

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D.C. 20408



DATE: March 13, 1970

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: NND

SUBJECT: Commission Document 61 of the Warren Commission. (Your letter of February 13, 1970 to Mr. James B. Rhoads).

Mr. James Schmitt
2030 Fell Street #8
San Francisco, California 94117

We regret that we have been unable to locate Commission Document 61 among the records of the Warren Commission. Apparently this document was not in the file of numbered documents when these records were received by the National Archives. A careful search of other files has been made but without success. Because the time expended by our staff on these records is already extensive, we do not feel that we can undertake the additional task of securing documents that are not in our custody from other agencies.

We are sorry if our statement that you could request CD 61 from the FBI if you wished seemed flippant. That was not our intention.

Sincerely,

MARK G. ECKHOFF
Director
Legislative, Judicial and
Diplomatic Records Division

February 18, 1970

Mr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives
Washington, D.C., 20408

Dear Mr. Rhoads:

I am engaged in researching matters pertaining to the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and in the process frequently request copies of material held at the National Archives, relating to the so-called Warren Commission.

On several occasions I have requested material enumerated in the list of Basic Source Materials only to be told that your staff has been "unable to locate" the materials, which were supposedly turned over to the Archives for custody several years ago. An example is my recent request for part of Commission Document 61 (CD61), and a reply from Mr. Mark G. Eckhoff dated Feb. 14, 1970 that "we have been unable to locate them", and "you can request them from the F.B.I. if you wish".

This "missing" material is obviously either hopelessly lost among records on hand there, or has been absconded with, and thus is not available to researchers, as it was intended to be.

Can you advise if you have made any attempts to replace materials such as CD61, and if not, why not. Also, I would like an explanation for the miserably flippant attitude implicit in the statement of Mr. Eckhoff, "you can request them from the F.B.I. if you wish". Obviously I could, and just as obviously this would not put the documents in the Archives where they belong, and where they would be available for research.

Isn't it about time that someone there addressed themselves to the business of restoring this section of the Archives (it should be no tremendous effort for yourselves), before the "attrition" of these records proceeds any further?

I would appreciate, at this late date, a responsive answer to the questions I raise above.

Yours truly,

James Schmitt

2030 Fell St., #8
San Francisco, Calif. 94117