

to nit my file

Mr. Quinlan J. Shea
Director, FOIA/PA Appeals
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
3/31/78

Dear Mr. Shea,

While this letter deals with C.A.75-1996, I write it pursuant to a phone call from Jim Lesar this afternoon. That call followed conversation with Doug Mitchell of your staff with regard to the enclosures. Here is the background:

A reporter spent much of last Saturday here going over some of my King assassination files. In the course of seeking those records of interest to him I found a copy of an OPR record I had made for checking for which I had not found time. I had read every word in all the MURKIN files I received and I recalled no record as is described in this OPR record. The marks in the margin were made as reminders to me when I did the checking.

This OPR record is its summary of Section 7B of FBI HQ MURKIN records.

The language I did not recall having seen in any form is "In connection with conspiracy claims note the memorandum (Serial 5651) that Correta King and Rev. Abernathy wanted to keep the conspiracy possibilities alive for SCLC monetary support reasons. The basis for this allegation is a wire tap."

A check of Serial 5651 shows there is no such content in it. So I checked the worksheets. As is not uncommon with the copies provided to me this one is quite unclear. I have put an arrow in the margin to direct your attention to the right one. It describes this record as an internal memo of 3/17/69. It reflects that the memo was of but a single page and that this page was released to me, with excisions under claim of (7)(C) and (D).

But the page released to me not only says no such thing - there are no excisions!

I feel reasonably certain that if you obtain the full Serial you will find that it consists of more than a single page and that it does have the content reflected in the OPR notes. If this is the case then the FBI was pretty dirty in this. It then has to have lied about the number of pages and to have withheld what reflects FBI wire-tapping the year after Dr. King was killed, almost a full year later. All but 16 days of a year.

You can decide for yourself whether (7)(D) also is appropriate for such withholding.

When I learned this I took it up with Jim. Today he told me that Doug Mitchell had checked and found that Ralph Harp's records reflect the record was of but a single page. However, the analyst was Higgins, not Harp, as the worksheet shows.

It appears to me that this shows that the worksheets are essential in such cases and that the FBI may well have reasons other than conveyed to you for refusing them to me in the OPR releases. Without the worksheets it is impossible to know what exemption is claimed, how many pages may be withheld and even if not recorded serials are withheld. Those not recorded are not numbered.

I have not sent copies to Mrs. King or Dr. Abernathy in the belief that the Department might prefer doing this. I also have not told anyone else to protect the rights of the reporter in question.

I would appreciate a clear copy of the full Serial and of a corrected worksheet.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

cc: Jim Lesar

HARTIN COMPANY KING
 MILLER

WORK SHEET - ZONES REQUEST
 ANALYST - MICHAEL J. F. JR.
 EXT -
 TEAM - A-4

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 SECTION 7

LEGAL/ SMC OF DATE	DESCRIPTION	KIND OF INSTR.	# OF ACT.	PAGES REL.	BL 2	5	7C	D	OTHER	1	3	5	6	OTHER	REMARKS
5652	INSTRUMENT		1	1											
5653	INSTRUMENT		2	2											
5654	INSTRUMENT		1	1											
5655	INSTRUMENT		3	3											
5656	INSTRUMENT		5	5											
5657	INSTRUMENT		4	4											
5658	INSTRUMENT		5	5											
5659	INSTRUMENT		1	1											
5660	INSTRUMENT		3	3											
5661	INSTRUMENT		5	5											
5662	INSTRUMENT		1	1											
5663	INSTRUMENT		3	3											
5664	INSTRUMENT		4	4											
5665	INSTRUMENT		1	1											
5666	INSTRUMENT		2	2											

REPORT BY _____ DATE _____

REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____



SECTION 78

Almost all of the serials in this section of the King assassination file carry dates subsequent to the March 10, 1969, conviction and sentencing of Ray on his plea of guilty. The Bureau's emphasis shifted to the conspiracy leads and possibilities. Two FBI interviews of Ray are reported. They were vague although the existence of someone other than himself as the trigger was repeated by Ray. In connection with conspiracy claims note the memorandum [Serial 5651] that Coretta King and Rev. Abernathy wanted to keep the conspiracy possibilities alive for SCLC monetary support reasons. The basis for this allegation is a wire tap.

The Bureau also seeks to capitalize on the publicity by getting a book written by someone such as Jim Bishop.