

11/5/72

Dear Mr. Clapp,

As you probably gathered from Mr. Hellegers' call of Friday, I have been looking for expert witnesses on the medical aspects of our suit whenever I have been in Washington. I have also written a number of letters of which I have kept carbons if and when you get into this. I had been to the Environmental Defense Fund earlier and I have spoken to others.

The Raelyn Littky to whom Mr. Hellegers sent a copy of his note to me is on the staff of the EDF. She is also doing a doctorate on the physiological consequences of noise. I have spoken to her. I have also written to at least one other person who is doing a doctorate dissertation on the subject, in general.

From my phone conversation with Mr. Hellegers Friday and my earlier conversations with others at EDF I think it might be possible that there are other ways in which they might be able and willing to help, as in legal research. This is by no means certain. It is, however, the impression I formed. I know they are currently busy on what for them are several priority projects. Mr. Hellegers asked me how they could help and I told him I was engaged in seeking expert witnesses, so I told him how he could reach you.

A number of people involved in ecological problems, especially noise, have suggested that there are throughout the country various groups that can find our suit of sufficient interest to them to perhaps be of help, particularly with regard to expert witnesses, if they can see in it advantages to them in their problems. Suits that have been filed alleging damages from aviation noise are fairly numerous and involve astronomical sums. The most recent of which I have a record, filed against the city of San Jose, Calif. the end of September, is for a half billion dollars.

I have already started looking for such groups.

The Environmental Protection Agency has been holding hearings to learn what it should recommend for legislation and for other purposes. The law passed in the last days of the Congress with exceptions for aviation. The hearings are now being printed. In one of the volumes is the testimony of a woman who suffered the same seemingly farout reactions my wife did. The parallels are incredible, they are that close, in many cases identical. The EPA's experts agreed with her and volunteered this is the kind of new information that is needed so the problem can be coped with. One pointed out the differences between people and rather sympathetically pointed out some of his own sensitivities that have achieved greater understanding than one to noise. This volume of the hearings has been printed. One is on the way to me by mail. Pending that I have a xerox of the five pages of this testimony. I want to show it to a psychologist we are now seeing for other reasons, what is called family therapy. I expect to be able to mail it Wednesday, when I'll mail this with it. My purpose in sending it to you now is so that you may see that if what I have told you may seem strange to you it is not unknown. What is in this testimony is identically the same as what you will find in my contemporaneous notes of years ago and exactly what the Group Health doctors didn't care about and without inquiry of any kind just didn't believe. The attitude of the people in ecology is exactly the opposite. They are without doubt of the reality and it is one of them who led me to this testimony. I was not aware of it.

EPA has now completed a number of official studies. I think some of them are relevant. I will undertake to get copies and to go over them and list the passages you may find of interest, to save your time.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg