

1/6/72

Director of Information  
General Services Administration  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

This is to appeal the refusal to me of a number of items of Warren Commission materials for which I have asked in writing, copies of which the Archivist refuses, in his letter of January 4, 1972, to forward to you as my appeal.

You will find that I have repeated some of these requests and have not gotten any responses in some cases, meaningless responses in other, and palpable untruths in others. In still other cases, it is transparent that my requests are just being ignored. I believe all these things violate the intent of the Congress, if not the law.

I know because inadvertently in the past the wrong copies of internal copies of my requests have been sent to me that there is a policy on the time in which response was to be made. My request for this information is among the things denied me, so I ask it of you. How long after a simple inquiry is it to be answered?

So you can better understand that this is not frivolous, On July 24, 1971, I asked for copies of certain specified pages of CD 1408. I never got them or any answer. When I asked for them again in my letter of December 17, 1971, they were not provided. Instead I was told "If you will specify the pages in Commission Document 1408 of which you want copies, we will be pleased to furnish these copies to you." In that same letter I renewed an unfilled request for a copy of the description of film provided to the Secret Service by WDSU-TV, New Orleans (a copy of which was also provided me by that station). Instead of in any way answering this proper and simple request, for a copy of a single sentence, I was sent copies of my letter to the Secret Service and its ~~my~~ letter of December 22, 1969 to the Archivist. This is deliberately non-responsive.

Recently, the Attorney General has ruled that such non-responsiveness constitutes a refusal. I also so interpret it. This is also true of other denials and evasions, such as you will find in my requests for copies of withheld Warren Commission executive sessions. The more recent of my letters on the latter are dated August 22 and September 18, 1971.

So, I herewith appeal all these and the other refusals of which the Archives has copies and all those requests not responded to. The Attorney General's Memorandum on the Freedom of Information law specifies that "Every effort should be made to avoid encumbering the applicant's path with procedural obstacles." I hope you will recognize this as binding and not require that I be put to the extra cost and waste of time of providing copies of these requests and the answers, which the Archives has. I also hope you will recognize the intent of Congress in specifying "promptness", which is true in no case referred to herein, that of the still-unfilled request of last July being an illuminating and not-untypical example.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

*National Archives and Records Service*

Washington, D.C. 20408



January 4, 1972

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

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letter of December 17, 1971.

Our photographer has stated that the negatives of President Kennedy's clothing that we sent you were the best that he could prepare. If you will request the Department of Justice to lend its negatives to us, we will attempt to prepare enlargements from them for you.

Enclosed is a copy of the letter of December 22, 1969, from Assistant Director Thomas J. Kelley of the Secret Service transmitting the WDSU film. If you will specify the pages in Commission Document 1408 of which you want copies, we will be pleased to furnish these copies to you. We have been unable to locate any previous requests from you for these items.

We suggest that you address your appeal concerning any records in which you are interested to the Director of Information, Office of the Administrator, General Services Administration, Washington, D. C. 20405. If you will furnish the Director a numerical list clearly identifying the items concerning which you wish to appeal, he will then be able to act on your appeal without any prolonged searching through our large file of correspondence with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James B. Rhoads".

JAMES B. RHOADS  
Archivist of the United States

Enclosure



TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

December 22, 1969.

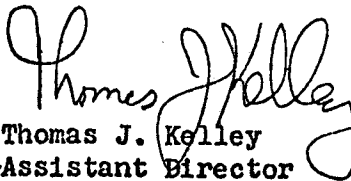
Dr. James B. Rhoads  
Archivist of the United States  
National Archives Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Harold Weisberg,  
dated December 9, 1969.

Also enclosed is the copy of the WDSU film from our  
file. If this film is identical to the WDSU film in the  
National Archives, we would appreciate its return.

Very truly yours,

  
Thomas J. Kelley  
Assistant Director

Enclosures (2)



Lillian & Harold Weisberg

Coq d'Or Press ROUTE 8, FREDERICK, MD. 21701

Code 301/473-8186

12/9/69

*J.H.*

Mr. James Rowley, Director  
U.S. Secret Service  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rowley,

In the past I have written you about the film of Lee Harvey Oswald distributing literature in New Orleans and sought access to this film. It is my recollection you said you did not have it, that you gave everything to the Warren Commission or later to the National Archives. I have explored the Archives thoroughly and the film I seek is not there. It was given to the Secret Service. I write you again because I still want to study it in both forms in which you have it. If you no longer have it, you should be able to direct me to it.

On December 3, 1963, FBI SA Nathan O. Brown wrote a report on his conference with WDSU-TV, New Orleans. The second paragraph begins:

of

"Mr. Corporan stated that single-frame prints were made/parts of the silent film when OSWALD was distributing leaflets and these prints have already been furnished to the FBI and to the Secret Service. He stated that a duplicate print of the silent film of OSWALD distributing leaflets had been furnished to the Secret Service."

Now the only copy of the film in the Archives is a duplicate of all three sections spliced together. Today the WDSU footage is also so spliced. In splicing, there is always the possibility of the loss of frames. The record warrants wonder if frames disappeared for other reasons. There is reason to believe Federal agents did show prospective witnesses still pictures not now in this film. It is beyond doubt that the stills also are not in the Archives. When you recall it was known there was a still-identified person helping Oswald, you can readily see one of the importances of this film and my urgent desire to see it without further (and I believe illegal) federal interferences.

Please believe me when I tell you I have interviewed witnesses never spoken to by any government agent and those either not asked the necessary questions or, according to their reasonable claims (your own agents made identical ones under oath), grossly misrepresented by the FBI reports. I believe that under the law I am entitled to immediate access to this information and I again ask this. I would also hope you would share my earnest desire that, if so late, proper analysis be made of this evidence. And, as I recently wrote Mr. Kelley, I ask that the Secret Service go over the record of our correspondence, correct the errors in it, and without further delay make available to me what it is, my legal right to have. If there is any item you no longer have, you do know what you did with it and I ask that you properly direct me.

Sincerely,

*Lillian & Harold Weisberg*