

#6

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
4/28/70

Harold Weisberg is an author who has been critical of the FBI, Secret Service, police agencies, and other branches of government. He was one of 10 employees fired by State Department during 1947 because loyalty suspected. He was later allowed to resign. Department is aware of his background.

Attached letter from Civil Division advises that Weisberg has filed action demanding copies of papers employed in extradition of James Earl Ray, murderer of Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers include affidavits from FBI personnel relating to fingerprints, ballistic and document examinations, and other aspects of investigation. If approved, Civil Division will be advised that we interpose no objection, but suggest matter be referred to Civil Rights Division since Federal process is still outstanding on Ray on the Federal Civil Rights charge.

RJH:js

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

APR 27 1970

William D. Ruckelshaus
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division

WDR:DJAnderson:paf
145-12-1403

Harold Weisberg v. United States Department of
Justice and United States Department of State,
Civil Action No. 718-70, U.S.D.C. D. D.C.

Mr. Weisberg, author of Whitewash I and II, has filed the above action demanding copies of all the papers which were employed in the extradition of James Earl Ray. These papers were furnished the State Department, flown to England, presumably used in the extradition proceedings, returned to the State Department, and then transferred to the Department of Justice. Included in the papers are a considerable number of affidavits of F.B.I. agents covering fingerprints, ballistics, etc. A memorandum describing the materials being requested is attached.

Would you kindly advise whether the release of these documents would in any way prejudice the work of the F.B.I. and whether in your judgment their production should be resisted.

Your prompt attention to this matter will be appreciated.

Attachment

#7

*Put in MURKIN TS
memo*

Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division
Director, FBI

April 30, 1970

1 - Mr. McDonough

HAROLD WEISBERG V. UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
CIVIL ACTION NO. 718-70, U.S.D.C. D. D.C.

Reference is made to your letter dated April 27,
1970.

The determination as to the release of the pertinent documents is within the province of the Department of Justice, and this Bureau interposes no objection. For your information, the Federal process charging violation of a Federal Civil Rights statute is still outstanding against James Earl Ray, and you may desire to communicate with the Civil Rights Division on this matter.

1 - Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

EJM:js
(5)

NOTE: Harold Weisberg, an author who has been critical of the FBI and other Federal and state authorities, has filed suit demanding copies of certain documents utilized in the extradition of James Earl Ray, the murderer of Martin Luther King, Jr. These documents include affidavits from FBI personnel relating to fingerprints, ballistics and document examinations, and other aspects of investigation. It is not felt that we have any basis to object; however, the determination as to release of this information is within the Department's province and, since the civil rights process is still outstanding, it is being brought to the Civil Division's attention for consideration.