

Sylvia, Bud, Gary, Paul 10/5/69 Harold Weisberg

Declassification of Commission Documents

Periodically I have questioned the Archives about how, in the sagacity of the Warren archive, we are to know if anything once classified has been released for research. Until a little over a month ago I got no response. Then, one day when I was with Johnson and pressing him, accusing the government of continuing suppressions by the meaninglessness of the declassifications after we had been told what we sought was classified, he finally agreed to mark up my copy of the List of Basic Documents.

Pursuant to this I took the list to the Archives, where Simmons did what Johnson had promised. In order that it might be checked, I arranged for this to be returned not to me but to Bud, who had planned to have his girl make up a list of what was noted as declassified. When the job was completed, Bud could not have this done. I have just had it done by someone visiting me at home. This list has not been checked, but I presume there is no basic error in it.

Simmons told me he did two things: the "x" indicating restriction was stricken through with heavy pencil where the document had been declassified; and where it remains classified he made the "x" blacker with the same pencil.

Herewith are the list of what has been marked as declassified in my set, what is marked as still classified, and a separate list of what has been marked as missing from the first and not marked as no longer missing.

The date Simmons returned this was 9/19/69.

Now at no point, in writing or verbally, did the Archives ever in any way indicate the existence of any prepared lists of this sort, yet they supplied such lists to Paul. I have loaned my copy to Bud for him to copy. I think it might be a good idea if someone could compare the enclosed list with what was supplied Paul. Innocent discrepancies can exist, but there is no reason to assume that any existing discrepancies must be innocent.

Simmons also supplied a separate list of declassified documents that I earlier mailed you. It is entirely incomplete. I am not suggesting this is something sinister. It is possible, for example, that the list is of those declassified as of a particular date.

Suggestions and comments solicited.

Another thing I report while asking you to remain silent about it until I can check it out myself is that some of the original autopsy materials are now available. Someone I know has examined the body chart. He confirms that, as I earlier wrote, the marks seem to be of the body fluids, including blood. The corrections are also visible as such. When I learn what besides this chart is in the Archives in the original I will let you know.