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December 20, 1973

COUNSEL
JOSEPH FRANCE
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Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Harold:

I am returning herewith the material you sent me about your Freedom of Information Act case. I found it very interesting.

I met with Mr. Better yesterday for two hours to discuss your case, primarily the proof of damages. We also generally discussed settlement prospects. I mentioned that our rock bottom figure was \$18,000 net to you.

He stated this his authority to settle was limited to \$10,000 and anything over that would have to be approved by the Justice Department. He stated that he doubted the Justice Department would approve a settlement over \$10,000 but he was waiting for a definite answer either Friday or next week.

Assuming that we cannot settle the case, I plan on devoting almost full time to preparing for the case commencing the first week in January. I hope that both you and your wife will be available. I will be in touch with you about contacting witnesses and setting up schedules for preparation for trial.

Best wishes to you and Lil for a pleasant holiday.

Very truly yours,

Harvey
Harvey R. Clapp, III

HRC, III:bjw