



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HAROLD WEISBERG,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. 75-1996

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

Defendant

PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION
FOR EXTENSION OF TIME WITHIN WHICH TO COMPLY
WITH DECEMBER 1, 1981 ORDER

On December 18, 1981, defendant moved for an extension of time within which to comply with parts of the Court's December 1, 1981 Order which required the FBI and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice to process and release certain records to plaintiff on or before December 20, 1980. Specifically, defendant requests extensions of (1) 30 days, or until January 21, 1982, to process and release Memphis field office file 100-4105; and (2) 90 days, or until March 21, 1982, to process and release a Civil Rights Division (CRD) index.

It is clear that defendant continues to unnecessarily prolong this case. The Memphis field office file is said to consist of 119 serials totaling 448 pages. Sixth Affidavit of John N. Phillips, ¶3. Testimony given by FBI agents in this case in September, 1976, stated that FBI analysts at that time processed records at an average of about 90 pages per day per analyst. Even assuming that the FBI's analyst's are no more efficient today than they were five years ago, this would mean that only a week's work is involved in processing this file.

The problem is that the FBI is not interested in processing records either efficiently or with dispatch. Whenever it can delay release it gains, since this drives up the cost in both time

and money of obtaining access to information. In addition, such tactics build statistics which the FBI can use to engage in an assault upon the Freedom of Information Act in Congress.

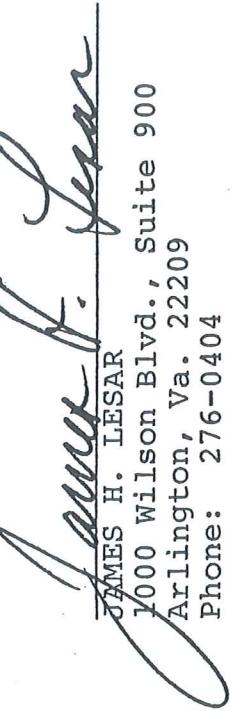
Because the January 21 date is now not far off, it is point-less to oppose this requested extension, even though it is un-warranted. However, plaintiff asks that the Court issue an Order stating that no further extensions will be granted.

Plaintiff also wishes to protest the procedure employed in processing these records. The Sixth Phillips Affidavit states that in order to maintain consistency in classification and dis-closure, it "became necessary to locate those Headquarters serials processed previously and review prior classification addenda." This alone is said to have taken six days. Under circumstances where it takes only a week's time to process the records them-selves, there is no justification for the involved procedure em-ployed by the FBI. This is particularly true where, as here, any records which might purportedly be subject to classification must be reviewed under Executive Order 12065, which has more liberal disclosure provisions than its predecessor, E.O. 11652. The Memphis records and the CRD Index should be reviewed according to today's standards, regardless of whether this results in disclo-sure of material withheld under the benighted standards used by the FBI back in 1976-1977. After all, the Director of the Depart-ment's Office of Information and Privacy Appeals, Mr. Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., himself testified in this case that his review showed that materials had been withheld during the original processing which should not have been withheld under standards then in ef-fect (that is, in effect in January, 1979, when Mr. Shea testi-fied).

(It is easy to understand why the FBI is so concerned about maintaining, at whatever cost, and regardless of compliance with the FOIA, "consistency" with prior disclosures: the "inconsistencies" invariably show the prior withholdings to have been unjustified. Examples of this may be seen in the documents appended hereto as Attachments 1 and 2. These documents contain notes made by the staff of the Office of Professional Responsibility when it was reviewing MURKIN records. Attachment 1 contains extensive notes summarizing the content of MURKIN Headquarters serial 4692. Attachment 2 contains notes summarizing some of the content of MURKIN Headquarters serial 4694. Each of these serials has been withheld from plaintiff in its entirety by the FBI, and in its order of December 1, 1982, this Court ordered in camera examination of each.)

With respect to the 90 day extension requested for processing and release of the Civil Rights Division Index, plaintiff opposes any extension beyond February 1, 1981. The Declaration of Robert J. D'Agostino states that this index consists of 382 pages. This means that the Department proposes to process this record at a rate of four pages per day! This is preposterous and should not be countenanced by the Court.

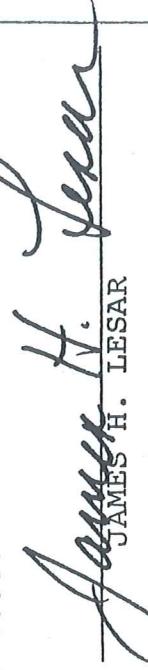
Respectfully submitted,


JAMES H. LESAR
1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 900
Arlington, Va. 22209
Phone: 276-0404

Attorney for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this 4th day of January, 1981, mailed a copy of the foregoing Plaintiff's Response to Defendant's Motion for Extension of Time Within Which to Comply with December 1, 1981 Order to Mr. William G. Cole, Civil Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.


JAMES H. LESAR

Attachment 1

C.H. No. 75-1926

- 4678 AAG CD Bu: (1) Obtain newspaper articles re: Murkin
in Memphis Commercial Appeal and
Press Scimitar in order to show Murkin
not political
- 4682 Request to interview MSP chaplains and psychiatrists
in order to ascertain what is Cooley's Organization
- 4683 Bu again requested by Alb. P.O. to send letter of
appreciation but only after check of Bu files and
indicies. Donald Broton ass't laundry marks.
- 4688 Beverly Vogan: (1) advised does not know Beverly
Hill; never used BH name; does
not know JER or PB
- 4689 Bob (LNU): Negative check on allegations re: Murkin
to the L.A. Times
- 4692 LHM AAG CD: CIB report
(1) Mrs. I. McLaughlin (Piano Player
at Selda Zare Dance Studio shown
photo of RGS and 1.d.'ed photo as
person at BZDS 5/25/68
- (2) RSG 7/21/67 purchased order
(#11526) to English and Scotch
Wollen Co. Ltd. (1248 St. Cathrine
St. West, Montreal) - pd 75.06
(Canadian exchange)
- (3) RSG letter to F&S Woolen Co. Ltd.
9/6/67 requesting suit sent to 2608
Highland Ave. Bmh, Alabama
-2589 Notre Dame East, Montreal former
address
- (4) Tip Top Tailor receipt in name RSG:
Address: 2589 Notre Dame St., East Montreal
- (5) Toronto Landlady of RGS states RGS told
her he was in Montreal 4/26/68
- 4693 [REDACTED] b) (1) (C)
[REDACTED] b) (1) (C)
Reportedly stated RGS would be shot
3 days prior to Murkin
(2) John Birch Society
(3) checked by Bu

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Attachment 2

C.A. No. 75-1996

4694 CIB report: (1) Beda Zure advised person similar to JER requested dance lessons 5/25/68. Refused. JER to return 6:15pm 5/31/68. Address of Studio: 223 A Melville Ave., Westmount, Que. 937-1471

Dept. of State (Amer Embassies):

6/18/68 Director of Public Prosecution:
(1) Extradition charges take precedence over English charges. Therefore, RCS remanded for period until extradition hearing concluded.

(2) 6/27/68 extradition hearing date

(3) Nigel Graham New- U.S. Counsel
(4) Roger Frisley- counsel defense

4695 RCMP (Toronto) 6/13/68

Re: ID of JER from passport photo

(1) Staff of Lillian Spencer, Mgr of Branch Office Kennedy Travel Bureau, Ltd. - 424 Bloor St., West Toronto, Ontario

(a) 5/2/68 BOAC ticket issued east: \$345; pd in Canadian exchange 5/2/68 passport issued

(b) 4/16/68 application for p.p. and ticket

(c) 4/10/68 Paul Edward Bridgman req. Birth Certificate

(d) 4/16/68 RCS request D.C.

(2) RCS/JER stat re: Markin & JER

(a) rec'd phone call 1st part of May from male re: passport

(3) Mrs. Sun Fung Loo: ① RCS lived here 962 Dundas St. West for 3 yrs starting Toronto, Ontario 4/8/68

② While there rec'd letter from Bureau of U.S. but refused it and P.B. returned it to postmaster ③ P.B. rented room to two girls sharing 4/1/68

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O R D E R

Upon consideration of defendant's motion for an extension of time within which to comply with the Court's order of December 1, 1981, plaintiff's response thereto, and the entire record herein, it is by the Court this _____ day of _____, 1982, hereby ORDERED, that defendant's time for processing and release of the Memphis field office records be, and hereby is, extended to and including January 21, 1982, with no further extension of this date permitted; and it is further ORDERED, that defendant's time for processing and release of the Civil Rights Division Index be, and hereby is, extended to and including February 1, 1982.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE