



Lillian & Harold Weisberg

Coq d'Or Press ROUTE 8, FREDERICK, MD. 21701

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Dear Dr. Roberts,

Your letter of January 22 recommended that I review the history of the denied requests I have made, resubmit them and that be in a better position to appeal if I am again denied. Since then I have addressed a number of perfectly proper requests to you. You have, apparently, interpreted your suggestion that I waste an additional, enormous amount of ~~xxxxxx~~ time as a license to make no response at all. I think this is highly improper, and I think your failure to answer me after two months is but another manifestation of what by now is clearly a conscious, deliberate misuse of the raw power vested in government functionaries.

This has, indeed become clear as a consequence of review of an entire correspondence between us. I have completed it. ~~is~~ in my opinion, and I have the slightest regard for my personal reputation or that of the Agency, I would do the same thing, regardless of the time it takes. I do not expect you to, but I feel - and I tell you to - that this suggestion for, as you call it, a "no" is every intention of pursuing this matter in court should that become necessary.

Among the things I find are countless requests for being informed about your Agency's requirements so I might invoke the "Freedom of Information Act". For the longest time, despite constant repetition, there was no response at all. If your Agency requires that use of any form, to this date you have not responded. And I hardly the intent of Congress in passing that law, is anything but consistent with the spirit of the law, as is, I believe, both the substance and the reputation of your Agency.

I find what I regard as perfectly proper requests to which there was no response after an intolerable period, as long as about two years. I find contradictory explanations of the same thing, at best casting the most serious doubt on the word of the Archives. I find cases in which response was not made until well over a year had elapsed. I find deviousness in the employment of deceptive language followed by silence when you were questioned, addressed directly.

The one thing I do not find is a complaint from you that I have asked a single improper question, asked for a single thing anyone in your position could not answer in your custody,

I have the advantage over you in that I am reading all your letters. I have written all my own letters. I can read this file and see what you are doing and you may not. I nonetheless encourage you to make an effort to examine it in as far as you can, for I think it possible that there are things in it you will find quite interesting if you face them for the first time in court. If you think about this for a moment, perhaps you may come to understand that this suggestion was not of my own selfish interest, which could be best served by causing you some and reputation on the stand. If you do so I suggest you maintain an inflexible position, and have adopted personally or under instructions, you will be in a better position to deal over such things. And by incidentally a commitment of the Agency to the public is not filing suits, for my purposes and for the sake of the Agency, and to make our government functionaries and their actions more accountable to the public,

at the very least is accorded with regulations which have a well established principle of scholarship.

I will submit a list, with references. This will take additional time you succeed in locating for me. In fact, I wonder if this is not at least part of the reason, for on a number of occasions, I asked that you forward specified requests especially and it is obvious the almost undeviating delay in any kind of response are in no case necessary. As soon as I can I will try to decide which I might want to abandon simply because I will in any event be rather complicated, I will submit it.

However, I here call some things to your attention, with the until-now futile hope you will deal with them promptly. I also enclose a few things from the past to your attention and again ask the responses you have never made.

*Already answered.*

I made what I presume is the first request for the Kennedy Family- CIA agreement and what is relevant. You refused me, giving very specific reasons. If this reason was a genuine one, it eliminates the possibility of the explanation I was given when you gave this, in violation of your own regulation, to wit, one known not to have the background required to understand it. Dr. Tolson did not respond to my request for a full explanation. I have repeated it countless times to you, I believe it is more than proper, especially because it entails a clear violation of your own regulations. In not one case did you in any way acknowledge any of these inquiries, now extending over a period of about ten years. I therefore renew this inquiry, ask for a meaningful explanation and wonder you caused this investigation to be made to determine how your regulations and my rights were so grossly violated.

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*Enlarged pictures have been sent.*

It has been so since I asked for access to some of the late President's garments. Ultimately, I was refused. I then asked that pictures be taken of them, by you, and you again refused. This is passing strange for a number of reasons, not the least of which is your own confirmation of the total absence of the essential one with regard to the tie, a side view of the neck said to be on the side. I then asked that you take the negatives you already have and do a very ordinary, simple thing, enlarge this part of the view of the tie and the tube on the collar of the shirt. Your silence on this after so long a lapse of time is not less than unconscionable. I cannot regard it as accidental. This is not the first time I have reminded the Archives about this. I again ask that you do this, which is entirely in accord with your own practice, and promptly. And I remind you how insistent this is with your claim, especially that it is your intent to prevent "mass" use of this most basic research material. The only uses to which the pictures you have can be used preclude scholarship, for they are meaningless, and constitute an unseemly and unnecessary display of the late President's blood. It is gory. That is not what I want. However, you insist I use this, pretending it is what I want when it is. You have yet to dispute my statement to you that the pictures you supplied are utterly without value or meaning.

*Answered*

In some manner I cannot begin to understand, you claim you do not have certain pictures you did take for me. You now claim one of these was taken for Dr. John Nichols. I want to unravel this. I asked that you do certain things, including sending me a copy of his order and duplicate the photographs you did take for me, with negatives in each case. I was handed a set of duplicate prints, entirely unidentified, and a thing else. Despite my reminders, you have let it pass. There is nothing in this that need go to higher authority. I hope you will order it done as soon as possible. May I remind you of your claim that certain things have been done because they endanger the evidence and ask you to square this with the probability



to take care of a picture which is given or keep competent records of it? For as you wrote me you could find no record of having taken this picture for me. I wrote you and told you you did have such a record (at the very least in the damage against my account) and that at the very least two of your employees knew about this, Mr. Johnson, who is the sergeant in charge and supervised, and a competent photographer. Your silence and the deliberate ignoring of this proper request is consistent with a either honesty of purpose or any concept of scholarship. It is consistent only with frustrating my work, to the degree you can, and in this you have succeeded. I renew this request and ask explanation of what happened to the negative of the picture taken for me. I also ask that this one be dated on the negative so that the prints and my duplicate negative will be properly identified.

For more than a year we have been in communication over the issue of transfer of certain items, including the pictures and X-rays of the autopsy, which were and are government property. It took you 93 days to determine this was a "private paper". It is close to a year since I asked you for a copy of the government's copy. You have at no point indicated a) that there is a government copy, as I know beyond doubt there is; or b) whether or not you have it. For my immediate purposes in this letter, I ask you simply to tell me whether or not you have or have had a) a government copy of this paper and b) the other documents relevant to it. If it seems necessary, I will then after carry this further.

It is now more than a year since I asked for the total number of pictures and X-rays of the autopsy in your possession, together with an identification by type and size of film, the identifications on each, and records of damage or destruction. Your response to this proper inquiry is one I will not further embarrass you with by repetition. I renew this request. You must certainly recognize that nothing in it relates in any way to the content of any of the film.

When you declined to give me a list of the documents relating to the late David L. Forrie, either as incompletely released by your agency than is now in the news or as they in actuality exist, I wrote asking for both. I also asked that the reason for withholding each be given. You said you'd look in the files available to me. I went to the Archives, asked for and examined them. I thereafter wrote you that they are gutted, that they do not contain the documents now withheld and also contain no record of what is withheld. I do not regard it as a favor to entrap me into such a futility, for this wasted both money and time for me. However, it has been a long time since I wrote you. You have ignored my letter and my request, which I herewith renew. At the same time, particularly because you claim to be required to do certain things for the security of what is in your care, I ask an explanation of just how these files did get gutted and by whom, especially a special file set up, the files of which you still have. And I remind you that these are government property as yours, the distinction being you are the custodian, and in place may liability to me.

It has been too long since I asked for the date captioned to the three or four memoranda xxx by Arlen Specter were made available for research. Mr. Johnson is well aware of this matter. I would still like to see.

I hereby renew my request with regard to Forrie, one I had earlier overlooked. You have certain cards to which you deny access. I would like copies of them to him and those associated with him in the correspondence on the subject.

You have not responded to my question whether you had the original of the panel reports on the autopsy or their whereabouts. I would like to see them.

In connection with your unfairly inaccurate claim that you had no information for the autopsy re: change of film in the 100-1 file, I would like to see the which

Answered

Answered

"Gutted" means that records are withheld.

Not previously asked.

Answered

Answered

1  
this copy was obtained, which is by now in the added to the JMW 4-1 file, and I  
call your attention to my denied requests for this document going back to the  
middle of 1966. If it was, as you now claim, there all in this, there certainly  
was no excuse for your not providing it the many times I asked for it.

Not previously  
asked.

I have asked, without any response, the red team should be permitted to  
see the autopsy pictures and X-rays and related withheld material.

✓ My request for the Henney-family- GSA contract was phrased to include  
all attachments and related papers. You have never mentioned any related papers.  
Nor have you provided them. I still want them.

You have never responded to two of my requests about the executive  
sessions: for a list of what was discussed 1/27/64, which will, I am confident,  
establish that withholding is for reasons other than alleged; and for access to that  
of 6/24/64, which was made available to another writer.

Not by me

With regard to Frederick O'Sullivan, I have asked the date of the original  
FBI interview with him and how the alteration in his testimony was determined. Does  
not appear in the typescript sent to the printing office. There has been no response  
of any kind, after a rather long interval. Also, the CB identification.

answered

I believe there has been no response to my inquiry about an Admiral  
Barkley file, its existence and contents, if it exists.

answered

As soon as I can, I will decide what to request again of the specific  
items already identified by you and refused by you and will incorporate them in  
a separate letter. Meanwhile, I hope that you will depart from the red record of  
the past, respond to this promptly and constructively, and forward as they see  
through proper channels whatever you may refuse me. I believe there is nothing  
extraordinary about any of the foregoing requests, except the treatment they have  
received by your agency. I would ~~hope~~ you do not refuse any of it.

Sincerely,

*Harold Weisberg*  
Harold Weisberg

m. 7/31/70

Assigned to Johnson

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