

Mr. Robert J. Walsh, Jr., chief
FOIPA Office
U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command
Fort George G. Meade, Md. 20755-5995

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
1/3/89

Dear Mr. Walsh,

Your letter of 12/8/89, with enclosure, came while I was hospitalized for heart surgery. It delays my response and limits the searching I can do so I really must rely on recollection.

Because I knew Nancy Haycock about 10 years prior to the date of the enclosure I assume along with you that I am the "Howard" Weisberg referred to in it although I never used that name or was known by it.

Your letter refers to my rights under the Privacy Act. Including of the Army, to which I'll return, I never invoked it alone. All my requests after it was enacted were under it and FOI, to which you do not refer. I do not believe that under FOI my rights are so limited and for your information, the first of the three persons listed below me has been dead for many years and it would be a pleasant surprise if the other two were not also.

Quite some time ago I made a number of information requests of the Army, including of your command. These requests included all information on or about me and on or about the assassination of President Kennedy and its investigation. I was told that all records relating to me had been sent to the St. Louis area, where they had been destroyed in a fire, and that all records relating to the JFK assassination also had been destroyed. The latter surprised me very much because the approval of the National Archives was required for such historical records and had not been given. Of course I was also surprised that the Army would see fit to destroy records of such historical importance.

Now that you confirm the existence of some records relating to me I renew these old requests in the hope that this time there will be a good-faith search.

With regard to records relating to me, the record you provide reflects quite clearly that there are other records. One at the very least is quite false and defamatory and with regard to it and any other records in any way like it I do not invoke what I understand are my rights under the Privacy Act. Your record states I was "(r)eliably reported to be an avowed Communist." This is entirely false. I was never a Communist and never said I was.

This makes distribution that was made of this false and defamatory fabrication important and I ask for that so that I can ask for the filing of a correction under the Act. The single page provided to me does not reflect any distribution and I therefore assume it is incomplete and request a full copy.

While I have no way of knowing what you redacted about Lloyd and the Shieldses, as of that time Lloyd was working for President Truman and either then or immediately thereafter ran at least the Washington office of the Truman Library. Both Shields had been a sugar-interest lobbyist and Ruth had been the chief of files for the Senate committee for which both Lloyd and I worked. Your record also states that I was a member of the Washington Cooperative Bookshop. I don't remember that I was and there was no need for me to be in order to get their discounts on books and records because my wife was a member. Now so far as Mr. Biddle citing it as subversive, he sure as hell did not have that opinion of me because when he had the use of the office next to mine in the Senate Office Building he trusted me to answer the phone for him and take and give messages.

Aside from my renewed requests I ask if you people have the remotest notion of what real subversion is from the reflection in this single page? Can you see how others can regard the distribution of such false and defamatory information as a form of subversion? And keeping it on file after more than 40 years to do more harm with? This by the Army that destroyed its records relating to the assassination of its Commander in chief?

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg