OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

February 13, 1976

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in response to your letter dated January 30, 1976, concerning your pending Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) requests.

You may be assured there has been no "deliberate creation of confusion" on the part of the FBI in connection with the accounting for, and processing of your requests. As was previously stated there has been an overwhelming number of requests during the past year, and we are currently more than three months behind in responding to these requests. They are being handled in chronological order based on the date of receipt for this reason.

In those instances where a verbal request has been made, the requester has been informed that he must submit his request in writing before any action can be taken. This was explained to you by Special Agent Thomas H. Bresson of our FOIPA Section with regard to your verbal request made in March, 1975.

Your request directed to the Attorney General dated November 2[illegible], 1975, for information concerning you personally has been located. This request was referrred to the FBI on December 5, 1975, and our acknowledgement to you was dated December 12, 1975. We appreciate your bringing [illegible] to our attention in order to clarify the record in this [illegible].

[illegible] request concerning the release of pictures of President Kennedy's clothing was contained in your letter [illegible] October 2[illegible], 1975, which was referred to in our letter [illegible], 1976. Your October 27th letter further contains requests concerning the files on Lee Harvey Oswald, film footage on Lee Harvey Oswald in connection with the John F. Kennedy Assassination, and documents relating to the Silver Shirts.

Mr. Harold Weisberg

Our letter of January 26, 1976, also acknowledged receipt of your December 20, 1975, request for any laboratory data regarding the murder of Dallas Police Officer J. D. Tippit.

On December 31, 1975, we received a referral from the Department of Justice which was dated December 23, 1975. This was submitted by Mr. James H. Lesar on your behalf in connection with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This request in itself is far-reaching in scope and will entail considerable searching time once processing can be initiated.

I would like to reiterate that the FBI is not trying to circumvent the law, and request that you bring to our attention any other requests that have not been referenced in this letter.

We regret that FOIPA requests received from you and other individuals cannot be handled in a more expeditious manner, but as it has been previously explained, the voluminous number of requests received preclude this. We have increased our FOIPA staff to approximately 200 employees in an effort to alleviate the situation in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director