

Dr. Philip A.D. Schneider
Associate Director for Manpower Information
U.S. Civil Service Commission
Washington, D.C. 20415

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
2/13/77

Dear Dr. Schneider,

A refrain pounds through my head each time I think of your letter stamp dated 2/9/77. "Orwell," I keep hearing, "George Orwell."

I do hope you will find this less objectionable than the normal response to one who writes with unhidden lack of truthfulness.

My "Official Personnel Folder (OPF) was obtained," you say, it was reviewed, and this review "revealed that the Department of State...furnished [me] copies of all documents contained therein."

This is to say that your custodian of the memory hole did precisely what the State Department's memory-hole functionary did, no more, no less, eliminating identically the same records and preserving not one extra page.

You also acknowledge that my "letter of October 21, 1976 indicates that [I] have made a number of Privacy Act requests" and you have State's "letter dated December 17, 1976."

How odd that you do not also have my response, which is specific in itemizing omissions. Or that I am depersonalized to not having ever worked for any other government agency. After all these years do I merely imagine that my first federal employment was with the Department of Agriculture? Was I administrative assistant to the Director of the Farm Security Administration in a nightmare only? Can it be that the black banner headline in the old Washington Time-Herald of what was unprecedented before Joe McCarthy is something unreal, a hallucination about 10 people fired by the State Department under the McCarran rider? I was not once covered by federal retirement, with pay deductions, and ~~was~~^{when} my government adopted the practices of the enemy I had fought for it I did not, in financial desperation have to cash this in, eliminating the retirement benefits I might now be drawing? Your Civil Service Commission does not have these records, not even retirement records?

Is it possible that you are the same Civil Service Commission that upheld my appeal from an earlier State effort to fire me without regard to my veteran status? That you now have no record of the reduction in force, the appeal or the upholding of the appeal?

I was fired by the State Department, which provided me with no record of this firing. The same Orwellian pig crawled into your files and removed this record of this firing? By Civil Service Commission records this never happened? There was never any first use of the infamous McCarran rider?

You say "A review of your OPF revealed that the Department...has furnished you copies of all documents contained therein." I take this to mean that you made a personal review and determined this. If this is not the case then you lied, denying me my PA rights.

If it is the case you also lied because the records provided me refer to Civil Service records that to date have not been provided. These include a favorable security check.

You also have records relating to me and my wife because the paranoids of that shameful day regarded cooperatives as subversive and because we figure in the investigations of others.

When this monstrous thing happened to me I was defended by the late Judge Thurman Arnold, former Federal Communications Commissioner Paul Porter and Mr. Justice Abe Fortas and you have no record of this? After medical discharge as a civilian I received a decoration or citation and in all the Civil Service Commission there is no record of it? Can this be?

No single speck from any of the myriads of federal spookeries ever sought access to my Civil Service records? Not even those identified by name and by agency in the State files? Not the FBI when it investigated me for a grand jury proceeding in which I was exculpated, the charges having been made by the late Martin Dies, whose agent was indicted and convicted - and when later as a felon was candidate for employment I was asked about this Dies agent?

You have absolutely no record of my being questioned when my wife was sought in the case of Alger Hiss, with whom she had worked? No record of my having had slight social contact with figures in the Rosenberg case, the so-called "atom bomb" case? No record when later and entirely coincidentally one of the people who figures in that investigation moved into an apartment I had rented earlier? Some federal records of this have been made public and I have seen some of them. They do include a peace meeting at which the late Paul Robeson sang. I met him at the airport, drove him around that day and night, to and from that meeting, and you are telling me you have no record of this at all? When my wife was then a federal employee and "r. Robeson was regarded as the devil incarnate?

Have you no shame writing me that you have no paper less and no single paper more than the State Department has provided me - and this long after my specification to it of what it has not provided?

But even if this were true, even if there was not a single sheet of paper more or less than the Department has provided me, I am still entitled, under the law, to copies from your files. You have failed to provide them. Instead you have written me falsehood. I do want these records, each and every one, regardless of form or origin. I also want a certification properly sworn to that what I will be provided is full and complete, the affirmation to be first person because I would then seek what remedy might be available if there is a false affirmation.

My wife also joins me in this and in a request she has already made for all records on or relating to her, as her signature below establishes.

Under the acts you and the Commission are more than four months late in responding. Others are more years than this in their tardiness. As a result I have consulted counsel. When it is possible we will go to court. Whether you personally and the Commission are designated as defendants will depend on what response you now make. By a carbon I am informing counsel, to whom I am also providing a copy of your letter.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Lillian Stone Weisberg