

December 29, 1975

Mr. Harold Tyler, Jr.
Deputy Attorney General
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Tyler:

Your letter of December 1, 1975, is apparently intended to give the appearance of good faith compliance with Mr. Harold Weisberg's April 15, 1975, request for the disclosure of certain records pertaining to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unfortunately, this is achieved by rephrasing Mr. Weisberg's request so as to exclude most of the records sought.

For example, Mr. Weisberg's April 15 request specified that he wants the results of any ballistics tests performed in connection with the investigation into Dr. King's assassination. Yet you restated his request in a manner which excludes all ballistics tests except those performed on the bullet removed from Dr. King and the rifle placed at the scene of the crime. However, as his request clearly states, Mr. Weisberg wants all ballistics tests and reports not just those performed on the murder bullet and the rifle placed at the scene.

In response to Mr. Weisberg's request for the ballistics evidence, you provided him with three distorted color photographs of the bullet removed from Dr. King. Mr. Weisberg wants all photographs taken for ballistics purposes, including all photographs taken with the aid of a comparison microscope and all blowups of any photograph

With respect to Mr. Weisberg's request for all photographs taken at the scene of the crime, Mr. Weisberg defines this term broadly to include all of the buildings and areas in the immediate vicinity of the crime site. It would include, for example, photographs taken on or at the Lorraine Motel, Canipe's Amusement Center, the parking lot at the fire station, the rooming house at 418 1/2 to 422 1/2 S. Main Street, and any areas in between or adjacent thereto. It also includes photographs of the interior of any of these buildings and of any objects found in them.

When I spoke with Mr. Volney Brown two or three months ago, he said that the Department would have no objection to a procedure which would allow Mr. Weisberg to examine these photographs first, then

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I write, first, to assure you that Mr. Weisberg will pay the necessar search and reproduction costs but he does not waive his right to recover them.

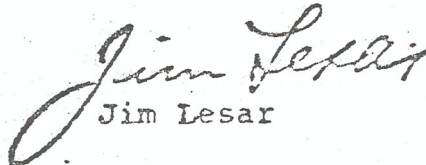
I note, however, that when CBS News requested some of the same records sought by Mr. Weisberg, the search fees were waived.

I also advise you that I know of two Freedom of Information lawsuits where well-known millionaires have not been charged a cent by the Department of Justice for searching for the records requested by them. This contrasts glaringly with the treatment accorded my client, who can ill afford such fees, and is an affront to the spirit and meaning of the Freedom of Information Act.

Secondly, I ask you to state your agreement with the assurance Mr. Volney Brown gave me last summer that Mr. Weisberg will be allowed to examine and selected those documents and photographs he wants copied, rather than your foisting upon him, sight unseen, whatever you may determine to be within the purview of his request.

Thirdly, I ask that you select a date on which Mr. Weisberg will be allowed to examine the photographs and records which he has requested. I believe Mr. Weisberg will be able examine these records on any day between March 1 and March 6, or on March 15. I would appreciate it very much if you could advise me at the earliest possible time which date you prefer.

Sincerely yours,


Jim Lesar