

5U, PH, HR

12/17/71

Dr. James B. Rhoads, Archivist  
The National Archives  
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads,

Mr. Robertson's letter of October 14 arrived at a time when I could not respond. Since then I have been away. In my absence, certain color negatives of pictures I requested have come. Meanwhile, other questions and requests remain unanswered.

I believe Mr. Robertson's letter is inadequate in several respects. First I ask if it means that I now have all regulations, directives, rulings, interpretations or any other papers having to do with the availability of materials under your control? His letter concludes, "we have no special interpretations of these regulations." This is contrary to the position you took when I requested that, in accord with the provisions of Regulations for Reference Service on Warren Commission Items of Evidence" (pars. 2,5), you provide me with specified pictures of specified exhibits. As a consequence of my Civil Action 2569-70 you revised these regulations, under date of July 6, 1971, having earlier failed to provide a copy of the regulations themselves when asked for them. One obvious additional interpretation that is required is do you hold that the new regulations dated July 6, 1971 hold with respect to requests made before they were promulgated?

It will not be possible for the lab I will use to make enlargements of the provided negatives until after the holidays. From what examination I can make of these negatives, it appears that your photographer found it impossible to enlarge those areas of the original pictures of which I requested enlargements. I would like to know if this is correct, for if it is I will make a similar request of the Department of Justice, which holds the original negatives. I had asked your staff to ask the Department to loan these negatives for the use of your photographer. May I presume that your silence on this means either that you declined to make this request or that it was refused?

I have made a number of requests to which I recall no answer or not receiving what I requested. Two that come to mind without search of this large file of correspondence are certain pages from CD1408 and a copy of the paper accompanying the Secret Service copy of the WDSU film of Oswald at the Trade Mart in New Orleans when it was deposited with you. It is my understanding that various agencies have standards and/or regulations for response to such inquiries. In the past delays have been what I regard as excessive, particularly in the light of your personal assurances that this archive has no labor shortage. I therefore ask what your practice is with regard to the time in which responses are to be made or copies furnished. And, of course, I'd appreciate copies of these and any other items asked for and not supplied as soon as possible.

You have not responded in any way to the penultimate paragraph of my letter of September 18, 1971. I think this constitutes an effective refusal of what I have asked and I request that you forward all the relevant communications, which extend over a period of time, as my appeal. This procedure will have certain advantages to the appeal authority.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service  
Washington, D.C. 20408



October 14, 1971

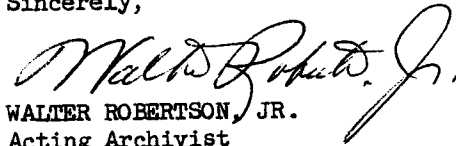
Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Coq d'Or Press  
Route 8  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letter of September 18, 1971.

Enclosed are electrostatic copies of all copies of the "Regulations for Reference Service on Warren Commission Items of Evidence" that we have found in our files. We have no special interpretations of these regulations.

Sincerely,

  
WALTER ROBERTSON, JR.  
Acting Archivist  
of the United States

6 Enclosures:

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RHB

Regulations for Reference Service on  
Warren Commission Items of Evidence

1. Documents (paper records) will be furnished to researchers in the research rooms of the National Archives Building. Items of particular value or fragility may, at the Archivist's discretion, be photocopied and the copies furnished to researchers in lieu of the originals. Copies will be furnished on request for the usual fees. Copyrighted material will be reproduced for research only after receipt of a release from the copyright holder.
2. Still photographs will be furnished to researchers in the research rooms of the National Archives Building. When negatives are prepared incident to filling a request for copies, the negatives will be retained. Copies will be furnished on request for the usual fees. Copyrighted materials will be reproduced for researchers only after receipt of a release from the copyright holder.
3. Motion picture films and sound recordings will be made available to researchers on appropriate equipment in the National Archives Building. Use copies will be prepared and the original materials withheld from normal reference use as a protective measure. Copies will be furnished on request for the usual fees. Copyrighted materials will be reproduced for researchers only after receipt of a release from the copyright holder.
4. Oversize charts, graphs, diagrams, and other means of two-dimensional presentation will be furnished to researchers in the research rooms of the National Archives Building. Copies will be furnished on request for the usual fees. Copyrighted materials or items incorporating copyrighted materials will be reproduced for researchers only after receipt of a release from the copyright holder.
5. Three-dimensional objects and materials that have been subjected to techniques of detailed scientific examination (the aforesaid provisions notwithstanding) will be withheld from researchers as a means of protecting them from possible physical damage or alteration and in order to preserve their evidentiary integrity in the event of any further official investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The National Archives will prepare special cases of varying sizes, constructed in part or entirely of translucent materials, in which objects or materials that do not present unusual problems of size or shape may be viewed by researchers. The Archivist reserves the right to limit the number of such items that may be shown to a researcher within a given period of time, as it will be necessary for a member of the staff of the National Archives to be present at all times during the viewing of such items. Researchers will not be permitted to view the incased items unattended or to touch or handle in any way the items themselves, either manually or with instruments. To the extent possible, photographs of these materials will be furnished to researchers as a substitute for visual examination of the items themselves. In the event that existing photographs do not

meet the needs of the researcher additional photographic views will be made. A charge may be made for unusually difficult or time-consuming photography. Photographs reproduced from existing negatives or prints will be furnished on request for the usual fees.

6. One photocopy or photograph <sup>of an item of evidence</sup> will be furnished without charge to persons presenting proof of prior ownership.

Subject to a review, as we have deemed the problem, to determine whether any items shown not be reproduced for sale, your proposals appear to be sound to me

RTB  
11-2-66