

Rifle

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg re JFK Assassination Records
Attached unclear Serial from 89-47, DFO

8/18/78

Prior to sending you this as part of the appeal I desired a confirming opinion. I now have confirmation that this records was made available at the National Archives when the Warren Commission records were first opened. I believe it was published in facsimile and without any excisions.

Were none of this ~~the~~^{the} why was it necessary in an historical case in particular to withhold anything? Even if the withholding was within the exemptions, as I do not believe, what need impelled the FBI to go to this extra work and cost? There is none. I believe it is a combination of harassment and intent to make compliance with FOIA as costly and cumbersome as possible as part of the FBI's long visible campaign against FOIA.

In this case the present FBI is withholding what its Founding Director ordered not be withheld. The ~~in~~ number of thousands of records like this that he ordered be disclosed without any excisions can't be counted, there are that many. So I again ask why now, about 15 years later, does the FBI do it? When is it to stop and the wasted costs to stop and the denials and harassment to stop?

This represents, I believe, the kind of practice that requires the reprocessing of the entire file. It represents a mind-set against disclosures and of non-compliance.

This particular case, if my recollection is correct, is also recorded in the logs of the police radio broadcasts and in that form, as transcribed for the Commission by the FBI, was published by the Commission.

This also is not the only case of someone being reported as carrying a rifle the morning of the assassination. I know of no single prior withholding, going back to the publication of the Commission's appended 26 volumes. Not do I know of a single excision in any of these many other records, all within the public domain.

The relevant Dallas Police Department files are also public domain.