

Dr. Henry Graff
Assassination Records Review Board
The National Archives
Washington, DC

10/15/94
Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Dr. Graff,

After I wrote you last week a friend obtained a printout^{of} the records referring to me in connection with the JFK assassination and my work on it. My enclosed letter to CIA Director Woolsey does not begin to reflect the omissions in what has been transferred to the Archives by all the agencies with which I have dealt in this work. My correspondence with them alone is an assassination record and with most agencies it is I think important in reflecting the determined effort not to comply with FOIA and PA. With some agencies, the CIA in particular, this withheld correspondence will disclose how non-compliance was arranged for.

After writing Mr. Woolsey 10/17 I remembered other records the CIA should have and will want very much not to be disclosed. I think these also are important and should not be withheld, as the CIA has withheld 100% on me.

In 1965 I took the manuscript of my first book, Whitewash: the Report on the Warren Report, which was the first book on the Commission, to Frederick Praeger publishers in New York City. Praeger's then director of special projects read it, was impressed and predicted a Praeger first print of 50,000 copies hardback. But he also told me that Mr. Praeger's personal approval would be required and that he was out of town. When Praeger returned the book was rejected by him. His reason, as given to me by the man who read it, was that he did not publish books by any other than recognized scholars. And then the Church committee exposed that Praeger was a CIA publisher. I do not believe that Praeger rejected a book his own expert predicted would appear in a first-print of 50,000 copies for any such reason as I was given. So I think the CIA should be asked for an all-component search of all Praeger records in any way relating to the JFK assassination and any publishing about it. Any government interference with any assassination publishing is, I think, important and should be readily available and in this archive.

The largest source of records in this printout is HSCA. All the FBI records in this printout, and it is very far from the relevant records I know the FBI has, has even disclosed, are from the HSCA files. No Justice Department records are included. Among those I know it has and regard as important are my appeals. They are lengthy, detailed and documented because that was requested of me by the then director of appeals, a history buff in his own description. Among other things these appeals document deliberate withhold^{INGS} in lawsuits as well as requests.

The next largest source in the printout⁺ is the Archives itself. It has not begun to give you the relevant records in which I appear. It has disclosed to me under discovery in a lawsuit what it did not place in this archive. And that includes what I am confident

is perjury by the then Archivist, Dr. James Rhoads. GSA should also have relevant records relating to these matters. NARS was then under it and it actually defended a lawsuit, not the DJ. I do think that the withholdings and means of withholding are an important part of the record of the assassination for our history. There also was NARS correspondence with the CIA on some of what was litigated, not disclosed by either agency.

I filed FOIA requests with the DoD, the Army and the Navy and separately with the Bethesda Navy hospital, all without getting any records. The hospital actually wrote me that it did not have a single piece of relevant paper when its regulations required that those relating to the autopsy be preserved by it for a stated number of years. In this I am not referring to its giving up the autopsy film. That was prohibited but it also is understandable.

The man handling some of my requests of the Army phoned me just before he was to retire. He told me that the Army had destroyed as I recall three main JFK assassination files. Separately I learned that the relevant records of the Texas-based 112th intelligence unit had been destroyed at Indiantown Gap, Pa. It is my understanding that no such destructions were permissible without Archives approval.

Among the other agencies that made no disclosure is State.

Names are misspelled in these printouts and some file numbers are incorrect. I tell you this because it may frustrate requests. I have no way of knowing whether these errors were made in the printouts or are on the originals.

I believe that one of the most important areas of the overall assassination records is the official efforts to withhold in violation of the law. Within my not inconsiderable experience this was true of all of the government. Most of my experience was with the FBI and the CIA on this.

While I do not know what authority the ARRB has I call to your attention that at the time my requests were ignored at the CIA in particular I had been granted a complete fee waiver by the Department of Justice after Judge Gesell ordered one in the case before him. I therefore believe that the records that were withheld from me and I did request should now be provided without charge, by the CIA in particular, and if you have that authority I request that you so order it. Of all components, however titled. I add this because the component involved in spying on what I said had a letterhead, envelopes and even a checking account that made no reference to the CIA. It was the Public Affairs Staff and the letterhead gave in addition only a post^{al} box number in Washington.

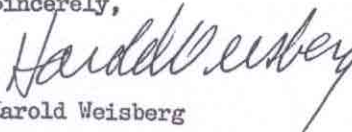
My own experience is that the JFK assassination is the second major cause of disillusionment with the government and that right now most of those indicating this in letters and calls to me are 40 or younger. It is interesting to me that of the several hundred who have written me and quite a few who have phoned me since my Case Open was published almost all go out of their way to tell me how young they were or that they

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had not been born when he was assassinated^{ed}. Yesterday's mail included a letter from a New York lawyer who told me he was 12. That is a bit older than most. I do hear from older people but they do not write about their age. This is a new phenomenon to me. I think it reflects that there is a great interest and that it will long continue and that most who express this interest today were not old enough to comprehend what happened when the President was assassinated. This also crosses political lines. Yesterday I had a call from a professional man who spent most of his working life with Ross Perot.

I do not want to in any way mislead you about my request that if the ARRB has the authority ~~to~~^{to} direct the CIA to make full compliance with all my requests as I indicate above. At my age and in the state of my health I will not be able to read all of them. I will, however, go over them and make and file corrections. I will also give them all to local Hood College, which will get all we have for a permanent public archive there.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg