7/1/71

Dear Cyril,

Thanks for your letter of the 23. It is also unfortunate for me that I am not of independent means, for aside from the burden of carrying what for me is a considerable debt and the unpleasantness of living like a pauper, as I learned last night in preparing an affidavit in forma pauperis I learned what my wife usually hides from me, that our current bills exceed our bank account by close to 50%. Nonetheless, I continue, which is why I write.

All the time I was pressing with the suit I reported to you, vs the Archives and GSA, I was also proceeding along another line, the notion coming from something you told me long ago after talking to McCollom. The FBI took pictures before doing the analyses. You said this was the nrom and I proceeded on the assumption they did the norm, and it turns out they did, from the belated denial I have just gotten and have already appealed.

This gives us another lever, for the only basis on which the court rejected my request for copies is the validity of the family contract. The basis on which Justice refused the pictures I asked for is "investigatory file", which I am prepared to test under any circumstances and more so with this, for they have already established the precedent and there is a relevant decision on precisely this point and in the same district. It is known as American Mail.

So, I have to special purposes in writing. First, I am unfamiliar with the standard texts, thus I ask if you and/or McCollom can send me xeroxes of the appropriate pages of the appropriate standard works, showing that it is normal, proper or required procedure to photograph before removing any sample for analyses. If this could be carried a step further and I could get an affidavit to attach to the complaint it would be ever so much better. (And, I'm no longer working in the blind with faith in my analysis, for I now know the results of some of the tests and which were avoided, as some were, something I hope you will regard as sensational, as I do.)

Second, assuming that they do what they promised in court and take the pictures for me and show them to me, do you and/or McCollom want to see them with me? The only reservation I would have is the preservation of my literary xx rights after all this costly effort.

It is two weeks since I described the pictures I want to Rhoads. There has been no response yet. I expect if I have none by the beginning of next week I'll write him again and send a copy to the judge. If I could get a lawyer to do it, I might extend this a bit further and file a damage action based on the long history of delays in responding to the simplest requests. And I am going to be filing more suits soon, unless Bud changes his mind again. I sent him a statement on one he believes more promising and I'm exhausting my administrative remedies on three or four more. I have a dream that with its recent experiences with the government, there may be a change in the attitude of the press. They just might start reporting these actions. Meanwhile, the government is quite kind, making all the mistakes I could hope for, especially in lying.

Best,

CYRIL H. WECHT, M.D., J.D., F.C.A.P.
CORONER

CHARLES L. WINEK, PH.D.
CHIEF TOXICOLOGIST

JUNE S. SCHULBERG, Esq.
CHIEF DEPUTY CORONER

County of Allegheny

542 FOURTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219
412 - 355-4460 355-4466
OFFICE OF THE CORONER

June 23, 1971

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route #8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Harold:

Thank you for your letter of 21 June 1971, bringing me up-to-date on your recent legal actions. I am sorry to learn that you were not successful in either lawsuit, but I do agree with you that much was gained of a collateral and indirect nature through both actions.

I certainly hope that you are successful one way or another in having these cases appealed. It is unfortunate for all of us that you are not a man of independent wealth!

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Cyril

Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.

CHW/mg