

Hoty flap

To quit when from Harold Weisberg NY 2/24/80

This is not an appeal. It is for your information and that of your staff, those who genuinely believe that the FBI personnel with whom they deal having no interest in hiding anything. Those processing the records to which I refer read them and I think it is safe to assume, understood what they read. Both of ⁶²⁻¹⁰⁹⁰⁶⁰ the records to which I refer are unfaithful accountings of important events in the JFK assassination investigation. Those processing the records should have been able to perceive this and from this should have known what the FBI wanted and didn't want. They would not have had to be told.

I do not have extra copies for you because I made a single copy for subject filing.

Control is the name of the FBI's game and Oswald is its textbook when it comes to what it trusted others to know or wanted them to know and believe.

In 7423 there is the ostensible response to a question asked by the Director in 1975 after he read a story by Norman Kenster in which, about the note Oswald left for SA James A. Hosty Kenster wrote, "The FBI withheld information about the letter from the Warren Commission. The bureau confirmed reports about the letter only after they appeared in newspapers earlier this year."

An response/defense this Cooke to Gallagher memo states what the story does not, that Kenster assumed there was a decision to withhold the info. It then says that/the internal investigation did not establish this. Correct. The internal investigation did not address it so it couldn't have established it. However, it did establish a) that PHILLIS knew contemporaneously and b) did not tell ANYONE, not the SAC, not the Commission. Because PHILLIS knew and was nearly silent when it had the obligation to report, it is only natural that "No evidence has been developed which would indicate 'an institutional coverup.'"

The part about no confirmation until the reports were in the papers it says, "The Bureau's confirmation occurred at the same time." Technically this is not the lie it actually is. The paper that received the leak asked the FBI for a statement to go with the story so it held the story until it received the statement. This gave the FBI time to make internal inquiries. By far most followed publication. The previous articles had been written" mostly because the FBI had stifled all information until, after the retirement of the Dallas SAC was secure, it was leaked. XI SAs were involved in the matter, one through his wife. The initial leak had to have an FBI source as its original source.

PHILLIS had to sit on the business of the Oswald note and its destruction by the Dallas office, for which nobody was punished, because the FBI party line is that Oswald had never given any indication of any tendency toward violence, therefore it had left him alone in Dallas. One of the few things in the FBI investigation of Oswald that is

not disputed is that a few days before the assassination Oswald did threaten violence: blowing up the FBI's own offices.

In those matters the FBI generally avoids open untruths and generally is able to by its own formulations and distortions. In this case it could not, so it concludes with an untruthful statement, "Walters had no knowledge of the letter until informed by" the Dallas Times-Herald. The reason - know this to be untruthful is because the Inspection Division's own disclosed records said that information. Its report does not.

6374 deals with the William Walter matter, his report of having seen a communication reporting threats against JFK just before the assassination, when he was an FBI clerk. There is no doubt that there were many such threats, including in the Dallas area. I wrote about them in 1968. You should recall the Bonerrett/Walters matter and others of the time over which the JFK motorcade in Miami was cancelled only three days before he was killed. The manner in which the FBI gets around this is first to refer to teletype only and then one to New Orleans ONLY. This is not what Walter said.

The search was by Mrs. Mary Anne Deloach, an employee of the Service Unit of the Records Branch...prepared a search slip for each FBI field office...These search slips and the master checkoff... attached for filing as enclosures to this memorandum." They are not supplied, and they are withheld. Historically they are valuable and I'd like to have them.

Interesting that of all FBI employees selected for this task the one who was had the not only name of the then Assistant to the Director, like his son's wife?

Maybe the FBI personnel processing this records have no interest in hiding anything but they did not disclose what the memo says it attached for filing with it. Nor did their concept of historical case disclosure extend to searching any copies filed elsewhere, like in Domestic Intelligence Division or a Lenihan or ~~Walters~~^{Division} tickler. (The memo was addressed to E.C. Sullivan by W.A. Branigan, but Lenihan wrote it.)

As this and similar memos worked upward through the bureaucracy it got farther and farther from those who had intimate knowledge of the underlying records, which are full of reports of threats. Does this give you an idea of the importance of such withheld records as the Director's Brief book and his list of Specials? Both are the subject of appeals.