

PA
Mr. Larry L. Sims
Office of Legal Counsel
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

5/10/81

Dear Mr. Sims,

Your letter of April 16 came when I was hospitalized for emergency surgery. I regret that making detailed file searches is now impossible for me.

In your letter you say that you are responding to mine of 4/1/81 to Cain Shea and that you don't know what records I want.

At the time I made my FOIA and PA requests they were properly addressed to the AG and DOJ and this is how I addressed them.

Recently I have been informed that for some time it was the practice in the office of the DOJ to merely destroy such requests after a short period of time, whether or not they had been complied with. In my case and in regard to a large number of requests, there was no compliance. In fact, this became an issue in FOIA litigation in 1976 and I then presented the Department with a list of the requests of which I then found a record and, incredible as it may appear, those requests still have not been complied with.

I have filed inclusive requests, as I believe Mr. Shea will confirm, for all records pertaining to the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to the investigations of those crimes, and I have requested copies of all records on or about or in any way pertaining to me.

Someone in your office was in touch with me some months ago, by phone. Before and since then I have received copies of a fairly significant number of OIG records. I therefore have difficulty understanding why OIG cannot find copies in its own files.

These requests are five years and more old. I do wish you'd make a good-faith search and provide the pertinent records.

Historically it looks bad when the AG issues all kinds of public statements to the effect that DJ will disclose all pertinent records and then all the components find all possible excuses for not providing information.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg