

- Jan. 18, 1978; CBS Radio, 8:04 a.m.

... It's a lot to sift through, but already one new piece of information has surfaced, through the heavily censored documents: it seems Chief Justice Earl Warren did not want to head the special commission that investigated the assassination, and at first said that he would not; then, after several days, he changed his mind, said he would, and the commission became the Warren Commission.

- CBS TV (Local), 12:10 p.m.

In Washington today, the FBI released a half ton of documents on the assassination of President Kennedy. Among those things the files show is that Chief Justice Earl Warren initially declined to head the Commission investigating President Kennedy's death, but he changed his mind almost at once. The documents also reveal that Lee Harvey Oswald's wife Marina told the FBI ~~that~~ she had locked her husband in the bathroom in April 1963 to keep him from carrying out a threat to kill Richard Nixon.

- ABC Radio, 1:03 p.m.

The FBI has released the final installment of once-secret documents on the Kennedy assassination. A report from correspondent Vic Ratner in Washington:

(Ratner) As expected, the second batch of FBI files on the Kennedy assassination so far has produced no bombshells, no evidence of a conspiracy. Released here in Washington, the files once again detail how the Bureau carefully checked each tip, even the anonymous ones, from what the files called "cranks and mental incompetents." But a year after the murder in Dallas, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover wrote in a memo, "We have never developed information indicating that anyone other than Oswald was involved in the assassination." Vic Ratner, ABC News, Washington.

- CBS Radio, 6:04 p.m. (The World Tonight)

The FBI released about 60,000 pages of documents and letters today about its investigation of President Kennedy's assassination, and reporters have been going through them as rapidly as they can, to try to find new facts, new details. Jim McManus has a report:

(McManus) In the half ton of sometimes heavily censored FBI documents, there is much to confirm details of the tragedy in Dallas, but there is little that is new, and there is no compelling evidence to dispute the conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, shot John F. Kennedy.

There is new evidence of old conflicts. Chief Justice Earl Warren became the chief investigator, but he did so reluctantly.

Warren Commission member Gerald Ford complained privately to the FBI about Warren's handling of the probe.

The Commission heard reports that Oswald once worked for the FBI, concluded that J. Edgar Hoover would deny it, and later accepted that denial.

Oswald's wife Marina said her husband once threatened to kill Richard Nixon, and Nixon complained to Hoover about a news article that suggested he and Hoover were involved in the assassination.

Oswald slashed his wrist in a Moscow hotel room in 1959; a transcript of his diary includes the entry "I watch my life whirl away. How easy to die."

Jim McManus, CBS News, Washington.

- CBS TV, 6:37 p.m. (Evening News) (Cronkite)

The FBI today released a massive number of its investigative records and memoranda about the assassination of President Kennedy. Jim McManus went through them for this report:

(McManus) A half ton of documents, a paper trail of 58,754 pages that lead from the assassination [through] the Warren Commission findings and for years afterward. The FBI's sometimes heavily censored files confirm much that has long been known publicly, but they offer no evidence to dispute the conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald did it, and that he acted alone.

There are interesting sidelights:

Warren Commission member Gerald Ford complained privately to the FBI about Chief Justice Earl Warren's handling of the investigation.

The Commission worried whether Oswald once had worked for the FBI, and concluded that, even if it were true, J. Edgar Hoover would deny it.

Oswald's wife Marina said her husband once threatened to kill Richard Nixon.

In a 1966 letter to Hoover, Nixon complained that a news article had suggested the two of them were involved in the Kennedy murder. Hoover sent a soothing reply.

A transcript of Oswald's diary recounts his half-hearted suicide attempt in a Moscow hotel room in 1959. "Soak wrist in cold water to numb the pain; then slash my left wrist. Somewhere a violin plays, as I watch my life whirl away. I think to myself, how easy to die."

The Warren Commission report included 26 volumes of supporting material. The FBI has now released nearly one hundred thousand pages from its files, but there is more - **

In public hearings this fall, the House Assassinations Committee plans to lay out its findings after two years of probing the murders of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

Jim McManus, CBS News, Washington.

[**: At this point, the film switched to McManus in the studio, in front of a backdrop. The inflection of "there is more" indicates that he was cut off in mid-sentence - for example, as if he intended to refer to FBI documents which have not yet been released.]

[Visuals included the loading of cartons at the FBI building, Carl Oglesby and other researchers at work, Bill Shackelford of the FBI, etc. Various documents were shown; Nixon's letter was complaining about an article in the Detroit News, I think. The text of the quote from the diary was shown rolling by as McManus read it.]

- ABC-TV, 7:00++ p.m. (Network News)

[The second of the four introductory teasers:] ... FBI files on the Kennedy assassination provide lots of detail, but no blockbusters. I'm Charles Gibson.

(Smith) ... [A few words lost] President Kennedy; that, plus the 40,000 pages released last month, make up almost all of the Bureau's files on the assassination. Charles Gibson has been sifting through the documents released today, and has this report:

(Gibson) The FBI files are packed with minutiae and miscellany, but there is nothing startlingly new. Indeed, the documents may tell more about J. Edgar Hoover and the workings of the FBI than about the Kennedy assassination itself. Hoover never stopped warring with the Warren Commission. There was squabbling over evidence.

The Commission met in emergency session once to consider whether Lee Harvey Oswald might have been an FBI paid informant when he traveled in Russia. Soon after, the FBI had a transcript of that Commission meeting. Who gave it to them? All signs point to then-Congressman Gerald Ford.

In addition, Hoover and his aides were furious with critics of the FBI assassination investigation, calling them "insane," full of "gutter talk" and "tripe," but such comments came only in internal memos. Publicly, the FBI kept quiet, as it did about the New Orleans Jim Garrison investigation of the Kennedy killing. Privately, Hoover was calling it a "fiasco," writing once, "we should stay as far away as we can from this shyster."

The documents released to press and public today show the FBI tracked down every lead, even those from crazies, cranks, and clairvoyants. There were hundreds of them. Example: one unidentified correspondent claimed Johnny Carson was a known communist, and knew of the assassination in advance. Despite the absurdity, the FBI dutifully interviewed Carson.

Overall, despite the FBI-Warren Commission feuds, they came to the same conclusions - that Lee Harvey Oswald when he killed Kennedy, and Jack Ruby when he

killed Oswald, were lone assassins. Charles Gibson, ABC News, Washington.

[Visuals included researchers at the FBI, old film of the WC and of Ruby shooting Oswald, Garrison, the 26 volumes, and a still from the Zapruder film.]

- NBC-TV, 7:20 p.m., Network News:

See transcript and comments on the next page.

- KTVU (Channel 2), 10:20 p.m.

More than 50,000 pages of investigative reports were released by the FBI today in Washington in connection with the assassination of President John Kennedy. Included were communications with the Warren Commission, and Mary Tillotson has more:

(Tillotson) It will probably be some time before reporters thoroughly sift through the thousands of pages that have been released on the Kennedy assassination since last month, but here are some of the revelations in today's release:

Relations between the Warren Commission and the FBI were so bad that the Bureau spied on the Commission, and the Commission suspected Lee Harvey Oswald as an undercover man for the Bureau. Chief Justice Earl Warren initially refused, then agreed, to head the Presidential commission investigating the assassination. J. Edgar Hoover was disgusted with conspiracy theories of the assassination; he called conspiracy theorist and author Mark Lane a "sex pervert," and called Lane's work "trash."

The people who came to FBI headquarters in Washington to pore over those documents came for a variety of reasons; there was a college student who hopes to claim publisher Larry Flynt's one-million-dollar reward for information leading to new convictions in the JFK murder. There was a Boston businessman who was "just curious." And a group from the Washington-based Assassination Information Bureau, which will file a Freedom of Information suit to see some of the material that the FBI deleted from today's release.

The FBI says that the Kennedy assassination is still a pending investigation at the Bureau, and that every couple of months, another section of information, about this thickness, is accumulated, most of it in the Dallas Bureau.

At FBI Headquarters, this is Mary Tillotson.

[Visuals, mostly in the FBI reading room, included Norm Kempster, Kostman, Oglesby (I think), and Bill Shackelford.]

- ABC-TV (Local), 11:07 p.m.

... house today, and the half-ton of documents, along with the 40,000 pages already released back in December, comprise virtually all of the files on the murder of JFK. And while there was nothing earth-shaking in them, there are some interesting items: the FBI didn't like the Warren Commission; Gerald Ford was the Commission's leak to the FBI; Marina Oswald said she had to lock her husband in the bathroom to keep him from trying to kill Nixon; the FBI found no evidence of a conspiracy; J. Edgar Hoover called author Mark Lane a sex pervert and Dick Gregory a rabble-rousing Negro comedian, and he didn't like New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison either. But the Bureau did spend days upon days trying to document the claims made by those critics.

And, a little bit about San Francisco coming out of the files too tonight, revealing that back in 1964 the San Francisco office of the FBI had at least 92 national security informants working for it, as compared to only 45 in the entire country of Mexico. [Judging from the 'teaser,' the reader seemed to think this info was in the JFK documents, but I doubt it.]

[Visuals included Kostman and Oglesby looking at documents.]

[Summary of monitoring: I checked NBC and CBS radio at 7, 8, and 9 a.m.; nothing at 10 and 11; CBS-TV at noon; all 3 radio networks at 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 p.m., all 3 TV network news shows, NBC Radio at 8 p.m., KTVU at 10 p.m., and all 3 TV networks at 11 p.m.]

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Paul L. Hoch

NBC-TV News, 7:20 p.m.

(Brinkley) Today, again, the FBI put out more huge stacks of ^{its} files on the murder of President Kennedy - more than fifty thousand pages. Carl Stern, in Washington, has spent the day digging through all this paper - reports, letters, memoranda, and tells us now what he has found:

(Stern) The files made public today show that as late as last March the FBI was still checking out leads. Nothing was found that contradicted the findings of the Warren Commission that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone, although the Commission and FBI disagreed as to how many of Oswald's bullets hit their target.

Critics angered J. Edgar Hoover. He scribbled notes calling New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison a "shyster," and comedian Dick Gregory, who contended there was a conspiracy to kill Kennedy, "obviously insane."

The reports also state that Marina Oswald locked her husband in the bathroom when he threatened once to kill Richard Nixon.

The Commission and the FBI were plagued by false reports, and therein lies a story we found today. Throughout its work, the Commission was disturbed by reports that Oswald had been employed by the FBI; the stories even reported his employment number - S-172 or 179. After a Texas newspaper hit the matter hard, the Warren Commission voted secretly to confront Hoover, who swore it wasn't true, in an affidavit.

Today, NBC News tracked down a newspaper reporter who acknowledges he and a friend made up the story, on the telephone, to see if anyone was listening in. Lonnie Hudkins says they hadn't intended that anyone print it:

(Hudkins) The conversation went like - well, it's been so many years, but like - this was pre-planned, mind you; 'Hey, Lonnie, what did you say Oswald's FBI payroll number was,' and I said, 'Well, I thought it was S-172,' and - the other guy said, 'No, I thought it was S-179,' and then I said, 'No, it was S-172,' and we agreed on that, and hung up; that was it. We didn't do anything with that story; it was a fabrication.

(Stern) But someone did overhear, and print it as a story. Hudkins says he didn't knock it down. He says he and his friends thought people wouldn't understand, and decided to keep their mouths shut.

So the story has circulated ever since, that Oswald was an FBI employee, number S-172 or 179. Hudkins says he laughs every time someone cites it on a TV show as 'new evidence.'

Carl Stern, NBC News, Washington.

[Visuals: Stern was talking while surrounded by researcher types, with boxes in the background; my impression was that NBC had its own set of the documents. A Houston Post front page was shown; I'm pretty sure it had the headline "Oswald Rumored as Informant for U.S.," which was Hudkins' story of 1/1/64. Hudkins was shown in their newsroom, evidently being interviewed by a young man (not Stern). Hudkins is a white male, roughly 50, balding, with sideburns and a moustache.]

Incredible! The Texas paper which hit the matter hard - as shown - was Hudkins' Houston Post. The story wasn't printed by "someone" who may have overheard the conversation, but by Hudkins himself. He not only didn't knock it down, he lied to the FBI and the Secret Service (unless they made up their reports: that Hudkins said his sources were reporter Joe Goulden (who had written about the LHO-FBI problem back in December) and "a Government official", and that he told the SS that S-172 had come from Sheriff Allen Sweatt). For Stern to imply that the whole story came from Hudkins' little game is as bad as Hoover's implication that the LHO-FBI connection was just his mother's suspicion. And how did NBC manage to "find" this story today? Newsweek had it, in essence, on 4/28/75, and I vaguely recall a New Times piece (by Ron Rosenbaum?* I don't remember the date). For general reference, see my manuscript, chapter 3. The kernel of truth here may be that Hudkins made up S-172 in a phone call, which was overheard, but that is only a small part of the story. (The Goulden and Hudkins articles are reproduced in my manuscript.) Hudkins should do for Stern what Prouty did for Schorr, except more so! (*: O'Toole & Rosenbaum, New Times, 11 July 1975, p. 13)

- January 19, 1978; NBC-TV; 7 a.m., (Today Show)

(Brokaw) ... sent to Washington for fingerprint analysis. FBI agents in Washington found more than 20 prints on those cardboard boxes, including one from Lee Harvey Oswald and five from the agents who wrapped up the boxes. We'll learn more about what those files contain in just a few moments, because we'll be switching live to Washington, where two experts are standing by with Ford Rowan, to talk about what they have found in 58,000 newly released pages of documents on the assassination of the late President. (Now it's 16 past the hour...)

**::into] (Brokaw) The FBI is out with another enormous batch of documents surrounding the investigation ** the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Our correspondents in Washington have spent the last 24 hours or so going through them; Ford Rowan is standing by there this morning with two of his associates in this rather laborious procedure. Ford, good morning.

(Rowan) Good morning, Tom, and good morning, Seth Kantor of the Detroit News, and Bob Gemberling, a former FBI agent who has helped us go through this mass of documents, along with some field producers and Carl Stern yesterday; there's a mass of material here, but I'd like to start with one of the most interesting things that we found in going through these documents, we saw time and time again, the FBI was trying to prove that it was not - it had not hired Lee Harvey Oswald as an informer [sic] at any time prior to the assassination; we saw page after page of that, and, Seth, I thought I'd ask you - you know a man who apparently was in on the beginning of this story, that the FBI had hired Oswald as an informer. Can you tell us about that?

(Kantor) That's right. His name is Lonnie Hudkins, and he's a reporter in Baltimore now, but for many years was a reporter in Texas; and Lonnie and another friend, another reporter in Dallas, became suspicious, shortly after the Kennedy assassination, that perhaps their phones were being tapped by the FBI or other police agencies; and so they cooked up a scheme between them where, in a phone conversation, they would make up a number, S-179, for Oswald to have as an informant for the FBI, and they decided on the phone that he was receiving a salary of \$200 a month, and they just cooked it up as a ruse, and the thing got away.

(Rowan) Now, that's what he said to us yesterday, that they actually fabricated this story to see if their phones were tapped. Bob, first I'd like to ask you, was Oswald an informer for the FBI?

(Gemberling) Absolutely not; and of course I knew it was a fabrication for the past - ever since it first came out, but I did not know until yesterday the details of the - how it was fabricated, which are very interesting.

(Rowan) Bob, were you tapping the phones of reporters down in Texas during that time?

(Gemberling) No, sir!

(Kantor) Lonnie Hudkins says, curiously enough, that just minutes after this conversation with the other reporter the FBI showed up on his doorstep and told him to discount any rumors that Oswald was an informant; and then a story was leaked to Dorothy Kilgallen, [a] columnist in New York, denying the fact that Oswald had been an informant, and that denial came out before any original story had appeared.

(Rowan) The significance of all this is that this story had just been around for years; as recently as last year people were on talk shows talking about how Oswald was an informer and they knew the number, it was 179 or 172; and now we find out, all along, how it was cooked up, in just a conversation to see if the phones were tapped. Now one of the other sit- [Tape change; some material lost - PLH]

(Gemberling) ... it would be a real revelation if we knew how much money had been spent checking out and refuting, or trying to refute, this fabrication.

(Kantor) Not only that, the Warren Commission felt it was a grave crisis, and met secretly, privately, and kept it off the record, for as long as they possibly could. (Someone in background: Right.)

(Rowan) That brings us to our next point, which was that the Warren Commission and the FBI didn't get along very well. Apparently Hoover distrusted the - Chief Justice Warren, and also some members of the Commission distrusted Chief Justice

(Today, NBC-TV, 1/19/78, continued)

Warren; Seth, why don't you fill us in on that?

(Kantor) Yeah; well, we've encountered some FBI memorand^{ums} here which indicate that two members of the Warren Commission, then-Congressman Gerald R. Ford and Senator Richard Russell, were not strong fans of the Chief Justice of the United States, who was chairman of the Commission, and Mr. Hoover hoped that maybe through them he could find out what was going on on the Commission.

(Rowan) Bob, I noticed that Hoover was extremely sensitive to criticism; when notes would come in about some of the critics, he'd write on things like, this man is a rat, he's a rabble-rouser, he's insane. Do you think he was overly critical of his critics?

(Gemberling) No, not really; I think you have to keep that in perspective; I mean, he certainly, throughout my thirty-some year career in the FBI, was constantly concerned with the image of the FBI, but when you analyze that, that's not really all bad, because we have large corporations budgeting large sums of money in each annual budget for public relations, and there's really not a lot of difference. [!-PLH]

(Rowan) Gentlemen, I want to thank you both for being here this morning, and yesterday for going through most of this material; we didn't get through it all, but one thing we did find is, amongst all the detail, nothing to change the basic story that Oswald had acted alone. All the facts are not in, but we've tried to read as much as we can, and thank you, gentlemen, we appreciate it.

(Kantor) Thank you.

(Brokaw) Thank you, Ford, and back to your reading. Twenty-four minutes past the hour now, and coming up in our next half hour, we're going to show you how to count [like a computer....]

Jan. 19, ABC-TV, 7:30 a.m.

... files on the John F. Kennedy assassination, with the release of reams of documents yesterday. ABC's Charles Gibson reports:

(Gibson) The FBI files, taken in entirety, seem to reach the same conclusion reached by the Warren Commission - that Lee Harvey Oswald, when he killed Jack Kennedy, acted alone; and Jack Ruby, when he killed Lee Harvey Oswald, also acted alone. Indeed, the last set of FBI documents on the assassination indicate J. Edgar Hoover was interested in two things - first, proving that conclusion, and second, making sure that the FBI investigation of the assassination was accepted as the definitive investigation. Hoover, one year after the Kennedy killing, wrote "We have never developed information indicating anyone other than Oswald involved in assassination. We have left no stone unturned."

Hoover was neither tolerant of critics nor rivals. His agents kept close track of the Jim Garrison New Orleans investigation of the assassination, but privately Hoover was scoffing at it, calling it a "farce," and Garrison an "egomaniac." Hoover was also bickering with the Warren Commission. His memos indicate he found the Commission's existence an embarrassment to the FBI; memos indicate the FBI got information on Commission activities from then-Congressman Gerald Ford. Said one memo to Hoover, "Confidential contact will be maintained with Congressman Ford."

The documents provide grist for the mills of those who seem to find endless fascination in the assassination, but they provide only new details, and not new theories about the Kennedy killing.

Charles Gibson, ABC News, Washington.

(Anchorperson) Carl Oglesby, a critic of the FBI's handling of the JFK assassination papers, talks with David, and with ABC's Tim O'Brien, in the other hour this morning, on Good Morning America.

* [Kostman advises that, when the FBI finally decided to give me the 544 Camp Street pamphlet in their files, Hoover's marginal comment was "OK, but I dislike the humoring of a character like Hoch, who is obviously a 'smear' artist."]

- Jan. 19, CBS-TV, Morning News, 7:51 a.m.

(Female anchor) ... so much distress and animosity between the FBI and the Warren Commission that one of the Commission members volunteered to be an FBI informant on Commission meetings. That informant was then-Congressman Gerald Ford. That information comes out of a second batch of FBI files on the investigation released yesterday. Jim McManus reports:

(McManus) The FBI has now released nearly 100,000 from its files on the /pages Kennedy assassination. There has been much that confirms details of the tragedy in Dallas and the investigation that followed, but so far there is no compelling evidence from the FBI files to refute the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, shot John F. Kennedy.

There is official evidence of old conflicts. Chief Justice Earl Warren became the chief investigator, but he did so reluctantly.

J. Edgar Hoover bitterly resented FBI critics, and self-styled investigators.

Warren Commission member Gerald Ford did not like the way Chief Justice Warren ran the investigation.

In 1966, Richard Nixon asked Hoover to keep tabs on people who tried to link himself and the FBI director to the Kennedy murder.

Oswald's mother told the FBI her son had been made a fall guy in the assassination.

An official who questioned Oswald in Dallas said Oswald had "disciplined his mind" and would never have confessed.

The FBI conducted a searching probe of itself, after it was learned the Dallas Field Office had destroyed a threatening note from Oswald shortly after the assassination.

And there is a transcript of Oswald's diary, recounting his melodramatic and apparently half-hearted suicide attempt in a Moscow hotel room in 1959.

"Soak wrist in cold water to numb the pain; then slash my left wrist. Somewhere a violin plays as I watch my life whirl away. I think to myself, how easy to die."

Jim McManus, CBS News, Washington. (Seven minutes before the hour....)

[Appropriate response of critics to all this coverage: Soak head in cold water to numb the pain? Actually, McManus' reporting, especially the careful phrasing of his summary in this instance, is far superior to just about everyone else. (PLH)]

- Jan. 19, ABC-TV (Good Morning America), 8:35 a.m.

(Woman reporter) ... [There were at least a few humorous elements.**.]

For example, after J. Edgar Hoover criticized the Warren Commission as unfairly critical of his organization, he received the following letter: "In our English class we are studying the Warren Commission Report. I don't have much money, so, since you don't like yours, could I have it?" The eager young student did not, of course, get Mr. Hoover's copy.

[** elements in the FBI documents released yesterday. For example,...]

- [Same program]

(Hartman) Sixteen of right now.

Yesterday, in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, the FBI released the final pages of documents regarding its investigation of the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Portions of those 98,000 pages of files were released earlier last month. This morning, Carl Oglesby, who is a member of the Assassination Information Bureau, and is also a free-lance writer, is here with us to discuss what they have found in the documents, and Tim O'Brien from ABC News is joining us in Washington. Good morning, Mr. Oglesby, and Tim.

(O'Brien) Good morning; Dave (Oglesby) Good morning.

(Hartman) Fifty-eight pages or thereabouts you've sifted through here in the last- many hours; anything significant in those, in your judgment?

(Oglesby) There's a great deal that's significant in these documents, both in the first release and in the 58,000 pages that came out yesterday. Often the more significant revelation will lie in the withholdings, in the suppressions, in the censorships of the release by -

[ABC-TV, 1/19, continued]

(Hartman) How much censorship, to use your term, was there in this report?

(Oglesby) Well, we still have to count the pages, but we're running, for example, into scores of documents like this - there are a few mounted up there - but - you see some more in my hand here - where whole documents are obliterated. The FBI of course has a legal right and a responsibility to protect its sources, and we often see censorship throughout the documents, taking out a name, or some such thing as that, but here we're talking about the protection of entire documents in important areas, such as how Oswald ever got his rifle; also touching on apparently FBI COINTELPRO activity.

(ABC) Are you saying there's a coverup by the FBI?

(Oglesby) Yes I am. As horrifying as that thought may be to a great many of us - but then, since the Schweiker-Hart Report and the work of the Church Committee, everyone who studies this question, by this time has been driven to make ~~an~~ that inference.

(ABC) Isn't there a lot in this report that could be defamatory? People's names mentioned, that could do them irreparable damage?

(Oglesby) Well, as I say, we would expect to see some censorship, and some protection of individual property [sic], but it's hard to see how whole long stretches of documentation can be suppressed on those grounds. And then besides that, besides the censorship of hundreds of pages of documents in the releases, there's still a great quantity of material that hasn't been released in any form, as much as 10,000 pages have been still held back by the FBI.

(ABC [O'Brien, I think]) Well then, why do you think they're withholding this information?

(Oglesby) We think that there is a coverup going on.

(O'Brien) Why?

(Oglesby) To protect the guilty, to protect the reputations of people who got drawn into the investigation at various stages; it's a huge and difficult question, of course, but-

(O'Brien) I think the FBI has shown conclusively, or at least the Justice Department in the last few weeks, releasing some very damaging report about FBI people, that - they're willing to release this information.

(Oglesby) Well, I should think that they would be willing now; it's fifteen years ago, and it's time that we got to the bottom of this thing; it's hard to see how there could be that much to protect any more. But then the question comes up, why do we find scores or hundreds of documents that have been obliterated entirely, and why are key documents, in the range of 10,000 pages, being kept back? And these documents touch in vital areas; we know something of what they're about. We know that we're being denied information on laboratory ballistics tests - very important to determining the whole question of bullets fired - what bullets fired from what rifle. We know that we don't have the pre-assassination file on Lee Harvey Oswald and on Jack Ruby, the man who killed him. We-

(Hartman?) Excuse me, you just said - made a comment about protecting the guilty, a coverup to protect the guilty. What did you mean? Or was that a -

(Oglesby) Well, you could maybe call it a slip, or a slip into a phrase that seems to suit the situation; I too am bothered with the idea of pointing fingers, and making accusations in the absence of positive evidence, but what I see here makes me think that somebody is protecting something, because there's so much still censored and withheld. Why don't we have a candid and complete revelation? Ten thousand documents don't need to be kept back, do they?

(Hartman) You're saying that there's no evidence in the stuff that you have read, the material you've read, to indicate there was a conspiracy, correct - to kill John Kennedy?

(Oglesby) Incorrect! We think that in spite of the censorship - when I say 'we,' I mean a community of people who research and investigate this case - it looks as if to us, a careful reading of the documents, censored as they are, turns up a number of important indications that the FBI was indeed worried about a coverup,

and in fact that J. Edgar Hoover was worried about a coverup that was keeping him from information. We find through these documents for example, just a few selected almost at random, where Hoover, in his own crabbed hand, is complaining to people below him, why they don't cooperate with the Warren Commission; why do they constantly give (quote) "narrow interpretations" to the requests of the Commission.

(Hartman) Mr. Oglesby, excuse me, we've got just a couple of more seconds; what's your next step, then? You're dissatisfied with the information you're getting; what's your next step?

(Oglesby) I think the - first we have to complete a thorough and careful reading of the material that's come out. It's not complete, as I said, and we need a lot more information, but there's a lot of stuff here to work with. We find, for example, real proof now that Jack Ruby was definitely being used as an FBI informant of some kind; his category was Potential Criminal Informant, and we have it on the record from these documents by this time that the FBI talked to him about nine or ten times, in a critical period of 1959 when Ruby was very intimately involved with organized crime and gun-running to Cuba.

(Hartman) Mr. Oglesby, will you come back; and Tim, would you come back, soon, and we can discuss this further; there's a lot of information here we haven't covered.

(O'Brien & Oglesby) There certainly is; [yes]

(Hartman) Great; Tim, thank you, and Mr. Oglesby, thank you very much.

(Oglesby) It's my pleasure.

(Hartman) Ten minutes of; we'll be back....