

Dear Paul,

11/6/77

Before the mail came yesterday and after I took my outgoing mail out to the box for pickup I wrote you and Bud indicating my belief that there has been a change in JFK/FOIA policy. That letter is enclosed.

In the mail yesterday I received copies of records I've been after for years. They are far from complete but they are very helpful. They relate to my requests over the years for autopsy records, particularly the memo of transfer.

As you know in several cases you later duplicated some of my early requests.

In one case, as you suspected, while I had not pressed my appeal you did. It does appear that although I had asked for it earlier they released that one page of Jackie's testimony in response to your appeal.

We both asked for the Naval review records on the autopsy. I've just checked and see that while I have a file Autopsy-Navy, I have none for this review and I have no copy of it in that file. I have the impression I did receive it, however. If you have a copy I'd appreciate it together with any other relevant records. I suggest copies to Jim and Howard could be very helpful. Howard has pressed with diligence and success for the internal records relating to my efforts to obtain the memo of transfer. Jim will be pressing through legal channels.

These records should be of great help to him, meaning here not those I ask from you, of which it may well be true, but those I have received. It is an incredible record of deliberate violation of the law, deliberate denial of what it is recognized cannot be withheld, and on the other hand a very flattering reflection of my accuracy in analysis and on matters of fact. I correctly understood what they were up to and my letters, insofar as they have provided copies, reflect that I even told them.

When she has time today Kil will be making copies of those records I've received that I think can be of interest to Jim on the one hand and to you on the other. If the copies are not as clear as they could be, and my recollection after reading so many poor ones over a two-day period is not clear, believe me it is not because Kil is not a master of our new machine or because it is not a good machine. Assumes that poor copies are more legible than my originals because Kil has learned how to do this with the new machine.

By another remarkable coincidence Bud phoned last evening for the first time in a long time. He is coming to discuss unspecified matters with me this afternoon or evening. Perhaps he also perceives what I had. He may also have other matters in mind.

My review of this new material that in fact goes back to 1968 fortifies my belief that Jim can make a stalwart case of giving me all the withheld JFK records without cost based in part on what officials have done to me over the years with regard to them. The odd thing about the law as he has reported it to me is that they can't be sued for a deliberate tort. (My attitude is let them claim it was a deliberate tort.)

I'm sending Jim and Howard copies of this so they'll be able to understand whatever you may write or send.

There are no other references to you or your requests in this large file I've received.

I have spotted many omissions so I'll be going back to Rheads. If I later receive any I'll send them. Meanwhile, I urge you to make a similar request, for all records relating to you under both PA and FOIA. They can't seek you for search fees under PA and they can't release to others under PA where your PA rights are involved. Particularly because of his able and successful efforts do I suggest that you keep Howard fully informed. Without his efforts and a release I gave him to bypass their right to withhold what relates to me personally these records would not now have been sent to him and to me (only).

You should also be aware that if we had alleged an internal government conspiracy to withhold and to protect the official mythology and to by-pass the Act we would have been absolutely correct, so include in your request language that includes all communications between the Archives, GSA and all other agencies. What I have just gone over indicates this was not only extensive - they even knew things not reflected about my associations of 1969. Not reflected in the records and without any basis in any official records save as they could have been the result of surveillance, mail intercepts or both.... Because I am too deeply immersed in other matters it would probably help if when you respond you include a copy of this. In haste,



Dear Howard,

11/6/77

When you respond please include a copy of the notes I've made on the records we both received from Rhoads in response to your Memo of Transfer efforts. My language in writing Paul about this is not accidental. I don't want you to have any problems from his judgment or those he still trusts and deals with, like Lifton. The potential for good from all this evil is too great.

Do not regard my notes as definitive. Please try to find more time than I've taken for a careful examination of these records. While I'll be going back to Rhoads on this in a way other than you will, I strongly urge you to make your own independent demand for the still-withheld records. They are referred to in those provided. I think this should include all the Marshall-GSA contact.

In the Kennedy family part I'm still not persuaded that it had personal possession of the withheld materials. I am persuaded that the possession when not overtly in the regular agencies, like SS, was by the Kennedy library, which is Archives. As these records show, to the time of transfer I was correct in saying that it was not Burkley but SS that had possession. This makes the Burkley signature something to consider because in fact he did not have possession yet signed the papers, etc.

There is a record of your and my association as of 1969. I'll be addressing this to Rhoads one way. I think you should in your own way. No such record is included, it is relevant to your request and it certainly is within my PA request.

It will not be lost on you that all these records are within my earlier, including PA requests. From this a) why were they withheld and b) why are they now released?

Be extremely careful in reading. This is a treasure of evil. Note the self-disclosures by and about Johnson, who I learn for the first time is a lawyer rather than a professional archivist as I'd assumed. In particular such things as what he said about Ford, the 1/27 transcript and the real reasons for withholding it. (I may make use of this now but if I do it will be with a call to you prerequisite. I have Les Whitten in mind.)

I must hasten to get onto 1996 matters as soon as possible. But let me also call to your attention their actual practice on pictures that were copyrighted prior to their desire to withhold JFK pictures.

There is much of this significant nature in these records.

Jim has a problem from the immunity to a deliberate-tort defense. Have you any suggestions?

You've done great in this!

Lay out