

Dear Louis,

8/18/80

Your letter of 7/21 was delayed reaching me, as Ian probably told you. I did not think that you were coming here to work the convention. I just assumed that you were on holiday. I'm sorry it was not possible for us to get together. I'd have liked it very much, as I have recalling all your efforts to be helpful what now seems like so many years ago.

It is not wise for me to drive as far as Washington and for years I haven't. I must be able to move my legs, in which the circulation is seriously impaired. In 1975 the main veins in both legs and thighs got plugged up with clots. I go only when I have no alternative and then use the bus, on which the service is poor and at inconvenient times. I went Friday for a calendar call in one of my Freedom of Information cases, it tired me excessively, and I wasn't worth a damn all day Saturday.

You are, of course, quite right in saying that it is wrong even to seem to pursue the dead. From his writing I'm certain that the late Professor Goodhart was quite sincere in his uncritical faith in the Warren Report. My concern is with the mind-control operations of the spooks, particularly when it is fed back to the U.S. In the case of so busy an eminence as Goodhart I'm also concerned about whether he actually did his own work. I can't imagine he could find time for all the details he provided. I think the CIA did it and I'm much like to find the proof.

I suggested that I might write an article on my uses of the Freedom of Information Act. I'm sorry we were not able to discuss this because the material is so vast I could write books about it - what I've gotten, what it means, how it could help government improve itself, which it never wants to do, how it is resisted and Lord knows what else would come to mind with thought. Illustrations could range from the fact that James Earl Ray's conference with his counsel in England and his efforts to obtain counsel in the U.S. by mail from London were intruded upon over there to the complete fabrication given to the President when my early work attracted considerable attention, that my wife and I celebrated the Russian revolution with a picnic at a farm we then had. (Actually, it was much earlier, after the Jewish high holidays, when the Jewish Welfare Board brought Washington area service personnel and their families up and the kids would gather eggs, see them hatch, handle the peepers, etc., for there was never any other occasion when we had any number of people.) Or how the FBI planned to "stop" me and my writing by having an agent file a spurious libel suit against me. They did all the legal research before that stalwart chickened out.

By now I've obtained about 250,000 pages, all to be a public archive, and I'm getting more, 4,000 last week alone. Perhaps their greatest value is their disclosure of how government works in time of crisis and afterward, how the machinery, instinctively, covers up. In both King and JFK cases Hoover had an instant vision which became instant fact. From then on nobody every dared doubt the truth he ordained and all agents avoided anything that could raise any questions, whether it be live witnesses, pictures or any other kind of evidence.

If it is not used here first (vacation time) I could do a separate story on how the FBI, when it was under severe criticism for its failures in the JFK investigation, actually persuaded LBJ that the CIA was in on the plot. LBJ immediately declared there had been no plot. The FBI saved that one up for the right moment as it saw right moments.

My own view is that every representative society requires a freedom of information law so it can continue to be representative, so the people may know what their governments do, so that the press may have access to information that is not properly secret, and so that private persons of special knowledge and interest can obtain information, add what they know to it and make it available to the press and thus to the people.

If you can give me a better idea of what you have in mind and what it would be worth I'd appreciate it.

Official resistance and the forms it takes and what it costs also might be included. I've been after the results of the non-secret scientific testing in the JFK case since 5/25/66. I've been to the appeals court five times, to the Supreme court, to countless hearings in the federal district court, the Congress amended the Act over this in 1974 and I'm still in court and don't have the information. Friday's hearing was in the King case, which I filed 11/75 and I still have to fight to get what remains withheld and is not exempt under the Act. This has become an effective way of "stopping" me. Best wishes,

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Dear Harold,

Thank you for your letter and the enclosures. It was a pleasure to hear from you again, and we might meet in Washington next week. I am flying off this coming Wednesday.

I recall Dr. Edward Myers, the cultural attache in the US Embassy here, quite well and it was my understanding at the time that he was a CIA man. I do not question that they approached Professor Goodhart, but I am not certain that he would have needed pressure from the Embassy to write such a review. I knew him quite well and admired his fund of legal knowledge, and I think it would be wrong for this newspaper to pursue this story now that he is in no position to defend or explain himself.

the letter

If we do meet in Washington - and I can be reached through our office there - we might discuss the idea of you writing an article for us about your uses of the Freedom of Information Act.

Perhaps you might tell the McDonalds of my impending arrival and say that I would also like to see them again.

Yours sincerely,

Louis
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