Dear Jim, 5/20/84

Beginning with not walking as well yesterday morning I've been weaker than usual, more prone to dizziness, and while neither sick nor in special pain, I decided I'd just better not be active. So, I've spent most of the time reading Phillips' Night Watch. It is a remarkably persuasive apologia that is based on misrepresentation, distortion, partial explanations and dishonest omissions.

But it made me think, hence my enclosed letter to Mark Lynch.

If he speaks to you, I must preserve the confidentiality of the source you may remember.

Besides, if he is interested, I may want to go back there.

Some names if he does. Not complete but enough to indicate that specifics are available.

NY Agent who I didn't know was also Hunt's and his cover address. Max Wilkinson, of Littauer & Wilkinson, and there was a CIA foundation, the Littauer foundation.

German publisher who wrote wanting to publish and I never got either that letter or the returned ms, Fischer A.G. British, Sir Leslie Frewin. Earlier, Sparrow mixed Collins' interest. All the chapters of WW II that I mailed my London agent, Gordon Harbord, by first-call mail, were intercepted. I then switched to parcel post and those portions reached him. Frewin was drafting a contract when he was fed misinformation.

It would be better not to identify my R-TV R source because he is again reporting and making a living, radio again. In time I would feel obligated to, to Lynch.

Reminds me that I wanted to test Phillips' honesty when he announced organization of his ARIO. I wrote and asked to join and never got an answer. This means that he was able to check with CIA or knew my name. There is no apparent explanation from his book for his knowing my name.

Best,

Harold

Mr. Mark Lynch
ACLU
122 Maryland Ave., NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

5/20/84

Dear Mr. Lynch,

This does not relate to the appeal. At least not directly. It has to do with the proposed FOIA amendments that will, I believe, almost totally exempt the CIA. And with its interference with my publishing almost two decades ago.

I've been reminded of all of this by reading David Phillips' apologia.

There is a prima facie case of its preventing my publication in 1975 through, of all people, E. Howard Hunt. Discoving this led me to some pretty seamy stuff involving him, the CIA and the Mullen agency, including the campaign to get Justice Douglas. Quite possibly also in the Mexican money laundry of Watergate fame. Jim Lesar has some knowledge of this and of one of my confidential sources on Hunt, Mullen and the effort to get Douglas. Jim did some of my legwork then.

There also is a fairly likely probability that by means of its mail interception of those years, exposed by the Church committee, it prevented my publication in both England and Germany. I was to have been published in both countries.

I sent your associate Adler a CIA record disclosing that it had several files on me about which it lied to its general counsel. It may be that those files include what I refer to above.

All of this related to my first book, which also was the first on the Warren Commission. In England it also involved the second book. And for your information, these and all my other books have stood times testing. There is no significant error in any of my works.

It also monitored my public appearances, at least by hiring a private agency to tape and transcribe them. For this they had a non-agency Riggs account and they used people who were forced out with Angleton. I have some carbons of these transcripts and xeroxes of bills and checks. Jim once listened in on an extension when, prompted by the pixie within me, I phoned that agency's Washington man and he blurted out that I had the all-time track record of their interest. The CIA has not yet disclosed its relevant records. Or that this was one of the functions of the "Public Affairs Staff," whose mailings both ways omitted any mention of CIA.

My 1971 request for all records on or about me still is not complied with and the last I heard from the CIA about it they claimed they needed more time to act on my appeals. Because I believe that this is a significant area of CIA wrongdoing I would hate for any chance of establishing it and doing something were to be wiped out by the proposed FOIA amendment.

At the same time, I believe this also involves serious damage to me and my work and that money damages might be awarded.

If you think this is possible and would be willing to make the effort, you can control what the money is used for. As long as it is for a public purpose of the kind we have both been engaged in.

In the course of this I believe it is probable that the existence of a CIA operation relating to both publishing and non-publishing, with the cover of a military organization officed on the fifth floor of a building on Penna. Ave., NW, as I now recall 1750, with E. Howard Hunt involved and perhaps in charge, will be established. That the CIA caused books it liked to be published is known. That it prevented publication in its First Amendment concept is not know.

Without searching I can provaide a considerable amount of detail, and I can indicate the documentation I recall.

It also will be beyond question that Helms perjured himself before the Watergate committee in his testimony about Hunt. Hunt was still with CIA when he ~~used the Mullen agency~~ (at least as early as 1969) first as a cover and then as a place to work, and when he was still with CIA he was part of the right-wing campaign to get Douglas. Jim has and is familiar with some of the documentation.

Can you imagine the amount of domestic intelligence gathered by monitoring what Americans say and by having it done by a front that uses a private, commercial agency for doing it? This still has never been connected with the CIA in any investigation of which I know. Its personnel merely transferred to NSA during the Watergate scandals.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Can the amendment be amended to exempt prior requests?

CC J Lesar