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473-8186

New address: Route 7
Frederick, Md. 21701

December 8, 1967

Dr. Robert H. Bahmer
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Dr. Bahmer:

Your letter of December 5 reminds me again of the remarkable and never-ending "coincidences" in the murder of President Kennedy and its official investigation. How can I now regard it as other than a "coincidence" when a large assortment of papers is declassified, a little behind schedule, and, in the middle of a box of quite a volume of them, in unremarkable file folders with no special markings on them or anything in the files, of which the documents in question were but a few, these had been declassified in error or included there by happenstance, and those who operate your photocopying machine immediately knew it? If it is not the operator who knew this, how else could the "error" have been detected if, as you assure me, these things I request are not reviewed?

There was no mark of any kind on what I requested, no flag, no special folder. There was nothing to distinguish these documents from anything else. Nor did I note any content that would seem to warrant restriction.

Perhaps it is also a coincidence that I was not told, even after I placed the order, that I had requested three restricted documents, or that I likewise was not told when the remaining documents, having been photocopied, were handed me. Only when I noted the absence of these documents and inquired was I told they were withheld.

With respect to the Liebel-Giffin memorandum of September 25, 1964, I have no interest in any of the content that could conceivably be withheld. I therefore ask that you either mask from the original whatever it is that you now say is withheld or copy the document and cut out what you do not want me to have. My exclusive interest in it is the fine commendation of Mr. Rankin and the noble expression of the high regard in which the signers held him and their expression of the rare privilege it was to work with him. This, certainly, has no effect on the "national security", does not reveal investigative techniques or sources of information, and in no way defames innocent people. If doing either of these things involves extra charges, please take them from my account.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg