

PLS return from my "new" file of

(4)

Ferris

1/31/70

Paul and Gary,

Having misplaced my set of the CD indexes in the course of the endless file shifting that always becomes necessary, temporarily I cannot consult them. However, when in DC today, I got this list of references to Ferris in CD75 from Bud's. It would appear to account for close to all of the withholding detailed in my memo dated yesterday.

I would call to your attention the fact that in some cases not all pages are given in this index. For example, only 199 is or the 199-200 pair. (not class.) But 200 is listed elsewhere.

I shall endeavor to put these citations in order as I type them.

212, 213, 214, 216, 217, 219

225, 226, 228, 238

287, 288, 289, 283, 284, 285

292, 293, 294, 295, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303

307, 310, 311, 309, 313

323, 341, 364, 589.

In connection with the above, I note again my comment on Johnson's having a separate and stripped file of CD75 Ferris documents.

Further I note the Archives lie to me, that it never prepared a list of Ferris documents, then its refusal to give me such a list, and now its long silence after my last letter on this subject.

I think it is now fair to state that the FBI has withheld 100% of the evidence it says it has on Oswald's relations or "contacts" with Ferris and that it has withheld virtually everything it has on Ferris. While it is possible that the synopsis is in error, there is no reason to assume this and the magnitude of its withholding on Ferris, together with the percentage it is of the total withholding in this large and somewhat diffuse file require that its withholding be regarded with at least suspicion.

In addition to what I yesterday noted as having ordered at the Archives, I find the note indicating I also ordered CD47:44-5, and CD75:222-4;232-3;249-50.

LHW

1/30/70

Ferris docs-suppression

At the Archives today I asked for the Ferris name files and CD75, among a few others. CD 75 has chapter headings but no page numbers given in the table of contents.

As the Ferris files, Simmons produced two, both in plain white file folders (very rare), both in Marion Johnson's handwriting. One says "David W. Ferris from CD75" and the other "David W. Ferris-name file in "Other Individuals and Organizations Involved and Interviewed". In the first there was a single report, CD75:589-90 only. The second contained CDs 6:165; 75:199-200; 87:620; 20r:583-5; 301:85-7.

Aside from the very obvious fact this is less than half of the documents relating to Ferris of which I know, there is at least the second report, from the second file, not in the first. There is hardly any point in having a separate file for a single document, not is there any readily-apparent point in having more than a single file for either all of these or even these and the others of which I know. This suggests there was a special reason for segregating the Ferris material from CD75.

Paul Hoca had sent me a copy of the summary of CD 75. It has this line: "Subject's (i.e., Oswald's) contacts with DAVID FERRIS, New Orleans, set forth."

Well, in CD75 they are not-not as it exists today.

Up to page 84, the heading is "Employment", from 85, "Residences"; from 122-139, "Education"; from 144, "Relations"; from 179, "Associates". It is here, by the meaning of words and by the sequence of the summary I would expect to find what is "set forth" about Oswald's "contacts with David Ferris".

Page 180, apparently the first of a two-page Turnely report, is withheld. It and all the following withheld pages are noted on the green slips saying it is at the request of the FBI.

190-200 are the Wall-Victor interview with Ferris, the only mention of him in the very long part of the file. (I noted pp. 182-3 and possibly failed to note they are withheld. I do not recall, for there is no notation following the numbers.

The other pages withheld are:

207-210

212-221

225-2

257-60

281-304

307-311

313-316

319-323

341-3

345-7

"Arrest begins on p. 350.

Thus a fairly large percentage of the file on Oswald's associates are withheld, the last thing in the world one would expect if there had been a serious investigation of this and the last thing one would expect the government not to want known, to validate what it alleges about his associations. And unless one is to assume the synopsis is utterly meaningless, one must assume that at least an appreciable portion of the withheld pages deal with what is in the summary and is not in the file today, Oswald's "contacts with DAVID FERRIS".