

Route 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
4/28/73

Dear Mr. Isbell,

Some years ago, when I asked the ACLU for help in my work on the John Kennedy assassination, I was referred to you. You may remember going to the National Archives with me. You may or may not remember the trouble I had getting published. I also asked for help in getting "public information", 5 U.S.C. 552 then having been enacted but not yet effective. The memo you asked me to write was never answered. And because of the possibility of retribution, you were kind enough to send me to Mr. Rockefeller in the event I needed that kind of legal help.

Well, I've never felt the mailed fist. Rather the velveteen glove. I have carbons of some CIA surveillance on me and a documented record of how it uses commercial organizations for this kind of surveillance, complete with bills and checks in payment. These establish the identity of the front the CIA has established for such purposes.

The same E. Howard Hunt of whom you are reading and hearing, while he was with CIA, was also with a literary agency that killed a live deal I took to it in 1965. Hunt's connection with this literary agency continued until 1959. He was with CIA until 1971. I have much more on Hunt, including much currently significant and unpublished. More and in some ways worse criminality seems apparent.

I'd like to be able to sue for these interferences in my first-amendment and other rights. But this work has been impoverishing. The sums of money owed me are large. The crookedness is so permeating it seems unlikely those involved in gypping me do not feel they have some kind of official protection. After you knew me my exposures of both the FBI and CIA became much more definitive. I published the first large volume of FBI reports in facsimile back in early 1968. (I have so many I have at least 2,000 pages of them I've not had time to read.) Justice likes me even less because I have bested them in Freedom of Information cases. In one I got a summary judgement. Another is one that will be definitive on the investigatory-files exemption and I have recently prevailed in the court of appeals. (The minority decision, by Danaher, makes prior restraint look like a blessing.) All of this adds up to some \$35,000 in indebtedness from the work I have undertaken and no income. I believe official improprieties of which this spying is only part, contribute to my present desperate situation.

I write to see if you would care to talk to me about this, on the chance that the ACLU could get interested.

Also, although I presume you have no personal involvement, I would like to discuss with you what I regard as a doubly-bad Freedom of Information suit the ACLU is handling. I have had considerable experience with this law. If this suit fails, it will establish a very bad precedent. If it succeeds, it will do infinite mischief. It is a bad suit and should fail. It would, if successful, do infinite harm to hundreds of innocent people.

A lecture at a New York area university is making it possible for me to go there the week of the 6th. I need a New York lawyer to help me recover some of the money due me. Are there any to whom you can refer me?

I have continued with the work of which you know. I and the subject are now unpublishable, but the work has been fruitful. I have in my possession what was withheld from the commission. These are documents unlike anything in our history. I have the answers to the questions seeing the Zapruder film left in your mind. In fact, if you have friends who would like to see this film, I can lend you a print.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg