

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg re PA request, 2/5/79
deliberate Department and FBI denial
of PA rights

You are aware that I made a PA request of the FBI in 1975 and when I did not receive compliance (as I recall even acknowledgement) soon thereafter duplicated the request relating to all Department components. You are also aware that long ago I filed an appeal from the denial, first appealing total denial and much later partial and still incomplete compliance. You are also aware that I have spent much time on this with a seemingly diligent member of your staff quite some time ago. I do not now recall exactly when. And while you may regard it as not directly related to what follows, you are aware that your staff was not able to get from the FBI copies of all the information requests I filed and it then and I add since ignored, going back more than a decade.

I believe you are aware that as soon as I received some of the FBI special collection of false and defamatory libels ^{it} ~~it~~ misuses against these ^{were} it does not like, in this case me, I wrote it informing it that the records ~~was~~ fabrications, false and defamatory, and asked for all the others it was still withholding ~~was~~ so I could make proper use of the Privacy Act, under which it would, supposedly, not make these false and defamatory records available to anyone without accompanying them with the correction I would file. I know you are aware that the FBI has since then stonewalled this, I think since 1977.

Make available to any here means anyone else. The FBI made the most vicious, secret uses of these vile concoctions to Attorneys General, DAGs and even the White House. Later to Congressional committees.

I was quite specific with the FBI and you have your own ways of knowing how informative I have been and am willing to be in regard to aiding with searches and providing details, including of my personal life.

The FBI's motive in this character assassination is transparent. It is totally unable to fault my work, some of which is factually and accurately critical of it.

Therefore, in an effort to defend itself it had to defame me, including to the highest Government officers, even the President.

During the same period it connived with one since retired Special Agent for him to sue me, a frivolous suit for which in the end he lacked the courage, in the words of still another agent, to "stop" me.

The effort appears to have continued and the proofs appear to continue to be suppressed in FBI files except where those doing the processing have no independent means of knowing the records are false or, as with a San Francisco case I sent you recently, no way of knowing the full story. The San Francisco case is of an FBI operation against me through an informant.

Once I sent the FBI proof that the records it was disclosing were fabrications and where of some ~~relationship with relation~~ ^{reference to reality}, carefully distorted, it sent me no other FA records. I understand one from the Washington Field Office is now in the mail to me. I also understand that it is a 1946 record that is still classified. Executive Orders mean no more to the FBI than laws, so I'm not surprised.

Before it became apparent that the FBI might be making a general release of these mendacities I asked my counsel to write the Attorney General in an effort to preserve my rights and obtain compliance with the law. If there was any response I am not aware of it.

I knew some of these vilifications had been disclosed because reporters saw them in the FBI's reading room and informed me. As you are aware, retrieval from a mass of about 100,000 pages is a practical impossibility. In this connection also you/are aware of my request for a copy of the existing indices which would facilitate retrieval and that there has been no action on that request.

In Friday's mail I received the enclosed records from another whose file identification appears on it. I know this means that this FBI indulgence in the practises of the KGB and Gestapo passed/through at least three sets of hands and that there are copies in at least three sets of files, all without the disproof I gave the FBI as I recall in 1977. And it never questioned.

For my immediate purposes and because as you are aware I have little time and am unwell, I illustrate with perhaps the most unconscionable of the libels the FBI has released as part of its apparently endless campaign against me, that my wife and I annually celebrated the Russian revolution.

The only times there ever were any appreciable numbers of people at the small farm we then operated - and the underlying record refers to gatherings - was as close to opposite the misrepresentation as is possible this side of paranoia. It was the annual visit of a religious nature sponsored and arranged and executed by the Jewish Welfare Board, under the direction of a rabbi.

We had an unusual farm, exceptional credentials and everything was tame.

The wild geese came at my call and ate from my mouth without biting me. Children could and did ride the cattle. I arranged the hatching of eggs so that children could observe it. President Eisenhower raised some of my rare waterfowl. (With this as with all else like it we never made any exploitation for any business uses.) And perhaps "Reddest" of all is the fact that I, in a later phrase of the FBI, a Presidential Commission and others, "alone and unassisted," got the Peace Corps its first favorable publicity break.

The rabbi also was an amateur photographer. I'm certain my wife still has copies of photographs he took.

What the Department and the FBI have done is evil, undiluted and unrelieved in any way. It is deliberate. It is law violation. I want something done about this. I include use of the available punitive provisions.

We have as Attorney General and FBI Director men who have been judges. It should be a safe presumption that they know what is just, know right from wrong, and will tolerate no wrong. I would like to believe that there may be those in the Department who might provide a rapid response.

Long ago, when I first learned of these infamies and that they had been given to ~~the~~ what became the Senate intelligence committee, I asked for correction of its

records. I was informed that my statement was with the fabrications and distortions in its files. Among my purposes in telling you this is that while I never dreamed these ~~stern~~ ^{stern} troopers would get as dirty as this or that those who receive the Attorney General's mail would be as contemptuous of the law and the rights of Americans, there is an existing and much earlier record in that committee's files.

I believe a proper review of this matter would begin with my first letter to the FBI and would include the names of all those who had and ignored it and the names of all those who disclosed these dredgings of the FBI's sewers of hate, indecency and abuse of public responsibilities.

I see no way of any "public figure" copout. I did invoke the Act, it does require the accompanying contrary statement and the Department and the FBI are both witting.

There is no way for me to know how much more of this Nazism there is and has been released because the FBI is in deliberate non-compliance with my PA request and the mass of the 100,000 pages make retrieval impossible. I am certain there is more.

The matter of my firing by both the State Department and the committee are distorted, as one would expect, of our trusted guardian from the foregoing. While I believe I sent in a relevant letter, I'll describe it, ask if it is with the files and if it is not will send a copy for this purpose. My counsel were of a firm the three partners of which all represented me. One had headed an important federal agency, when I met him. Another headed a Department Division when I rendered it important and unpaid services the derring do FBI had been unable to render in connection with Nazi cartels and real espionage. He was later a federal judge. To then I'd not met the third. He became a Supreme Court Justice and a close Presidential adviser. On their own initiative these three prominent persons after the fact wrote me in commendatory terms about my vindication. The State Department issued a public apology. (The FBI's and the Department's records ~~are~~

both reflect that the FBI lied to the Department about me. Knowingly and deliberately is not my interpretation. It is explicit in the records. This, no doubt, represents true loyalty, security, Americanism and public service to the FBI.)

FBI concepts of real American manhood and chivalry are represented by the reference to my wife. Please read it with care. She was found innocent of the paranoical prejudices of the day, therefore she was not innocent. Perhaps the true concept of subversion came from her purchases of books rather than under conditions which gave her a discount. This also apparently put her on a mailing list. As I believe I told you, the Founding Director once sent a bottle of Cherry Heering to her table at Harvey's restaurant. May we now expect his inheritors to chisel his name off that imposing edifice?

I ask that you please review the withholding from the enclosed record personally and satisfy yourself that it today qualifies for withholding under the Acts.

In the course of this I was reminded of a record that must exist and remains withheld. The late Bert Andrews (New York Herald-Tribune and Pulitzer) interview Mr. Hoover with regard to the State Department pogrom. There is no chance that there was not a prior and a subsequent record and less chance that the FBI today does not know where to look for it.

My apologies for any errors. I was interrupted while writing this after an 18-hour day and resume it after only six hours in bed. The first of several interruptions is contextual and I think may interest you. It was from another Pulitzer reporter. In the course of conversation he told me that the FBI told him, in response to his request, that it has no files on him. I doubt the copies they gave me and I put into court records are their only copies.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

P.S. You have had occasion to comment on how the Department managed to set legal precedents not considered in its interest.

If you inquire into the origins of the Russian Revolution fabrication you will find that this was the FBI's contribution, rather one of its contributions, the others remaining withheld in records but not in my knowledge, to the earlier establishing of a cost precedent having to do with air space and trespass.

Instead of establishing truth, which could have settled that case, the FBI delivered itself of fabrications of the most prejudicial nature. While this then was quite hurtful to my wife and me it made the litigation and the precedent both inevitable.

Some "victory!"

November 8, 1966

~~X~~ WHITEWASH -- THE REPORT ON THE
WARREN REPORT
BY
HAROLD WEISBERG

Harold Weisberg, the author of the above-captioned book, and his wife, Lillian Stone Weisberg, jointly own a 14-acre tract of land in Hyattstown, Maryland, upon which they operate the Coq d'Or Farm whose principal business is raising of pheasant-chickens, Rock-Cornish game hens, waterfowl and other poultry and the sale of poultry and eggs.

Harold Weisberg was an employee of the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee from September, 1936, to October, 1939, and was discharged for permitting certain information to leak to the press. Senator La Follette stated that Weisberg had been dismissed for a breach of trust involving the release of confidential information to a newspaper and the Senator was quite certain the newspaper involved was "The Daily Worker," a former east coast communist newspaper.

Weisberg was one of 10 employees fired summarily by the State Department in June, 1947, because of suspicion of being a communist or having communistic sympathies. He was later allowed to resign without prejudice, but was not restored to his position. His wife, Lillian Stone Weisberg, was investigated under the provisions of Executive Order 9835 in 1948 and the Civil Service Commission advised in October, 1948, that she had been retained. At that time, she was a clerk in the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Her name had been carried on the active list of members of the Washington Book Shop Association and the Washington Committee for Democratic Action during December, 1947. The Washington Book Shop Association and the Washington Committee for Democratic Action have both been cited by the Department of Justice as subversive.

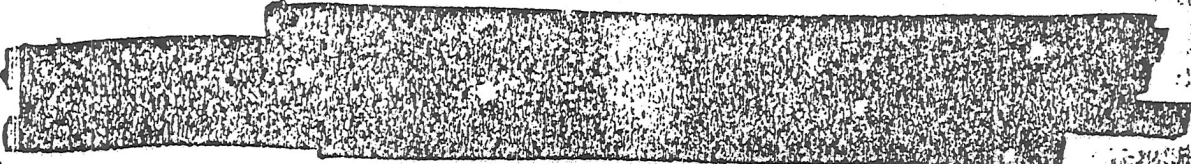
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MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

ENCLOSURE

62-101100-4550

PLH ITEM #902



In 1956, it was alleged that Welsberg held an annual celebration of the Russian Revolution. This celebration involved a picnic at his residence and was attended by 25 to 30 unknown people. It was believed this affair was in commemoration of the Russian Revolution inasmuch as it was held on the day when the communists celebrate all over the world.

In 1961, Welsberg and his wife filed a claim against the Government under the Federal Tort Claims Act in the amount of \$9,950 for damages allegedly sustained by them in their poultry business as a result of low-flying helicopters. This case was tried and court directed judgment in favor of the Welsbergs for \$750. (62-109060-4119; 140-7536-3)

Welsberg has no known arrest record.