

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FEB 24 1978

OBENDORFER, J.

.....
: HAROLD WEISBERG,
: Route 12
: Frederick, Maryland 21701
: Phone: [301] 473-8186
:

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action 78- 0322

: WILLIAM H. WEBSTER, Director
: Federal Bureau of Investigation
: J. Edgar Hoover Building
: 10th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
: Washington, D.C. 20535
:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,

: GRIFFIN BELL, Attorney General
: of the United States
: 10th Street & Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
: Washington, D.C. 20530
:

and

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

Defendants
:
:

C O M P L A I N T

[Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552]

1. Plaintiff brings this action under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552, as amended by Public Law 93-502, 88 Stat. 1561 [93rd Cong., 2d Sess.], and Public Law 94-409, 90 Stat. 1241 (94th Cong., 2d Sess.)

2. Plaintiff is HAROLD WEISBERG, an author residing at Route 12, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

3. Defendant WILLIAM H. WEBSTER is Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 10th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington,

D.C. 20535. Defendant Webster is responsible for seeing that the Bureau of Investigation meets its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

4. Defendant GRIFFIN Bell is Attorney General of the United States. Defendant Bell is responsible for seeing that the Department of Justice meets its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

5. Defendant FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION is a component of the United States Department of Justice and has possession and control of the files of its Dallas Field Office on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

6. Defendant United States Department of Justice is an agency of the United States and is responsible for supervising the implementation of its regulations governing the FBI's processing of Freedom of Information Act requests.

7. By letter dated December 25, 1977, plaintiff made a Freedom of Information Act request for all of the FBI's Dallas Field Office files on or pertaining to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and related subjects.

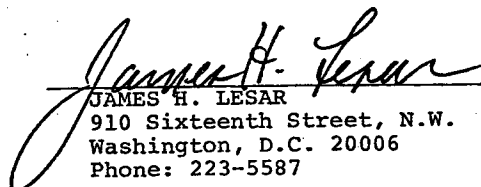
8. By letter dated December 30, 1977, Mr. James A. Abbott, Special Agent in Charge of the Dallas Field Office, acknowledge receipt of plaintiff's request and informed him that it was being forwarded to the FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.c.

9. By letter dated January 6, 1978, plaintiff appealed this de facto denial of his request to the Deputy Attorney General.

10. No response having been made to his appeal within the time allowed by law, plaintiff is deemed to have exhausted his administrative remedies under the Freedom of Information Act.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays this honorable Court for the following relief:

1. That the defendants be enjoined from withholding the records plaintiff has requested;
2. That the Court award reasonable attorney fees and the costs of bringing this action;
3. That plaintiff be granted a waiver of all search fees and copying costs; and
4. That the Court issue a written finding that the circumstances surrounding the withholding of the records requested by plaintiff raise questions as to whether agency personnel acted arbitrarily and capriciously with respect to such withholding.


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Phone: 223-5587

Attorney for Plaintiff

Dated: February 24, 1978