

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg King assassination request
appeal, your 11/20/78 on "ELSURs"

11/22/78

The third paragraph of one of the letters of 11/20/78 states that a check of the FBI's ELSUR records, I presume index, not specified, does not disclose any listing under Mr. Lear's name or mine or that either of us was ever identified in any phone intercept.

What the FBI reported to you is inadequate in terms of a phone tap. It also is inadequate as a response to the surveillance item of my request.

I suggest a rereading of the actual request instead of any FBI new substitution, an old FBI means of non-compliance.

In addition, it is my understanding that the ELSUR index is not complete. One of the means of incompleteness is that it does not go back to the earliest such invasions of privacy and violations of law by the FBI.

On rereading of my request it will be disclosed that I did not refer to ELSUR, MISUR or ~~XXXX~~ FISUR or by the FBI.

My request includes a list of names and is in terms of any form of surveillance, regardless of by whom performed. Or for whom, when, where how or why.

One of the more recent of the accidentally not withheld records of which I have provided you with a copy discloses that FBIHQ does not in fact know what of this nature exists under all circumstances in the field offices. Another, of which I may not have provided you with a copy, is a severe FBIHQ criticism of a field office for sending a tape of an interception to FBIHQ. Still another, of which I may not have provided you with a copy, is an HQ directive to all FOs to suspend surveillance on one of the persons listed in my request although it had previously been denied that there was any such surveillance.

The Patterson record of which I have given you a copy represents a form of surveillance that is within my request.

A current book I have no intention of buying reports the FBI's interception of my phone conversation(s) with someone on the west coast. The co-authors, William Turner and John Christian, are not among my favorite people. Turner is a former FBI SA who has stated his specialty for 10 years was bag jobs. He was fired.

I recall the conversation(s) very well. Christian was not using his own phone. The phone he used was that of a network-owned TV and radio station. While I suppose it is not impossible that an individual phone on that large switchboard could have been tapped that does not seem to be the simplest explanation. Christian cites a friendly FBI agent as his source. He stated the essence of the conversation was repeated to him, I have been told.

I remind you that my RA request was duplicated to all field offices.