

Hon. John Conyers
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

12/4/86

Dear John,

Your and Don Edwards' concern over what Meese might do prompts me to call to your attention what he has done and about which he has not been truthful. He states that it would have been improper for the FBI and Criminal Division to do any investigating in the absence of proof of violation of federal law. He says that the FBI director, Judge Webster, agrees. I've seen no denial from Judge Webster and both have to know that Meese lied. J. Edgar Hoover is my authority. I enclose p. 98 of Volume 5 of the Warren Commission's published hearings. Hoover is quite specific on stating that "the President has a right to request the Bureau to make special investigations" and this is the kind of investigation the FBI conducted in the JFK assassination. Its massive investigation is filed under file classification 62, which although amended since that time includes "Administrative Inquiry." The copy of its list of file classifications I also enclose is probably out of date, but this actuality is unchanged. If there is an investigation in which you are involved you may find other uses for this list because several of these classifications are used for hiding what the FBI does not want produced on search, including the "admat," 66, where it hides surveillances, especially electronic, "80. Laboratory Research Matters," used by the field offices for special kinds of hiding because they file this laboratory information in the main case files, and "94. Research Matters," used at FBIHQ to hide lobbying, leaking, information on the press and things like that. Also at least in Hoover's day, for the Director's correspondence.

While the Attorney General and the FBI Director were seeing to it that there was no investigation of the current scandal and, if he didn't know, nobody was telling the President that such investigations are conducted at his request, at least one of his staff was busily engaged in shredding records some of which might not exist anywhere else.

I also enclose the Department's 11/26/86 letter to me because in its second paragraph that the Criminal Division has "non-investigatory records" is stated.

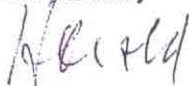
This reminded me of Watergate and one of the Department and FBI means of withholding information while providing it, withholding until interest is past. I suggest that the enclosed pages from the Senate confirmation hearings on Pat Gray may indicate what ^{was} on those missing 18 minutes of Nixon's tapes. Pat Gray's 6/19/72 letter to Haldeman, delivered, as I recall, as soon ~~was~~ as he and Nixon were back from Key Biscayne the first working day after the breakin, indicates at least in part what Nixon knew and when he knew it. Howard Hunt, by the way, was no stranger to him. They worked together in planning the Bay of Pigs fiasco, according to Hunt.

My health was more impaired the last time I was at your office than I then realized and since shortly thereafter I've not been able to drive to Washington. And that I have to sit with my legs elevated does not improve my typing!

You've been doing some fine things. May you be able to for a long time more!

cc: Cong. Edwards

Best wishes,


Harold Weisberg
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