

Hoover ref. covering notes

JFK assassination records appeals

Harold Weisberg 9/30/79

Director's hope ~~with~~ FBI withheld nothing

When the Director added a note to a news account quoting Rankin as saying that information was being withheld at the Archives because records were classified the Bureau bureaucracy "informed" him via a Not Recorded Branigan to Sullivan memo of 11/23/64 in 62-109090. (This was long after the Report was published.)

Hoover's note reads "I hope we were not a party to having any information withheld."

In referring to classified records Branigan states that with regard to some "it was no longer necessary to ~~maintain~~ maintain a security classification in the interest of national defense." This seems that the national security had to be protected for a matter of days only, an improbability at best.

"In a few instances," Branigan states, the commission was furnished with copies from which classified information was withheld.

If there was legitimate need for classification in 1963 and 1964, and the since declassified records I have seen did not require classification, if indeed most warranted it, with the passing of more than 15 years it is doubtful if classification is justified. I therefore believe that all such records should be disclosed in their unexpurgated form and should have been submitted for review under the new D.O. pursuant to my request of so long ago.

(Copy of records not classified.)