2/22/77

Dear Howard,

Lawton's 2/8 is pretty scandalous. They can't find a signed copy of such a record when they know it was locked in the OLC safe?

In your note on Kelley's 2/1 you note that when the letter deals with your 40,111 they have incompatibale statistics which mean that between 1/26 and 2/1 or in six days they received 891 requests and added 121 to their backlog.

I like it that they say they are working on 4/86 requests now.

I have none they should not have processed by this alone.

In time Jim will use it.

Thanks,

This is a fascinating mix-up or administrative blunder, if blunder it is. Remember that Kelley sent me almost the identical letter dated 1/26/77. The only difference is the date and the numbers in paragpaph 3, first page. My request number in both letters is the same--40,111.

By simple math, between 1/26 and 2/1, at most 6 days, they received 891 FOIAPA requests, and r[redacted]d their backlog [redacted] expanded 121 requests more.

I wonder what happened that they wrote me 2 letters like this?

HR 2/10/77

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

February 1, 1977

Mr. Howard Roffman
Apartment 156
1111 Southwest 16th Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Dear Mr. Roffman:

This is to acknowledge receipt by the FBI of your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request which was forwarded from the Department of Justice relating to particular documents on the assassination of the late President Kennedy.

An exceedingly heavy volume of FOIPA requests has been received these past few months. Additionally, court deadlines involving certain cases of considerable scope have been imposed upon the FBI. Despite successive expansions of our staff responsible for FOIPA matters, substantial delays in processing requests continue.

Since January 1, 1975, the FBI has received a total of 31,047 FOIPA requests. Of these, our present backlog is 8,234. In an effort to deal fairly with any request requiring the retrieval, processing and duplication of documents, each request is being handled in chronological order based on the date of receipt. Please be assured that your request is being handled as equitably as possible and that all documents which can be released will be made available at the earliest possible date.

We are now beginning to work on requests which we received during April, 1976.

Mr. Howard Roffman

Your request has been assigned number 40,111 which you are requested to utilize in any correspondence with this Bureau regarding this request.

Your patience and understanding will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director