

Acting Director

7-9-73

Legal Counsel

PAUL L. HOCH  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

*Doogan*  
*Br...*  
*EC*  
*Freedom of Information Act*  
*Oswald*  
*Golden*  
*Wagon*

At 10:00 a. m., on 7-6-73, Mr. John C. Gallinger, Office of Legal Counsel, U. S. Department of Justice, and Special Agent Paul G. Donahue, Office of Legal Counsel, met Paul L. Hoch in Room 4414, Justice Building. The meeting was arranged by Mr. Gallinger at the request of Mr. Hoch.

Mr. Hoch's main concern was the status of his appeal on the denial of all preassassination FBI files on Lee Harvey Oswald. Mr. Gallinger discussed this with him in relation to the Weisberg case which is scheduled for a rehearing en banc before the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Mr. Hoch was interested in whether the Department or the FBI would reconsider the previous denial, independent of the result of the Weisberg case. He was informed by both Mr. Gallinger and Mr. Donahue that we preferred to follow the previous decision and the appeals procedure available after denial.

Mr. Hoch manifested interest in the procedures followed in handling his requests and these were described to him in broad outline. Both Messrs. Gallinger and Donahue impressed upon him the fact that several of his requests had involved lengthy file reviews and that each was considered carefully before denial. He was also informed by Mr. Gallinger that any review of FBI files for preassassination data, if eventually ordered, would involve substantial fees under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Hoch talked vaguely in terms of exploring the interaction between the Warren Commission and the FBI. He said he felt that there were some areas he thought the Warren Commission could have investigated more thoroughly by pressing the FBI to do certain things. He indicated he might write a book someday about his research but did not know if he really had enough material of interest. He stated twice that he tended to believe Oswald was not an FBI informant. However, he also said he thought that at some point Oswald may have been considered a potential informant. Mr. Donahue reminded him that the Warren Commission Report contains affidavits from the late Director Hoover and all Agents who interviewed

- ① Mr. E. S. Miller *(initials)*
- 2 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Donahue

PGD:mbk

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*(87)*

**Memorandum to the Acting Director**  
**Re: Paul L. Hoch**  
**Freedom of Information Act**

Oswald and the Special Agents in Charge of their offices that Oswald was not an informant, that no attempt was made to recruit Oswald as an informant, and that no money was ever paid to Oswald for information.

The meeting ended with Mr. Hoch stating that he was appreciative of the time afforded him and that he understood that his requests were not being denied as a routine matter, but that serious consideration went into passing upon each request. He seemed to have gained some perspective as to the fact that processing his requests frequently requires considerable time spent on file review just to locate and identify what he asks for. He indicated he had no present plans to request further data but would attempt to be very specific in the event of future requests.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None. For information.