

Draft - any suggestions?

July 27, 1974

Mr. Henry E. Petersen, Esquire
Assistant Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Petersen:

In response to your letter of June 14, I request that you conduct a search, to the extent it is needed, for the letter which former Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote to the Attorney General on April 3, 1965, concerning the public availability of Warren Commission files.

I will, of course, pay whatever fees are required by law.

However, I call your attention to 28 C.F.R. §16.9(a), which authorizes you, in conformity with 31 U.S.C. §483a, to determine that "such charges or a portion thereof are not in the public interest." I request that in this case you do make that determination.

As you are no doubt aware, serious charges have been made that the Department of Justice is suppressing important information pertaining to the assassination of President Kennedy. Disclosure of the April 3, 1965, letter of former Chief Justice Earl Warren should shed additional light on who is responsible for this policy of suppression. Because this makes this letter's release a matter of paramount benefit to the public, any costs validly incurred in searching for it should be waived.

My own view is that you are trying to delay and avoid the release of Warren's letter because you know that its text is opposed to the policy of suppression which the Department of Justice is carrying out. If my view is wrong, then the release of this letter serves not only the public interest, but your interest as well. If my view is wrong, I am sure I can anticipate the letter's speedy and inexpensive release.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Lesar