

(Third Draft)

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July 28, 1984

Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Unit
Federal Bureau of Investigation
9th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Unit
Federal Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles Office
11000 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Dear Sirs:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act as amended (5 U.S.C. 552).

We request a complete and thorough search of all filing systems and locations for all FBI Headquarters and Los Angeles field office records maintained by the FBI pertaining to the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and investigative activities related thereto, including but not limited to files and documents captioned in, or whose captions include the names of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan or Robert Francis Kennedy (insofar as related to his assassination or the investigation thereof), or logical variants thereof, in the title. This request specifically includes "main" files and "see references," including but not limited to numbered and lettered subfiles, 1A envelopes, enclosures behind files (EBFs), Bulky Exhibits, control files, ticklers, agent interview notes, abstracts, index cards and "JUNE" files. We ask that all records be produced with administrative markings and all reports include the administrative pages.

This request includes all original or duplicate photographs or films in FBI possession (regardless of source) relating to the case, all newsclips or media intercepts of any kind, and all original or duplicate sound recordings and related materials in existence, particularly ones from the period of the actual shooting. It also includes the 10-volume report of the police investigative unit known as "Special Unit-Senator," and all records relating to the findings or activities of that unit and of the other local law enforcement agencies with which it worked. In addition to the initial investigation, this request includes all follow-up reports, correspondence, evidence assessments and monitorings of miscellaneous case developments up to the present day. We request all records of FBI Headquarters and of the Los Angeles field office regardless of whether they have been previously processed for any other requester.

We wish to be sent copies of "see reference" cards, abstracts, search slips, including search slips used to process this request, file covers, multiple copies of the same document if they contain notations distinguishing them from other copies, and tapes of any electronic surveillances. Please search "DO NOT FILE" files, SAC safes, special file rooms, and offices of FBI officials. We want all pages released regardless of the extent of excising, even if all that remains are the stationery headings or administrative markings.

In addition to a search of the General Index, please search the ELSUR Indices and any special case index.

We request [redacted] that the names of the FBI Special Agents and other personnel involved in the investigation be included as originally present in the documents provided (along with standard date-time-location information and clerical, logging or administrative notations), absent specific facts showing that there is serious threat of danger or personal jeopardy which would result from such disclosure. This matter is particularly significant as the reports of some law enforcement personnel in this case, as well as relevant FBI documents hitherto examined are at odds with the standard public interpretation of central issues of the case. It should be noted in this connection that the Warren Commission released thousands of documents concerning the assassination of President Kennedy, a comparable national tragedy, without ever deleting the names of the investigating agents involved. Moreover, prior disclosure has already occurred of the names of FBI Special Agents active on the case in published accounts, and in ~~MEMORANDUM~~ released by the Los Angeles District Attorney's office, with no adverse results.

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We wish to make it clear that we ask for all records in the Headquarters and Los Angeles field offices "identifiable with our request" even though reports based on those records have been sent to FBI Headquarters and even though there may be duplication between the two sets of files. FOIA provides that if only portions of a file are exempted from release, the remainder must be released. We therefore request that we be provided with all non-exempt portions which are reasonably segregable, and we reserve the right to appeal the withholding of any information.

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Please search for records under the following names: Robert Frances Kennedy, (Sirhan-Bishara Sirhan), Adel Sirhan, Bishara Sirhan, Mary Sirhan, Munir ("Joe") Sirhan, Saidallah Sirhan, Sharif Sirhan, Bert C. Altfillich, Edgar Eugene Bradley (~~Jim Braden~~), William Joseph Bryan, Jr., Thane Eugene Cesar, John Fahey, William Gardner, Robert Gindroz, Enrique ("Hank") Hernandez, Khaiber Kahn, Stanley Kawalec, Jack Merritt, Oliver B. ("Jerry" or "Curly") Owen, Manuel Pena, Henry Donald Ramistella (aka Frank Donnarauma), Thomas Rathke, Donald Schulman, Paul Sharaga, Edward Van Antwerp, Michael Wayne, Claudia Williams, Roland Glen Williams, Ace Guard (or Ace-Guard) Service (Van Nuys or Los Angeles area), Ambassador Hotel, Rosicrucians (Ancient Mystical Order of Rosae Crucis), or logical variants thereof. All of these references denote major figures or entities related to the case, or are the subject of unresolved issues which have been raised concerning it.

Please place any "missing" files pertaining to this request on "special locate" and advise us that you have done this.

We believe that this request qualifies for a waiver of fees since the release of the requested information would primarily benefit the general public and would be "in the public interest." The Robert Kennedy assassination was clearly a momentous public tragedy, but in comparison with other comparable assassination cases, relatively little official information concerning it has come to light. In consequence of this fact, and of grave problems and unanswered questions in the present evidence, the case has been a matter of repeated intense public interest and controversy, with central issues and basic facts remaining in doubt.

One of the requesters, Gregory Stone, has been active on aspects of this case since 1974. During much of that time, he worked closely on these questions with the late U.S. congressman and ambassador Allard K. Lowenstein, assisted with relevant articles and presentations, and drafted while working with him a manuscript of over 250 pages detailing central issues of this case. He has pursued possibilities of publication of an updated version of this manuscript, as well as other publication possibilities on related issues. He has been interviewed concerning this case, has written and circulated various analyses of evidence, and has assisted in related legal actions on behalf of Paul Schrade, a friend of Senator Kennedy's who was also wounded in the shooting. He has recently been active in seeking additional official and non-official sources of information on the case, working with others with similar concerns. He sponsored an academic project in this area January at Oberlin College and has pursued other related academic efforts. He has a master's degree in Political Science at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and was co-editor of a recent book (Lowenstein, Acts of Courage and Belief, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1983) which touched in part on these issues.

The second requester, Dr. Philip M. Melanson, is a professor of Political Science and is a recognized expert on the subject of political violence and assassination in America. He has appeared on National Public Radio, on television, and has given numerous unpaid public lectures and interviews in these areas. He teaches two college courses dealing with the subject: Political

Assassinations in America and Senior Research Seminar in Political Assassinations. He has published numerous scholarly articles and has edited or authored other books, including a forthcoming book on the problems of political assassination and the protection of public leaders (The Politics of Protection: The United States Secret Service in the Terrorist Age, Praeger Scientific Series, September, 1984). Professor Melanson also serves as an unpaid archival consultant to two institutions which have nonprofit archival collections: the Southeastern Massachusetts University Library and the Assassination Archives and Research Center, Washington, D.C. (Documentation concerning the relevant background of both requesters is available on request.)

As in the past, both requesters are committed to making relevant source materials and work products in connection with the Robert F. Kennedy assassination accessible to responsible parties, including scholarly forums and non-profit enterprises. It is the intention of the requesters to arrange for the final deposit of the materials in question in this request at an archive at which they will be accessible to scholars, researchers and the interested public.

Fee waiver is requested on the grounds that this request primarily benefits the general public and is not for commercial purposes. Given the interest in the requested materials on the part of historians, political scientists, ~~and the general public~~, college students and large segments of the general public, it would be unfair to require that private requesters bear the full cost of obtaining these materials, which are vital to historical understanding of a major national tragedy. Because of the anticipated volume of the material requested, denial of fee waiver would constitute denial of access, since the requesters have no commercial backing for the request, as is common in many other cases. Gregory Stone is currently a graduate student receiving financial aid, and Philip Melanson is restricted in these efforts to limited personal means. This request for fee waiver, however, excludes duplication costs for newsclips and media intercepts, and for documents already provided, ~~undeleated, and earlier FOIA requesters, or notical~~ required to be reprocessed pursuant to the ~~specific disclosure and non-deletion~~ requests herein ~~quest~~.

If a fee waiver is not granted, we wish you to begin the processing of the records, but not to incur more than \$100 in duplication expenses without consulting us. Please notify us at once of any fee waiver denial. We reserve all rights to recover any money paid for fees not waived.

Please send a memo (copy to us) to the appropriate units in your office to assure that no records related to this request are destroyed. Please advise of any destruction of records and include the date of and authority for such destruction.

We can be reached at (or through) the second address listed above. Please write if there are any questions or if you need additional information from us at any point.

We ask a response to this request as expeditiously as possible, and consistent with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

Gregory Stone

Phillip H. Melanson

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