

3/29/74

Dr. James B. Steeds, Archivist
The National Archives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Steeds,

In reviewing our earlier extensive correspondence on the subject of the withholding of certain of the executive sessions of the Warren Commission, I find that in some cases you made but general reference to § 5 U.S.C. 552 being the basis of withholding. I also find that on a number of occasions I asked for the authority, that law, in and of itself, not giving this authority but having the opposite purpose and effect, except for certain exceptions, required to be specified in invocation of the law. You have never told me what or which of these exceptions you claim provide you with the authority to withhold any of these withheld executive session transcripts. I would like to know which applies to each, and specifically with regard to that of January 27, 1964.

In response to your request, on March 13, 1972, I requested a number of requests I had made to which I had not been given any response or where, perhaps incomplete responses had been made, or where my requests had been rejected. In going over this file, I find no response to this paragraph.

"You have never responded to two of my requests about the executive sessions for a list of what was disclosed 1/27/74, which will, I am confident, establish that withholding is for reasons other than alleged; and for access to that of 6/24/64, which was made available to another writer."

With the history of delays in responding to my requests, this seems to be the all-time record. I do hope, therefore, that you will undertake to make prompt responses, the most recent of these unmet requests now being more than 14 months old.

Since this correspondence, certain judicial decisions have come to my attention. One of these is to the effect that if any government has in mind or what may otherwise be withheld under § 5 U.S.C. 552, such law gives the rights of the government under the law. I believe this is line to the executive sessions above referred to. I therefore renew my requests for them.

Another question occurs to me were those or any other executive-session transcripts withheld at the request of or by order of any other agency?

In the past you have informed me that you keep a list of requests I make for what is withheld, and you have also assured me that when such material is made available, I will be provided with copies automatically. I ask if there has been such notification and if I have been supplied with copies?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg