Harold Weisberg

Dr. Joseph L. Schott, Director
Criminal Justice Program
Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, Tx. 76129

7/10/75

Dear Dr. Schott,

In your letter of 7/2 you say that with regard to the alleged investigation of the Lovely Lisp the "entire investigation was being handled in a way to suppress information rather than to elicit it." If you had read the records I've obtained you could not have encapsulated that more aptly.

Your belief on protecting Hoover appears to be justified. Bassett et al were able to dig where there was knowledge contemporaneously at FBIHQ, but not the fact of it.

Some of the cover-the-Bureau paper and Hoover's personal notes which can also have been intended to be self-serving make your conjecture over whether "some of the palace guard were helping to seal him off more and more in the early years" interesting. Either your hunch is correct or he was a much more Byzantine personality than I believed. The appears to relate to much looking in particular for there is no doubt about the source and then there are also complaining, almost mystified notes about it. Not it seems incredible that he would have been content into believing that what only the FBI had could have been looked other than by the FBI.

The final sentence in the FD 302 that you do not understand, to the effect that you claimed you'd have known if an investigation had been conducted, is consistent with what was afoot, making the whole thing fuzzy and purposeful, that it could not be said that Dallas conducted an investigation of which FBIHQ knew.

Two of the major objectives appear to have been to cover the Bureau, at HQ, and to the degree possible Dallas; and to make any prosecution impossible.

At the same time they wanted to keep as much as possible indistinct because of the House subcommittee investigation, which I got nowhere.

I can't recall whether I sent the enclosed 5/5/75 Bassett re Callahan earlier.

If you ever learn anything further about this matter I'd appreciate knowing about it, particularly if it is not consistent with what has been said to date. My hunch is that the actuality is not the same as any version that has come out.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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Criminal Justice Program

July 2, 1979

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Rt. 2
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your letter of June 24 last and the enclosed FD 302. The information on the 302 is reasonably accurate to the best of my present recollection. Of course, Bassett failed to include my opinion that I thought the interview and entire investigation was being handled in a way to suppress information rather than to elicit it. I agree with you that the result was to protect Shanklin. And, also, I think it protected former assistant director John Mohr. Hoover may or may not have known about the letter. I think that the palace guard was beginning to seal him off more and more in the early 1960's. He very probably was not told. But I hold the very strong opinion that Shanklin told Mohr about the letter. Like most SAC's, Shanklin was highly institutionalized. He probably wouldn't go to the bathroom during working hours without asking Bureau permission.

I don't quite understand the end of the final sentence of the FD 302 ". . . if in fact an inquiry had been conducted, he (Schott) was positive that he would have learned of it." To me that seems to infer that I had some sort of pipeline into the everyday workings of the Dallas FBI Office after my retirement. I still have some friends on duty with the Bureau, but I don't waste my time trying to keep track of their administrative problems. If I recall correctly Bassett made a big point of mentioning how long the Bureau had been working on the investigation without my knowledge. I couldn't figure out at the time what in the hell difference it made whether I knew the investigation was going on or not. Also, the idea that I would "leak" it to a Dallas newspaper was ridiculous. I could have sold a feature about the letter to Lloyd Shearer at Parade anytime.

Well, anyway, its all water under the bridge as far as I'm concerned. I heard that they demoted Bassett later. I

don't know whether it came about as a result of the letter investigation or because of something else.

I appreciate your frustration over delayed FOIA requests. I obtained my personnel file by that method and it took more than a year.

Well, thanks again for the 302. I hope that your health improves. I don't have any inside information about the JFK case, except that it was one of the most depressing of my entire career.

Best wishes,

Joseph L. Schott
Director
Criminal Justice Program