Silvershirts

Dear Jim, 6/9/77 FBI's copy of one of my 10/27/75 FOIAs

Because this in on government-sized paper and was ~~folded~~ folded although you sent it to me flat I assume the FBI mailed it.

With the confusion in my FOIA files since Scott started to organize them I do not know if this is one I can8t find. I know the one referred to by Buckley is missing. At firstthe FBI denied I'd filed that one, personal files.

I suppose t e line around the Silvershirt request means it was copied for that purpose.

You also get a few numbers on this, not entirely legible, indicative of not a close generation copy. Like after the stamps ST 112, qhich I've seen often in the King records, the stamp REC 62. What is written after this is what appears to be 67-115530- and in different writing 10250. I wodder is, with this having been stamped FOIA- GENERAL the 10250 is a sequential number.

First if I have not done it I think that now I should broaden my JFK request for everything not deposited in the National Archives before the amending the Act and for copies that eliminate some of the withholdings on previous copies. This should present no real problem at all on the records they have gone over, only a mechanical bit. While I think I did this I'm not certain. I did not limit it this was as I recall. I just asked for "all."

Now there is no search problem on the FBI HQ file. It is all together to begin with.

Where it is a simply request like this and with a request now 20 months old I'd think the FBI would be willing to proceed and clean up and look better. They should have no review problems because Hoover offered it all to the Warren Commission through Belmont, as I recall, with no restrictions and Hoover took an exceptionally good position in making all the Commission had available.

I don t want to make debating points against them. I just want compliance. Now with the load they have in Operation Onsalught they might want to clean up most of my requests. I think that if they want to they can.

On rereading this I think that without going broke I can make a gesture toward taking some pressure off of that unit, whether or not John. I think, given some of the heardheads we have encountered there, it might be worthwhile to discuss this informally with John if he can get a list of all the requests together. The gesture is for the analysts and professional help to have no or minimal involvement. The cost of duplicating movie film is not that great. I believe it cost only $10 for the dupe of the WDSU film, and this was commercial rate. I have it and the Martin film. Doyle offered to let me make a copy if I got out there. His is 8mm regular, as is Martin's, cheap to duplicate. The only question about costs on this sheet,is of the color pixk of the JFK clothing. Before saying I'll pay for all, even those I don t want, I'd like an idea of the cost. If it is not great I'll just tell John to do it alT and save work for those on his level. On this one I'd like them to act fast because I regard it as relevant in OA75-226 and it sure would look bad for there to have been no action in 20 months, especially before the appeals court.

I don't know how these people work and I certainly have no right to tell them how to work. But I do believe that if they would get all my requests together, have a clerk make a list of them for them and for us, which would eliminate future problems, and have a copy they and we can go over at a mutually convenient time, I do think it could go pretty fast. From Howard's testimony in C.A.75-1996 it does not appear to be unreasonable to wonder if they do not have me at or near the top of some enemiew lists. He did testify to having gone through all these records three times without meeting any one of my requests. If they want to persist in this there is nothing we can do except take them to court. But if they do not want to persist, especially with the searches made subsequent to my requests, there does not seem to be an enormous jon here. Why not discuss it with John when you can?

FOIA - GENERAL

Rt 12, Frederick, Md., 21701
10/27/75

Harold Weisberg

Mr. Thomas Bresson FOIA REQUEST
FOIA Officer
FBI, HQ
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bresson,

This is my request under the FOIA for copies of the FBI Headquarters file on Lee Harvey Oswald. If you will please let me know the cost I'll send a check.

When we met this spring I told you informally of several other requests I'd be making so you might have time ti look into them. I now want to make these requests formally.

One is for copies of documents relating to the Silver Shirts, particular what may help you locate them, one relating to a meeting with then Congressman Thorkelson and then Army Chief of Staff Malin Craig. I gave these to the FBI about early 1940.

Another is to see, not to have copies of now unless making copies is easier for you and not too costly for me, of two 8mm amateur motion picture films the FBI did not give the Warren Commission. The names of the young men who provided these films are Doyle and Martin. They are films of Oswald being arrested on or about August 6, 1963, on Canal Street, New Orleans. They include him giving out leaflets, too, I believe. With regard to these films and what follows I would also like copies of any analyses of these films and any reports or other FBI papers not given to the Warren Commission.

Shortly after the assassination the FBI obtained from WDSU a copy of its Oswald footage. WDSU has provided me with a copy of the film the FBI returned. I was also informed by the WDSU news director and by a friend who reviewed this footage prior to giving it to the FBI that what was returned is not the complete footage. The FBI made or was provided with stills or both. These are referrred to in FBI and Secret Service reports I have but are not in the Warren Commission files. The FBI reports refer to content of these stills not in the footage returned to WDSU. My request is for copies of the stills, 8x10 glossys, and to see the original footage prior to ordering a copy, which I may or may not want to do.

ST 112 REC-52 [illegible] 10250

OCT 31 1975

I am aware of your position that you provide copies but not other access. You are aware of my position, that the law requires both access and copies but that access does not require the applicant to accept copies of the government's selection only. However, I would prefer to avoid any dispute on this now. If the cost of a duplicate of the WDSU footage is not too great for me, I will compromise and merely buy it, without waiving the general principle. I would also like to know if the FBI's duplication of this footage in 1963 was made where WDSU sent the footage returned to it for duplicating for me, Panamerican films, on Rampart St., New Orleans.

F.O.I.A.

The FBI made color pictures of President Kennedy's clothing for the Warren Commission. The copies in the Archives are very poor. At some time when it is convenient for both of us I make formal request to examine all of these prior to asking for any copies I may want.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg