

September 14, 1968

Honorable Ramsey Clark  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clark:

Under date of September 11, 1968, Mr. Herbert E. Angel, Acting Archivist of the United States, informs me that those documents in the files of the Warren Commission that I have long wanted, having to do with the late David W. Ferrie, are denied me because the Department of Justice has ordered that they be withheld.

Mr. Angel cites as authority for the withholding Guidelines 3(A), 3(B) and 3(C).

Mr. Angel further informs me that "Any further questions you have concerning withholding of these pages should be addressed to the Department of Justice." Therefore, I address you.

With the death of the late David W. Ferrie, any possible proper justification for the withholding of these documents ended. I am aware of the possibility that these documents contain information that might be embarrassing to the Government of the United States. However, that is not proper grounds for withholding them.

I respectfully request that you remove the restriction and that copies be made available to me.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

# GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



*National Archives and Records Service*  
Washington, D.C. 20408

September 11, 1968

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Coq d'Or Press  
Route 8  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letter of August 20, 1968, concerning the records of the Warren Commission.

There has been no revision or change in the guidelines concerning the records of the Commission. The guidelines referred to in our letter of August 19 as Guidelines 3A-C are Guidelines 3(A), 3(B), and 3(C) on the list of which you have a copy. The pages in Commission Document 75 concerning David W. Ferris that are withheld from research are withheld collectively by the Department of Justice under these three guidelines. Any further questions you have concerning withholding of these pages should be addressed to that Department.

Before the establishment of the guidelines and the review of CD75 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, this document was withheld from research by the National Archives as an investigatory record under the first provision of our General Restriction Statement No. 5, of which a copy is enclosed. This restriction was established under sections 205 (c) and 205 (d), 63 Stat. 390, which authorized the Administrator of General Services to prescribe regulations to carry out his functions and to delegate his authority to other officials of the General Services Administration.

As you are probably aware, the withholding of investigatory records from research is authorized by the "Freedom of Information Act" (5 U.S.C. 552).

Sincerely,

HERBERT E. ANIEL  
Acting Archivist  
of the United States

Enclosure

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GENERAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF RECORDS IN  
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The restrictions stated below apply to the kinds or classes of accessioned records designated regardless of the record groups to which such records belong. Additional restrictions applicable to particular record groups are separately issued.

- I. Records: Records less than 75 years old of the investigation of persons or groups of persons by investigative authorities of the executive branch.

Restrictions: Information in these records will be made available only as authorized by an appropriate official of the originating agency or its successor agency.

Imposed by: The Archivist of the United States.

- II. Records: Records less than 50 years old of the following kinds that originated in the military services of the Department of Defense: inspector general reports of investigation or of inquiry, aircraft accident reports, and records of boards of investigation, courts-martial, courts of inquiry, military commissions, and provost courts.

Restrictions: Information in these records will be made available only as authorized by an appropriate official of the originating agency or its successor agency.

Imposed by: The Archivist of the United States in conformity with the guide lines set forth in Department of Defense Directive 5200.6.

- III. Records: All documents less than 75 years old among the records of any agency of the Government that are identifiable as having originated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation or its predecessor, the Bureau of Investigation (established July 26, 1908).

Restrictions: Information in these records will be made available only as authorized by an appropriate official of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Imposed by: The Archivist of the United States in agreement with the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Rev. 1, June 29, 1961.

GSA-WLGE DC 62-233