURE

A public official is allowed the civil remedy for libel and slander "only if he establishes that the utterance was false and that it was made with knowledge of its falsity or in reckless disregard of whether it was false or true." In other words, a public official may successfully sue for libel or slander only by proving actual malice and this must be proven by showing that the utterance was false and that it was made with knowledge of its falsity or in reckless disregard

Enclosure

Bufile 62-109060

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Wick

5 FEB 27 1967

- 1 - Mr. Griffith
- 1 - Mr. Shaneyfelt
- ① - Bufile 62-109090
- DJD/pal
- (11)

62-109090 -

NOT RECORDED
199 FEB 15 1967

"CONTINUED - OVER"

Memorandum J. J. Casper to Mr. Mohr
Re: Assassination of President
John Fitzgerald Kennedy
Dallas, Texas, 11/22/63
Miscellaneous Information Concerning

of whether it was true or false. A public official is held to this stricter standard of proof because the very nature of the position of a public official is such that in a free government a great deal of criticism concerning the official and his conduct of official affairs must be tolerated.

The Supreme Court has not clearly defined the term "public official" for all purposes. As the Court said in Rosenblatt v. Baer, 383 U. S. 75 (1966):

"We remarked in New York Times that we had no occasion to determine how far down into the lower ranks of government employees the 'public official' designation would extend for purposes of this rule, or otherwise to specify categories of persons who would or would not be included."

After the above language, the Court went on, in Rosenblatt v. Baer, to use other qualifying words which we believe clearly indicate that SA Shaneyfelt is not a "public official" for purposes of suit for libel and slander. The Court said, for example:

"It is clear, therefore, that the 'public official' designation applies at the very least to those among the high hierarchy of government employees who have, or appear to the public to have, substantial responsibility for or control over the conduct of governmental affairs . . . But a conclusion that the New York Times malice standards apply could not be reached merely because a statement defamatory of some person in government employ catches the public's interest; that conclusion would virtually disregard society's interest in protecting reputations. The employee's position must be one which would invite public scrutiny and discussion of the person holding it, entirely apart from the scrutiny and discussion occasioned by the particular charges in controversy."

From the above language the Legal Research Unit concludes that SA Shaneyfelt is not a "public official" for purposes of the law of libel and slander and that, hence, he is not held to the stricter standard of proof applied to a public

Memorandum J. J. Casper to Mr. Mohr
Re: Assassination of President
John Fitzgerald Kennedy
Dallas, Texas, 11/22/63
Miscellaneous Information Concerning

official who sues. He is, on the contrary, held only to the ordinary standard of proof which is much easier to meet and which can be amply supported by the defamatory language used in the referenced book.

It is believed, moreover, that even should SA Shaneyfelt be held to be a "public official" for this purpose, the referenced book displays such a reckless disregard for the truth or falsity of charges that are actually false that SA Shaneyfelt probably could recover under even the stricter standard applied to public officials.

There are several policy considerations which are not within the province of the Legal Research Unit but we mention them for such value as they may have in making a decision whether SA Shaneyfelt should bring suit:

- (1) The author of the referenced book may be inviting a law suit to obtain publicity and sales for his book.
- (2) If the libel in the referenced book is not challenged now, the author may come out with Whitewash III - a book which he is said to be now writing - and make in that book additional statements which are even more libelous than those made here. The danger seems considerable if he is not stopped now.
- (3) If SA Shaneyfelt's integrity ever is questioned in court where he appears in his usual capacity as an FBI Laboratory Examiner and challenged with particular reference to the statements made in this book, a bad impression is left, to say the least, if SA Shaneyfelt must reply that he took no action in this case. Many might consider failure to take action as a sort of admission of guilt by both SA Shaneyfelt and the FBI.
- (4) As time passes and SA Shaneyfelt is not challenged in court during regular testimony, his claim for damages should be later considered; action in this case is considerably weakened.

8 8

Memorandum J. J. Casper to Mr. Mohr
Re: Assassination of President
John Fitzgerald Kennedy
Dallas, Texas 11/22/63
Miscellaneous Information Concerning

RECOMMENDATION:

That this memorandum be referred to the FBI Laboratory.

Mr. Conrad

1/26/67

W. D. Griffith

**ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11/22/63
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING**

The most recent book by Harold Welsberg entitled "Whitewash II - The FBI - Secret Service Coverup" is highly critical of the Bureau and specifically of the testimony of FBI Laboratory Examiner SA Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt. Welsberg previously authored the book "Whitewash" and is now reported to be writing "Whitewash III." Harold Welsberg is a Hyattstown, Maryland, poultry farmer, an ex-State Department employee, and an ex-Senate investigator who was removed from both positions because of suspicion of being a communist or having communist sympathies. Welsberg had the book printed himself because he could not interest any publishers in it possibly due to the libelous nature of its contents.

In Whitewash II, Welsberg extensively quotes the testimony of SA Shaneyfelt regarding the examination of the Zapruder film and the re-enactment that was based on the Zapruder film. He states that Shaneyfelt "ran the re-enactment that was made essential by the doctrine of the Report" and "the FBI knowingly engaged in a reconstruction they knew to be utterly false." He alleges in Whitewash II that SA Shaneyfelt "was the Commission's photographic expert," "he did or supervised their photographic lab work," and "those faces on the cutting room floor may have been put there by Shaneyfelt." After establishing in the reader's mind that SA Shaneyfelt did all the photographic work he refers

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

62-109060

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Casper (Legal Research Desk)
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Griffith
- 1 - Mr. Shaneyfelt

① 62-109090

LLS:mjk (11)

62-109090

NOT RECORDED
199 FEB 15 1967

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Conrad dated 1/26/67
Re: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
62-109060

unceasingly to "picture doctoring," "edited or altered" photographs and the "destruction of evidence." He concludes with a very specific implication that SA Shaneyfelt cut out the much-publicized missing frames 208 through 211 of the Zapruder film to conceal from the public what really happened during the assassination. All of these allegations are, of course, completely false. (Life Magazine has recently admitted having spliced the original Zapruder film and cut out the four frames.) These frames were not missing in the FBI copy of the film and were considered in all evaluations by the Laboratory and the representatives of the Commission who viewed the FBI copy. SA Shaneyfelt made several photographic examinations at the request of the Commission but did not "run their photographic lab work." He assisted in the re-enactment but did not "run it" and, of course, did not edit, doctor, or mutilate any evidence. Weisberg suggests that SA Shaneyfelt may be a perjurer.

The allegations of Weisberg would appear to be libelous of both the Bureau and SA Shaneyfelt. Accordingly, in an effort to discourage and stop such highly irresponsible and unwarranted attacks against the Bureau on the part of Weisberg and others like him, the Bureau may wish to explore the feasibility of having a libel action brought against Weisberg in SA Shaneyfelt's name. Factors to be weighed in any such consideration are: (1) Legal estimate of whether successful suit might be sustained based on (a) the irresponsible and malicious statements in the book as opposed to (b) the recent Supreme Court decision holding that newsworthy persons including those who do not seek publicity have only a limited right to sue for damages for false reports that are published about them; and (2) a tactical estimate as to whether a net gain would accrue, bearing in mind the greatly increased forum which such an action would provide for Weisberg, as opposed to the fact that he is now apparently forced to publish his books privately.

SA Shaneyfelt, of course, contemplates no action in the matter unless so desired by the Bureau.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Bureau may wish to refer this memorandum and the enclosed book "Whitewash II" to the Legal Research Desk for review and consideration as to whether it might serve as a basis for libel action against Weisberg.

Mr. Conrad

2/1/67

W. D. Griffith

ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11/22/63
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reference is made to my memo to you dated 1/26/67 concerning the libelous nature of the book "Whitewash II" by Harold Welsberg and his allegations about the FBI and SA Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt. By memo dated 1/31/67 from Mr. Casper to Mr. Mohr the Legal Research Desk set out their review and recommendations concerning this matter.

Since there is no assurance that any benefit to the Bureau would be forthcoming if SA Shaneyfelt undertook the civil suit against Welsberg and since SA Shaneyfelt has no desire to obtain a financial advantage therefrom, he contemplates no action.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information.

62-109090

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Casper (Legal Research Desk)
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Griffith
- 1 - Mr. Shaneyfelt
- 1 - 62-109090

L.S:mb (11)

62-109090

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199 FEB 15 1967

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62-109090-17

ORIGINAL FILED IN

TOP SECRET

REACTION OF SOVIET AND COMMUNIST
PARTY OFFICIALS TO THE ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

NOTE:

Classified "Top Secret" because this communication contains information from several highly sensitive sources, the disclosure of which would result in exceptionally grave damage to the United States. U

See cover memorandum Branigan to Sullivan dated 12/1/63, captioned as above, prepared by REL:cls. U

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~Confidential~~

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Gale

Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Casper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Felt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tavel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trotter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DATE: 12-1-66

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

SUBJECT: REACTION OF SOVIET AND COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS TO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

Warren Commission

Re memorandum Mr. DeLoach to Mr. Tolson dated 11-29-66, reporting a conversation Mr. DeLoach had with Marvin Watson of the White House on 11-29-66. Mr. Watson indicated the President desired to have anything in FBI files reflecting immediate reaction of the Soviet Union following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and any reactions noted since then concerning the assassination. The President was also interested in receiving any "trends" indicating that a specific group, including the Communist Party, was back of the attacks on the Warren Commission.

During this same conversation, Mr. Watson indicated that the President had recently seen somewhere a newspaper article reporting that a member of the French Government had recently denounced the assassination investigation. Mr. Watson requested that if we could find this news clipping, we should furnish the President with what we had in our files concerning the matter. A cablegram was sent to the Legal Attache, Paris, in connection with this specific request on 11-30-66, and as soon as results of our inquiries are received, such data will be immediately furnished to Mr. Watson.

During Mr. Watson's conversation with Mr. DeLoach on 11-29-66, Mr. Watson also indicated that the President was seriously considering Mr. L. F. McCollom for a Cabinet position. Mr. Watson requested that the Bureau conduct inquiries concerning Mr. McCollom, including certain interviews. A check of our files disclosed Mr. McCollom was previously investigated at a request from the White House in 1963. We are bringing our investigation up to date and results will be promptly furnished to the White House.

Our files disclosed Soviet officials were shocked and concerned upon receipt of information that President Kennedy had been assassinated. We have received information from several

Enclosure *12-2-66*
REL:cls (7)

CONTINUED - OVER

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-119060-4322

ON 1-13-68

Memorandum W. A. Branigan to W. C. Sullivan
RE: REACTION OF SOVIET AND COMMUNIST PARTY
OFFICIALS TO THE ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

~~Confidential~~

sensitive sources that the Soviets were very much concerned over the assassination and, particularly, because they knew so little about President Lyndon B. Johnson and his foreign policy plans as they related to the Soviet Union. The Soviets have frequently expressed the opinion they thought the assassination was a conspiracy planned by the "ultraright." The Soviets were fearful such group planned to effect a "coup" in the United States and utilize this act to stop negotiations with the Soviet Union, attack Cuba and spread the war.

Our files indicate Communist Party officials in the United States followed the Soviet party line and also expressed the opinion the assassination was committed by individuals of the "ultraright" and that more than one individual was involved in the assassination.

From time to time articles have appeared in the Soviet press and in communist publications in this country disagreeing with the conclusions of the report of the Warren Commission. Frequently, authors of these articles quote or use data published by many of the authors who are highly critical of the Warren Commission report, including Mark Lane, Joachim Joesten, Edward Epstein, Richard Popkin, Harold Weisberg and Leo Sauvage.

ACTION:

Attached for delivery to the White House is a memorandum summarizing data in our files concerning reaction of Soviet and Communist Party officials to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Rel

Law

is

R.K.

✓

6

~~Confidential~~

DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: CRIME RECORDS SECTION

12/15/66

SAC, SAN FRANCISCO

HAROLD WEISBERG
"WHITEWASH NO. 2"
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On 12/15/66 HAROLD WEISBERG, author of the book "Whitewash No. 2", appeared on KGO-TV, San Francisco, on a talk show moderated by JIM DUNBAR from 7:05 a.m. until 7:55 a.m. A number of callers called in asking questions about his conclusions in the book and statements made during the talk show. The callers were about evenly divided as to their belief in his conclusions and against his hypothesis. He made no critical comments concerning the FBI, but in response to one caller's question concerning the Warren Commission Report WEISBERG pointed out that the Commission was "spoon fed" information from the FBI and Secret Service and, therefore, their conclusions necessarily had to be based on the voluminous reports and thousands of interviews conducted by the FBI. WEISBERG indicated he did not wish to imply that the Commission were not honorable men because he felt that they were. WEISBERG's main premise seemed to be a person who was identified by the FBI as BILLY LOVELADY who was on the steps of the Texas Book Repository was in some way linked to President KENNEDY's assassination and he felt that OSWALD was in some way a "patsy." He stated he used the word "patsy" because OSWALD used this terminology when first apprehended by the Dallas Police Department.

WEISBERG was obviously on the program to push the sale of his new book "Whitewash No. 2" and announced on the program that he would appear at an open meeting at the Hall of Flowers in San Francisco on Friday night, 12/16/66.

2-Bureau
2-San Francisco
COL:drc
(4)

62-109070
NOT RECORDED
199 DEC 22 1966

62 DEC 27 1966

P. O. Box 137
Prescott, Washington 99348
April 24, 1967

REC-8

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President

I have just completed reading the book WHITEWASH, by Harold Weisberg.

It is a book, slated as a report on the Warren Report.

This book has raised many doubts and questions in my mind, some of which were there before reading it. I feel that if the investigation was as faulty as this book brings to light, that we should indeed have a new Committee go through this book and either prove or disprove beyond a doubt--the questions left unanswered.

I feel as the author does, that we still do not know the full and true story behind President Kennedy's assassination, and that I, as a citizen of the United States of America, along with the rest of the citizens, have the right to demand the truth and to see that justice is done for all concerned. I feel that this is the business of every responsible citizen, because anything that affects our Nation is!

Are there any satisfactory explanations or answers, you can give to me, to the discrepancies and such raised by this book.

Please read this book. I would truly appreciate anything you could help me with. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Diana Moe

cc: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Federal Bureau of Investigation
The Chief Justice, The Supreme Court

REC-8

62-109090-593

EX-108

MAY 2 1967

MAY 8 226
1967

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen
Re: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

will be aired over WTTG, Channel 5. (an independent network) in
Washington, D. C., at 9 P.M., 11/12/66.

Copies of this transcript have been prepared, which are being reviewed by the Domestic Intelligence Division, the Laboratory Division, and the Criminal Section and Civil Rights Section of the General Investigative Division. These Divisions will review this transcript for any pertinent information concerning investigation or examinations conducted relating to phases of investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, which included Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack L. Ruby.

The Domestic Intelligence Division, the Laboratory Division and the Civil Rights Section of the General Investigative Division will submit rough draft reviews of observations relating to examinations or investigations conducted by their Divisions, to the Criminal Section of the General Investigative Division by Thursday, 11/3/66. Thereafter, the Criminal Section, General Investigative Division, will coordinate and prepare a memorandum, setting forth the results of this review.

The telecast program to be aired on 11/12/66, will be observed and monitored. Enclosures forwarded separately.

ACTION:

For information.

Rosen *MR* *AS*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1-Mr. Conrad
1-Mr. Cunningham, 7410

DATE: 11/3/66

1-Office, 7133

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	
Mr. Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

TO : Mr. Conrad

FROM : R. H. Jevons

SUBJECT: WARREN COMMISSION EXHIBITS

On 11/3/66, Mr. Marion Johnson, the Archivist at the National Archives and Records Service who is handling the exhibits and evidence of the Warren Commission, telephonically contacted SA Cortlandt Cunningham of the Laboratory Division.

Mr. Johnson stated that Harold Weisberg, author of "Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report," had requested information regarding the portions of the FBI investigative reports in which the spectrographic examinations were set forth. Mr. Johnson asked if any spectrographic examinations, other than those set forth in the report of SA Robert P. Gemberling dated 11/30/63, at Dallas, were made and reported elsewhere.

Mr. Johnson was told that this matter would be looked into.

Bufiles reveal that Weisberg was summarily fired from the State Department but was later allowed to resign without prejudice and not be restored to his job because of suspected Communist or Communistic sympathies. Bufiles also reveal he has had previous contact with Soviet Nationals at the Russian Embassy. Weisberg has also previously written the Bureau concerning the Warren Report and because of his background, no acknowledgement was made.

RECOMMENDATION:

EX-113

ST-11 REC-57

REC 22

(1-10757) - 524
4 NOV 21 1966

It is recommended, in view of the above information, that Mr. Johnson be telephonically advised that the FBI cannot be of assistance to Weisberg in this matter.

- 1-Mr. Mohr
- 1-Mr. DeLoach
- 1-Mr. Rosen, Att: Mr. Mallery, 5710
- 1-Mr. Sullivan, Att: Mr. Lenihan, 818 9th & P
- 1-Mr. Wick
- 1-Mr. Raupach

CC: fch (10)

56 NOV 28 1966

we have given all exhibits to the Archives as previously directed by C.S. H

Handwritten notes on left margin:
11/3/66
Cunningham

November 29, 1966

Mr. Tolson ✓
 Mr. DeLoach ✓
 Mr. Mohr ✓
 Mr. Wick ✓
 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. TOLSON:

Marvin Watson called me from the White House at 12:45 p. m. today



Watson referred to the assassination of President Kennedy and stated that he would appreciate receiving, on plain paper, any "trends" which indicated that a specific group, including the Communist Party, was back of the attacks on the Warren Commission. He stated that the President in giving him these instructions had told him that he, the President, had specifically noted that a number of individuals of left-wing beliefs had made denunciations of the Warren Commission.

Watson advised that the President would also like to have any information in FBI files which would reflect the immediate reaction of the Soviet Union following the assassination and any reactions noted since then concerning the assassination. He stated the President had told him that he had seen somewhere a newspaper article reporting that a member of the French Government had recently denounced the assassination investigation. Watson stated that if we could find this news clipping we should furnish the President anything we had in our files concerning the matter.

Watson raised the question as to whether the FBI was investigating the leak of information by the Presidential Crime Commission to the "New York Times." I told him we were not, that no one had requested such an investigation. He asked if one should be conducted. I told him this was entirely up to him and the President, however, he should know that such investigations were usually a waste of time, particularly when you considered that Fred Graham of the "New York Times" to whom the information had been

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Gale

CDD:amr (5)
amr

NOT RECORDED
199 DEC 14 1966

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COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

SOVIET SECTION

12-1-66

Informal memo DeLoach to Mr. Tolson

leaked, was one of Katzenbach's social acquaintances and a person who was also very familiar with Vorenberg, consequently, it would be rather impossible to get these individuals to reveal any information. Watson stated he agreed thoroughly and if the President raised the issue once again, he would try to talk him out of it.

ACTION:

1. The Domestic Intelligence Division will check files and coordinate information relative to any immediate reaction on the part of the Soviet Union concerning the assassination. This Division will also check files relative to any reaction that the Soviet Union has shown since the assassination.

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten notes]
11-30-62

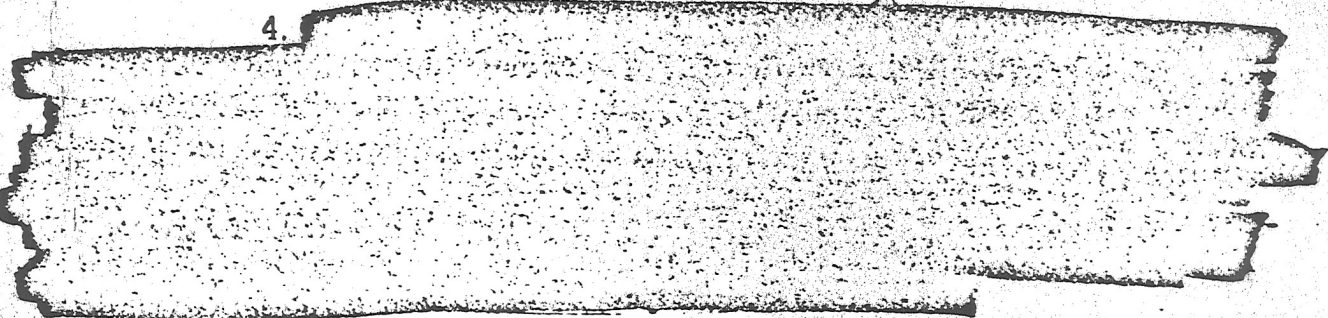
2. The Crime Records Division will check news clippings concerning the French Government official who allegedly made a recent statement concerning the assassination.

[Handwritten initials]

3. The Domestic Intelligence Division will prepare a memorandum on plain paper concerning all these matters so that this memorandum can be furnished to Watson in connection with his request.

[Handwritten initials]

4.



*The man was investigated
in White House in 1962.
Recheck being instituted*

C.D. DeLoach
[Handwritten initials]
[Handwritten initials]

RESPECTFULLY,

C. D. DE LOACH

TOP SECRET

REACTION OF SOVIET AND COMMUNIST
PARTY OFFICIALS TO THE ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

[REDACTED]

TS

[REDACTED]

TS

The position of the Communist Party, USA, toward the Warren Commission Report was clearly set forth in the October 11, 1964, issue of "The Worker," an East Coast communist newspaper. In an article captioned "Warren Report Brushes Off Ultra-Rightist Conspiracy," it was stated that the Warren Report gives comparatively very little space to the material that came before it indicating that a "Right-wing conspiracy" was in the making and that Oswald was a "Left-painted" undercover instrument of such forces or of a Government agency. The article further stated that ~~even the limited material which the Warren Commission has~~ put into the record on the Rightist conspiracy that was in progress is an important contribution and provides a basis for further investigation.

No information has been developed indicating any of the so-called communist "splinter groups" such as the Progressive Labor Party, Socialist Workers Party or the Workers World Party, have planned or instituted any concerted effort or drive to discredit or attack the Warren Commission. Official publications of these organizations have from time to time contained isolated articles which have been critical of the Warren Commission. For example,

TOP SECRET

I hope Mark Lane, Harold Weisberg, Penn Jones and their allies succeed in getting a new investigation -- an honest investigation of Kennedy's assassination -- established. Then maybe the true story of this crime will be revealed to the American people and the world.

Yours truly,

J. M. Sturn

COPY:nm

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Wick

January 11, 1967

REC-23 62-1001090

563

EX-103

Mr. E. Joseph W. Mosbrook
 WDEL News
 2727 Shipley Road
 Wilmington, Delaware 19803

Radio W.D.E.I.

Fraser
Shirley

Dear Mr. Mosbrook:

Joseph W.

With reference to your communication of January 9, 1967, this is to advise that all the material developed by the FBI in connection with our investigation of the assassination of former President Kennedy was turned over to the Warren Commission for its consideration and the results of our inquiry into this matter were subsequently made available to the National Archives by the Warren Commission.

In view of the foregoing, it is suggested answers to any questions you may have concerning the work performed by the Warren Commission or the FBI would be available through review at the National Archives.

Sincerely yours,

1-Baltimore, Enclosures (2) (INFO)

KMR:hw

(8)

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Attached is in reply to Mr. Mosbrook, WDEL News, who has requested information regarding the Zapruder motion picture film which was the film taken by a bystander at the assassination. Since our investigation relating to this film and other aspects of this assassination was complete and thorough and subsequently furnished to the Warren Commission, he is being referred to data contained in the National Archives. Baltimore furnished copies of Mosbrook's letter and our reply to him.

MAILED 2
 JAN 12 1967
 COMM-FBI

Vertical stamp on left margin.

Vertical stamp on right margin.

JAN 27 1967 TELETYPE UNIT

Handwritten signatures and initials at the bottom of the page.

WDEL

AM • FM

DIAL 1150

DIAL 93.7

January 9, 1967

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
10th Street and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am preparing a broadcast report on the Warren Report and the various criticisms of it. Much of the criticism is based on analyses of the Abraham Zapruder motion picture film. So that I may present an accurate report would you please answer two questions for me:

1. What was Zapruder's exact location when he shot the film?
2. At what speed did Zapruder shoot his film?

(The Warren Report indicated that it was 18.6 frames per second. But, in his book "Whitewash II" Harold Weisberg quotes two FBI reports fixing the speed variously at: 24, 22, and 17.6 frames per second.)

Also, if possible, I would appreciate a brief statement from you on the Warren Report and the various attacks on it. Are you convinced that the evidence presented by the Report supports the conclusion that Oswald acted alone in the crime?

Thank you very much for your kind cooperation.

Sincerely,

E. Joseph W. Mosbrook

E. Joseph W. Mosbrook
WDEL News

12 JAN 18 1967

EXP-PROC.

JAN 10 1967

NBC
AFFILIATE

Handwritten notes:
J-1 to 17
K-11-67

EX-103

REC-27

Handwritten: 1-10-67-563

FBI

Date: 10/17/66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: CRIME RECORDS DIVISION

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT: SPECIAL TELEVISION PROGRAM
CONCERNING THE WARREN COMMISSION
9 P.M., NOVEMBER 12, 1966
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Handwritten notes:
Bridgman
Television Station
New York

ReBuairtel, dated 10/7/66.

Mr. LARRY FRAIBERG, Station Manager, WNEW-TV, an established source of the NYO, advised on 10/17/66, that the above captioned television show will be pre-recorded. Mr. FRAIBERG volunteered to make available a transcript of the show, which will be available on or about 10/25/66.

The NYO will immediately furnish this transcript to the Bureau when available.

REC 10 62 109090 - 519
OCT 18

- 4 - Bureau
- 1 - Crime Records Division
- 1 - New York

REC'D N.Y.
FBI

18 OCT 18 1966

JMA:jaw
(6)

OCT 31 1966

CRIME RESEARCH

Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Rosen

DATE: October 28, 1966

FROM: R. I. Shroder

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

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (Mr. Lenihan)

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

This is to advise a copy of a transcript captioned "A Re-examination of the Warren Commission Findings: a Minority Report," has been obtained. This is a transcript of a show to be telecast on 11/12/66, over WNEW-TV, New York City, and will be seen on WTTG, Channel 5, Washington, D. C., at 9 P. M., 11/12/66. A detailed memorandum will be submitted following a review of this transcript.

BACKGROUND:

A United Press International release indicated a three-hour panel discussion program is to be aired on 11/12/66, by WNEW-TV, dealing with the criticisms of the Warren Commission Report on the assassination of President Kennedy.

The program entitled "A Re-examination of the Warren Commission Findings: a Minority Report," is to feature five authors of books and articles on the Commission Report.

The participants in this program are: Jacob Cohen, Penn Jones, Mark Lane, Leo Savage and Harold Weisberg. The show will be hosted by Jim Bishop.

6 NOV 17 1966

It is to be noted four of the five authors have been critical of the findings of the President's Commission and have been seeking notoriety to sell their publications and articles. Mr. Cohen indicated he defends the President's Commission. Mr. Bishop also agrees with the Commission.

The New York Office, through an established source, obtained a copy of the transcript of the television show which was recorded 8/30/66, and is to be telecast 11/12/66, at 9 P. M., over WNEW-TV, New York, and

Enclosure
KMR:eem

(8)

57 NOV 30 1966

62-104290-
NOT RECORDED
199 NOV 29 1966
CONTINUED - OVER

ORIGINAL

It also is clear that ~~it~~ as ~~it~~ 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 identifiable.

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 12/1/63 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 ~~is~~ an attachment not attached here. That may be the ~~lie~~ ^{lie} ~~blatant~~ 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 RA by FBIHQ. (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 get 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 note not 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 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 WTTC 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.

8

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.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Wick *[initials]*

DATE: 12-5-66

FROM : D. C. Morrell *[initials]*

SUBJECT: J. M. STURN
13228 HANSWORTH AVENUE
HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA

By letter dated 11-27-66 (attached) Sturn questions the Director's statements concerning the findings of the Warren Commission.

Sturn states he has read several books regarding the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy and expresses the opinion that evidence was suppressed or ignored by the Warren Commission and that if such evidence were announced to the American people it would prove the existence of more than one assassin, as well as the existence of a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy embracing persons in local and state governments of Texas as well as the Federal Government. Sturn asks the Director why he defends the Warren Report; what he is afraid of; what the defenders of the Warren Report are trying to cover up; and who the defenders of this Report are trying to protect. Sturn ends his letter with the statement he hopes an honest investigation will be conducted and truth revealed to the American people and to the world.

It is obvious Sturn has a pre-conceived opinion of this matter and has no interest in the true facts; therefore, it is believed there would be nothing to be gained in a contact with him to straighten him out. Bufiles contain no information identifiable with Sturn.

RECOMMENDATION:

That no acknowledgement to Sturn's letter of DEC 7 1966 11-27-66 be made.

REC 10 67 11-27-66 545
ST 104

Enclosure
77 DEC 14 1966
1 - Mr. Wick - Enclosure
1 - Mr. DeLoach
HRH:lpw (4) *[initials]*

[Handwritten initials and signatures]
Wick
DeLoach
Mohr
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

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

11-27-66
 13228 Hansworth Ave.
 Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

J. Edgar Hoover, Director
 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have read your comments published in the newspapers recently defending the conclusions of the Warren Commission which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy. You state your belief that Oswald was the lone assassin, etc., etc.

I have read several books on this subject. Among them are "Rush to Judgement" by Mark Lane; "Whitewash - The Report on the Warren Report" by Harold Weisberg; and "Pardon My Grief" by Penn Jones. As a result, I believe the conclusions of the Warren Report on Kennedys assasination are false. It is true that the books listed above don't bring forth any new evidence to prove the Warren Commissions conclusions false. But the writers of these books have done a public service by calling the attention of the American people to existing, available evidence which was suppressed or ignored by the Warren Commission, and which if announced to the American people would prove the existence of more than one assasin, as well as the existence of a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy embracing persons in the local and state governments of Texas as well as the federal government of the United States - including private individuals whose identity is not known or has not been revealed.

Mr. Mark Lane's book indicated that the FBI, which you head, went out of its way to harass & brain-wash witnesses with certain knowledge that would refute the false story of Kennedy's assasination given to the American people by the Warren Commission. Why do you defend the Warren Report, Mr. Hoover? What are you afraid of? What are the defenders of the Warren Report trying to cover up? Who are they trying to protect?

Handwritten:
 12-5-66
 H.L. [unclear]

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 Maile. 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. 62-1090⁹0-(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 mention 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 FO in response to my request although it did manage not to withhold some of its WHEW-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 WFTG.) 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 Cortlandt 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 amending 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 defacements of me, one being entirely new to me and the other being a combination 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