

To Quinn Shea from "Harold Weisberg JFK assassination records 9/17/78

The date of the attached story headed "FBI Blocked Test of Oswald Brainwash Theory, Papers Say," is July 29, 1978. The unnamed litigant is Michael Levy. The case was before Judge Gesell.

Levy sued for records I was not able to sue for but are included in my prior requests of all agencies identified, including the Secret Service, I believe of more than seven years ago. Neither the CIA nor the FBI provided me with copies of the records provided to Levy.

It is my understanding that all the records provided to Levy were copies found in Secret Service files and that the copies provided to him came from the Secret Service rather than from its referrals to the FBI and CIA.

If there was this limitation the fact remains that the FBI has not provided the records to me as it should have in any event. They certainly are not in the Dallas Oswald records, which I reviewed recently.

The story is not complete and the head is misleading. There was also interest in trying to use the scars to determine if there was an imposter. The FBI and the Director were contemporaneously concerned about the possibility of an imposter obtaining and using Oswald identification if it was sent by mail to the USSR. I believe this concern was right and proper. I also believe that it would be nice to have the relevant records. Those available at the Archives are not complete, are subject to misuse and misinterpretation and have been put to this wrongful uses. (Several years ago I was on the Panorama show to rebut these misuses, in opposition to two men one of whom was a former Department/Commission lawyer.)

Do not be misled by the quotation of the CIA expressing an alleged fear that rather than recuperating from the slash Oswald was elsewhere being brainwashed. An American named Kara-patnitsky was hospitalized simultaneously and established that it was Oswald. I cite this as only one of the reasons I believe it is important to have the records justifying the FBI's opposition to the CIA's move, which I have trouble believing was necessary if proper because there was an Oswald autopsy that shows scarring.

From prior experience I am led to believe that stories like this one contribute to mythologies and start new ones. This relates to an existing mythology, whether or not it launches others. I therefore believe that all relevant records should be available for an additional reason, simply that the truth be available.

FBI Blocked Test of Oswald's Brainwash Theory, Papers Say

WASHINGTON (UPI) - CIA officials wanted to dig up Lee Harvey Oswald's corpse to examine a scar on his left wrist - and test theories that his 1959 suicide attempt in Russia was a cover up for Soviet efforts to brainwash the Kennedy assassin.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover blocked the 1964 CIA suggestion, and the Warren Commission decided not "to force the FBI's hand on this point," according to documents obtained by a private researcher and made available to UPI.

The CIA considered Oswald's alleged suicide attempt four years before he killed John F. Kennedy "one of the crucial points in Oswald's experiences in the Soviet Union," said an internal Warren Commission memo written in early 1964.

Oswald supposedly "deeply slashed" his wrist while touring Russia on Oct. 21,

1959, on learning that his request for Soviet citizenship was denied.

He recounted the episode in his diary, obtained after the assassination by U.S. agents. The Soviets later reported he was treated from Oct. 21-28, 1959, at the Botkinakaya Hospital in Moscow for a self-inflicted wound on the left wrist.

The CIA felt "if the suicide incident is a fabrication, the time supposedly spent by Oswald in recovering ... in a Moscow hospital could have been spent by him in Russian Secret Police custody being coached, brainwashed, etc., for his appearance at the American embassy," the memo said.

Three days after Oswald's hospital release, he appeared at the embassy and tried to renounce his U.S. citizenship. He eventually was allowed to stay in Russia until he decided to return to the United States in 1962.