

PA
Mr. Quinlan J. Shea, Director
FOIA/PA Appeals
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

5/4/78

Dear Quin,

Thanks for your note of the BI enclosing a copy of a record released to Jim and for several other letters I've not had time to answer.

These two had been released earlier, one from another copy, the other we think with excisions. Jim will check the record we believe was excised against the copy we received under discovery in U.A.75-226. My suspicion is that the excision hid the existence of other records not provided.

These really are classics. One does not need to be a technical expert to perceive what was being obscured and avoided and the means used.

There is another matter about which I've been wanting to write you since learning about 10 days ago of a release to Halperin and his study of Hoover's files. I have a prior request for some of them. Here's the story on it:

My request in U.A.75-1998 was deficient in the political items, in part because I was trying not to ask for more than I believed would include what I wanted and in part because of a lack of knowledge of what the FBI called things. When this became apparent I discussed this with SA John Martin and others in the FBI. I said I wanted the "big" political files but did not want any of what I called the "backroom" stuff. He agreed to provide this after segregation of what was ordered deposited in the Archives by Judge Smith. I offered to put it in writing. He said this would not be necessary but when a little time passed and I received nothing I did put it in writing. I've received nothing. Not even those records included in what Halperin got. Providing copies of those required no more than xeroxing and mailing.

I had also asked for a search of Hoover's files for records relating to the King assassination and on me. (I asked for the search of other files, too. Never happened.)

Not too long ago I heard that another cache of Hoover's files were found.

I think you are aware that I am not exploiting the fee-waiver decision by making new and large requests. However, I do want my archive to be as full and complete as possible. It has become more of an archive on the functioning of institutions in time of and following crisis than one on the assassinations only. While all of Hoover's files would be relevant to this I do not seek all of them.

In addition to what I have already asked for about King I want to get the same kinds of records about the JFK assassination and about the critics, including, of course, myself. My old requests for records on me include those relating to me.

I would like to go about this in whatever way of era greatest promise of least time and trouble for all sides. If it is easiest to do this informally, as by your speaking to the FBI about what I had not requested earlier and handling what I had requested as an appeal, fine. If not I'd like to know. I can, of course, make a new request. But some of the records have been processed and I'm sure others are being processed. I think that doing it on an informal basis can save the FBI time and money. I'm not sure they want this but I'm willing to make the savings possible.

On the political/personal King records, they are supposed to have been processed long ago, for the family and a few former close associates and for deposit in the King archive in Atlanta. I do not know what copies were not made for me then.

The Adams testimony has not come.

Best wishes,