Mr. Tom Lenehan   Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
FOIA/PA Unit   12/17/76
FBI
J. Edgar Hoover Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lenehan,

    I want to thank you for taking the time to talk this morning and for the benefits
to me as well as I think to the Bureau from it.

    It was kind of someone to take the time to Acco-clip the volumes. However, that
really is work I do not want to ask of you. It will preserve the sheets adequately if
the spring-type clip the name of which I did not remember is used. They are used else-
where in the government, the Archives, for example, in three different sizes.

    Your supply people will probably recognize them by the name "Binder Clips." If
you do not have them I will be glad to supply them. They will hold the sheets together
securely and they take no time at all.

    A glance at the work sheets confirms what I had believe, that checking all those
of the past is a large job now. Because of the changes you indicated I will begin using
them with the current two volumes. Thereafter I will use them with each new volume. I
will also supply copies to Mr. Lesar.

    While I was aware that there are legitimate problems for the Bureau in this you
have given me a better understanding of some and confirmed others. This is helpful, I
think to both of us. If we could have had this kind of exchange sooner I might have been
able to have some work done that could reduce the Bureau's work on as large a project as
this is. If more of what happened in court had reached you perhaps this would have hap-
pened anyway.

    If the subject is unknown to your people except for what they read in Bureau records
they really do not know what is already public, especially with regard to names. In addi-
tion to the indexes we discussed a major source of what is public knowledge is in court
proceedings. I had a student index the transcripts of the evidentiary hearing in Ray v. Rose.
I loaned these cards to Mr. Lesar. If your having a copy could simplify your work I will
be glad to lend these to you.

    When the college recess is over I will see if I can get some students to put the
indexes of Huie's, Ffank's and my book on index cards. I forgot to mention Jim Bishop's
when we spoke today. Having one consolidated index of names that are public to consult
could, I believe, save your people much time and eliminate some contention.

    The George McMillan book also is indexed.

    I am not suggesting that there are not real questions of privacy. There are. I do
not question many of the deletions.

    However, as you get into other records you are going to encounter many names
where there is not such an issue. If your people are not aware of which these are it
is going to create much extra work.

    I do appreciate your helpfulness.

                                            Sincerely,

                                            Harold Weisberg

12/17/76

Dear Jim,

As I told you I found the talk with Lehehan this morning encouraging. How encouraging I knew better when I stopped off to pick up the two volumes.

I had told him that when held together with nothing but rubber bands they are damaged. I asked if he could use the and spring clips, for which I offered to pay. Imagine my surprise when he handed me two volumes mounted on a cardboard each by Acco clips. They actually punched all of them and bound them.

I had raised the question of wholesale withwholding without any specification of any exemption and described this as a denial of my right to appeal. he said they were keeping records and at the end I would get a copy. I suggested we'd both be better off if they gave me the records as they deliver the volumes. He made no promise. but he did deliver this to me this afternoon. He even identified each volume as I asked.

He told me I would be receiving some of the withheld pages. I take it these are those delivered to you and perhaps others. They are backing off on the maskings of the names of agents and I am to get other copies of those records.

I don't know why they are now acting reasonably but I do welcome it.

I will probably go over all these pages by the end of the weekend. If you want them before I am there again I'll make the arrangements.

Sincerely,