

Mr. Leo D. Meshkes, FOIA/PA Control Officer
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21704
1/12/77
DIB:LDN
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60-0

Dear Mr. Meshkes,

Three commercial airports handle the mail to and from Frederick, Md., which is closer to Washington than any one of these three airports. Thus specifying airmail to a rural community which has no commercial airport did succeed in delaying receipt of your letter of January 7.

On principle I protest your putting me at the bottom of a list merely on the basis of the paper-shuffling within the bureaucracy of which you are part. And were this not the case 36 is anything but a "substantial backlog."

Under the law and regulation requests are to be handled chronologically. The bureaucracy, some of the members of which consider themselves above the law, has devised means of non-complying and compiling false statistics and otherwise deferring compliance and defeating the law. Now if I am wrong in my interpretation I solicit correction and citation of authority but it is my belief that all requests are to be processed chronologically. This means that if the Department, not you personally, received my request prior to any of the other 35 you have on hand, then mine ought to be processed in accordance with its date. In turn this means you must have about 35 requests a year old and that in all the time since receiving them you have processed no requests or have processed only those of later date.

The man who presided over the Department's non-compliance which with fidelity to Orwell is called compliance is also the spearhead in its campaign against the law. He is, as you know, Mr. Shea in the DAG's office. His office should be able to inform you, if it keeps any records at all, that my request for all the Department's records on or about me really is quite old. It also is not limited to the one file number you cite. That, rather, is merely one lead I found separately while your masons of non-compliance were adding stones to their usual wall.

I therefore ask that you make a full and proper search and that it be of any and all records of whatever age, origin designation or location. By proper I mean also by actual date, not the time of your receipt. You say you are processing in chronological order. You cannot if you process by the time of your receipt. It must be by the time of the Department's receipt. By this standard you should be able to process within the ten days of which you write because they expired about a year ago.

While I do appreciate that you are innocent in all this paper-shuffling, under the circumstances, which are really much worse than I've indicated above, asking me to be patient in an unintended insult. I have FOIA/PA requests to which the Department has made no response going back eight or nine years.

If in this you are innocent I do hope you can appreciate how disturbed I am that the part of government entrusted with the enforcing of the laws is within my own personal and extensive experience its leading law-breaker.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg