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The Assassination of John F. Kennedy

Having been intimately associated with the suit, Lesar convincingly elaborated on the appeal to fallacious precedent. The judge also had ignored the statements of Earl Warren, Lyndon Johnson, the attorney general, and even J. Edgar Hoover who had once declared the Records were not compiled for law enforcement purposes. But . . . to no avail.

Then the case took a bizarre twist, perhaps unique in crisis-connected lawsuits. On June 15, out of the blue and 10 years after Weisberg began attempting to get it, the mail carrier delivered the Jan. 27 transcript to him. The cover letter by Archivist Rhoads said it had just been declassified — so here it was.

This brazen act capped Weisberg's years of costly and time-consuming effort to get documents for his scholarly concerns. That the Department of Justice attorneys had fought for Rhoads and the General Services Administration to block access to it did not matter. That the act mocked the ruling of a federal judge was immaterial. That they negated the principles of their respective professions while insulting a citizen's quest for intelligence was a trivial matter apparently compared to their allegiance to a peculiar code of conduct.

Weisberg had his document. Its contents show Gerald Ford, with unindicated editing, changed it to hide its meaning when he printed it in his book. It shows the Commissioners were afraid of the FBI and discussed the "dirty rumor" that Oswald was a federal agent. Proof, also was

"secret" the records, but instead cooperated fully in the official investigation. To state otherwise is to distort reality.

President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered the material declassified. No executive act exists that seals the Archives. Former Chairman Chief Justice Earl Warren stated explicitly that the Commission's records should be made public; that was the commissioners' understanding when they placed them in the Archives.

National defense considerations are not behind the restrictions and suppressions. The documents serve no law enforcement purposes and never did. All of this we know for certain and can draw from the evidence the reason for secrecy.

The Warren Commission Records still secret are suppressed. Suppression though has several meanings. Legitimate suppression of records is properly applied to some material. It is a necessary and vital element in a legal system. For example, it is applied to medical records of witnesses, income tax returns, material on personal non-related activities, and to the defamatory.

These are sound and good principles. They should be used. The Archives did not use them. For example, dozens of pages dealing with Marina Oswald's pregnancy are available as well as countless and utterly irrelevant psychiatric records of those whose problems include the sexual.

False suppression has no basis in principle, but roots in political motivation that suppresses ideas and rewrites history. This applies to the evidence in the John Kennedy assassination. Some Warren Commission Records are illegally suppressed.