

Denials

Mr. Gene Wilson, FOIA/PA Coordinator
CIA
Washington, D.C. 20505

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
2/5/77

Dear Mr. Wilson,

In your letter of January 21 you let me know that undescribed records within my FOIA/PA requests would be released within the next "week or two."

You did not say that you would let others, including the press, have records relating to me before I had access to them. The AP story in today's Post refers to these records.

In my view this becomes another de facto denial.

I suppose there is no offense against law or decency of which you people are not capable.

My request is about six years old now. And I read, in an arranged way, of them in the papers before I have them.

How old is my appeal in this matter - a year? Two years?

How many times have I asked about your action on it and the other appeals?

As you well know because all of this is under you, your offense is still greater.

I have just been informed, second-hand from the east coast, that another on the east coast was given these records much earlier, had time to make copies and mail them to the west coast in time for them to have been gone over by one on the west coast at least a week ago.

And this with records relating to me, records I began to seek six years ago, records you ~~gim~~ people never stopped lying about to me and to higher authority within the Agency. You, personally, once intercepted an addressee-only certified letter I sent the Director. It was about just this kind of flagrant lawlessness. You intercepted it even though I also sent you a copy. You had to preserve the appearance as his being unwitting, even to the point of defrauding me of a small sum of money and my rights.

Or don't you speak recognize the Constitution in any way? It is not only that you have trampled on my first-amendment rights as a writer, you denied me my right to petition for the redress of grievances.

Is there any foreign peril from which you can save us that is as great? Is there any possible deeper subversion?

I am reminded that my first request coincided in time with the then Director's appeal to a publisher's meeting, trust us - we don't target on Americans. What a job I had getting a copy of his public, reported speech, such is your worship of the golden calf of secrecy. Then I never did get an answer of any kind to my initial requests under FOIA. When I was finally able to arrange a meeting with counsel and your general counsel on this he had been lied to and deceived or he did this to us. Later I obtained proof of the deliberate lying to him within the Agency, even a copy of an Agency record so stating. I told you, personally, but I await a response from you, personally.

Now it has been contrived for a weekend story, traditionally these when there is no time for response and when others are not consulted. The result is a story that enormously understates this native Nazism of yours and is as favorable to the Agency for its anti-American activity as if it had written the story.

You people have children. Can you teach them the difference between right and wrong when wrong is right to you? Can you teach them to respect the law and to live by it when you are in contempt of the law and violate it regularly? Can they learn simple honesty from parents to whom dishonesty has become a way of life, a need of life?

What can possibly be in your minds when you reflect about your days of work, when you go to bed at night after spending days abusing innocent Americans and then abusing the laws by which we are all to live? To what god do you pray in church or in your private meditations?

You are practicing authoritarians, varying in degree from the original storetrotters only. The principle is the same. An American who does not oppose native authoritarianism is as much as one who does not oppose those of foreign lands. Here so, I believe. If you ever provide your intercepts of my mail you will provide proof of my opposition to all foreign authoritarians. Or is this why, after all these years, you are still stonewalling my six-year-old request partially compliance with which was made to AP and others when it had not been made to me?

I do not know what I can do but I do know what I want to do. It is to make every effort to hold each of you responsible in court. When it is possible I will do this. I have established an estate that will be able to continue the effort. I regard this as a minimum requirement of real patriotism, of dedication to basic American principle.

This newest outrage of yours, of the Agency and by you personally, did prompt me to consult counsel. He will proceed as soon as he can. I not only ask when I can now expect full compliance with my PA request that goes back six years but with all the others not complied with. All are long overdue under your own contrived statistics.

Under the law the Agency can waive all fees and charges, including those I have paid. I now ask for this. I have begun the deposit of all my records in an archive in a university system. These are historical records that should be available for research and scholarship. They serve a public interest. They serve no selfish or commercial interest for me. And I have made no reservations relating to myself in this archive. I want all these records, no matter how corrupt or dishonest, to be on deposit. I regard them as indispensable in the archive. I hope you will cease deleting what you delete improperly, a matter of your personal responsibility. You have already deleted in what was provided me what was not deleted in what was provided others. The next casual examination establishes there was no basis for the obliterations. I tell you again I do have many of your records that you have not provided and that are not immune and are clearly within the requests. You have given me but a minor fraction of the relevant records. So I am not only asking for the waiver of costs, I am asking for honest copies of what has been provided with dishonest claim to exemption.

Here I make a new request, now that the Agency has admitted its intrusion into my first-amendment rights. I am asking for a list of all publishers of any kind with whom the Agency has had these kinds of associations whether or not in the Agency's own name and for copies of all records relating to book-publishing and non-publishing as they relate to me without expurgations. This is, of course, a duplication of my long-standing request. But I want to leave no room for deliberate misinterpretation and you have now admitted a review of the relevant files so there is no legitimate excuse, no claim of the need of time for review or search. This includes all interceptions of manuscripts, and they were intercepted, and all publishing-related activities, mine and yours as they relate to me, directly or indirectly. The number of pages released precludes the inclusion of all these records among those described in this AP story.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg