

September 19, 1970

Mr. Robert C. Vawter, Director of Public Affairs
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Mr. Vawter,

Because of what is in no way reflected in your letter of September 17, the fact that I have filed a civil action in the matter, I make immediate response, your letter having just arrived.

First, I believe delaying any response to an appeal for three months is to make a farce of any appeals mechanism, especially when public information and writing is involved, and most of all when the subject is the assassination of a President and its official investigation. In addition, I believe it violates the spirit and intent of the law, if not its letter.

Moreover, because there was no response, I was forced to file this suit. I set forth what I understood went, and I think I am entitled to have. Your letter appears to me to have been written for insuring of a record to which there might later be reference, whether or not the record is faithful, accurate or complete.

As you must realize, I delayed the filing of this suit for a long time. My unsuccessful efforts to obtain what it seeks are of longer and, to me, costly duration. Nonetheless, because my purposes are meaningful research (the way I, not the government, conceive it) and publishing, not the embarrassment of the government, I would be happy to move dismissal of the suit once its purposes are accomplished. They are not as set forth in your letter. If this is not done, I will proceed with the action. I have been more than patient in the face of the most transparent delaying devices and interference with my ability to research and write. While I have no desire to embarrass the government in court, I have even less desire to be party to any further delays. The decision will be the government's and I hope it will be communicated to me expeditiously.

It is pretty conspicuous that your letter was not written in the normal course of events. It was written after I filed this suit and after my recent letter to the National Archiver dealing with one picture, to which there has not yet been response. If you or whoever will make the decision, if any, have not read it, I suggest this be done. I will not accept any picture with screen nor any made from one with screen.

If you should prefer an amicable settlement of this matter, I suggest it may be more readily accomplished if self-serving and deceptive letters (whether or not so intended or even understood by you) are dispensed with.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg