

JW

To Jim Learer from MW re ticklers, critics

2/19/85

Your note on the first page of the batch of records disclosed to Mark Allen and sent to me 2/13 reads, "This also ~~shows~~ from last release to Mark Allen - shows ~~it~~ they have ticklers files on critics."

I have these comments: please stop referring to FBI ticklers as "tickler files." This is grist for the FBI disinformation mill, so eliminate the redundancy that is so attractive to the Phillipsons of that menagerie. Just call them what they are, ticklers and nothing else. The ticklers need not be, for example, "files," and the FBI has its own interpretation of the word files.

This also reflects that ticklers are preserved where there is a potential need for the information collected in them, particularly in political cases or cases in which the FBI has its own kinds of political interests. This one is almost two decades old, not by any means the only one of that age, as I attested in 0322/0420.

This and the others with it are also divisional records, kept in the divisions which have need for the information compiled into ticklers.

This and the others are, I think, enough for FOIA (and perhaps other) litigants who have lost because of the persistent FBI lie, witness Phillips despite my many sworn disproofs, that ticklers are temporary, kept for days only and then "routinely" destroyed, to go back on "new evidence." The truth is, as these reflect, that the JFK assassination ticklers continue to grow, are added to regularly. Again after two decades.

The copy of the file folder that this sheet represents is, I'm pretty confident, of one such folder in a Lane tickler. (No author's name on it, for example)

While in some respects the needs of Dallas and field offices like Dallas and New Orleans are not identical, each requires ticklers for its own needs. One is to save time, such time, in searching and reading to extract information. Samples of the condensations are on the Harrison witness ticklers, all FBIHQ needed to know unless considerable detail were needed. In an open case, which this is, the field offices need not only overall summaries but instant access to what each has and knows about items and persons and organizations of interest.

This identification, of the file folder, identifies the source of the record provided with it, not from Central Records.

Such ticklers are not "routinely" destroyed or destroyed at all because there is always, in the future, a possible need for them. An example is attached to one of my affidavits in the field offices or King case, a very large Lab tickler for which the Lab perceived no immediate use. Instead of destroying it Wilty asked and obtained permission to transfer it to Central Records, where all of the records in it already existed - but very widely scattered.

This Lane tickler will, without reasonable question, contain material not in any of the main assassination files because the FBI has Lane information that is not in any of them.

The tickler record identified with the number 53 also is not from a Central Records copy and was marked in hand for "ASS. file." The word here could refer to a separate divisional file or to a tickler within a division. But it still exists after two decades outside Central Records. Although this is political material the tickler it is actually of the General Investigative Division, Alex Rosen's, not Sullivan's intelligence outfit, because the person to whom it was directed, "Schutz," I take to be Henry A. Schutz, who was the unit chief in its criminal section.

For your convenience I provide copies and suggest that these and others can be of use regardless of what the appeals court (from which as of today I've heard nothing) does or does not do because they are "new evidence" and open a road that if you do not take, I will try to, although - do not know now what will be possible. The precedents, particularly as they relate to lawyers, are too significant not to fight every y foot.

Several ticklers are identified as "JFK CURRENT ASSASSINATION TICKLERS," then the volume and document number indicated. Vol. 1, for example, represented by (withheld) docs 62-6, inc.

I have a special reason for including a copy of the FBI Academy routing slip addressed to "Bill Nettles, 5048 JEH." William Nettles was in Division 6, and I don't recall if this was Sullivan's or Rosen's, although from the tickler more likely Rosen's. The attached information is of 1975. I skimmed the names and came to one I recall seeing only once in my life and thus a name I believe is not very common. You ought remember it, Hinderman. The only Hinderman I remember is Earl, E. Howard Hunt's colleague at Bullen, user of the Bullen and Hunt cover address, the man who went to Mexico City for at least Bullen, which had an office there, its own or not, the man who disappeared from Washington and whose phone was assigned to another after Watergate broke. He might very well have the knowledge and experience the FBI wanted for its academy!

In all of these records there is only one set with a proper file identification. It is the Hosty tickler and lo! it has the file number at FBIHQ where I said the FBI had assassination information, 67-494012-143. (Edward subcommittee tickler, of which there are several, again the kind of info the FBI could need to retrieve instantly in the future.) There are others, I've copied one only.

There is a tickler identified as "Garrison Witnesses," of which docs 1,4, ~~and~~ 6,7 and 8 are withheld. The information is of 1967 and 1969, hardly representing "routine" destruction when it still exists so long after the 1969 end of that trial.

I am certain ticklers were an issue and were lied about in the King case so I suggest that because we do not know now what may or may not be relevant and/or useful on the coming remand, you may want to keep some of this tickler info in a file for possible use then. I think that the (excuse the expression) lies are a major factor in the difficulty and risk in the representation and god knows the record is specific enough on them! In this connection, if it become relevant, remember that over his we had SA Horace Beckwith banished from the case.

I don't know what Mark is getting or what of it you are sending me but I think that by now it ought be obvious that the old and still existing JFK assassination ticklers are simply enormous in their size, are being added to, this is known to Phillips' own component, and thus his lies assume greater significance. But in general this is, I think, significant information in any case in which the FBI prevailed by attesting that its ticklers are routinely destroyed. (Which may very well be true in the run-of-the-mill everyday stuff.)

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A U S T R I A

12 August 1966

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Schutz

JOURNALIST CLAIMS CIA ROLE IN WARREN REPORT

Vienna VOLKSTIMME 11 August 1966--A

(Article: "Kennedy Assassination: 13 Witnesses Disappeared--Did CIA Also Try To Eliminate the 14th?")

(Text) Revelations sounding like those taken from a thriller but considered quite credible by experts--on the strength of their knowledge of the methods of the U.S. secret service, CIA--have been made at a Frankfurt-am-Main press conference by German-born U.S. journalist Joachim Joesten. Joesten has published several critical works about the U.S. secret service and has been investigating the assassination of President Kennedy for several years. As early as 1964 he published a book about the alleged Kennedy assassin, Oswald. By the end of August a second book, entitled The Truth About The Kennedy Murder, was to be published in Switzerland, a book in which Joesten refutes the official Warren report on Kennedy's assassination and arrives at the conclusion that President Kennedy fell victim to a conspiracy of rightist circles.

At the press conference Joesten declared that documents on the Kennedy assassination were stolen from his trailer last weekend in Zurich. These stolen documents were material which he had used in his book. The book, among other things, charges the American Government and the CIA with having hushed up the true circumstances of the Kennedy assassination.

When Joesten discovered the burglary, he felt threatened. He went to the Swiss police and requested protective detention. The police complied with his request but when he wanted to be released he was taken to an insane asylum. Only at the intervention of his brother-in-law, Munich professor of neurology Dr. Lersch, who went to Zurich immediately, was he released after 24 hours.

The question why and on whose orders the Zurich police acted so strangely remained unanswered at the press conference. On the other hand, a number of statements from Joesten's book make it understandable why he felt threatened after the burglary and why he requested protective police detention.

In his book Joesten declares that 13 witnesses, whose evidence was apt to shake the Warren report on Kennedy's death, died under such mysterious circumstances that one could not believe they were accidents. The witnesses rather fell victim to a systematic series of murders. Joesten names, among others, journalist Bill Hunter, who on 22 April 1964 was "accidentally" shot by a policeman at a police station in Long Beach; journalist Jim Keethe, who on 21 September 1964 was killed in his apartment in Dallas by a jujitsu blow on his throat and whose killer was never brought to trial; Ruby's first lawyer, Tom Howard, who in 1965 died in Dallas, also under mysterious circumstances; and a number of other persons, all of whom had either been friendly with Oswald's murderer, Ruby, or who had had the opportunity to talk with Oswald or with Ruby in prison.

(Editor's Note: Similar reports are carried by the three noncommunist Vienna papers on 11 August, NEUES OESTERREICH, ARBEITER-ZEITUNG, and DIE PRESSE.)

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CROSS Reference - See 62-109060-4473, enclosure page 1.

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JFK CURRENT ASSASSINATION Tickers - Vol. 1 - Doc. # 82

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