

Paul Hoch,

11/5/77

With copies to HR and JL -

The enclosed refers to my yesterday's letter to Bud. In it I told him that I'm asking for the entire FBI release with a remission of all costs. That will undoubtedly be litigated. JL and I had been planning to file an all-inclusive suit against all those out of compliance on all JFK records anyway. Plus the still-withheld personal records.

On the off chance I get them I had suggested I could leave them near xeroxing facilities for copies to be made for those wanting copies.

I've just thought, Jim, that we should also ask for any lists, indexes, etc.

It appears to me that because of my age, condition and the long record of FBI stonewalling of my requests, which go back to 1968 and total several dozen, ~~that~~ I have the best chance. And because I have already and quite separate from this decided my records to a public archive and begun the deposit, of the older records and those of which I had duplicates. Nobody could reasonably expect that I'd drop everything else and sit down and read 80,000 + pages or that I can use them myself. And I have no children to inherit them. My will provides for such things, and that too is long in advance of this development.

If you have any ideas, please let Jim and Howard have them. If Barrister Howard does he'll let Jim know.

I believe that if there is any support for this, of the responsables, not the nuts, it has better prospect. Some of us have long records of selfless effort to obtain these records and of making them available to others without cost.

Lardner tells me the first batch is of 80,000 pages and that there will be a second. The decision is not as of this time last year unless it followed an evidentiary hearing in the King case in 9/76, in which Jim did a fine job of examining the supervisor in FBI/FOIA who was in charge of the requests. (He also testified he'd never heard of any of mine.) It seems not impossible to me that because they have come to know Jim and me and we have let them know we'd be pushing - and because I've renewed appeals - there may be some influence from all of this on what was decided. We'll probably never know. But if it was any kind of factor it might help with the effort to obtain the records.

If the word of the Asst USAtty in DC in the spectro case is worth anything, he said in court that to comply there were going through their entire JFK file. He said, when he said it, some time ago, that this was necessary to response to our interrogatories.

By accident, in looking for something else, I found my in-court note on this. I cannot recall the other occasion, but that note states that this was the second such statement by him, Michael Ryan.

So there can be no confusion, it would be an absolute impossibility for me to go through all these new records. I'd be getting them for archival purposes. I want to find time for writing and can't. While I'd want suggestions from any who might get them, on records of special interest, that would not be a precondition of any sharing. There would be none.

I've heard from nobody who might be thinking of seeking all nor have I had any indication that anyone will be. The FBI will put a set in its reading room.

Hastily,