

State Pt - did not provide this

Dear Mr. Flanagan,

9/31/80

When my wife handed me your letter of 5/30 and its enclosure she said, "This is all about you."

You included, from WFO 121-5454, pages 16, 17, 18, 19 and 33. Of them you told my wife, "Department of State material in our document pertaining to you is bracketed in red." But as she told me, it pertains to me, not to her.

So how come neither WFO nor HQ provided this in response to my RA requests?

You failed to inform her she can appeal so for both of us I do appeal, by a carbon to Mr. Shea.

On page 16 you claim a non-source is a confidential source in (Obliterated) refused to furnish a signed statement or to appear before a Loyalty board."

I am amused by the FBI's inaccuracy on page 17 and I submit it with you on the off chance that anything as grim as those matters can cause you: "It was noted by WFO-^{source} WFOG worked on a report entitled 'Activities of FRANKO Agents in Other American Republics, I Argentina.'"

No such thing. But I did prepare a report I was told was to be used at the UN on the influence of the Spanish Falange in Latin America, not Argentina. It resulted in the only adverse criticism I remember of my work of that period, and it was all the fault of the FBI.

That Division got a new chief, a gentleman of the stuffed-shirt college professor. He read my report, called me in and pontificated, "No scholar worthy of his salt would use the FBI as a source." And later bright, Mr. Flanagan, I did correct the FBI's errors, like calling a University of Pennsylvania doctoral candidate doing his thesis on the Falange a member of it.

Please don't fret because he had another criticism. I quoted a previous United States presentation about the Falange to the UN and he didn't like what I used. No wonder - he wrote it years earlier. (Guess he wasn't much on checking footnotes.)

On page 18 two paragraphs are entirely withheld, but there is no claim that nothing in them is reasonably segregable. The claim is (b), as it is for the name of an agency in

the second paragraph on that page. My recollection of the legislative history of the Act is that the claim is for persons only.

The withholding of the reasonably segregable appeal is intended to apply throughout.

Your people may have known what was wanted of them but they got carried away a bit in "The investigation conducted by 2-7 . . . went on to show that MAIBERG formerly worked for MAURICE HALPERIN & that besides having worked for him, he was friendly with (obiterated)." The exemption claimed here is not to me. It is "Other."

I know you people are happier stretching the Act, but do you get kicks out of creating new exemptions, too?

If you intended 7D, how come for those others and not for Halperin?

I was a lot friendlier with a number of FBI SAs than with Halperin. I never got drunk with him but I did with some SAs. In fact I can remember but two of my fellow employees with whom my wife and I visited back and forth and of them one was a prominent Republican.

2-7 is a State Department component. Do you suppose that they didn't know I was its employee, not Halperin's? In fact I know Halperin only through his government employment, as my superior.

(Your file on him is not up to date if it does not include his anti-Castro books.)

You should be able to provide a legible page 27 rather than writing over the one line not copied and I ask this, with disclosure of the reasonably segregable and without extension of 7D.

Please remember also that more than three decades have passed in asserting my claim.

Given the success of your campaign to frustrate the Act I do not expect you to entirely abandon it by reducing what is unnecessarily placed on the overloaded and understaffed appeals staff, but it would be kind of nice if you cleaned this up on your own. For once.

If you had to begin with it might not have occurred to my wife to file requests with field offices, as you nudged her into doing, she tells me.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

May 30, 1980

Mrs. Lillian Stone Weisberg
Route 12 - Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mrs. Weisberg:

Reference is made to my letter of January 31, 1980, regarding your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts request.

The release of the attached FBI document results from our consultation with the Department of State regarding their material contained in same.

Department of State material in our document pertaining to you is bracketed in red. The Department of State has determined that a portion of the information should be withheld on the basis of the Subsection (b) exemption of the Privacy Act. The other excisions from this document were previously explained in the above-referenced letter.

This completes the processing of your request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "David G. Flanders".

David G. Flanders, Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Branch
Records Management Division

Enclosure

[REDACTED]

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The Washington Committee for Democratic Action has been declared as an organization coming within the purview of Presidential Order #9835.

[REDACTED] refused to furnish a signed statement or to appear before a Loyalty Board.

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[REDACTED] were recently contacted to determine if they could furnish any additional information and they advised they had nothing further to report.

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The personnel file of HAROLD WEISBERG was reviewed at the State Department Building, 1734 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. This file shows he first came to the State Department by transfer on July 1, 1946 as a Political Analyst from the Office of Strategic Services where he was a Consultant from January 15, 1945. On March 7, 1947 he was advanced to Research Analyst. He was assigned to the Division of Research for the American Republics. His file showed he resigned on June 23, 1947. His previous Government service was as follows:

1. 1935 - 1936, Department of Agriculture--File Clerk
2. U. S. Senate Office Building as Editor, Investigator and Assistant Secretary of the Subcommittee of Education and Labor from 1937 to 1939.
3. Self-employed from 1939 to 1942 as a Writer of articles on national and international affairs for various national publications.
4. U. S. Army from December, 1942, to November, 1944, when he was honorably discharged.

referred to State Dept.

The file further disclosed his parents, FREDERICK and SARAH WEISBERG, were born in Russia and became naturalized citizens of the United States. The place of naturalization was not shown.

In a letter dated June 16, 1947 he was offered an opportunity to accept an appropriate position in another competitive level. The reason was given as reduction in force. There was nothing to indicate he was disloyal or that the matter leading up to his resignation on June 23, 1947

was based on information concerning subversive activities. The reasons advanced seemingly were founded on the belief of some of his Supervisors that his work was not of a calibre they believed suitable for his rating because he did not have the background or education to properly discharge his duties.

Refer to State Dept.

It was noted Mr. WEISBERG worked on a report entitled, "Activities of FRANCO Agents in the Other American Republics, I Argentina."

The files of the Special Investigative Squad of the Metropolitan Police Department, 300 Indiana Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C., contained the following newspaper items concerning HAROLD WEISBERG. All were local newspapers. U

In the Times-Herald dated September 21, 1947, the list of 10 State Department employees fired on June 23, 1947 was set forth. Among this list appeared the name, "HAROLD WEISBERG, 2300 Block N. Nottingham." The article said all were fired summarily and have no right to appeal to the State Department or to Civil Service. The ten were fired as a result of the investigation by a special State Department Loyalty Committee. U

In the Evening Star dated June 27, 1947 appeared an article, part of which read that, "10 State Department employees suspected of Communism or Communistic sympathies have been discharged this week." U

In the Times-Herald dated July 3, 1947 appeared an item, an excerpt of which read, "Mr. MARSHALL said he personally examined the records of all 10 who were discharged and there was sufficient evidence in all cases to create suspicion of their loyalty to the United States." U

In the Washington Daily News dated October 3, 1947 was an article which in part read, "three of ten employees who were fired from the State Department in June were completely exonerated because they were suspected of disloyalty. However, the three employees will not be restored to their jobs. The State Department will, however, cancel their dismissal notices and let them resign without prejudice with their official records cleared of all suspicion of disloyalty." No names were set forth. U

In the Washington Daily News dated November 18, 1947 appeared a story, the gist of which was that "a four-month fight for the right to resign without prejudice by seven State Department employees discharged as poor security risks has been ended in victory today with a departmental reversal." No names were mentioned. U

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[REDACTED] a Federal agency that conducts personnel and intelligence investigations, made available their records which showed that LILLIAN M. SDNE was a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and a member of the Washington Bookshop. This was contained in a report dated June 21, 1943.

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It was further noted in this report that it covered a period from approximately June, 1938, to the date of the report. It also showed under the title of, "Summary" that "all testimony received in this case with the exception of the subversive record checks (set out in preceding paragraph) was favorable" to Mrs. WEISBERG and "none of the witnesses contacted in this investigation had any reason whatsoever to question her integrity or loyalty to the U. S. Government."

In her personal history statement dated May 18, 1943, "she claimed she did not belong to the Communist Party or German Bund or any political party which advocates the overthrow of the constitutional form of Government in the United States or to have membership in or affiliation with any group, association or organization which advocates or lends support to any organization or movement advocating the overthrow of our constitutional form of Government in the United States."

Washington T-7, a Federal agency that conducts personnel and intelligence investigations, has in its files an investigative report dated April 28, 1947 concerning HAROLD WEISBERG, husband of LILLIAN SDNE WEISBERG. This report disclosed that the United States Senate Disbursing Office showed that WEISBERG was an employee of the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee from September, 1936, to October, 1939, and was discharged for permitting certain information to leak to the press.

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Further, the report sets forth that Senator ROBERT LA FOLLETTE stated WEISBERG had been dismissed for a breach of trust which involved releasing confidential information to a newspaper. Senator LA FOLLETTE said he was quite certain the newspaper in question was the Daily Worker. He advised he could not recommend WEISBERG to the State Department and that, although he had not seen him since 1939, "he considered him to be a 'fellow traveler' at that time."

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The investigation conducted by Washington T-7 and included in their report dated April 28, 1947 went on to show that [REDACTED] formerly had worked for MAURICE BALEWICH and that besides having worked for him, he was also friendly with [REDACTED]

other

As a result of the investigation of HAROLD WEISBERG by Washington T-7 and included in the above-mentioned report, it was recommended that he be removed from the rolls of the State Department.

referred to State Dept.

It was noted in this report that "there were certain individuals who were interviewed during the course of investigation who spoke favorably concerning HAROLD WEISBERG as regards his loyalty but that considerable information was disclosed which reflected unfavorably on his loyalty."

The records of the Credit Bureau, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] was shown to reside in the 2300 Block, No. Nottingham Street, Arlington, Virginia. It contained nothing pertaining to the loyalty of Mrs. [REDACTED]. U

The records of the Criminal Division of the Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C., and the Police Department and Credit Bureau of Arlington, Virginia were checked but they had no record for the employee. U

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Washington T-7 is the confidential investigative filer of the State Department, 515 22nd Street, N. W.

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