

Mr. Angus Mackenzie  
Center for Investigative Reporting  
54 Mint St., 4th Floor  
San Francisco, CA. 94103

8/19/84

Dear Mr. Mackenzie,

I've just read your excellent "Sabotaging the Dissident Press" and Kevin Brosch's excellent filing of 2/6/84 in your C.A. 82-1676. With regard to the latter, I'm not a lawyer and thus can't know whether any of my experiences, particularly recent experiences, with the CIA can be useful or relevant, but all is available to you and Mr. Brosch, including their more recent fabrications to avoid even a status report on requests nine years old and appeals on which they've asked for more time and then allegedly destroyed under an alleged regulation. Strawderman informed me they destroy records relating to FOIA requests after as little as a year. My lawyer, Jim Lesar, 1000 Wilson Blvd., #900, Arlington, Va. 703/276-0404, has copies of all this correspondence and of much more.

You indicate obtaining similar FBI records relating to the dissident press, but you say so little about them I do not know the extent of your interest or knowledge. If you intend going farther with the FBI perhaps I can be of help. I have discovered how the FBI hides such embarrassing records and can avoid them on search. Not all, of course. You undoubtedly got copies from 100 and/or 105 files, perhaps some 62s. But such records are also hidden as "Research Matters" at FBIHQ and "Laboratory Research Matters" in the field offices. Along with lobbyings leaking, etc.

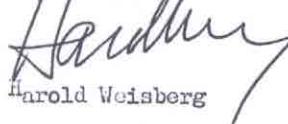
If you are not aware of it, Ober had to leave CIA during the Watergate upheavals, I think going to NSA and I believe with his staff. I wonder also if with some files, which thus would not show on even a real CIA search, something I imagine might be possible but have never seen or seen evidence of. Their domestic-intelligence and other activities I believe in violation of the first amendment have not all reached public attention. Nor have some of the covers they used.

If your interest extends to book publishing, I have reason to believe that the CIA also had an anti-publishing operation and I have some promising and rather provocative leads.

If you are interested in FBI surveillances of the dissident press, I believe you ought to know that they hide them and avoid search for them by classifying them as admats, the 66 file classification.

I'm 71, unwell and somewhat limited in what I can do but if I can be of help, let me know. And congratulations of a fine piece of work!

Sincerely,

  
Harold Weisberg

cc: Jim Lesar  
Howard Gray  
Kevin Brosch

P.S. If you can put me in touch with McGehee, I think we may be able to assist each other without violation of his oath.