

Dear Mr. Theoharis,

3/13/81

You ask about the FBI's abstracts.

I first learned about them from Quin She's former assistant, Doug Mitchell, when we deposed him in my suit for King assassination records. Mitchell then used the King abstracts for precisely the purpose the FBI later swore they are not and cannot be used for. On learning of this through Mitchell I became ashamed of myself for not having been more alert on reading an FBI publication to which I refer you. For more, much more, than the abstracts. There is reference to and description of the abstracts in FBI Central Records System. (The title is approximate and I have mislaid my copy or loaned it to my lawyer.)

For all my experience with institutionalized lying, what I have been encountering in my suits in recent years is more extensive and less inhibited than I can recall from the past. I provide this caution because I do not know, for example, that Bill Cole, one of the more accomplished and less restrained of Civil Division's stable of professional liars, is the source, in C.A. 75-1996. He kicked and screamed and structured all the stonewalls possible to try to deny me these abstracts, which by accident were clearly within an item of my requests.

One of his devices was to pretend the abstracts are valueless. Naturally, with the FBIHQ having made two for every record since the founding Father earned the title of the greatest file clerk of them all. (No field office abstracts.)

In this pretense he announced to the court that the use of abstracts was abandoned in 9.79. Or, coinciding with my making a strong issue of them and their denial.

I'm inclined to believe that information as useful as these abstracts is continued in a different form, as on computers.

The abstract is created immediately after serializing. It is an original and a carbon, 3/5 in size but not a card, on a printed form. Information included includes source, date, subject, file and serial number, and a short summary, generally of the opening paragraph. I recall none that included the content of any second page. One copy is filed within the file number, by serial, the other by date. The purpose is to facilitate identification and location of a record.

They are quite useful. Wrono flipped out over the samples I sent him.

If you now go back for the abstracts of records you've obtained in the past, if you have an interest in keeping the lairs honest, you may get what was withheld. In the case of the King abstracts I did not get much of this because they delayed production of the abstracts to compare them with the original withholdings and duplicated thousands of unjustifiable and unnecessary withholdings, as I informed the tolerant court.

The magazine-sized publication is quite valuable in describing FBI practise. I suppose

it didn't occur to the Orwellians that any devils loving scripture would learn about the abstracts. It threw them into a tizzy when I asked for them, and they even blurted out that NOBODY had ever asked for or obtained any.

If you can't get a copy any other way, try Quin Shea. I think he can get it for you. It isn't classified but I don't know if the GPO provides copies.

There also is a GAO study of the FBI and FOIA matters. Again, I can't find my copy. (I'm almost lost in a sea of paper.)

There is a list of the O & C files extant. If you don't get it, ask to be sure you got all of them. I think Unger refers to them, too. I also heard, not confirmed, that after the initial attention to the existing O & C records a file room of Hoover cabinets was found. They could not possibly have destroyed all but what I've heard about.

I don't know what you are into, but I've learned from Dallas Office of Origin JFK assassination records that they are required to file semi-annual statements of the state of the evidence, if this is pertinent in any of your interests. This should be true of every OO and every case.

If I can make any more suggestions, please let me know the subject matter. Perhaps I can. I know I can be of help to those fighting to save as much as possible of FOIA. There is a popular taint to all assassination inquiries, coming from the excesses of Mark Lane and others like him, but there is an incredible story, in official records, that could be quite sensational and indicate the real reasons for the desire to amend or eliminate the Act. This also is true of such other matters as the CIA and domestic intelligence operations. The full extent and the nature have not really been indicated. They conduct domestic investigation having nothing at all to do with even a remote possibility of foreign or intelligence connections and I have such records. They even use commercial services to monitor what Americas say, think and believe. Again I have records, never used. But I'm not able to try to interest those active in support of the Act and many of them prefer to stick to their own cases.

Good luck,

Harold Weisberg



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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

March 9, 1981

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 28, 1981. Howard Bray had provided your address and identified the town as "Fredericksburg. Thanks for the correction; I was pleased that even with the error that you received my letter.

From your description of the files you have received I gather that they pertain to FBI headquarters and field office files--as well as Hoover's O&C files. As for the Hoover O&C files, I have a request for the total file and this request is being processed. There is no need to photocopy this. At this stage, I do not plan a trip to the Washington, D.C. area and thus will not be able to take you up on your kind offer to allow me to xerox copies of the files you have. There is, however, a matter which intrigues me and where you can be of assistance. In the concluding paragraph of your letter, you ask me if I am aware of the FBI's "abstracts" and the FBI's claim to have abandoned abstracts in September 1979 (if I am ~~wasting~~ ^{right} in concluding that that is the meaning of your reference that the FBI "claimed in court to have abandoned abstracts 9/79."). I must admit to not being knowledgeable about this filing practice. Could you describe and send me copies of FBI documents describing the use of abstracts? I am intrigued by this aspect.

I was pleased to have learned that you have committed your files to U of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, I do know Dave Wrone--in fact I first learned of your work from him. The gift does mean that not only Wrone but other researchers will be able to research the valuable files you are amassing. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has one of the largest manuscript collections in the U.S.--and is exceeded only by the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Athan Theoharis".

Athan Theoharis