

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
4/10/78

Sen. Charles A. Stennis
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mac,

We are very happy that you found the attachments with your letter of 3/29. I'd have responded sooner but the FOIA work has been taking virtually all my time.

You refer to Bert Andrews' book Washington Witch Hunt, Random House, 1948, JC 599 U5A6. If I'd ever heard of it I've forgotten it. If you could get the library to xerox what you describe as "his account of Mr. 'Blank' and six others handled by the law firm of Arnold, Fortas & Porter" I'd be glad to repay the cost.

The stories from the old Herald-Tribune are not complete. If the researchers could ask the library for earlier stories you'll have a more complete file and so will we and the archive I will leave.

I am not "Mr. Blank." I also have no idea who he is. He is not one I knew and I am the one responsible for arranging the legal representation. In fact for persuading the original nucleus of us who fought back to fight back. (This, with FNs and their wives, with one exception, was the most difficult part of all!)

The promises and supposed belated safeguards reflected in these stories are all false, at least as they relate to me or to anything I can recall. With regard to me I am confident of my recollection.

Nobody ever spoke to me or gave me any indication of any charges - even rumors.

In the second column of the 11/9/47 story it says "the FBI is entirely willing" for other agencies to have what it gave State. With me this is a bad, a very bad joke. I now have both State and FBI records showing that it gave nothing to State about me, denying even that it had any records, and the FBI's record showing this was a lie. To that time the FBI had to expect a review and it dared not permit a review of its sick stuff about me. In fact it to this moment continues to withhold all of that.

The 11/13/47 story includes these words of Secretary Marshall's: "... the FBI had original copies of all its information in its own files." Unless the Secretary also lied the FBI continues to withhold from me what State gave it because I have some of the State's files and I have not received a single one of those pages from the FBI under PA.

Both the Department and the FBI have fallen silent. I receive no more records and not even a meaningful response to a letter or to appeal. I guess they are still embarrassed.

In fact for years I have been trying to get from State the records that relate to paying me for the time I lost. Although much time had passed when I learned that it had been held that under similar circumstances regulations required back pay with interest (less income for the period in question, of which I had none) I did make the request. I was unemployed for a long time, then got a part-time job and then lost that under Dies committee hounding.

These stories reflect a proper concern for the rights of individuals. As one of those individuals I appreciate it. But what now concerns me much more is what appears never to have been a concern - what happens to government and through government to all of the country. In fact, what then did happen.

You may not now recall it but when you first publicly expressed concern over what I call authoritarianism I wrote you that I regarded this as most important and little understood. Wrapped securely and patriotically in the flag, that is what was beginning in those days.

Official falsifications were then an essential. I've noted merely a few of them from the past. These continue to the present, except that today they appear to be more acceptable and more the cause of higher-level protection. As illustration, yesterday's newest account of the Attorney General's concern not over FBI perjury but of his supposed fear that punishment for perjury will wreck the joint.

(I disagree with his expressed opinion. From long experience with official false swearing I have come to believe that the best if not the only way to assure morale and decency is to punish offenders and teach all the good ones that there is not to be any reward for any conduct other than the best.)

I have and have had so many FOIA cases I can't remember them all. I also can't remember one without the taint of official false swearing - by no means limited to the major offender, the FBI. In most cases I believe it was actual perjury.

A week ago the appeals court told a district court to take a look at new evidence I offered because it relates to CIA false swearing - again I think perjury.

What worries me most about this is the tolerance of perjury by the Congress and the courts. Neither can function when either accepts perjury - and then does nothing about it.

One result is that the paranoid police/spook mind acquires enormous control over everything, beginning what policy-level people can know. From my experience this is now decades old. It is uncorrected and there appears to be no correction wanted.

With my Madisonian view of ignorance and its possibilities for being controlled by knowledge and its importance in government you can perhaps see why I believe the FOIA work I do is important and my belief that the Act must be preserved and secured.

I hope we do have a chance to discuss the content of the records I have received as well as those I still expect to get.

Beginning in a little more than a month as many or more JEB records than the FBI has released are to be processed for me.

I wish I could report improvement in my health but I can't. Thanks for your interest, though.

Our best to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 400, 84TH CONGRESS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 29, 1978

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Harold:

Researchers had more trouble than expected in locating the articles that you wanted; unfortunately the New York Herald Tribune for that period is not accessible by index. I am happy to send you the series by Bert Andrews, comprised of his articles dated November 2, 4, 6, 9 and 13, 1947.

Perhaps you have in your library a copy of Andrews' book. If not, you would be interested, I am sure, in Washington Witch Hunt, Random House: New York (1948), 218 pp., Library of Congress: JC 599.U5A6, particularly his account of the case of Mr. "Blank" and six others handled by the law firm of Arnold, Fortas & Porter.

I am glad to know that your work on the King assassination has been rewarding and I look forward to hearing from you about your progress in that field.

Thank you for your good wishes. I hope that your health is improving and that your doctors are giving you cause for optimism.

With best wishes,

Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
United States Senator

Enclosures