

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
2/8/78

Mr. Joseph P. Mc Mahon
Supervisory Special Agent
FBI
701 Loyola Ave.
New Orleans, La. 70113 FOIA/PA appeal

Dear Mr. Mc Mahon,

Your letter of February 3, in response to mine of January 28, came today. By a copy of this letter I am appealing your de facto denial to the Department of Justice in Washington. To save time I am doing this instead of having my lawyer, Mr. Jim Lesar, await hearing from me and then write you.

The obligation imposed upon you is to make a search in good faith and with due diligence. You have done neither. And you are evasive.

What may or may not be "readily available to" me "at FBI Headquarters, Washington, D.C." is completely irrelevant to a request filed of the N.O. field office. The FBI cannot on the one hand insist that requests be made of field offices and then have the field offices refer back to headquarters. My request of you was for copies of the records in your field office. You have not provided them. Instead you engage in further stonewalling. Were this not true those records would not be "readily available" to me because of distance and the condition and limitations imposed ~~by~~ by my health and age.

What "it appears" that you think I "presently possess" is also irrelevant.


The N.O. field office has records called for by both requests. It has not provided copies of those records. This is a denial. The rest is deliberate evasion, a further effort to stall and delay and deny me my rights as it is part of a campaign to negate the Acts and to lay a false basis for an appeal to the Congress.

If my attorney has not already done so I also herewith request the waiver of all costs on the ground that I meet the requirements for such a waiver. The basis for this ~~at~~ waiver request is well known to the FBI. To a degree limited by previous FBI stonewalling it was litigated in my C.A. 77-2155 in federal district court in Washington on January 16 of this year.

In addition, I want you to know that I know of records in your field office that Headquarters has not provided in response to either request.

I regret very much that this lawless attitude continues to dominate the FBI. If you persist in forcing this matter to court, as to now you are insisting, then I will ask my attorney to consider invoking the punitive provision that are now in the law.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg

HAROLD WEISBERG, *Publisher*

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