

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg, King assassination records; 8/5/78
John Paul Spica - special appeal

The Byers/Spica/ Ray matter has become a significant national issue from the attention it is receiving in the press and from the continuing journalistic interest as reflected in consultations with me by a number of reporters on the matter.

I have now learned from a dependable source that the OPR examined and considered quite a few Spica records.

You are also aware of the unresolved question of the withholding of prisoner names from records provided to me in C.A. 75-1996. The FBI has refused to do anything about this since last year.

I do not recall that the name Spica was allowed to remain in any of the records I have received. If I was provided with all the Spica records, whether from FBIHQ or St. Louis Field Office files, these copies are now without meaning because of the withholding of his name.

Because we now know that he is a convicted murderer and has the public reputation of being a professional hitman (my source is the press) there appears to be no legitimacy in any withholding.

Especially because of the extensive interest in this and the widespread publicity and continuing press interest I ask that your staff obtain and review all the Spica records, regardless of source, to the end that they be provided to me. Because of the present situation and what I hope is the ease with which these records can be retrieved I hope it will be possible to do this expeditiously.