UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

January 26, 1976

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in response to your letter dated January 12, 1976, addressed to Special Agent Thomas H. Bresson of our Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) Section.

Our records indicate you have pending with this Bureau requests for information involving three separate subject matters. We have been unable to initiate processing of these requests due to a current heavy workload.

Your October 27, 1975, letter contains your request for information concerning the Silver Shirts and a request for certain film footage in connection with the John F. Kennedy Assassination. The third request was contained in your letter dated December 20, 1975, relative to certain laboratory data which may have pertinence to the murder of Officer J. D. Tippit in Dallas, Texas.

Each of your letters was responded to by communications dated November 24, 1975, and January 7, 1976, respectively. These letters advise in essence that we have a considerable backlog of FOIPA requests on hand and that in an effort to deal with all requests equitably, they are being treated in chronological order based on date of receipt. We have received nearly 14,000 FOIPA requests during the calendar year 1975, and this overwhelming volume has precluded us from handling them as promptly as we desire or in compliance with statutory requirements.

Your requests will be treated under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and are being handled in a section of the FBI that deals with both FOIA and Privacy Act requests. Please be assured that the FBI in no way intends to "stonewall" you with respect to your Freedom of Information Act requests.

Mr. Harold Weisberg

We will advise you further within the next 30 work days regarding the results of our search for the information you have requested and a determination as to its releasability.

You may, of course, treat the failure to respond within the statutory time period as a denial of your request. You may appeal to the Attorney General from any denial contained herein. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Attorney General (Attention: Freedom of Information Appeals Unit), Washington, D. C., 20530. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Following the Attorney General's decision, judicial review is available in the district of your residence or principal place of business, or in the District of Columbia, where the records are situated.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director