

Withholding - 1996

Mr. Quinlan J. Shea
Director, FOIA/PA Appeals
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
3/31/78

Dear Mr. Shea,

While this letter deals with C.A.75-1996, I write it pursuant to a phone call from Jim Lesar this afternoon. That call followed conversation with Doug Mitchell of your staff with regard to the enclosures. Here is the background:

A reporter spent much of last Saturday here going over some of my King assassination files. In the course of seeking those records of interest to him I found a copy of an OPR record I had made for checking for which I had not found time. I had read every word in all the MURKIN files I received and I recalled no record as is described in this OPR record. The marks in the margin were made as reminders to me when I did the checking.

This OPR record is its summary of Section 78 of FBI HQ MURKIN records.

The language I did not recall having seen in any form is "In connection with conspiracy claims note the memorandum (Serial 5651) that Coretta King and Rev. Abernathy wanted to keep the conspiracy possibilities alive for SCLC monetary support reasons. The basis for this allegation is a wire tap."

A check of Serial 5651 shows there is no such content in it. So I checked the worksheets. As is not uncommon with the copies provided to me this one is quite unclear. I have put an arrow in the margin to direct your attention to the right one. It describes this record as an internal memo of 3/17/69. It reflects that the memo was of but a single page and that this page was released to me, with excisions under claim of (7)(C) and (D).

But the page released to me not only says no such thing - there are no excisions!

I feel reasonably certain that if you obtain the full Serial you will find that it consists of more than a single page and that it does have the content reflected in the OPR notes. If this is the case then the FBI was pretty dirty in this. It then has to have lied about the number of pages and to have withheld what reflects FBI wire-tapping the year after Dr. King was killed, almost a full year later. All but 16 days of a year.

You can decide for yourself whether (7)(D) also is appropriate for such withholding.

When I learned this I took it up with Jim. Today he told me that Doug Mitchell had checked and found that Ralph Harp's records reflect the record was of but a single page. However, the analyst was Higgins, not Harp, as the worksheet shows.

It appears to me that this shows that the worksheets are essential in such cases and that the FBI may well have reasons other than conveyed to you for refusing them to me in the JFK releases. Without the worksheets it is impossible to know what exemption is claimed, how many pages may be withheld and even if not recorded serials are withheld. Those not recorded are not numbered.

I have not sent copies to Mrs. King or Dr. Abernathy in the belief that the Department might prefer doing this. I also have not told anyone else to protect the rights of the reporter in question.

I would appreciate a clear copy of the full Serial and of a corrected worksheet.

Sincerely,

cc: Jim Lesar

Harold Weisberg

SECTION 78

Almost all of the serials in this section of the King assassination file carry dates subsequent to the March 10, 1969, conviction and sentencing of Ray on his plea of guilty. The Bureau's emphasis shifted to the conspiracy leads and possibilities. Two FBI interviews of Ray are reported. They were vague although the existence of someone other than himself as the trigger was repeated by Ray. In connection with conspiracy claims note the memorandum [Serial 5651] that Coretta King and Rev. Abernathy wanted to keep the conspiracy possibilities alive for SCLC monetary support reasons. The basis for this allegation is a wire tap.

The Bureau also seeks to capitalize on the publicity by getting a book written by someone such as Jim Bishop.

HAMILTON COUNTY KING
MURKIN

WORK SHEET - LABOR ACQUISIT
ANALYST - MICHAEL J. F. JR.
SERIAL - A-4

PAGE 4
SECTION 7

SERIAL/NO OF DATE	DESCRIPTION	KIND OF INSTR.	# OF ACT.	PAID WEL.	REQUISITIONS						REMARKS	
					BI 2	BI 3	BI 4	BI 5	BI 6	OTHER		
5652	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5653	INTERNAL MISC		2	2								
5654	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5655	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5656	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5657	INTERNAL MISC		2	2								
5658	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5659	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5660	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5661	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5662	INTERNAL MISC		3	3								
5663	INTERNAL MISC		4	4								
5664	INTERNAL MISC		4	4								
5665	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5666	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5667	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5668	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5669	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5670	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5671	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5672	INTERNAL MISC		3	3								
5673	INTERNAL MISC		4	4								
5674	INTERNAL MISC		4	4								
5675	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5676	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5677	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5678	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5679	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5680	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5681	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5682	INTERNAL MISC		3	3								
5683	INTERNAL MISC		4	4								
5684	INTERNAL MISC		4	4								
5685	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5686	INTERNAL MISC		1	1								
5687	INTERNAL MISC		2	2								

BY DATE

REMOVED BY DATE

NOTIFIED BY DATE



SECTION 7B

Almost all of the serials in this section of the King assassination file carry dates subsequent to the March 10, 1969, conviction and sentencing of Ray on his plea of guilty. The Bureau's emphasis shifted to the conspiracy leads and possibilities. Two FBI interviews of Ray are reported. They were vague although the existence of someone other than himself as the trigger was repeated by Ray. In connection with conspiracy claims note the memorandum [Serial 5651] that Coretta King and Rev. Abernathy wanted to keep the conspiracy possibilities alive for SCLC monetary support reasons. The basis for this allegation is a wire tap.

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HANITON, C. W. KING
 HANITON, C. W. KING
 HANITON, C. W. KING

WORK SHEET - 2000 REQUEST
 ANALYST - MICHAEL J. F. JR.
 EXT -
 TEAM # - A-4

SECTION 7E
 PAGE 2

SERIAL/SEC OF DATE	DESCRIPTION	XEROX INSTR.	# OF ACT.	PAGE NO.	BL 2	BL 3	BL 4	BL 5	BL 6	EXEMPTIONS	OTHER	REMARKS
56572	INSTRUMENT MAND		1	1								
56573	INSTRUMENT MAND		2	2								
56574	INSTRUMENT MAND		1	1								
56575	INSTRUMENT MAND		1	1								
56576	INSTRUMENT MAND		3	3								
56577	INSTRUMENT MAND		5	5								
56578	INSTRUMENT MAND		4	4								
56579	INSTRUMENT MAND		3	3								
56580	INSTRUMENT MAND		1	1								
56581	INSTRUMENT MAND		1	1								
56582	INSTRUMENT MAND		3	3								
56583	INSTRUMENT MAND		1	1								
56584	INSTRUMENT MAND		4	4								
56585	INSTRUMENT MAND		1	1								
56586	INSTRUMENT MAND		1	1								
56587	INSTRUMENT MAND		2	2								

REPORT BY _____ DATE _____

REPORT BY _____ DATE _____

REPORT BY _____ DATE _____



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HANITAN COUNTY KING
MUNICIPALITY

WORK SHEET - WORK REQUEST
ANALYST - MICHAEL J. F. JR.
SERIES - A-4

PAGE 2
SECTION 74

SERIAL/REQ OR DATE	DESCRIPTION	WORK DATE.	# OF ACT.	PAGES REL.	EXEMPTIONS						REMARKS	
					b1	2	5	7C	D	OTHER		
5652	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5653	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		2	2								
5654	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5655	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5656	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5657	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5658	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5659	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5660	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5661	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5662	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		3	3								
5663	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		5	5								
5664	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		4	4								
5665	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5666	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5667	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5668	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5669	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5670	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5671	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5672	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		3	3								
5673	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		5	5								
5674	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		4	4								
5675	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5676	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5677	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		1	1								
5678	INVESTIGATIVE REPORT		2	2								

BY _____ DATE _____

REMOVED BY _____ DATE _____

REMOVED BY _____ DATE _____



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