Mr. Richard L. Huff, Co-Director
OIP
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

1/3/85

Re; Appeals Nos. 80-1644, 81-0533

Dear Mr. Huff,

In your 12/31 you are correct, I am indeed interested in both the working excerpts and whatever portion of the transcripts of JFK assassination broadcasts by the Dallas police Ms. Hubbell has located. I believe I provided much more than the two appeals you cite, but because nothing was done contemporaneously it may not now be practical for you to retrieve it, certainly not without a great effort that from memory I can save your office.

Each of the two Dallas police channels was monitored continuously, one by dictabelt and the other by a Gray Audiograph, which makes a disc-type recording. The existence of these recording has presented the FBI with serious problems because about five minutes were obliterated at just the time of the assassination and it did nothing at all about the untoward business. I recall no record even suggesting an investigation by it to determine the cause, nor any report about the matter to the Warren Commission. This incident is of continuing scholarly and scientific interest, was of great interest to HSCA and in response to its request the Attorney General promised to have an impartial scientific study made. It was arranged for this to be done under conditions that preclude use of FOIA to obtain any information that was not then published.

What the FBI was careful to keep outside its main assassination files is the fact that it made tape recordings from the police recordings. I believe it used its own equipment (Wollensak) in this, that it was done in the police radio room, and without question the FBI transcribed portions for the Warren Commission, which published them. And I tell you, there are omissions in its transcription as published. Which may give the FBI additional problems.

You refer to the "original distabelt," in the singular. There were more than one dictabelt and there is an existing question of originality, dubs having been made earlier. You do not refer to the Gray discs, also plural. And not to any taped copies other than for Lab use. These exist, the FBI has them, and I've been trying to get them for years. There should be coverage of the chain of possession on paper and that, of course, also is of interest. However, it is not where you'd expect to find it, in the assassination records. No other search is claimed to have been made.

It ought be a relatively simple matter if you ask the Dallas FBI office to search its indices other than the special one it made to have control over the information it sent to Washington for possible forwarding to the Commission. An obvious search is under the police, another under known names, such as Bowles, whose full name I've forgotten but provided frequently. And above all, all references must be reported because the FBI has a built-in evasion, filing records relating to local police as Classification 80, which actually represents "Laboratory Research Matters" and in the field offices isn't that at all.

As of my last knowledge, SA Udo H. Specht was the Dallas case agent, and as of my last knowledge it had been approved to use the original and retired case agent, Robert P. Gemberling, who ought have personal knowledge.

There was a time when Dallas kept such matters in a special cabinet, one I identified earlier. I have no way of knowing what, if any, of its contents were not sent to FBIHQ in 1978.

There ought be no problem in disclosing the records Ms. Hubbell located and

I am confident there there are no privacy considerations whatever the time of the records. The FBI disclosed the list of its Dallas employees and those on TD there, with home addresses and phones and those involved through HSCA have also been publicly identified. I tell you this because it is possible that when I can go over those records I may be able to save you time and effort.

The original tape recordings are quite important because the diskabelts have deteriorated, through time and repeated uses, which, with a needle, do damage the belts. This is also, at least to a degree, true of belt duplicates.

When dubs are made for me, I would appreciate a second set, for which I will pay. This also will be economical for the FBI because there is another researcher who will, without question, want a set. I will provide him with xeroxes of the records you send me and save you and the FBI that time and trouble.

Are you aware that I was to have received all relevant records of the Criminal Division? That I filed appeals directly with it (Mr. Buckley, as I recall) and with Mr. Shea and never received a word in return?

For your and Ms. Hubbell's information, the five minutes of obliterated conversation were analyzed for both HSCA and the Attorney General, with contradictory interpretations. HSCA's experts detected what the FBI claims there was not, a fourth shot. The AG's panel disputes this.

Unofficial and poor copies of the tapes have been available for years. For your additional information, what I refer to above as omitted by the FBI relates to Officer J.D. Tippit, who also was killed.

As I think you can see, this is a matter of continuing interest, so if there is any way in which I may be able to help, please let me know. And my thanks to Ms. Hubbell, please.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg
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Frederick, MD 21701