



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

April 2, 2021

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.
SUITE 1203
27305 WEST LIVE OAK ROAD
CASTAIC, CA 91384-4520

FOIPA Request No.: 1492410-000
Subject: ACCURACY IN THE MEDIA

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

The enclosed 14 pages of records were determined to be responsive to your subject and were previously processed and released pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Please see the selected paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request as well as the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

- ☒ In an effort to provide you with responsive records as expeditiously as possible, we are releasing documents from previous requests regarding your subject. We consider your request fulfilled. Since we relied on previous results, additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. If this release of previously processed material does not satisfy your request, you may request an additional search for records. Submit your request by mail to **Initial Processing Operations Unit, 200 Constitution Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, or by fax to (540) 868-4997**. Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in your correspondence.
- ☐ Please be advised that additional records responsive to your subject exist. If this release of previously processed material does not satisfy your request, you must advise us that you want the additional records processed. Please submit your response within thirty (30) days by mail to **Initial Processing Operations Unit, 200 Constitution Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, or by fax to (540) 868-4997**. Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in your correspondence. **If we do not receive your decision within thirty (30) days of the date of this notification, your request will be closed.**
- ☐ One or more of the enclosed records were transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Although we retained a version of the records previously processed pursuant to the FOIA, the original records are no longer in our possession.

If this release of the previously processed material does not satisfy your request, you may file a FOIPA request with NARA at the following address:

National Archives and Records Administration
Special Access and FOIA
8601 Adelphi Road, Room 5500
College Park, MD 20740-6001

- ☐ Records potentially responsive to your request were transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and they were not previously processed pursuant to the FOIA. You may file a request with NARA using the address above.

- ☐ One or more of the enclosed records were destroyed. Although we retained a version of the records previously processed pursuant to the FOIA, the original records are no longer in our possession. Record retention and disposal is carried out under supervision of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) , Title 44, United States Code, Section 3301 as implemented by Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1228; Title 44, United States Code, Section 3310 as implemented by Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1229.10.
- ☐ Records potentially responsive to your request were destroyed. Since this material could not be reviewed, it is not known if it was responsive to your request. Record retention and disposal is carried out under supervision of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) according to Title 44 United States Code Section 3301, Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Chapter 12 Sub-chapter B Part 1228, and 36 CFR 1229.10.
- ☒ Documents or information referred to other Government agencies were not included in this release.

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. **"Part 1"** of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. **"Part 2"** includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. **"Part 3"** includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Seidel
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Information Management Division

Enclosure(s)

FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the www.fbi.gov/foia website.
- (ii) **Intelligence Records.** To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) **Requests for Records for Incarcerated Individuals.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any incarcerated individual pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. A standard search normally consists of a search for main files in the Central Records System (CRS), an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include references, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files. For additional information about our record searches, visit www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records.
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative “FBI file.” An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks. Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at www.edo.cjis.gov. For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.
- (iv) **National Name Check Program (NNCP).** The mission of NNCP is to analyze and report information in response to name check requests received from federal agencies, for the purpose of protecting the United States from foreign and domestic threats to national security. Please be advised that this is a service provided to other federal agencies. Private Citizens cannot request a name check.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552


- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

This document is made available through the declassification efforts
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

Discover the Truth at: **<http://www.theblackvault.com>**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1492410-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 3
Page 1 ~ b3; b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 2 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;
Page 3 ~ b6; b7C; b7D; b7E;

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310

Accuracy in Media Postcard Campaign

Dear Mr. Mueller:

On March 17, President Bush paid tribute to the brave passengers on Flight 93, the airliner that crashed in Pennsylvania on September 11. He said that they had forced the plane to dive into the ground, thereby keeping the hijackers from crashing it into whatever building it was supposed to destroy in Washington.

Since the only source for evidence that the passengers were able to get into the cockpit and force the hijackers to crash the plane into an abandoned strip mine is the cockpit voice recorder, you must have informed the president that this is what the CVR reveals. If that is the case, please tell me why the FBI has rejected FOIA requests for release of the CVR tape and transcript. If the tape and transcript do not confirm what the president said, I suggest that you so inform him.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

3- ENCL

62K HQ-1077231-25427

310 cards mailed
& destroyed in
accordance w/ WACRA/EC
GRS 14, Item 5. See
from IRD to DO 11/25/00
re: destruction of files
+ records
OPCA/et

**Office of Public and Congressional Affairs
Correspondence Unit**

b6
b7C

6/17, 2002

___ 7176 Director
___ 7176 Chief of Staff
___ 7176 Special Assistant
___ 7176 Special Counsel to the
___ Director
___ 7128 Chief Technology Officer
___ 7142 EAD-Administration
___ 7116 EAD-CT/Counterintelligence
___ 7142 EAD-Criminal Investigations
___ 7110 EAD-Law Enforcement Services

___ 7901 Office of EEO Affairs
___ 7443 International Operations &
___ Language Services Branch
___ 7129 Office of Professional
___ Responsibility
___ 10143 Office of Records Management

___ C-3 WV CJIS
___ Quant Training
___ 6012 Administrative Services
___ 9939 Information Resources
___ 4012 Counterintelligence
___ 5012 Criminal Investigative
___ 3090 Laboratory
___ 7427 Office of General Counsel
___ 7825 Inspection
___ 7128 Security
___ 6032 Finance
___ 5447 Counterterrorism
___ Cybercrime

___ 7240 Mr. Collingwood

___ 7240 [redacted]

___ 7240 [redacted] CAO

___ 7230 [redacted]

___ M-956 [redacted]

___ 7654 [redacted]

___ 7350 [redacted]

___ 6236 [redacted]

___ 7972 [redacted]

___ 7262 [redacted]

___ 6248 Reading Room

___ 6248 [redacted]

OPCA ES

___ 1B327 Mail Room [redacted]

___ [redacted]

___ [redacted]

___ [redacted]

[redacted] - Attached is a sample postcard

we have been receiving (over 300). I printed out

the Internet site from Accuracy in the Media,
where they originated. I recommend
we "no ask"

[redacted]
Unit Chief

Correspondence Unit

Room 6236

☎ 4-1733

these; however, if
you think we
should reply, a sample response is
attached.

I agree -
No ack

EPK.

Accuracy in the Media

HIGHLIGHTSSign up to receive email updates, [click here](#).

© Read or Listen to AIM's Latest Media Monitor:
How The Media Color The News
May 13, 2002

To order *TWA 800: The Search for the Truth*
call 1-866-4-TWA-800 or [order online](#).
(to learn more about this award winning documentary read
the [May 7th Media Monitor](#))

© Arafat's Terrorist Past President Bush's recent
characterization of Ariel Sharon as a "man of peace"
stirred skeptical reporters to bombard officials and
members of Congress with questions, asking if they
agreed with Bush, leaving the impression that they
didn't.
May 10, 2002

© Foreign Aid Flip-Flop President Bush has
apparently bought into the argument that by spending
more money on foreign aid, we can reduce the
conditions that breed terrorism. But does that idea
stand up to scrutiny? Cliff Kincaid examines that notion
in the context of history and of recent flip-flops by
President Bush. And on a separate issue, Kincaid
looks at the FBI's difficulty in identifying any culprits
responsible for mailing out anthrax to various targets.
In what appears to be one more bungled operation,
they seem to be ruling out the wrong people.
April 23, 2002

© Autopsy And Police Reports On Cliff Baxter,
Former Enron Vice Chairman
(In PDF format).

© Welfare Reform: Liberals Were Chicken Littles
The enactment of the welfare reform bill enacted in
1996 brought many dire predictions by liberal
Democrats. Bill Clinton was criticized by them for
finally signing the bill after vetoing it twice. But the
results are in and it proved highly successful in terms
of the number of people living in poverty and hunger.
Those who were wrong have not been called to
account for their mistakes.
May 13, 2002

TWA 800
The Search for the Truth

Honored with the top award
for investigative
journalism at the
2002 Worldfest

Click to learn about this
Award-Winning video that
details the crash, investigation
and cover-up of TWA Flight 800

www.twa800thevideo.com

© Will Pat Leahy Ever Do the Right Thing? There is
a real crisis developing in the federal court system.
Democrats, who now control the Senate, have been
blocking virtually every nominee that President Bush has
named. Is this getting even for the Clinton years? Is it a
Democratic litmus test? Why do the Republicans always
seem to be on the defensive when it comes to the
appointing of federal judges?
May 9, 2002

© Protect Our Postal Privacy The Post Office is
getting ready to increase the price of first class mail once
again. Perhaps it is time to take a look at what we're
getting for our additional money. Bureaucratic inefficiency
is often cited as one of the major problems at the Post
Office, but what few have considered is how U.S. Postal
Service also compromises our privacy.
May 7, 2002

© Only One New NATO Member Makes Sense:
Russia The relationship between Russia and the U.S.
changed dramatically following the collapse of the Soviet
Union. In the aftermath of 9/11, another reality has set in.
There are mutual strategic interests, but there are also
separate interests. Much is at stake as the two countries
continue to sort out their relationship.
May 3, 2002

read respond discuss

ACCURACY IN MEDIA





© Message Boards

Register and Post Today!

ENCLOSURE

62C-HQ-1077231-25427

Index of /publications/aim_report/2002/postcards/05

<u>Name</u>	<u>Last modified</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Description</u>
 <u>Parent Directory</u>	23-Apr-2002 11:21	-	
 <u>chertoff.html</u>	04-Apr-2002 09:30	1k	
 <u>mueller.html</u>	04-Apr-2002 09:30	1k	
 <u>oreilly.html</u>	04-Apr-2002 09:42	1k	

Apache/1.3.20 Server at aim.org Port 80

62C-HQ-1077231-25427

Mr. Robert S. Mueller III
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Mr. Mueller:

On March 17, President Bush paid tribute to the brave passengers on Flight 93, the airliner that crashed in Pennsylvania on September 11. He said that they had forced the plane to dive into the ground, thereby keeping the hijackers from crashing it into whatever building it was supposed to destroy in Washington.

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SEARCHED

62C HQ 1077231-25427

5/13/02 2:51 PM



ACCURACY IN MEDIA, INC.

1341 G Street, N.W., Suite 312 • Washington, D.C. 20005

Phone: (202) 783-4406 or 783-6483

Reed J. Irvine
Chairman of the Board

January 15, 1982

Mr. Stephen F. Sewell
Assistant Chief
Complaints and Compliance Division
Broadcast Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D. C. 20554

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Mr. Sewell:

On November 17, 1981, CBS aired a profile of the late Jean Seberg. The program included numerous statements which charged or suggested that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was responsible for the publication by newspapers and magazines of a story about Jean Seberg in 1970 which caused her such mental anguish that she had a miscarriage and subsequently became mentally unbalanced. The program strongly suggested that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was in some degree responsible for the death of Seberg's baby and for her own suicide in 1979.

We believe this to be a controversial issue of great public importance. There is strong evidence indicating (1) that the FBI was not responsible for the publication of the 1970 story about Seberg, and (2) that the publication of the story was not the cause of her miscarriage or her subsequent mental problems.

CBS did not present any of this evidence. What is even worse, CBS actually played on the program a portion of a recording of a telephone conversation between Seberg and Raymond Hewitt which CBS edited to make it conform to the CBS version of what the conversation was about. This tampering with the evidence strongly indicates that the CBS effort to portray the FBI in an unfavorable light was not only deliberate but contrived.

The overall controversial issue involved in this complaint is whether or not the Federal Bureau of Investigation was responsible in any significant degree for the miscarriage that Jean Seberg suffered in 1970, for the mental problems that plagued her for the next decade, and for her suicide. We need not dwell on the seriousness of this charge, which is highly damaging to the reputation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and its officers and staff.

The only question is whether or not there is reasonable doubt that the charge is true and whether CBS in its November 17, 1981 program provided its viewers with a reasonable exposure to the other side of the story, or has done so on any other CBS program.

Reed J. Irvine, Chairman
Murray Baron, President
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Former Secretary
of the Treasury

Lloyd H. Smith
Independent Oil and
Gas Producer

Frank Trager
Professor, Intl Affairs
New York University

Gen Lewis W. Walt, USMC (Ret.)
Senior Scientist
McMillan Science Associates

Dr. Eugene P. Wigner
Nobel Laureate in Physics

219182
40
JAN 19 1982

OPRA

No acknowledgment necessary

TO
FILE

DE-113 157-13876-104
FEB 10 1982

The charge that the FBI had planted the story in the press back in 1970 that Seberg was carrying a baby fathered by a Black Panther leader first surfaced in the news media in the fall of 1979 when Seberg committed suicide in Paris. It was repeated by some elements of the media again in December 1980 when her former husband, Romain Gary, committed suicide. CBS gave extensive publicity to these charges on these occasions, airing the charge or references to it no less than five times. On none of these occasions did CBS News indicate that there was evidence that the charge of FBI responsibility was false.

On August 22, 1980, Accuracy in Media held a press conference in Washington at which we released documents and a tape recording from the FBI's file on Jean Seberg which AIM had obtained in response to a Freedom of Information request. These documents demonstrated that (1) the FBI headquarters in Washington had never approved a suggestion made by the Los Angeles office of the FBI that the story about Seberg's baby be given to a gossip columnist; (2) approval by the headquarters in Washington was required before such action could be taken by any FBI office; (3) Washington instructed Los Angeles not to act on the suggestion for about two months in order to protect the sensitive source of the information; and (4) Los Angeles withdrew its request for approval of the operation. The file further showed that an investigation by the FBI failed to find any evidence that any FBI agent or official had given the information about Seberg's baby to the press in contravention of the instructions from Washington headquarters.

The media reports about this matter had further alleged in some cases that the FBI had simply invented the story about Seberg's baby being fathered by a Black Panther and that it was false. This was a significant part of the effort to defame the FBI, because it suggested that the FBI had created a false smear, and this strengthened the claim that the FBI was responsible for dissemination of the story, since it was supposed to have been an invention of the Bureau. The documents and tape released by AIM at its August 22, 1980 press conference showed that the FBI did not invent the story about Seberg's baby's parentage. It concluded that Raymond Hewitt, then Minister of Education of the Black Panther Party, was the father on the basis of a telephone conversation which the FBI had intercepted and recorded. The conversation was between Seberg and Hewitt, and it indicated that Seberg considered Hewitt to have fathered her child.

It was also alleged in the media reports that publication of the story about Hewitt being the father of the baby by Newsweek magazine so upset Jean Seberg that she had a miscarriage, which resulted in the death of the premature baby. It was further alleged that this unhappy experience was responsible for Seberg's subsequent mental instability, which ultimately led to her suicide. Documents released by AIM at the August 22 press conference cast strong doubt on this. Transcripts of two conversations between Seberg and persons at Black Panther headquarters in California showed that Seberg had been in bad health and that her doctors had warned her that she might not be able to carry her baby to term. These transcripts indicated that Seberg's reaction to the publication of the Newsweek item about her baby did not cause her to react hysterically or in an unbalanced way. She advised her Black Panther friends to be sure to read the item because they would find it amusing. She also indicated that she planned to sue Newsweek and hoped to win a large judgment, some of which she would give to her Black Panther friends. The transcripts indicated that Seberg was far more worried about a book that was being written by a former lover, also a black, which she feared would damage her reputation and her image among her friends in the radical black movement.

All of these documents and the tape were made available to CBS News. NBC, ABC, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Associated Press and United Press International all carried reports which mentioned this evidence and cast doubt upon the accuracy of

the charges that had been reported by the media. CBS News refused to do so. Instead it produced the November 17, 1981 profile of Jean Seberg which repeated all the charges against the FBI and ignored all the evidence which exculpated the FBI.

In the CBS profile there were repeated references to the FBI's alleged responsibility for Seberg's fate, stemming from the alleged role the Bureau played in planting the allegedly false story about Seberg's baby in the press. Here are the references.

1. Mike Wallace opened the program saying, "A woman of beauty and pluck and compassion, Jean was victimized and eventually she was defeated by an FBI probe before she took her life."

2. Former Black Panther leader David Hilliard was shown saying, "When the FBI couldn't discredit us in any other way--they had already considered us terrorists, that we were all about killing whites and all their young babies and just totally without any virtue. Since that didn't go very well with our supporters, then certainly they reverted to the old taboo about sex between black women and white men, and since this woman was an actress with media popularity bigger than life, they scandalized and this was just another, as Bobby says, attempt out of their bag of dirty tricks."

3. Mike Wallace followed this saying, "Hilliard's words are more than just rhetoric ... believing that Jean was pregnant by Panther Raymond Hewitt, the FBI's Los Angeles office requested permission from Washington to plant an item which would publicize the pregnancy of Jean Seberg, cause her embarrassment, and serve to cheapen her image with the general public. Headquarters approved the plan but said it would be better to wait approximately two additional months until Seberg's pregnancy would be obvious to everyone. In the meantime, gossip columnist Joyce Haber of the Los Angeles Times had been fed the story and printed it. Haber called Seberg 'Miss A.' A few months later in August 1970, Newsweek carried the same story. It named Seberg, writing that Jean and French author Romain Gary, 56, are reportedly about to remarry even though the baby that Jean expects in October is by another man, a black activist that she met in California. Although it's still unclear from whom Haber and Newsweek got the story, it is clear that without FBI involvement the story would almost certainly have not surfaced."

4. Former Black Panther Elaine Brown is shown saying, "What the FBI did was it put it out there for any takers, and there were takers, and that's what's significant."

5. A friend of Seberg's named Logan is shown saying, "Prominent magazines were putting out this unbelievable story, this incredible lie." Mike Wallace immediately said: "She must have thought, 'Where did they get this?'"

This exchange tends to strengthen the charge that the FBI was responsible in the minds of the viewers, since they are told that the story was an incredible lie and CBS had tried to establish that the FBI was the source of this story on the basis of its misinterpretation of the Seberg-Hewitt phone conversation. CBS does not point out that the story was neither incredible nor clearly a lie, since there was no obvious reason why the Seberg-Hewitt relationship could not have resulted in a pregnancy.

6. Finally, another exchange was aired between Mike Wallace and a friend of Seberg's in which Wallace asked what Seberg had told the friend about the dead baby, Nina. The friend replied, "It was because of the FBI," and so on. Wallace asked, "What did she say about the FBI?" The friend replied, "She said the FBI killed the baby."

While Wallace himself carefully refrained from making the direct charge that the FBI had planted the story, he himself pinnted responsibility on the FBI indirectly at least, and two former Black Panthers and one friend of Seberg's were employed to make the charge directly. CBS made no effort to see that the FBI's side of this story was adequately told.

Although CBS knew that the FBI did not ever give the Los Angeles office of the Bureau approval to plant the story about Seberg's baby with the press, its account of the exchange between Washington and Los Angeles on this matter was incomplete and therefore misleading. The response FBI headquarters in Washington sent to the Los Angeles office on May 6, 1970 was an unambiguous order not to take the action proposed at that time. The instruction read:

To protect the sensitive source of information from possible compromise and to insure the success of your plan, Bureau feels it would be better to wait approximately two additional months until Seberg's pregnancy would be obvious to everyone. If deemed warranted, submit your recommendation at that time.

The Los Angeles office kept the idea on the back burner for two months, notifying Washington on June 10 and July 10 that it was still under consideration. On July 28, Los Angeles notified Washington that they were dropping the proposal.

J. Edgar Hoover had given instructions that actions such as the one Los Angeles had proposed were not to be undertaken without his personal approval or the approval of his aide, Clyde Tolson. There is no evidence in the Seberg FBI file that Hoover and Tolson were even informed of the proposed action against Seberg, much less that they approved it.

It is clear that there was no officially approved FBI effort to spread the story about Seberg's baby. CBS never made this fact clear, but it aired the charge of people such as Hilliard and Brown that gave the impression that the FBI did officially put out the story. Mike Wallace himself gave credence to Hilliard's charge, saying it was more than just rhetoric.

It may be that the information about Seberg's baby leaked from the Los Angeles office of the FBI, but there is also reason to doubt this. Washington had ordered that the action not be taken to protect the wiretap on Panther headquarters, and it seems unlikely that the well disciplined agents of the FBI would have deliberately disregarded such an instruction. In any case, the assumption that there was an unapproved leak is nothing more than speculation. Speculation does not seem an adequate basis for Wallace's statement that "without FBI involvement the story almost certainly would not have surfaced."

The fact is that Seberg's pregnancy was known to many people, and her affair with Raymond Hewitt was known to many people. The intervention of the FBI was not at all necessary for those who know of the pregnancy and of the Hewitt affair to conclude that Hewitt was the father. As John J. O'Connor said in The Times, "One thing is certain: it couldn't have been very difficult for anyone to plant rumors about Miss Seberg. She doesn't seem to have been overly discreet."

It seems clear that CBS sought to convey the impression that the FBI must have been the source of the story about Seberg's baby because the story was without foundation and therefore could not have come from any other source.

The CBS staff had the tape of the conversation between Seberg and Hewitt that led the FBI to conclude that Seberg considered Hewitt to be the father of the child. They aired a small portion of that tape on the air. The tape had been edited by CBS to make it conform to the charge that the FBI had misinterpreted the tape. This editing was obviously deliberate. Had the words omitted been included, CBS could not have so easily have made the case that the FBI had misinterpreted the conversation.

Here is the relevant portion of the conversation. The important words that CBS omitted are underlined.

Hewitt: That was a slick decision. It took you a while though.

Seberg: What was that?

Hewitt: That four-month decision.

Seberg: Oh, yeah, well I ran into a thing that scared me legally about my other son. I was afraid I was going to lose custody, you know, if my former husband got wind of it and he got upset about it. And I talked to him about it, and he was really very civilized and very nice about it. So I guess it's really good. So, (laughs) everybody you know sooner or later, I guess, is going to have a big tummy.

Hewitt: (Laughs) Oh well, I'm going to try not to have anything to do with it.

Seberg: (Laughs) Listen, I'm afraid of you. You're a liar.

Hewitt: I really didn't know.

Seberg: But I'm really happy. That's the best kind of surprise you could have. That's terrific.

Hewitt: (Laughs)

Seberg: She told you what I called you, didn't she?

Hewitt: Yeah, but I can't remember.

Seberg: Johnny Appleseed?

Hewitt: Oh, no, she didn't tell me that.

Seberg: Planting your little seeds around?

The sentences that CBS edited out of this conversation made nonsense of the explanation of the conversation that CBS presented through the words of former Panther Elaine Brown. Brown said that Seberg was referring to the pregnancies of Elaine Brown and Shirley Hewitt in talking about everyone Hewitt knew ending up with a big tummy. That clearly is not true, since the statement immediately followed with Seberg's discussion of her own pregnancy. It was followed by Hewitt's statement that he was going to try not to have anything to do with it (Seberg's pregnancy). Whereupon Seberg said that he was a liar, words that CBS edited out. Seberg was clearly

telling Hewitt that he did have something to do with her pregnancy, and the fact CBS found it necessary to edit the tape as it did reveals they recognized that fact and decided to alter the evidence to fit the story they wanted to tell. The editing of the Seberg-Hewitt tape was dishonest and resulted in a distortion that was unfair to the FBI and to the viewing audience.

The tape does not prove that Hewitt was the father of Seberg's child. It merely shows that this was what Seberg was telling Hewitt. Given Seberg's promiscuity, she may not have known herself who the father was. CBS asserts with great confidence that the father was Carlos Navarra, the young Mexican with whom Seberg had sexual relations during the period in which the child was conceived. It is assumed that since she was working in Mexico, she had no contact with Hewitt during that period.

What CBS overlooked was that Seberg may have met Hewitt during her trip back to the U.S. at Christmas in 1969. She went to Marshalltown, Iowa, but there is nothing in the record that would indicate that she did not stop off in Los Angeles to see her good friend, Raymond Hewitt. The taped conversation would seem to indicate that there was a reunion at that time. Seberg told Hewitt she was in about her fourth month, which would have placed conception around the end of December. It should also be noted that another intercepted phone conversation indicated that Seberg might have returned to Los Angeles in late February. She could have conceivably made other quick trips that were not recorded.

Contrary to what Mr. Logan said on the profile, there was nothing inherently incredible about the story that Hewitt was the father. If he was not, it was not for lack of opportunity. That was known to many people, and that is why the assumption that the story would have surfaced in the absence of the involvement of the FBI is itself incredible.

It is clear that there is no proof that the FBI was in any way responsible for the story about Seberg's child appearing in the press. But even if it were, there is solid evidence to show that those stories were not responsible for the premature birth and death of the baby. Nor is it at all clear that the death of the baby was responsible for Jean Seberg's erratic behavior and eventual suicide. CBS failed to mention any of this evidence, preferring to work the theme that the whole tragedy was the fault of the FBI.

Mike Wallace ended up saying: "At bottom, the death of the baby seems to have been the event that drove her to despair. Her second husband, Romain Gary, who was himself to commit suicide in late 1980, said publicly that every year on the anniversary of her baby's death, Jean would try to take her own life."

The truth is that Seberg was mentally unstable and was having serious difficulty carrying the baby prior to the publication of the story about the baby in Newsweek. David Richards in his biography of Seberg, Played Out, says of her in this period: "Actually her life was seriously splintered, and the pieces didn't seem to fit. Jean was relying on liquor and tranquilizers to maintain her apparent composure and quell the tensions...Her unsettled mental state was making a difficult pregnancy even more difficult. Diego had been delivered by Caesarean, and her doctors repeatedly told her that she would need all her strength for a similar operation. If she could make it successfully through the seventh month - mid-August - the child would stand a decent chance of surviving, but tranquility was mandatory. She tried to relax in Majorca, but slowly sank into despondency instead. The reconciliation with Romain, she realized,

was a reconciliation in name only, a legal nicety to protect her unborn child and Gary's reputation as a member of the French establishment....Late in the evening of August 7, Jean swallowed an overdose of sleeping pills, slipped out of the villa and headed in a daze for the beach. At the water's edge, she slumped on the sand, unconsciousJean was rushed in an ambulance to the Janeda Clinic in Palma, and doctors hastily pumped out her stomach, barely saving her."

In the phone conversation with her Black Panther friends that the FBI taped on August 19, 1970, Seberg said that the doctors had told her that she would probably give birth prematurely and that it could be at any time. She said: "If it's before the 27th of this month, it'll die."

Mike Wallace said nothing of any of this evidence of Seberg's unsettled emotional state and bad physical condition prior to the publication of the Newsweek story. In his account, all her troubles were blamed on Newsweek and the FBI. He said, "Just hours after reading that Newsweek item, Gary said later, Seberg began having severe contractions. She was rushed to a Geneva clinic and gave birth to a premature infant."

Wallace did not mention that after reading the Newsweek item, Seberg placed a call to her Black Panther friends in the U.S., telling them to go out and get a copy of that issue of Newsweek, saying, "cause you'll get a big kick out of it." Seberg was anything but hysterical at this time. She was more interested in discussing the prospect of suing Newsweek and collecting a large sum of money than anything else. She was also deeply worried about a book that her former lover, Hakim Jamal, was said to be publishing. She was afraid he was going to say things about her that would injure her position with the black movement. According to David Richards' account, her concerns in the hours before the birth of the baby were more about the Black Panthers than about Newsweek. He says, "In her feverish and depressed state, it appears she became convinced that her bodyguard was a traitor, part of the nebulous conspiracy aimed at eliminating Huey Newton (a Black Panther leader) if he ever set foot on European soil. Jean would tell people how the bodyguard amused himself by running a switchblade lightly over her stomach until she had to beg him to stop. Then, minutes later, he would start the torture all over again. Gripped by a fear of betrayal, she began to think that there was a plan afoot to link her with Angela Davis, who, only weeks before, had been placed on the FBI's most-wanted list for allegedly smuggling guns into a California courtroom."

Alluding to her failed suicide attempt on August 7, Richards said, "Although she and Gary had a public scapegoat in Newsweek, Jean would wonder until the end of her life just what role the sleeping pills had played in her child's death." A French court rejected the claim that Newsweek had been responsible for the premature birth and death.

Rather than inform its viewers of all this evidence, CBS chose to repeat Romain Gary's dramatic charge that the death of the baby so upset Seberg that she tried to commit suicide every year on the anniversary of the death. Richards, her biographer, provides no evidence that would substantiate such a claim. Rather than simply repeat Gary's wild statements, CBS might better have pointed out that his credibility was badly damaged by the statements he made after Seberg's death. For one thing, he strongly claimed that he was the father of the child. That was manifestly untrue.

In summary, the November 17, 1981 profile of Jean Seberg adds up to a collection of damning accusations against the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It ignored the evidence that would have shown the FBI was not responsible for the publication of the

stories in the press about Seberg and ignored the evidence that shows those stories did not have the dire consequences CBS attributed to them.

CBS obviously aired only one side of the controversial story. All that CBS aired on this subject prior to the profile has also ignored the evidence exculpating the FBI.


The one-sidedness of the CBS profile of Seberg was noted by John J. O'Connor, television critic of the New York Times, in his review of the program. After noting the evidence that Accuracy In Media had provided to CBS News and others in the media on this case, O'Connor said that CBS producer Harry Moses told him he was aware of this evidence, but "he concluded that the stories about FBI involvement were true." O'Connor comments: "Fair enough, but in failing even to mention the existence of other theories--which have never been conclusively refuted--the program itself becomes questionable. Without an acceptance and endorsement of the reputed FBI role, the likelihood is that there would be no Jean Seberg profile." (N.Y. Times, November 15, 1981)

Accuracy In Media has written to CBS asking that the other side of the Seberg-FBI story be told by CBS. A copy of this letter is attached.

Mr. Bill Leonard, president of CBS News, replied by letter dated December 9, 1981. Mr. Leonard's reply responds lamely to some of our specific criticisms of the CBS profile of Seberg. Mr. Leonard does not address the issue of the omission of all the contrary evidence. He does not claim that this has been aired by CBS in any other program. He gives no indication that the other side of the story will ever be told by CBS.

We believe that CBS is in flagrant violation of the Fairness Doctrine and its treatment of the FBI and Jean Seberg. We request that the Commission order CBS to tell the other side of this controversial issue.

Sincerely yours,


Reed Irvine
Chairman

cc: Mr. William S. Paley
Mr. Thomas H. Wyman
Mr. William Leonard
Hon. William Webster
Hon. Mark Fowler
Mr. John J. O'Connor

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