

JK

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg, King and Kennedy assassination 6/9/79
records appeals - the so-called "tramp" pictures

From 62-109060 Section 178, where the captioned subject gets considerable attention in alleged connection with E. Howard Hunt, I attach: Serial 7145, 7150~~7~~, 7154, Not Recorded of 2/26/75 (original in 62-111291, not provided), 7179 and Not Recorded of 4/21/75.

All of these records and undoubtedly many more like them should have been provided in C.A. 75-1996 in connection with the "historical case" disclosures and more particularly both under my appeals and in keeping with the representations and promises made in camera to the judge to procure the waste of my time as the Department's consultant.

Instead ^{of complying} the FBI went through the elaborate and meaningless charade of a non-investigation of other than what was in question with regard to these pictures and the King assassination and the FBI's investigation of it. As you should be aware, at this late date and despite the Department's Motion for Partial Summary Judgement there still has not been ^{and} compliance, I still do not have back the set of prints I loaned the FBI more than six years before the earliest of the attached records.

These records also illustrate the means by which the FBI obstructs and wastes time for everyone to make FOIA unworkable and costly by means of tricky filing which enables it to retrieve or ^{pre} pretend it cannot retrieve at will.

With regard to the still unanswered questions about these pictures and the King assassination investigation the actual situation is quite the opposite of the many mythologies about these pictures. (In its own ways the FBI fostered these mythologies to keep confusion in the forefront because it diverted attention away from the FBI and to undermine the credibility of all criticism of the FBI.) As I have previously informed you the FBI issued a statement still not provided in C.A. 75-1996 which tended to accredit the interpretation ^{tion} made by those who conjecture wildly, as is done in what lies behind the attached records. While I do not by any means have all the relevant records those I have obtained from MURKIN records only (and not including the records of the Mexico Legat) leave no doubt that the FBI could and I believe should have issued an unambiguous statement relating to the actual rather than conjectured resemblance of one of the figures in the pictures with a sketch

widely distributed as a likeness of the suspected ^{king} killer. The failure of the FBI even to disavow the sketch as that of its suspect is largely responsible for many mythologies, as is its continuing failure to disclose the antecedents of the sketch in Mexico and all relevant records, including relating to one whose name I recall as Claude McLaren.

While these failures require suspicion of the FBI, including for its disinformational efforts, they also caused an enormous waste of time and money throughout the government. As these records show, they caused a major diversion for the Rockefeller Commission, which diminished the attention that Commission could give to improper official activities it was to have investigated. The White House, the Attorney General and among Department components I recall the Civil Rights Division had to spend, meaning waste, an enormous amount of time and money. Ditto for the House assassins committee to the creation of which disinformations of which these are typical contributed much and had much to do with its subsequent career or irresponsibilities.

No field office which had copies of these and many similar records provided them when FBIHQ made requests for relevant information in response to Civil Division's promises to the judge. On the other hand, ^{earlier} CRD provided the nut stuff, I believe with excisions, and nothing else. The nut stuff was referred to the Department by the White House as a consequence of the Dick Gregory pressures reflected in the attached records. To those who have no factual ^{knowledge} basis this nut stuff can be made to appear to be real and on coast-to-coast TV that is what happened repeatedly.

All because the FBI wanted this and failed to state what it could have stated and I believe should have.

Yet under FOIA and with relevant cases in several courts it continues to withhold many relevant records it has and in one case has moved for partial summary judgement and in others prepares to.

This, I believe, is clearly misuse of FOIA for propaganda and political purpose which include making it appear that all public criticism of the FBI is irrational. It enables the FBI to do the same with officials, including the President, the Attorney General,

the Congress and in this case in particular the Rockefeller Presidential Commission.

Without the (continuing) withholdings from me this would have been more difficult if not impossible. For example, Ben Bradlee of the Washington Post made inquiries reflected in the attached records, as some of his reporters did of me. I was unable to provide the reporters with what the FBI withheld from me and the FBI was able to tell Bradlee what it wanted him to know and no more. These records reflect that it told him nothing about the King aspect of which it was well aware. What I was able to tell his reporters is only that there is a resemblance so striking it looked as though the sketch had been drawn from a photograph and that the FBI had refused to disavow anything, including that the sketch was of its suspect.

While I do have an interest in obtaining all the information relating to the King aspects of these pictures and what relates to that with regard to the misuses to disinform about the assassination of the President my interest ^{also} is and has been to prevent further misuses and serious hurt to people. I did, for example, prevent the filing of serious criminal assassination charges against one who happens to be disgusting to me. The charge would have been based on these pictures.

Complying in the King case is a simple matter. It merely requires that the FBI conduct a good-faith search and that the appeals authority require this of the FBI. Neither has happened and the specific and accurate leads I have provided remain ignored. Yet at the late date the judge was involved by the promises of the Civil Division, 11/77, I had told the FBI FOIA personnel all they had to know to be able to do this.

~~attempting to get~~ Compliance ~~when it~~ involves less effort than non-compliance has meant, as reflected by the records that have been provided, ~~and~~ ^{or} ~~by~~ to now amplifications of the appeal have taken much time of me. I am constantly confronted with the Hobson's choice, of letting the FBI stonewall in an historical case and after promises to the judge and of doing nothing about the ignoring of the appeals ~~and~~ adding to them in the hope that some action and some compliance can result. Nothing could be more opposed to the letter and spirit of the Act. Failure to act on appeal rubber-stamps improper withholding under the Act.

That the FBI intended not to be as informative as it could be or to mislead by under-

informing is reflected in the Not Redorded serial of 2/26/75, intended for distribution. What is represented as a summary of the FBI's relevant files contains much less than the Commission could have obtained from my files. There is absolutely no reflection of much else in this FBI memo. There is no reference to the King assassination aspect. The 2/19 memo states that the information was for the Attorney General. He, too, could have learned more from me than from his vaunted FBI.

The enormous wastes that resulted are ^{IN} ~~it~~ part reflected in 7169 and The FBI's participation with the Commission in on-cite studies ~~that~~ are part of the disinformation. *They* were, from what the FBI knew, totally pointless. ~~Inserted it went along with the underinformed Commission.~~ Again the clear purpose is to undermine the credibility of criticism of official investigations of the assassination.

That this continues and will continue is reflected in the attached copy of an underground paper, undated in the copy I received in the mail after I wrote the foregoing. It is by the same Weberman of these attached records. Toward the end in has the same misuse of these pictures in connection with the King assassination.

On our copier it will be necessary to copy the top and bottom halves of the page separately, so please read from one sheet to the next.

This was mailed to me from Canada on 6/6/79. My files hold worse examples. My purpose here is to show that the disinformation continues and that it was made possible by the FBI's initial and continuing non-compliances.