

Mr. Marc Ferrusquia, reporter
The Commercial Appeal
495 Union Ave.,
Memphis, TN 38103

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Reeliver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Ferrusquia,

I remember your call. You'll be welcome whenever you get here. If I did not tell you when we spoke, I live convoluted hours that require my retiring early, now about 4:30 in the afternoon. I'm up rather early, too.

Most of the people who come here stay at The Red Horse motel. It is about 40 minutes away. It has an 800 number I've forgotten.

From what you say the files I got under FOIA that may be of interest to you are on The Invaders and The Sanitation Strike. I have those of FBI Headquarters and of the Memphis field office. The fact is that Hood College made copies of them for a student who was doing an honors paper and thereafter her professor and my good friend, Dr. Gerald McKnight, made use of them. He will have a fairly good recollection of them as I do not. And, at Hood, you can use the files and the copier almost side by side and not have the stairs in between.

On the other files, I think what will interest ^{you} is scattered and volume alone will be a serious problem. There are about 80,000 pages in all.

I suggest you write McKnight at Hood, 401 Rosemont Ave., Frederick ~~MD~~ 21701. His phone there is 696-3720. He is in and out of his office. He has office hours for students to see him Mondays and Wednesdays 1 to 2, Tuesdays and Thursday 10 to 11. His home phone, both area 301, is 473-5639.

The files on individuals are beyond imagining. I recall one small report of which so many copies were made the second page alone was a list of them. These are FBI files. You ask about the political campaigns? Congressman Ford's first was covered and that year so were city council meetings.

It is not easy to find a less dependable source than Melanson, believe me!

In the MURKIN files the FBI had some police domestic intelligence reports. I think Arkin provided them. There is at least one longer report by him.

In the MURKIN files there also is reflection of official efforts at retaliation against Invaders, strike sympathizers and their families. McKnight will remember better than I efforts against preachers.

There may be other ways you can get some of what Chandler ordered destroyed. Other agencies may have copies and the FBI may have some filed other than ~~them~~ when I requested searches be made. Your own stories may reflect the widespread distribution made by the FBI. Again, McKnight will remember better than I.

There was a long list of existing files given to the DJ for its investigation of how Dr. King was treated. The Office of Professional Responsibility

had that list and examined and made copies of some of them. Jim Lesar, who was my FOIA lawyer, filed that request when I was not in good shape. ^{He} had quite an extensive file. His number is 202/395-1921, at 918 F St., NW 20004. He also has an office at home. 7313 Lynnhurst St., Chevy Chase, MD 20815. His home phone is 301/657-4298/.

The OPR whitewashed as much as it dared.

A man who figured in the suit to get those records that were destroyed might be of some help if I can recall his name. I think the ACLU handled the suit.

The spying in the records I got was not limited to political campaigns. There was little of that. But there was extensive spying on those the FBI and the police did not like. They involved the schools. I think Garrow was quite unfair ~~to~~ to use the names as he did of what I got under FOIA because there is no reason not to believe that those people and many others like them did what they did in the community's interest. I never used their names although the FBI did disclose them to me, which was a departure from its practise,

I no longer have a clear recollection of Melanson's trash but believe me it is not dependable. As an example of what I do remember, the name of The Fat Man was disclosed to me by the FBI. ^{Robert Mc Donaldson} It was public. It was in the FBI's public reading room. Yet look at the fantasy Melanson created around it and the alleged need to keep it secret. ^{I gave it to Mitchem !!} He also used all sorts of totally undependable people like the fakir whose name I do not now recall, the man who allegedly took the nonexistent payoff to "ay up in Canada. He surfaced in the Garrison era and made similar JFK claims. Sorry my memory on names has deteriorated so. Jules Ricco of ~~xxxx~~ Ricco?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

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