

FBI - CIA

Dear Mr. Patro,

9/7/80

It is impossible for me to respond fully to your 8/29 and enclosures because in a week I'll be hospitalized for arterial surgery. I do not know how long it will be before I'll be able to work fully at what keeps me more than busy.

You ask about Exhibits 133A and B. I've had doubts about them and I do not trust the HSCA's experts, so I don't really know.

On the "tramp" sketch: that is not the one prepared in Memphis. It was prepared a little later in Mexico City, by an artist, so it is not "the Martin Luther King composite drawing." There also are several others prepared by the FBI from witness descriptions of various people.

The pages from the Grassy Knoll Gazette of 7/4/80 refer to and quote Guinn. On p. 9 he is quoted as having said in 8/64 that "I cannot say what we found out about Oswald..." (emphasis added) until the WR was out. If you can provide a copy of that story I'd appreciate it because it does indicate that he was in on the MAAs and all my information, from many records and deposing Gallagher and others, is that he not only was not in on them but was not trusted by the FBI.

If you have spare copies of the Nichols photos to which you refer I'd appreciate copies on the possibility of using them in litigation. Guinn's speculations about the substance are not valid. Byzantine as it may appear, there is little doubt that it was patched before the FBI dug it up and "tested" it.

The Springfield FBI stonewalled you. If you want to follow that further I suggest that you ask them to respond from their records, your request, not what was released by FBIHQ and that if the response is not satisfactory to appeal that to Abba again, with copies of the request(s) and response(s).

If you want to butt against the CIA stonewall again you might tell them that they, supposedly, are processing all JFK assassination records and that what you asked for should be included in them, that these requests are at least 5 years old, etc., and that there is considerable public interest in knowing whether the memo was made for the CIA, as the FBI hints, or whether the FBI was up to its usual trick of trying to put the nat on the CIA. (It did this with other matters, as I have turned over to a reporter, and I'll provide him with copies, asking him to withhold your name.) Tell them you are not asking them to do research but to either provide existing records or notify you that no pertinent record exist after a search made in good faith and with due diligence.

Flanders is no longer FBI FOIPA chief and the SA who wrote that letter, Martin Wood, has been reassigned, but the replacements are experienced stonewallers. What they sent you is from FBIHQ records only. However, I don't know what else can be in Springfield unless you do not trust the "lin letters.

Thanks and best wishes,

Dear Jeff,

9/7/80

Sorry you didn't get here during your vacation.

On the 15th I'll be admitted to Georgetown hospital in Washington for arterial surgery the next morning. Understand I'll be there 8-9 days. Don't know what, if any, the subsequent limitations may be. It is on the left thigh, two blockages.

The enclosed is pertinent to the FBI's efforts to involve the CIA in responsibility for the JFK assassination. I can probably provide a clearer copy from my own files. This one is copied from what Tatro sent me. He is a teacher, well intended but sometimes jumping to conclusions too fast. However, it appears to be clear that unless Olin does not reflect its own records truthfully the FBIHQ memo jumps to conclusions not based on the records.

In preparing this memo to the head of the Lab the head of the ballistics section designated copies to all the top brass - a Thompson I cannot identify with certainty. There was a Fletcher D. Thompson who was a supervisor in the Criminal Section of what was then known as the General Investigative Division, headed by Assistant Director Alex Rosen.

It seems to me that the proposed act to make it a criminal offense to publish even public domain identification of FBI and CIA agents and their informers makes the Greenwich Village bombing matter ~~and~~ even more significant and topical story, particularly because the legislation, already through the House, includes all papers and reporters.

Best wishes,

*Edgar on July*