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ion review of the assassi-
son signed into law the
t (FOIA). It was revolu-
citizens to apply for the
n including those main-
itive organizations. The
o release the documents
temptations that were set
d a subsequent amend-
ocuments have been re-
1. However, the federal
comply with FOIA, and
o lawsuits to win the re-

ey hated the Freedom of
ng," says James Lesar,
relating to the Kennedy
, have been responsible
of the government than
ally so against the idea
uestors as a '100 file,' a
make the process un-
l at first was to provide
it for the copy machine
rrible copies. But they

lying to those who filed
alls, "one ploy was that
page by page, because
had a 48,000-card index
FBI headquarters [in

ere wasn't anything in
headquarters, that the

the card index until Weis-
nd the index was disclosed
1, 1992).

field offices just had duplicates of what was in headquarters. That's been proven false in several cases. The originating field office can maintain as much as four times as many documents as headquarters."

The FBI was not alone in its dislike of FOIA. "The CIA, NSA, military intelligence," says Lesar, "were all very close to the FBI in their distaste for FOIA. However, they have much better tools to fight FOIA requests, because they have national security and the compromise of sensitive sources as strong reasons for withholding information."

The attitude of government agencies toward FOIA prompted suspicion about motives, especially since researchers sometimes had to fight for apparently innocuous documents. "The problem is that the FBI has generally fought everything to the hilt, even if nobody could see any relevancy to it," says James Lesar. "Sometimes, they do it in subjects at which there is nothing at stake."⁴² Harold Weisberg was in litigation with the FBI for over a decade regarding the release of the spectrographic tests conducted on the curbstone at Dealey Plaza that was chipped by a bullet fragment. Although the Warren Commission discussed and relied on the results of the Bureau's spectrographic test in its final report, the FBI steadfastly refused to give Weisberg the underlying data. To many, that obstinacy added to the growing public perception that the government had something to hide in the Kennedy case. But to Lesar it does not necessarily indicate cover-up as much as the bureaucratic mind-set for agencies like the FBI. "The basic overall strategy," says Lesar, "assuming there is one, is that the FBI is trying to drive up the cost of getting information, making it so difficult that you don't want to do it again. I tend to think it's part of their overall litigation strategy. At times, they do it for political reasons, but other times it is part of their effort to resist disclosure, no matter what is being requested. Government officials seem to live in constant terror. In general, the government's only interest in its records occurs when somebody asks for them, and at that point they go into paralysis. They suspect that somewhere there must be something that spells trouble. It's just part of their psychology. It's built into them."

Nevertheless, the Freedom of Information Act gave added im-

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38. Ibid., p. 45.
39. Gerald Ford and John Stiles, *Portrait of the Assassin* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1965).
40. Sylvia Meagher, *Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, the Authorities, and the Report* (New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1967).
41. Ibid., pp. xxi, xxvi; Sparrow, *After the Assassination*, p. 72.
42. Interview with James Lesar, December 1, 1992.
43. Statement of Thomas Kupferman, 89th Congress, 2nd Session, September 28, 1966, *Congressional Record*, Vol. 118, pp. 24157-59.

18 "BLACK IS WHITE, AND WHITE IS BLACK"

1. Associated Press wire-service story, "Garrison Record Shows Disability," December 29, 1967; Warren Rogers, "The Persecution of Clay Shaw," *Look*, August 26, 1969, p. 54.
2. Jim Garrison, *On the Trail of the Assassins* (New York: Warner Books, 1991), p. 9.
3. Milton E. Brener, *The Garrison Case: A Study in the Abuse of Power* (New York: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 1969), pp. 2, 10.
4. Interview with Hubie Badeaux, November 30, 1992.
5. Brener, op. cit., p. 15.
6. Interview with Milton Brener, December 11, 1992.
7. Brener, op. cit., p. 16.
8. Ibid., p. 21.
9. Ibid.
10. Interview with Milton Brener, December 11, 1992.
11. Kirkwood, *American Grotesque: An Account of the Clay Shaw-Jim Garrison Affair in New Orleans* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1970), p. 178.
12. Interview with Milton Brener, December 11, 1992.
13. Brener, op. cit., p. 33.
14. Hugh Aynesworth, "The Garrison Goosechase," *Dallas Times Herald*, December 21, 1982.
15. Warren Rogers, "The Persecution of Clay Shaw," *Look*, August 26, 1969, p. 56; Aynesworth, "The Garrison Goosechase."
16. Aynesworth, "The Garrison Goosechase."
17. Walter Sheridan, *The Fall and Rise of Jimmy Hoffa* (New York: Saturday Review Press, 1972), p. 417.
18. "The Mob," Part II, *Life*, September 8, 1967, p. 96; Sheridan, op. cit., p. 417.
19. Interview with Milton Brener, December 11, 1992.
20. David Chandler, "The 'Little Big Man' Is Bigger Than Ever," *Life*, April 10, 1970, p. 33.
21. Aynesworth, "The Garrison Goosechase."