

4/13/88

Dear Jim,

Huff's letter and the enclosure remind me that this report on the HSCA referrals is long overdue.

I don't know what the appeal number represents but it should include the report itself. Why not phone and ask him when he expects it?

Ted Gandolfo, from whom I've not heard in some time, kept in touch with Jeffrey Vogel, who took his calls. The last I recall is that Vogel said, according to Ted, that it was ready and DJ was awaiting the return of Congress after the first of the year.

It is now about a decade since the report(s) were first due.

The JFK stuff ought be within other appeals and litigation and administrative decisions, including to give me everything disclosed re JFK.

They have not disclosed, to the best of my recollection, the Bronson conditions mentioned without any indication of what they were, in the Jensen to Webster 2/15/83. Nothing unusual about them so the FBI's response ought be interesting.

He offered them a first generation copy to keep and access, in his presence, to the original, which he would not permit them to keep. Perhaps his lawyer instead of him. How can this be unacceptable?

One of the FBI's real problems is that they were offered the film to begin with and rejected it and didn't let the Commission know. By Eastman. I have the reports and gave copies to others. The agent, Newson as I recall the name, said the film was valueless because it didn't show the building and in fact it has 87 frames of that very window. This agent didn't want the 35 mm because although it showed the President getting killed, from the South, it was not useful for "identification."

It is quite clear, shows many identifiable people, positions, etc., and other information usually sought in an investigation. But not Oswald with a smoking gun.

My FOIA file is too jammed for me to try to add this to it so I'll file it in the subject file under HSCA, if we have to refer to it again.

I have a separate file of what I got from Criminal but those pages are filed as I received them and I can't see how I could put this there in any meaningful way.

Best,



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legal Policy

Office of Information and Privacy

Washington, D.C. 20530

APR 11 1988

James H. Lesar, Esq.
918 F Street, N.W.
Room 509
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: Appeal No. 87-1543
RLH:MMN:PJL

Dear Mr. Lesar:

You appealed on behalf of your client, Harold Weisberg, from the action of the Criminal Division on records referred to it by the Federal Bureau of Investigation pursuant to his request for access to records pertaining to Martin Luther King, Jr., in the House Select Committee on Assassinations correspondence file.

As a result of discussions between Criminal Division personnel and members of my staff, a supplemental release of two pages is enclosed. Inasmuch as this constitutes a full grant of Mr. Weisberg's request with regard to this referral, I am closing your appeal file in this Office.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Huff, Co-Director
Office of Information and Privacy

Enclosure

Memorandum



Subject

Department of Justice Response to the Final Report of the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations

Date

February 15, 1983

To William H. Webster
Director
Federal Bureau of
Investigation

From D. Lowell Jensen
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

As you are aware, the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) issued its final report on March 29, 1979. That report included recommendations that the Department of Justice evaluate specific physical evidence related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Department was also asked to review the HSCA findings regarding the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King. The Criminal Division is currently preparing a report which describes the Department's response to the HSCA recommendations, for submission by the Attorney General to the House of Representatives.

In preparing the Department's report to Congress, we intend to discuss our efforts to examine the film owned by Charles L. Bronson which the HSCA felt merited additional study. Criminal Division records indicate that Mr. Bronson, through his attorney, negotiated with the FBI regarding conditions for loaning the film to the Bureau for scientific analysis. Mr. Bronson insisted upon conditions for review of the film which the FBI Laboratory felt would prevent adequate examination of that evidence. Consequently, then-Associate Deputy Attorney General Robert Keuch elected to decline Mr. Bronson's offer to loan the film to the FBI. We would appreciate copies of the reports in your files which include details of the negotiations between the FBI and Mr. Bronson and of the FBI Laboratory's proposals for studying the film.

It is envisioned that the Attorney General will report to the House of Representatives that all reasonable investigative efforts have been taken in both the President Kennedy and Dr. King assassination investigations. Accordingly, the Department will probably recommend that no further action be initiated in response to the HSCA report absent the emergence of new relevant evidence or information. I would appreciate your views regarding these proposed conclusions. In particular, I am interested in whether there are any investigative areas in either matter which you feel have not yet been adequately explored.

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62-117290-1468 (ATTACHMENT)

3 DOJ-4

REQUESTER

I would like to take this opportunity to express the Division's appreciation of the efforts of Special Agent Joel Dean of the Personal Crimes Unit. Mr. Dean's substantive involvement and liaison work in the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination have been invaluable to the Criminal Division attorneys coordinating the Department's response to the HSCA report. The continuity provided to the investigation by Mr. Dean's three years in that assignment has been an important factor in our success in responding to numerous inquiries from both the Congress and the public.