

Mrs. Marina Oswald Porter  
Box 220A  
Rockwall, TX 75087

2/16/83

Dear Mrs. Porter,

Henry Hurt has written me of your interest in obtaining the tapes of the FBI's electronic surveillances on you and/or the transcripts of them. He also told me that he assured you that I would not disclose your interest to others. I so assure you.

I do not have the tapes. Perhaps I can get them for you. If you had indicated this interest before you ended our brief correspondence, I'd have gotten them for you. Here is the story about them.

At first the FBI lied and pretended it had no such records. I had to prove that they had both bugged your house and tapped your phone before, on appeal, they were required to disclose. They then offered me the tapes but I refused them because you had not expressed any interest in them and because I knew they contained the most intimate and embarrassing information. I did not want the FBI to use me as an excuse for putting copies of those tapes in its reading room and available to anyone and everyone. They have done this with everything I've made them give me by my various FOIA suits.

Apparently the FBI does not like you. It therefore did disclose to me the content of those tapes, and this is how I knew that you can find them embarrassing. They also disclose details of your relationship with Martin. I regard these matters as not relevant to the assassination or its investigation and nobody's business except yours and I had no interest. I also knew that under the law the FBI would and should have kept those records secret. This is why I believe they do not like you. I suppose it is your last testimony before the Warren Commission, which I quoted at length in my first book, and the fact that you did not trust them and said so. (I also know how they blackmailed you by having an IRS man of their liking go down to threaten you.)

I have not provided any copies of any of these records to any other critics. I saw and see no reason to.

If you want to try to obtain these things on your own, as I offered before, I'll help you any way I can, as I offered to do with Lee's income tax. (I also have not complained because when you obtained them you did not let me see them.) If you want me to try and get them for you now, I can probably save you up to two years, but I cannot assure success because I have already waived interest in them.

They are Dallas rather than FBIHQ records. They were hidden in the files by filing them as "administrative matters." I am still in court in my suit for all the Dallas records, and perhaps it is possible that I can still get them by asking for them again. If you want me to do this, I will try, and I will give them to you. I have no interest in them and do not believe that, save for the portrait they provide of the FBI in such an investigation, they have any historical significance. But if you want me to make this effort, I think it would now be better to provide a privacy waiver so the FBI cannot not raise that obstacle and because neither my lawyer nor I could now take the time to litigate that side issue.

Because of the reflection of their abuse of you and your rights, I had no interest in those records, so I have no recollection of which I made extra copies for subject filing. I preserve all such records exactly as I receive them so that, when they are in the university archive, scholars will have them exactly as the FBI disclosed them. I do know that I made some copies because of the legal issue of privacy, which I confront often enough when it is invoked without cause. I just don't know if it is all of them, and it is now beyond my capability to make a real search through all those many records.

The FBI did disclose copies of several sets of logs but not actual transcripts. I can provide copies but not right now because I've had three operations and am limited in what I can do. I can't stand still at all. So my wife is the only one who uses our copier. She will be busy until April 15 and I can't promise anything before then.

You also were under physical surveillance. They used a van with a phony name on it. I think of the phone company. Those logs merely say who went to see you, when they left, when you left and returned, etc. The logs of the electronic surveillances say who phoned or who you phoned, etc. The contents of what they picked up is reported in their teletypes and memoranda to FBIHQ. Aside from purely personal information, they intruded into your conferences with your lawyers. If you have a lawyer, you might want to let him know these things.

To the best of my recollection, this is what I have that pertains to you:

The Dallas and FBIHQ "main" files in your name, classified with their subversive file numbers; the records I mention above, those they originally tried to hide; and the index cards to those files that Dallas sent to FBIHQ and from which FBIHQ provided information to the Warren Commission.

It is not now possible for me to search the records listed in the index and provide copies, but as I once offered, you can do this or send anyone you may want to send, after April 15 so that you can have copies of anything you may want. Unless you want her not to know, perhaps this could be good experience for your daughter who is studying journalism.

I'm sorry that with all that has happened to me I have no clear recollection of our previous correspondence except that it pertained to Lee's taxes. So I do not recall if I sent you any copies of anything. If you would like copies of the records of which I have subject-file copies, that requires no searching and I can keep that folder near the copies for the first time my wife has to use it and has time to make copies for you. If you would like this, indicate please the nature of the records of which you want copies.

Please excuse the haste with which I write this. I did not want to forget so I wrote immediately but I must return to work on which there is a deadline.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg