

FBI-DJ relations - Control

King assassination records appeals Harold Weisberg 3/7/80
Missing attachments
Workshops phoned to hide withholding

According to the worksheets I was provided with all of 44-38861-4447, a five-page report from Belosch to Tolson of 6/8/68, the day Ray was captured in England. It reflects typical FBI arrogance and virtually boasts about the insolence with which the Attorney General was treated.

However, the report of the House assassins committee cites and quotes from an addendum. (XIII:176, paragraph 34.)

Footnote 170 refers to page 3 of this addendum: "Attorney General Clark's decision to send AAG Vinson to London to coordinate extradition proceedings was immediately reversed and Clark was advised that 'this was completely unnecessary if the representative was going for the purpose of attempting to look into FBI Activities.'" "

Footnote 172 refers to page 5 of the addendum: "London legal attache Birchich was then instructed that 'while he should confer with Assistant Attorney General Vinson, he should not be 'bored around' by Vinson or allow Vinson to undermine any delicate relations that we have with law enforcement authorities in England.'" "

What is withheld is important information, particularly as it reflects the FBI's attitudes, its relations with the parent (?) Department and its assumptions.

The FBI also regarded the record as important. It made 12 initial copies and they were not enough.

The worksheets do not account for the withheld pages. That they existed is made clear by the HSCA and the means by which it had access to these records. The records, including FBIHQ MURKIN, 44-38861, were moved physically into a separate room for the committee's examination. It also was provided with copies.

The unquestioning acceptance of the FBI's word, as appears to have been Mr. Mitchell's practice, is not an impartial handling of an appeal. If the FBI were not

to be questioned, if whatever it said about making public information available did not require questioning, there would be no point in the Act or in a separate appeals function.

Previously I have informed you that unquestioning acceptance of the FBI's word led you and Mr. Mitchell to provide inaccurate affidavits, particularly regarding Atlanta records that do exist and have not been provided.

If in the face of the House report the FBI persists in claiming I was provided with the entire record you might check the duplicate filing. The number is not entirely legible. It begins 65-55 - - - and has three other digits. It might even be a file in which what the AG was told and provided is kept, those records you have not reported filing.