

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg, JFK assassination records appeals  
New Orleans recording withholding of the public domain;  
violation of historical case standards.

6/29/79

Although in zeroxing the attached Rosen to Belmont memo of 11/29/63 the FBI eliminated its identification it is from Section 2 of 105-82555, the PAHQ Oswald file, Serial 72.

There is neither need nor basis for withholding of the obliterated name. If it is not that of Jack S. Martin then there are two people who gave identical stories, Martin and the person whose name is withheld.

If this were not an historical case there would be no basis for this withholding. It is typical of the FBI's inversions of exceptions after the passing of the Act and withholds the kind of information that was not withheld prior to FOIA.

All of those who provided information of this nature are known. There is not much likelihood that the obliterated paragraph is not information that is within the public domain. In context it could refer to Martin's right name, Suggs, his criminal record or his psychiatric record, all of which are within the public domain. With Ferris and Gill in the preceding paragraph, if the obliteration refers to the fact that Gill was one of Carlos Marcello's attorneys and Ferris was investigator on the case in which the Department had Marcello in court the day of the assassination, all of that is very much in the public as well as court records, although the FBI had a great reluctance in letting the Warren Commission know this.

As of the time of the processing of this and similar records the FBI was aware that it should post the exceptions claimed at the point of obliteration.

Aside from its usual policy of harassment and of wasting time and money to inflate FOIA statistics other motives can be visualized. One is the official fiction that the first report of an Oswald-Ferris association came from the very undependable Martin. In fact it did not. The false pretense that Martin was the source enabled the agencies to depreciate all ideas of any Ferris-Oswald association. The fact is that they were in the same unit of the Civil Air Patrol at the same time, Ferris unofficially.