8/31/70

Mr. M. Richards Rolapp
Room 4113
Department of Justice Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rolapp,

Thank you for the photographic print and your note, undated and unsigned, on the routing slip, received in today's mail.

The purpose of this letter is not to press you. This entire matter has depressed and wearied me way I think you do not understand. It is, rather, to report certain facts to you and leave whatever, if anything, you do up to you.

It is a poor print, not made from a negative, which is easiest and proper, but by photographing the photograph. Therefore, aside from a generous supply of fingerprints which do not in any way help me, blotches, smears and lint in the photograph itself, it is much less clear than it could be.

I merely ask that you have the lab make a good print from the existing negative from which the print in the file was made. And I do hope it can be done in less than the three months this required. If the file print was cropped, it will not be necessary to go to the considerable trouble of cropping the print for me, if it is made. I will accept the print from the full negative, 8x10, if the negative was cropped. My purpose is not to cause you trouble (a feeling I wish the department reciprocated). It is merely to get the clearest possible print. The poor quality of this one introduces questions that should not and, I think, need not exist. It would have been easier to make a clear print to begin with.

Also missing is the legend on the back of the print Mr. Anderson had, when he showed it to me in court 8/12. I'd appreciate a xerox of the back, which would duplicate this.

It has been reported to me that your public-relations office has described my work, the decision of a federal judge and, apparently, what the Attorney General himself has approved, as "bullshit". Mr. King is certainly entitled to his opinion, and it need have no firmer basis than ignorance or prejudice. But speaking for that share of his salary and expenses that come from my taxes and for that minute fraction of the citizenry he represents, I record disapproval of such an expression and attitude on the part of an official spokesman.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg