

February 12, 1970

Mr. W. Richards Bolapp, Spec. Asst. to
the Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bolapp,

Your letter of the 10th does not respond to mine of the 4th, which is fitting and proper, this being the practice of Mr. Kleindienst. Nor does it accurately quote my request, again consistent with his letters.

I therefore begin with the request that you respond to my letter which, among other things, cites the requirement that the Department of Justice communicate with whatever agency it sent these papers to. Your letter does not say you did not have these papers, which is fortunate, because I have proof you did. If you do not have them, and I suggest you consider the possibility you have here been misinformed, you do know what you did with them. I cited the Attorney General's memorandum to you on this point and you evaded it, which involves an additional violation of that language I cited, "...Every effort should be made to avoid encumbering the applicant's path with procedural obstacles..." This is one. Forcing me, needlessly, to invoke the Freedom of Information Act is another.

As a matter of fact, you assume what you had to know was inadequate, and "assume" is your own word. The most casual comparison between your letters of the 10th and 2nd on this point establishes this. I did not ask for what you "assume" I asked for, as you well know, but I asked for what I did ask for and you understood me to be asking for.

That the government, especially the Department of Justice, would do naught but frustrate the clear intent of the law, if not violate it, is always inappropriate, but when it does so with matters involving the assassination of a President and more, the government's investigation of that assassination, it is simply beyond belief, especially when the spokesmen for that government are today making the public statements so well reported, so critical of Members of the Congress and of the press.

If my purpose were to embarrass the government, to cause a scandal in the press, or to have a record of official conduct that might be helpful to me in court, I would welcome such letters. But my purpose is precisely what I state, to have access to existing records that the government is required to give me without delay, without trickery and deception, without playing cheap games.

I enclosed the completed Form FF 118, with check, with my letter of December 29, 1969.

Sincerely,



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

February 10, 1970

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

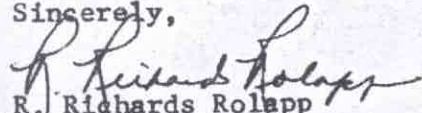
Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I have received your letter of February 4, 1970 in which you express dissatisfaction with my response to your prior request for certain materials you believe are in the files of this Department.

My letter of February 2 was not a denial of your request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. In accordance with the regulations of this Department, such requests must be submitted on Form D. J. 118. I am enclosing copies of this form in the event you wish to file a formal request.

As I have indicated in my previous letter, the materials described in your letter of December 15 do not exist in our files. We are assuming you are referring in your request to reports of observations made by the autopsy surgeons and the advising panel to the Attorney General of the autopsy photographs and x-rays. If so, raw materials such as described in your letter are not among this Department's files. The two panels met, examined, deliberated and reported. If they kept notes etc., they were not turned over to the Department.

Sincerely,


R. Richards Rolapp
Special Assistant to the