

JFK (and King) assassination records appeals

Harold Weisberg 10/10/79

I designate this one special abuse by ZC40 because of the large number of appeals to which it is relevant:

Classification

Withholding the reasonably segregable

Withholding informant file numbers

by FBI request and Robert Kaffke

by JFK appeal relating to Robert Kaffke

Arbitrariness, capriciousness, inconsistency and withholding what the FBI itself has already disclosed.

That Robert Kaffke was a San Francisco informant and operated in Mexico you know from copies of records I provided with the cited prior appeals.

is airtel with LHM,
Yet in 68-109050-1857, which the San Francisco 12/4/63 airtel to HQ,, every single word on the five attached pages is obliterated by ZC40, under "national security" claim. Line by line, word for word. Including Kaffke's name. (I do not attach this record.)

of the airtel.
However, there are no obliterations on the first of covering page ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

There is where Kaffke's name and 134 file number are disclosed. Yet in other cases and under oath in court cases the FBI swears it has to withhold informant file numbers. (This matter is currently before the appeals court in C.A. 78-1249, in which you provided and affidavit, and before district court in the King case.)

The second page is entirely withheld by ZC40, without any claim made for it. His written claims to indefinite exemption and to classification begin on the second page of the airtel.

The captioned subject matter is the JFK assassination, relating to which there should be no non-essential withholdings, and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, which has not existed for 15 years or more, or with no legitimate "national security" aspects if there ever were any or any of other than a domestic intelligence and paramilitary political nature.

This is not the only instance of disclosure of an informant file number without any hurt to the informant or the FBI. Nor is it, as I believe is probably, the only instance where the withholding tends to perpetuate hurt to the innocent. (With totality of withholding I can't be certain.)

Office was used to spy on "ark" case, as the records I provided with my appeals of months ago establish. I then asked if he was used to spy on me because he was present at a small group I was ~~asked~~^{asked} to address on one of my trips to San Francisco. That group was led by one active in KPCC and of other associations of interest to the FBI, as I've also informed you. I did file a PA request in 1979 and appealed the FBI's ignoring of it fairly promptly. I doubt you have any greater backlog than of about four years. Yet you did not even respond when I called this office matter to your attention. If you made even perfunctory inquiry of the San Francisco Field Office you did not so inform me and I have heard no more from anyone in any component or office.

Given good faith and the intent to comply this matter could have been handled many months ago. Yet a year or more ago you asked me for a schedule of priorities and I told you my PA request was first. Since then you have provided nothing, not even responses to appeals or acknowledgment of receipt of them.

This and the kinds of records I appeal without action reduce the appeals machinery to a whitewashing machine. The FBI has and had unhidden political purpose - unhidden, that is, once any records were available. Failure ^{to} act constitutes suggesting these entirely improper if not illegal FBI activities.

Need I remind you again that I asked for a review of all claims to declassification under the new E.O. - and that nothing has happened since, in more than a year and in an historical case?

Oh, well, maybe my years old appeals of demands of information requested in 1968 will be acted out in 1984.