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United States Senate
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
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December 4, 1984

The Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
United States Senate
SR-387, Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mac:

In further response to your letter of October 12, 1984, regarding Mr. Harold Weisberg, we have completed a staff inquiry into the circumstances of the dissemination of an FBI document regarding Mr. Weisberg to the Committee.

The document in question was submitted in 1976 by the FBI to the predecessor of our Committee, the temporary Select Committee on Intelligence Activities which was Chaired by Senator Church. That Committee was investigating reports that the FBI, under Director J. Edgar Hoover, had disseminated derogatory information about journalists and writers to the White House. The document submitted to the Committee by the FBI reflects that such data concerning Mr. Weisberg was furnished to the White House under the Johnson Administration. This matter was referred to in general terms in Book II of the Final Report of the Select Committee, as an example of "political abuse of intelligence information." The Report stated at Page 230:

The Johnson White House also requested (and received) name check reports on the authors of books critical of the Warren Commission report; some of these reports included derogatory information about the personal lives of the individuals.

The Report did not refer to Mr. Weisberg by name, nor did the Report seek to assess the validity of the FBI's information. The records of the Church Committee are stored in the Archives with access controlled by our Committee.

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As your letter suggested, a copy of Mr. Weisberg's letter to you of September 9, 1984, presenting additional information on his background, will be retained by the Select Committee for reference. Please be assured, however, that there has previously been no separate Committee file on Mr. Weisberg, apart from the Church Committee files on its investigation of alleged FBI abuses.

Mac, I have no objection to your making this letter available to Mr. Weisberg, if you wish, to allay his concern.

Sincerely,



Barry Goldwater
Chairman