

12/13/83

Dear Mr. Theoharis,

The magazine story, which I've not seen, generated much good TV coverage in this area in addition to the network attention.

If these new releases contain any records pertaining to political assassinations, I'd very much appreciate copies or citations so that I may obtain them from the slow-moving FBI.

To get your address I checked our correspondence. I note there was some interest in 66 files relating to mail interceptions. Since then I have learned that this classification is used for electronic surveillances and that the tapes of such surveillances are hidden in this "admat" file classification in the field offices. They seem to hold anything the FBI does not want to surface in any check of the main file(s).

At least at FBIHQ, as you may have noticed, incoming records are referred to as "mail" also.

Whether or not the FBI leaked it then, the story about Mrs. Roosevelt and Joe Lash was rumored quite long ago but I do not recall any rumor then of electronic surveillances. I can believe that government spooks considered not only Lash but all the young people with whom Mrs. R. was friendly as "subversive." I knew a few of them slightly and met with them before they appeared before the Dies committee. Mrs. R. appeared at the hearing and thus demonstrated her support of them. In fact, she sat with them, those not at the witness table. Decent people appreciated this gesture of support.

I also caught part of what NER carried. While I agree with you on making the AG responsible, my own work establishes that the FBI got around such restraints when, for example, Ramsey Clark would not grant approval. For example, they picked me up on a wiretap of James Earl Ray's brother Jerry after Clark refused to authorize any Ray wiretaps. Then they denied it, based on a search limited to me as the subject of the surveillance. I found the proof in a field office "bank robbery" file used to hide a suspected conspiracy in the King assassination. This information was not in the main King assassination file, MURKIN.

As you probably know, they index overheards and mentioneds separately.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold Weisberg