

6/9/72

The Deputy Attorney General
The U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

In reporting on the filing of a motion by the Department in U.S. District Court in New Orleans, La., to obtain a hearing scheduled for Monday, the New Orleans Times-Picayune quotes from and paraphrases an affidavit attached to that motion, in the matter of Pershing Gervais.

According to this news account, the Department has waived any exemption that might apply under 5 U.S.C. 552 in making public its "witness relocation program" conducted "with the assistance of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce."

I am writing to ask for access to public information, the part of these files that relates to Pershing Gervais. That he is an informant is not secret, nor is what he did or his subsequent history, which both he and the Department have publicized extensively.

I am not now asking for copies of the documents in these files. I am asking to be able to see them at your earliest possible convenience. Should I then desire copies, I will pay for them at your established rate.

I would also like to know when this witness-relocation program with the Chamber of Commerce first began.

If it is unknown to you, the relationship between Mr. Gervais and the Department was made public by the Department in its charges against Jim Garrison et al and in sworn testimony by two Department lawyers on July 8 and 9, 1971.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg