

15 February 1972

Dr Cyril H Wecht
542 Fourth Ave
Pittsburgh 15219

Dear Cyril,

I hasten to respond to your letter of the 10th requesting my reaction to Bud Fensterwald's recommendation regarding a lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act. As I recall the sometimes incoherent communications of our friend Harold Weisberg, it seems that he made the identical suggestion in arguing and warning against your approach to Burke Marshall for access to the autopsy photos and X-rays, specifically urging that you join with him in a court suit.

Perhaps legal action is an ultimate recourse. But it must be evaluated in terms of the funds and the time that would be consumed on the part of the plaintiff(s), the various legal maneuvers to which the defendants would resort, and the long period that might elapse before the issue was conclusively resolved, and not necessarily in favor of our side. Witness the lengthy history of the suit initiated some years ago by Dr. John Nichols, as well as the several suits which I believe Weisberg has himself brought against the official agencies. He did win one suit, involving the records in the case of James Earl Ray, as described in his book Frame-Up--with results that remain invisible to my eye.

Fensterwald suggested that no one would support his position and he is certainly correct so far as I am concerned. Moreover, while I have considerable respect for a few of the individuals associated with Fensterwald's committee, I continue to believe that it would be most inadvisable to link your own efforts with that group or to accept its sponsorship. Your credentials are such that your best course is to proceed as an independent expert acting on his own behalf.

In case you want to probe further into the advisability of a suit under the Freedom of Information Act, you should perhaps get informally the opinion of Ted Kupferman, Judge Charles Halleck, and legal experts who may be accessible to you in the Academy of Forensic Sciences. It is something that one should not undertake unless there is a high probability of success.

Sincerely yours,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 St
NYC NY 10014