

Mr. Daniel Sheehan  
Christic Institute  
1324 N. Capitol St.  
Washington, D.C. 2

9/24/86

Dear Mr. Sheehan,

On July 24 I wrote and asked you if you could represent me in a FOIA lawsuit that I believe will set evil precedents. When I heard nothing from you I wrote you again on August 11. It is disappointing, of course, that you have not responded in any way.

I could understand that you might be too busy, that what I presented did not appeal to you, that I might not have presented it well and that you might perhaps want more information, necessary to any decision.

But I do not understand how, given the intent of your group, you could let an aging and ill man hang without response while his time for filing his appeal was running.

I know the burden of unsolicited letters because in the area of my work there are many people who have concerns. I've received 10,000 to 15,000 such letters and with the rare exception of the clearly irrational, I've answered them all. This is, I believe, an obligation one assumes in engaging in certain kinds of public work.

Lawyers, I believe, whether or not this is an obligation, ought at least respond when their assistance is sought.

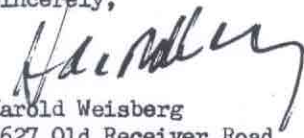
Perhaps you people do not share my belief that in a free society freedom of information is essential or my belief that in our land the Freedom of Information Act is vital for the purposes for which it was enacted.

I did ~~ware~~, years ago, when it was gutted by means of such official dishonesty and corruption as I now face again, and as a result the Congress did amend the Act in 1974, citing my litigation as requiring it, to open CIA, FBI and other files of their dirtyworks, with some public good coming from it.

I wish there were reason to believe that something like this might happen once again. But there is even less prospect when supposedly dedicated lawyers are entirely indifferent to official felonies perpetrated to frustrate the workings of democratic society and to restrict what the people can know.

I wish better luck for you in the worthwhile things on which you are engaged.

Sincerely,

  
Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Road  
Frederick, Md. 21701