February 12, 1970

Mr. A. Richards Rolapp, Spec. Ass't. to
the Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rolapp,

Your letter of the 10th does not respond to mine of the 4th, which is fitting and proper, this being the practise of Mr. Kleindienst. Nor does it accurately quote my request, again consistent with his letters.

I therefore begin with the request that you respond to my letter which, among other things, cites the requirement that the Department of Justice communicate with whatever agency it sent these papers to. Your letter does not say you did not have these papers, which is fortunate, because I have proof you did. If you do not have them, and I suggest you consider the possibility you have been misinformed, you do know what you did with them. I cited the Attorney General's memorandum to you on this point and you evaded it, which involves an additional violation of that language I cited, "...Every effort should be made to avoid encumbering the applicant's path with procedural obstacles..." This is one. Forcing me, needlessly, to invoke the Freedom of Information Act is another.

As a matter of fact, you assume what you had to know was inadequate, and "assume" is your own word. The most casual comparison between your letters of the 10th and 4nd on this point establishes this. I did not ask for what you "assume" I asked for, as you well know, but I asked for what I did ask for and you understood me to be asking for.

That the government, especially the Department of Justice, would do naught but frustrate the clear intent of the law, if not violate it, is always inappropriate, but when it does so with matters involving the assassination of a President and more, the government's investigation of that assassination, it is simply beyond belief, especially when the spokesmen for that government are today making the public statements so well reported, so critical of Members of the Congress and of the press.

If my purpose were to embarrass the government, to cause a scandal in the press, or to have a record of official conduct that might be helpful to me in court, I would welcome such letters. But my purpose is precisely what I state, to have access to existing records that the government is required to give me without delay, without trickery and deception, without playing cheap games.

I enclose the completed Form DJ 118, with check, with my letter of December 29, 1969.

Sincerely,