

Mr. Emil P. Moschella, chief
FOI/PA Section
FBI HQ
Washington, D.C. 20535

11/10/86

Dear Mr. Moschella,

I appreciate the Eist records report on your 11/7 and the copy of the search slip with it. I hope you can appreciate my perplexity over the absence of the indication of any of the usual FBI efforts to avoid embarrassment over any involvement with an obvious fraud or any records relating to his testimony before HSCA of of any evaluation of that testimony. The FBI I've observed in so many of its records and the employess I've heard, some in your presence, would have been careful, in its usual words, to see to it that there is no embarrassment of the Bureau. But I'm not making a deal of this, if you don't want to look other places where I'd lok, I'll let it go at that.

~~Something else in today's mail reminds me of an old matter about which I've had no response from the FBI and no action on my appeal. This relates to my old request for the records on and about me. I'm not certain but I believe that when John Hartingh was still in your section I took this up with him and I know I did with Quin Shea before he was eased up on his way out.~~

This has two parts and perhaps the first may surprise you: J. Edgar Hoover once said (or at least signed) something good about me and my work. Before I went into the Army in World War II I freelanced and was Washington correspondent for what then was the third largest picture magazine, Click. I did a series of exposes of Nazi cartels for Click in what was known as the shibboleth period, before the Nazi attack on the USSR. The second of that series was on Rohm & Haas, manufacturers of plexiglas. After my story appeared (and I'm not saying cause and effect because I do not know) they were vested by the Alien Property Custodian. The magazine, then owned by his father but run by Walter Annenberg while his father Moe was in jail, sent reprints to many important people in the government and a large number, including Mr. Hoover, sent them letters. The article appeared as best I now recall in about June 1941 and excerpts from a selection of letters appeared in the following issue.

I'm preserving all the nasty stuff the FBI had, ranging from mere misrepresentations and exaggerated interpretations to outright fabrications and perhaps, in a few instances, wishful thinking. All this venom will be in the archive I leave, unaltered. What I'd like to get is what I've asked for, the Hoover letter in particular. The searches did not include your file on Click, to which, it happens, there is reference so I know you have it, or the Hoover correspondence files, particularly those classified as "research matters" when they are not, the 94g. I think it is only fair that all of what you have, not merely a prejudicial selection of it, be in the archive.

There are other disclosed records that refer to what is withheld and I suppose the reason I never heard anything further is because lies were represented as true. There is reference to a visit to me by someone from the USSR embassy, which never happened, and to my allegedly having a personal relationship with a Soviet national in that embassy, also not true. I can visualize how these defamations were put on paper, and this includes (denied) electronic surveillance, but it just isn't so. The underlying records, which are identified in what was disclosed and are in my appeals, remain withheld and to the best of my knowledge, never searched for. Some of those records are of the time of Nikita Khrushchev's visit to the US and involve what I was asked to do by both USIA and State - and my only contact with the embassy on that was by phone, one end of which has always been rather well covered. And, if you want to be a really nice guy, I'd appreciate those pictures you got from the other side of 18th St. when I was there as a correspondent and writer, the only times I was there. I'd like to have some pictures for the archive of how I looked then. I never had any taken.

Harold Weisberg

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg