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STEWAR. J. MC KINNEY, CONN. CHARLES THONE, NEBR. HAROLD S. SAWYER, MICH.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

(202) 225-4624

Select Committee on Assassinations

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U.S. House of Representatives 3369 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

December 13, 1978

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William H. Webster Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Director:

Chairman Stokes asked me to respond to your letter of December 6, 1978 in reference to materials furnished to the Bureau by the Department from Harold Weisberg.

I, too, share your concern that materials that are of a sensitive character not enter the public domain.

My letter to Mr. Weisberg, of course, is not sensitive, nor are his two letters to me, both of which he apparently retained copies of.

The other material, a copy of which was attached to your letter, constitutes the typewritten notes that one Oliver Patterson gave to the Federal Bureau of Investigation while he was serving as an informant for the Bureau, providing the Bureau information on J. B. Stoner, Edward Fields, and the National States Rights Party. I do not know if Mr. Patterson retained copies of the materials he provided the Bureau.

DE-24 In any event, in the course of this Committee's investigation of the possible involvement of Stoner and the National States Rights Party in the assassination of Dr. King, Oliver Patterson was identified as a possible witness. He was interviewed by staff investigators and he acknowledged that he had been an informant for the FBI. He also provided to the Committee a waiver of his confidential relationship with the Bureau. It was based on this waiver that my letter of January 26, 1978 requested access to Mr. Patterson's informant files, in order that the Committee could verify Mr. Patterson's present recollection of events of a number of years ago. I understood, at the time, that your release to the Committee of these materials was done with the understanding that since they stemmed from 2/14/7 Mr. Patterson, it was contemplated that there was no objection to Mr. Patterson having what he had originally given to the Bureau. And Bring () <u>(</u>

Director William H. Webster December 13, 1978 Page 2

As you may be aware, this Committee's relationship with Mr. Patterson parallels that of the Bureau's. To put it mildly, it has not been wholely satisfactory. Mr. Patterson provided information to the Committee under a promise of confidentiality. He was not a Committee informant in the sense that he received compensation for the information. Only witness fees were paid to him. Nevertheless, that he was cooperating with the Committee ultimately came to the attention of the Ray family and Mark Lane. Apparently, out of a concern for his personal safety, he repudiated his relationship with the Committee and has been a source of a variety of false charges against staff employees.

I have to assume that the materials in the possession of Mr. Weisberg were obtained from Mr. Patterson. If I am correct in this assumption, what was seemingly a release of sensitive materials to the public by the Committee can be placed in a proper context.

I regret that this instance may have caused you any concern. If my understanding of the facts are correct, in fact nothing has gotten into the public domain through Mr. Patterson's actions that he was not capable of releasing independent of the Bureau's or this Committee's actions.

You may rest assured that the Committee will in the weeks ahead continue to afford that material that you have made available to it all measure of confidentiality. As I am sure Danny Coulson and the other men working with the Committee will assure you, every step is being taken in the development of the final report to see to it that the spirit, as well as the tenets, of the Memorandum of Understanding are adhered to.

Sincerely,

& Mussloke

G. Robert Blakey Chief Counsel and Director (Confrection of Takes - One)

GRB:dm

cc: Mr. Robert L. Keuch Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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