

JAMES H. LESAR
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1231 FOURTH STREET, S. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024
TELEPHONE (202) 484-6023

June 28, 1976

Judge Aubrey E. Robinson, Jr.
United States District Court
United States Courthouse
Washington, D. C. 20001

Re: Weisberg v. General Services Administration
Civil Action No. 75-1448

Dear Judge Robinson:

In connection with the above case, the government has submitted the May 19, 1964, Warren Commission executive session transcript to the Court for in camera review. In order to assist that review, I enclose a copy of the August 28, 1964, letter from Congressman Samuel L. Devine to Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel of the Warren Commission.

Congressman Devine's letter recites his belief that Congressman Gerald Ford, then a member of the Warren Commission, had moved for the dismissal of a staff member, Mr. Norman Redlich, because of his alleged support of "Communist-front activities." The May 19 executive session is the only one at which Congressman Ford could have made such a motion.

Congressman Devine's letter is a public record, obtainable on request from the National Archives. Since the defendant has itself chosen to make public the charges against Mr. Redlich, it can hardly maintain that the disclosure of the Warren Commission's discussion of such charges constitutes a "clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" under exemption (b)(6) of the Freedom of Information Act. While the release of this transcript may embarrass President Ford or others, that is not a proper ground for nondisclosure under the law.

Mr. Weisberg is in the process of obtaining additional materials bearing on this issue and hopes to make them available to the Court shortly.

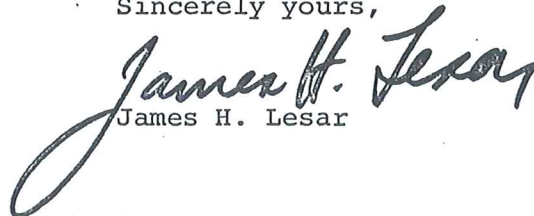
I must apologize for not already having submitted additional interrogatories which I feel are needed before I can submit a cross-motion for summary judgment. There is, however, a reason for it. For the past six years I have represented James Earl Ray without fee. After the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the denial of his writ of habeas corpus on May 10, 1976, Ray filed a motion for change counsel with the Sixth Circuit and indicated that he would file his

petition for certiorari with the Supreme Court pro se. Having had almost no income since 1970, I informed the Sixth Circuit that representing Ray had become an extreme financial and emotional burden and asked that I be relieved of the obligation to represent him further.

However, the Sixth Circuit denied Ray's motion and instructed me to prepare the petition for certiorari. This again places a considerable burden on me, one which is further augmented by the fact that the district court which held Ray's evidentiary hearing in October, 1974, has suddenly indicated that it may act on a motion to perpetuate William Bradford Huie's testimony which I filed some thirteen months ago. If, after I first prepare further affidavits in support of this motion, the taking of Huie's deposition is permitted, the time pressures upon me will be further increased.

I hope, however, to be able to review the record in this case next weekend and to file additional interrogatories early the following week. I will certainly file them as soon as I possibly can.

Sincerely yours,


James H. Lesar

cc: Mr. Michael Ryan, AUSA

SAMUEL L. DEVINE
12TH DISTRICT, OHIO

DISTRICT OFFICE:
Post Office Building
COLUMBUS 15, OHIO

PK-8, 10/11, W
COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE
AND FOREIGN COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE:
TRANSPORTATION AND
AERONAUTICS
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE
ADMINISTRATION
SUBCOMMITTEE:
ELECTIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

August 28, 1964

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

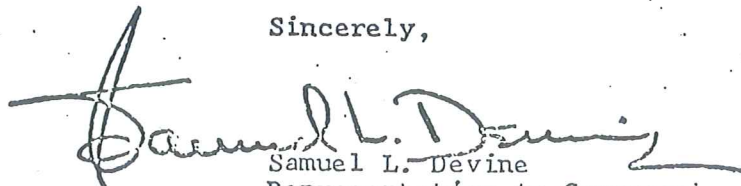
Thank you for your reply to my inquiry addressed to the Chief Justice concerning the method of appointing staff members of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

You probably realize my comments were directed at Norman Redlich because of his alleged support of Communist-front activities. My colleague, Congressman Johansen, indicated that Mr. Redlich had maintained his membership on the National Council of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee which has been identified by two Congressional Committees and the F.B.I. as a Communist-front activity.

If this is true, it seems exceedingly strange that a man of this background would be appointed to a Commission investigating the circumstances of the assassination of President Kennedy by a Communist oriented assassin.

I am also led to believe that Congressman Gerald Ford moved for the dismissal of Norman Redlich from the Commission and that his motion was overruled. If this is true, it would seem unusual that the members of the staff were unanimously cleared by all of the Commissioners. A copy of your letter is being sent to Congressman Ford for his comments.

Sincerely,


Samuel L. Devine
Representative to Congress

SLD/mp
cc: Gerald Ford, M.C.