

Chas P. Kelly

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg, King and Kennedy assassination records 6/22/79
appeals relating to searches made and refused; books and authors; PA

There is a specific item in my King requests relating to other writers and any information provided to them. While this is not an explicit item of my JFK assassination requests it is inherent in the historical-case determination and is of great historical significance because of the uses made by the FBI of sycophantic books and authors and the means by which the FBI assists such writers. I have provided copies of records ~~of~~ reporting ~~which~~ various kinds of assistance was provided by the FBI. This information was in no case provided in compliance. Rather did the FBI files a false representation with the Court. The FBI has yet to comply with these items.

One of the importances is that the FBI has become an agency for forming public opinion and influencing it and official knowledge and belief. This is particularly important when one is examining the functioning of the agency itself.

In the King case I have obtained and provided copies of records disclosing that the FBI actually planned to have an officially unofficial book written and considered several authors included in my request.

The first of the sycophantic books relating to the assassination of President Kennedy was written by a well-known White House correspondent who had such to gain by writing what officials liked - which is precisely what he did. Charles Roberts was then White House correspondent for Newsweek, a full-time job. The title of his book, "The Truth About the Assassination," amounts to false advertising.

What struck me immediately about the book and Roberts is the extremely unlikelihood of his having read all the books he wrote a book to criticize and having done all the required research into the Warren Commission's records within the time he had and still have had time to meet his regular obligations to Newsweek. I also wondered about a hardback publisher who owned the largest paperback publisher coming out with a dollar paperback instead of having it done by its subsidiary.

I met Roberts only once. I found him more extreme as an official defender than any official within my experience. The occasion was a debate in which he was joined by that

endorsement of the law, Louis Mizer. Mizer also has a long record of sycophancy on major political cases in which he is the FBI's defender. Robert was so carried away in his passion that he actually said that all writers who disagreed with the official account of the assassination should be suppressed. He was not much more acquainted with the facts of the assassination than Mizer, who did not even know how many volumes the Warren Commission published.

(A major station in New York carried the four-hour show on four different and well-advertised occasions, which raises the total lack of reference to it in any records I have ever received quite exceptional. But then the outcome was not to the FBI's liking, despite Mizer's courtroom experience.)

Now I find that the Director was recommending Roberts' book even to total strangers.

A systematic search is impossible in the voluminous records but I attach those I have come across.

On March 15, 1967 the Director thanked the publisher for a copy of the book. The added note includes "we have had cordial relations with his company." The letter and the note refer to a press release by the FBI that it refused to give me from the time it was first released and published until after the signing of the Act, when Mr. DeLoach required that I file an FOIA request for it. (This, of course, added to the statistics and FOIA costs.) This FBI press release addressed the content of my second book of which the printer then did not have a copy. However, one of the copies of the manuscript disappeared in New York. I did not give the FBI a copy of the manuscript. Not knowingly in any event.

This record is from the Commission file, which is strange considering that content is related to the assassination. (62-109090-233) There is an illegible marginal note in which the word "Books" is clear. I ask for a clear copy of this version and for copies of all other versions, however filed, to more ascertain if any other notations have been added.

The Legat, Hong Kong, appreciated the Roberts book from the "review" by that other political partisan Victor Leary, of later CREEP subsidized writing fame. His request

of FBIHQ for copies for "contacts of this office," not doubt to aid his law enforcement function, has the lanky piece attached. The caption is "PUBLIC RELATIONS MATTERS," not JFK ass assassination of Warren Commission. However, he did not note an open public relations file. Rather did he use a secret one the actual title of which is "OO. Laboratory Research Matters." (You have not responded to my appeal from the denial of all SO and similarly filed records in both King and JFK cases.)

Aside from assassination filing at FBIHQ this records was placed in two other files, a 64 file and one entirely illegible. I request compliance by providing of copies from all files and a clear copy of this one.

In rejecting his request the HQ even refused to endorse the Warren Report. Duplicate filings of this record also are illegible on the copy provided to me. The response adds a second caption, not "Laboratory Research Matters" but "RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)". These files also have not been searched in either case and I have appealed the refusal to do so.

HEH when an Indian wanted to be able to rebut criticism of the official account of the crime that was of sufficient importance to require the Director's attention. "Sargent Roberts book," he ordered, and it was done (Serial 5026) Again the duplicate filing notations are not legible.

The note added with the preceding work relating to Roberts suggests other Indians exist. It is "D.C. * TEXAS." (Robert neither lived nor worked in Texas.)

While the FBI did not withhold the name of this letter writer it did that in Serial 5110, which is arbitrary and capricious and inconsistent. Comparison of these two Serials indicates that the FBI had a form letter for plugging Roberts' book. They are identical, line-for-line.

I believe it is obvious that compliance in both cases requires the searching of files ignored by the FBI. I can't be certain that I have identified all of them to you but I have provided these identifications of which I have seen relevant ones, like this one to add to your "SO" stack.

REC-64

March 15, 1967

EX-10Z

REC-64 62 - 109090-588

Honorable Manuel Siwek
President
Grosset and Dunlap, Inc.
51 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10010

Dear Mr. Siwek:

Your letter of March 7th together with the book, "The Truth about the Assassination," has been received. I certainly appreciate your bringing this publication to my attention.

I note that in the chapter entitled "The Throat Wound," Mr. Roberts refers to the investigative report of the Special Agents who observed the autopsy. So that you will have accurate and factual data on this matter, I am enclosing a statement I made in November, 1966, regarding this.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

JPH

✓
AS
JPH

Enclosure

Release regarding Warren Commission Report dated 11-66

NOTE: Bufiles contain nothing derogatory regarding Mr. Siwek and no prior correspondence. We have had cordial relations with his company which printed the children's book entitled "The Story of the F.B.I." by Earl Schenck Miers. Roberts' book is a rebuttal to various authors who have been critical of the Warren Commission. It contains no derogatory comments toward the Bureau and its references are used effectively in refuting writers who have taken exception to the Warren Commission Report. However, on page 47

Note Continued on Next Page

SAW:kcf

(3)

JPH

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- DeLoach
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

5017A
10/10/67

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Honorable Manuel Siwek

In refuting various comments by Edward J. Epstein, Roberts refers to an inaccurate FBI report which is the investigative report by our two Agents who observed the President's autopsy. Roberts use of words in explaining these reports as compared to the official autopsy is poorly contrived as this was explained in the Director's news release in November, 1966, regarding this matter. This book was reviewed by the General Investigative Division currently.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: CRIME RECORDS DIVISION

DATE: 4/6/67

FROM : LEGAT, HONG KONG (80-11)

SUBJECT: PUBLIC RELATIONS MATTERS

Attached is a copy of a review of the book "The Truth About The Assassination", by CHARLES ROBERTS. There is considerable interest in this matter among contacts of this office, and it would be very much appreciated if at least six copies of this book, which is not available locally, could be obtained (if the accounts therein appear to be factual) as well as six copies of the report of the Warren Commission.

These would be presented to contacts of this office as the opportune occasion arose.

ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (Attachment - 1)
- 1 - Foreign Liaison
- 1 - Hong Kong
- DAG/djw
- (4)

EX-103
REC 29
APR 20 1967

5097

FBI

APR 23 1967

ARCP



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

New book rips Warren Commission critics' theories to shreds

By VICTOR LASKY
NEW YORK

So much fantasy has been woven around the tragic death of President Kennedy that it is a pleasure to report that a new book, written by one of the nation's finest reporters, successfully replies to the innuendoes, suspicions, and accusations that have created confusion and doubt around the world.

And what a book! It rips to shreds the theories espoused by such critics of the Warren Commission as the exhibitionist Mark Lane, one of whose previous claims to fame was being fined \$415 for ignoring 19 Manhattan traffic tickets. And it even takes on the colourful and ambitious New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, whose antics have gained him notoriety on the world's front pages.

Eye-witness.

Charles Roberts, author of "The Truth About The Assassination," was an eye-witness to the dreadful events that occurred in Dallas. Moreover, Roberts, who is White House reporter for Newsweek magazine, was one of the two newsmen who flew to Washington aboard Air Force One, after he had witnessed Lyndon Johnson's swearing-in as President.

One of the chapters in his new US\$1 paperback

book (Grosset & Dunlap) deals with the errors he found in the much-discussed book by William Manchester. He takes issue with Manchester's suggestions that Johnson was unseemly in his haste to assume the presidency. Instead, Roberts says, Johnson's take-over was "careful, correct, considerate and compassionate." And he adds: "A long tradition of quick succession in such circumstances and the uncertain state of the world at the time dictated that Johnson, already President under the constitution, should take his oath to defend the constitution at the first opportunity. Not to have done so would have tended to perpetuate the vacuum of power that seemed to exist in the first two hours after the fatal shot."

Although Roberts corrects other Manchester misjudgments and just plain errors, his main purpose in writing this book was to make a point-by-point refutation of attacks on the Warren Report by such critics as Lane, Harold Weisberg, and Edward J. Epstein. The manner in which they deliberately distorted the evidence contained in the voluminous documentation of the report is truly astounding.

Roberts really goes after those deluded souls who believe that somehow the truth about Dallas has been concealed because of a

conspiracy. The author quotes a secret service agent on this subject: "If this is a conspiracy, it's really a big one. It's got to include the Dallas Police Force, the Secret Service, the FBI, all those doctors at Parkland, all those doctors at Bethesda, the entire Warren Commission, the Warren Commission staff, the Justice Department, and finally the Attorney General, or it just won't work."

And, as Roberts notes, the Attorney General at that time was Robert F. Kennedy. "Somehow, after that," he writes, "I could never take conspiracy theories very seriously."

Takes issue

This is a book that does for the Warren Commission what it apparently was unable to do for itself.

The foreword, incidentally, is by Pierre Salinger who takes issue with those who have called for a reopening of the Warren Commission investigation. Says JFK's press secretary:

"In my opinion those who have made such demands have not taken the time to make the kind of careful study made by Mr. Roberts. Had they done so they would have arrived at the same conclusion that he did. That is, in fact, that not one shred of new evidence has been brought forth by anyone since the Warren Commission made its findings public which would merit such a new hearing." — NANA

2-10-70 - 5097
ENCLOSURE

LEGAT, Hong Kong (80-11)

4-17-67

REC 29

Director, FBI 62-109060-5097

EX-103

PUBLIC RELATIONS MATTERS
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Reurlet 4-6-67.

Your request for copies of the book "The Truth About The Assassination," by Charles Roberts, and the Warren Commission Report for opportune distribution to contacts of your office, is denied. To do so would in effect place the FBI in the position of endorsing these two publications.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Foreign Liaison (Route through for review)

JHC:bem (9)

APR 24 1967

Lois

MAILED 4
APR 18 1967
COMM-FBI

REC'D MICK
FBI

REC'D DEPT OF JUSTICE
APR 18 5 25 PM '67

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-109060-5097

57 MAY 2 1967

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

REC-9

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

8 Harmonstown Grove
 Artane
 Dublin 5
 Ireland
 12th April 1967.

Dear Sir,

*ON ASSASSINATIONS of President
 John F. Kennedy*

Mark Lane's book "Rush to Judgment" is now on sale, in paperback form, in Ireland. It is, as you know, very critical of the Warren Commission and also the F. B. I. Having read the Warren Commission's report it seems to me that Mark Lane's book is prejudiced, selective and quite misleading, but not having access to the 25 volumes of evidence and exhibits it is difficult for an ordinary reader, like myself, to see all the flaws and errors in Mr. Lane's book.

It occurs to me that possibly the F. B. I. have already issued a statement refuting some of Mr. Lane's criticisms, and if so I would be obliged to obtain a copy of this statement if possible.

If a detailed analysis and criticism of Mr. Lane's book has been published in the U. S. A. perhaps you can refer me to it.

I hope I am not causing too much trouble, but I fear that Mark Lane's book, and also his recent appearance on Irish Television, during a very long programme, have confused many people here about the Warren Commission's study and report.

Yours sincerely

Michael Stanley

Director
 F. B. I.
 Washington, D. C.

FBI

COPY: nm

Suggest Roberts book.

REC-9 62-109500-5086

25 APR 20 1967

*ack 4-18-67
 N. J. J. J.*

Handwritten notes and signatures on the right margin, including 'Brid' and 'Leas'.

April 18, 1967

AIRMAIL

REC-9

62-109060-5086

APR 18 2 23 PM '67
FBI
REC'D

Mr. Michael Stanley
8 Harmonstown Grove
Artane
Dublin 6, Ireland

Dear Mr. Stanley:

I have received your letter of April 12th and want to thank you for the interest which prompted you to write.

While the FBI has not issued any statement refuting all of the specific criticisms of the individual you mentioned, I am enclosing some material which does set forth certain facts concerning the assassination which I trust you will find of interest.

You may also wish to obtain a copy of the book by Charles Roberts, "The Truth about the Assassination," which was published in 1967 by Grosset and Dunlap. Should this not be available in your area, you may desire to write directly to the publishers at 61 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10010, to secure this publication. Mr. Roberts' book is being sold in a paperback edition in the United States for one dollar.

I hope the above will be of help to you.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 19
APR 18 1967
COMM-FBI

- 1 - London - Enclosure
- 1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (Enclosure)

Enclosures (2)
Director's press release and accompanying statement dated 11/25/66 and 11/23/66, respectively, re Warren Commission.

NOTE: Bufiles contain no pertinent identifiable information concerning Stanley.

HRH:rlk (5)

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Wick
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

66 APR 28 1967

TELETYPE UNIT

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

APR 18 1967

