



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

MAR 27 1978

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12 - Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This will just be a short note telling you I have received your recent letters. As has become usual, the parts I find most interesting are the references to your own activities during the 30's and 40's. It is really no shock that there were Jews who collaborated with Hitler and his ilk. Whether they were Judas goats or dupes is something you would know better than I. It seems, however, that there has never been an oppressed group that was not at least partially screwed from within.

I am enclosing a copy of my affidavit filed last week regarding the King records. The last paragraph will be of particular interest and tracks with our telephone conversation of last week. Note particularly my comment in the quoted footnote 2! There were a number of people who wanted to be "heard" on the matter, so I will listen on Tuesday to what they have to say.

Your comments about the withholding of "public source" information are disturbing, but are probably true. As I've indicated on more than one occasion, the "rule" is that we review our records on their face -- there is a very definite limit to what we can or should do in the way of research or investigation about the content of these records. But your comment about the "guessing" that can go in is sobering. I expect that, once the courts sort it all out, that it will be writers such as yourself who will carry the burden of filling in the blanks for posterity.

As to the list, it does not reflect requests or appeals prior to when we came into being, nor does it encompass initial requests since that date. One thing that you, Jim, Linda and I should discuss on April 6 is whether there is any useful role we can play on your initial requests that will not burden us beyond our capability to be burdened.

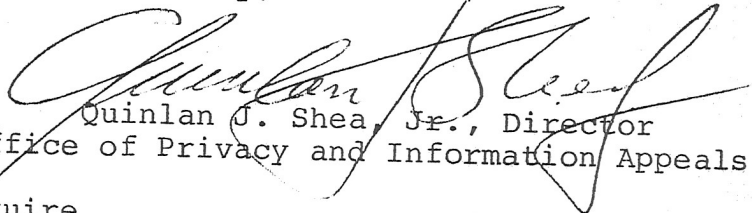


The large enclosed envelope is for you to send back the two edited transcripts of my testimony before the Abourezk Subcommittee. They are my only copies! Please send them back for duplication and I'll send copies right back to you. Thanks.

With reference to the New York Times article on file destruction, the enclosures may be of interest. Mr. Rosenberg wrote me and I sent the enclosed letter to him and the enclosed memorandum to Director Kelley. The Los Angeles Times article misquotes Al McCreight. We are actually doing something to nail down that problem -- should be taken care of before we meet on April 6. Once there has been an FOIPA denial or partial denial, there is now (I am assured!) an automatic five-year extension (i.e., the five-year period referred to in the Times article begins all over again). I play an interesting role in all this. All my historian friends think we should keep everything forever. The Bureau is being hit so hard that it is almost ready to throw everything away and start over (just a bit of hyperbole there). I sort of hold coats and keep score!

Trust your health (and the weather) will enable you to get in here on April 6. I just can't wait for the warm weather so I can get out in my gardens (hyacinths for the soul).

Sincerely,


Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., Director
Office of Privacy and Information Appeals

CC: James Lesar, Esquire

Enclosures