

5/14/71

Withholding, Releasing, Basis for both, CDs, 1970 declassification

MF, SM, PH, JNS

Last night I began filing the declassified CDs in a numerical file and listing them. I ran out of file folders. I was not reading them, but infrequently some things did catch my eye. One, for example, as to do with the guy alleged to have said that he had slept with both Ruby and Oswald. A name in it caught my eye. It turns out that this is something I had asked for, long ago and been refused, something I expect to find common and in some areas know I will. Paul has at least to a degree had the same experience I had, of having what he had sought and been refused, relatively recently, declassified when it should not have been declassified. In one of my cases, they had to have declassified what I sought when they were insisting they would not let me have it, else the declassifying was very late starting. So, I think a study in and of itself on this point, why was something classified to begin with, why was it declassified, should it have been to begin with, should it have been declassified when it was, can serve a number of useful purposes, understanding always being one.

From the less than casual glance I had at those I did note, to a limited degree I think it can be said that some of the declassification was controlled by special considerations, special pressures to which government became sensitive, and involved what never really had to be classified to begin with. One of these is the CIA report in the non-existent Minsk intelligence training school. Extremists have been hollering for years that there was such a school and that Oswald was sent to it. Our own pressures can also account for the release of some of the W.O. materials, some of Chicago, etc.

So, as others go over these, I'd appreciate any notes or comments on these point, and I suggest that we all set up similar files, for the day may well come in court where such a commentary can have both value and influence.

I think we must recognize that there are legitimate reasons for withholding, medical records, Marina's being only one case, allegations of homosexuality and things of similar character clearly falling into this category. When the information was public at the time of classification, as with Ferrie, I also think that was not the real reason. I made this point in my extensive efforts to get what had been withheld on Ferrie.

With regard to the case cited above, PH and JNS may have special interest, if they have not noted it, and I can't here go into all that I know of it but will answer later inquiries from any who may have special interest. Heller appears in this series of reports on Ruby/Oswald/homo. He is the same guy who appears in another context in another series of reports, dealing with LHO attending meetings, as I recall, and his picketing and arrest. One guy in two different areas of Oswald's career? In the material that had not been withheld, having to do with lit. dist., he also appears as having tried to get a lawyer (Nelson) for LHO. Nelson was later involved in the GEO lawyer flap in NO and when I then wrote him never answered. This series also includes the name of a former FBI informant, not so designated, but known to me personally. I stayed with him for a while!