

Return to HQ in Kennedy file

3/30/75

Mr. Tom Susman, counsel
Administrative Practices Subcommittee
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Tom,

This is an update on two FOI matters of which I think you should know. I have asked Jim Lesar to file an immediate appeal on the second, with the intent of going to court at the earliest possible moment. I have asked him to send you copies of the documents I have been supplied through him for the first time. I have not seen them but from his reading they confirm what I knew had to be the fact.

Despite the government's representations and the Williams affidavit in the first spectro suit, the FBI has insisted that it could not find some of it. When they told Jim they had the rest copied for me I asked him to go there immediately and pick them up in person, give them a check, protest the excessive charges, and make copies and send them to an expert I asked to be my expert.

That was Friday. When Jim appeared they refused him copies on the spurious ground that they had located the missing material and had to give me what I asked for all at one time. They also said they had two other requests. I presume one reason is to make other misuse possible prior to my possibility of proper use.

As I told you, it simply is not possible for them to give me an authentic spectrographic or neutron-activation analysis without destroying all they have said and done. My present belief is that they will pretend they did not ever make a complete analysis because it wasn't necessary. I also believe that the total number of pages they say they have copied for me is less than the number I saw in a single file they would not let me examine.

When I asked for what is known as the Memo of Transfer it caused more consternation than any of my other requests and more fumbling double-crossing. It was given to me by the agency of paramount interest and intercepted and refused me by the Archives. They are claiming that Bobby demanded the suppression. Superficially one of the letters of which Jim is to send you a copy seems to say this. It can't and doesn't. This gets back to what I described to you as some very bad advice some unthinking, uninformed and overly-trusting advisers gave.

If you caught or were informed of last Thursday night's ABC special (they refused me Fairness Doctrine time in response to first a verbal and then a written request) you should know that in every reference to suppression or alleged suppression the blame was laid to some Kennedy and that in no single case was the FBI the Department of Justice, the CIA or any other agency named.

This alleged transfer was not made until April 26, 1965. That was after the manuscript of my first book, which is the first book on the subject, was read by at least one publisher with CIA connections. The actual transfer was not to any Kennedy but was from the Secret Service to the National Archives. With the possible exception of only the shoes stockings and braces, all that was transferred was either government property to begin with or all evidence or both.

I have had all of this in proper context in a book completed for years. Refusal to alter the context cost me the one chance I've had for publication. I am going for this Memo of Transfer for a number of serious reasons. One is to end the official blaming of Kennedys for suppression for which they were not responsible, which is to say to end official blaming of others for official suppressions and misrepresentations.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg