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Dear Paul,

It will take some time for Greg's and related papers to be processed but it is gratifying to know that in time they will be available.

The Julie Gladders article, however, and this gets to what you asked in your letter, will mislead almost all who read it. Stone has been exceptionally able in promoting himself and his movie with dishonesties and misrepresentations and I believe that still more frustration will result.

For 18 years, since Congress amended the investigatory-files exemption over FBI dishonesty in my first spectro suit, the files of all executive agencies have been available under FOIA. Sure, they stonewall and they lie but at least a half a million pages have been disclosed. I have at least a third of a million. And not a single so-called critic has made any real use of them! Almost nobody else has, either, except for the students at the local college. They've done some fine papers and theses in them.

All unpublished records of the Congress are required by either law or another act of Congress to be withheld for prescribed numbers of years. No law was passed to withhold anything. But Stone has people believing what he knows cannot be true and isn't, that when what he makes up and blabs about is disclosed there will be a smoking gun and we'll know the truth. The crime was never investigated and there is no smoking gun.

If the records of the House committee are disclosed, and that has already been booby-trapped, all it can be expected to let people know is that those scoundrels never investigated either crime itself and never intended to. Plus how incompetent and crazy they were. And once again the sheer volume will defy access.

All the agency records that House committee got are accessible under FOIA, I have two file drawers of them that not anyone has come here to look at and a friend got more than 80,000 pages even he has not had time <sup>really</sup> to go over and he is getting more.

To make the House committee's records available all that was required is a resolution passed by the House. Now if that monster Stone had really wanted records disclosed he would have restricted himself to that. But he didn't even mention them until a friend of mine got past his palace guard and tried to tell him what is real.

What Stone really did is make it politically dangerous for any Congressman or Senator not to vote for the proposed bill that includes all government files. And that requires both houses to pass it when it can be vetoed by Bush. And there can be no end of the legit. and seemingly legit. excuses he can contrive or have fed to him for a veto. However, if the law gets to him I think he'll not need to veto it because however many files may be hidden, they will remain hidden and no law can pry them from where they are buried. Even when

by careful examination of the records I got I was able to pinpoint withheld files and places where what had been taken from files were moved to, the courts would not do a damned thing most of the time and those records still are ~~not~~ withheld.

There will not be any law that eliminates the national-security exemption, of that to protect privacy, ~~so~~ with regard to executive agency records it is not likely that any law will mean anything except that the politicians will boast about their openness and <sup>W</sup>liverStone will fashion himself a new halo.

<sup>all</sup> This is not to say that all should not be available. ~~it~~ should be, all that it would not be wrong to disclose. Such as someone who hates him telling the FBI that Paul LeMat is a thief and a deadbeat who beats his wife up for breakfast and for sex. Besides throwing darts at infants and kicking kids.

Records that can identify informers, wretched a species as they are, should not be disclosed or they can get killed. And while the legitimate national-security claims are only a fraction of those claimed, there are national security considerations and records that can interfere with or damage international relations.

What most people do not realize is that what they regard as harmless records that can hurt nobody can. For example, <sup>Mr. and Mrs. Paul LeMat</sup> if you were checked into an Alcapulco hotel while your wife was home, the hotel registration would be, under the interpretations of the privacy exemption, exempt. Despite which I've gotten many of them, but I'm trying to make it clear that there should be competent and careful processing and that takes time and money.

So, such as I've done to bring withheld records to light and successful as I've been at it, the grim truth is that most people never look at them or want to and those who are supposedly researchers and in any reasonable interpretation of the word are not have made no effort to bring any records to light.

So, in summary, more false expectations have been raised and there will be more frustration. I'd be surprised if all the know/records not still withheld could be processed in three years. I'll be surprised if those the committee generated can be in that time, even with the assignment of more than the usual number of processors and analysts.

Stone has joined the multitude of writers who did not want to look at ~~so~~ much as a page of available records that had been withheld. I repeat this to tell you ~~how~~ how much or how little to anticipate if and when the "ouse records are disclosed.

PS and all this has served to hide the ~~fact~~ Best to you all, fact that are many available records.

Hardy

3-27-92

DEAR HAROLD -

THANKS FOR THE BOOKS.

YES, PAUL SHRADE DID GIVE ME  
YOUR MESSAGE, THOUGH I WAS  
SLOW TO FOLLOW UP.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT  
THE CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO  
PAINSTAKINGLY DOLE OUT THE  
"FILES"? IT DIDN'T EVEN APPEAR  
IN THE L.A. TIMES TODAY, EVEN  
THOUGH THE BILL WAS REVEALED  
YESTERDAY. LAST NIGHT LARRY  
KING HAD CNS. STOKES ON WHO  
SAID IT COULD TAKE THREE  
YEARS TO COMPLETE, AND THAT  
BUSH WOULD HAVE POWER TO  
WITHHOLD SOME AGENCY PAPERS.  
THANKS AGAIN AND TAKE CARE.

Paul