

Mr. Marc Ferrusquia, reporter  
The Commercial Appeal  
495 Union Ave.,  
Memphis, TN 38105

Harold Weisberg  
7827 Old Receiver 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 <sup>you</sup> 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 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 Helanson, 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 202/393-1921, at 918 F St., NW 20004. He also has an office at home. 7313 Lynnhurys St., Chevy Chase, MD 20815. His home phone is 301/657-4298/.

The OPR whitewashed as much as it dared.

*Peter Shendian*

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 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. 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. 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 ~~Ricco~~ Ricco?

*Robert WC Daulton, I forgot to mention !!*

Sincerely,

*Harold Weisberg*

Harold Weisberg

495 UNION AVENUE  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103  
901 529-2211

---

## THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

February 19, 1997

Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Road  
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Hello. I am the news reporter from Memphis who called you a couple weeks ago regarding your 1993 offer to this newspaper to review copies of FBI files in your possession. Per our phone conversation, you said we were welcome to review the files and make copies (you said you had a photocopier at your house) also. I appreciate your generous offer and am happy to say that my editor has tentatively approved a trip to Maryland to take you up on this offer. I have no fixed schedule at this time, but anticipate that I might be able to make the trip in March or later in the spring.

If you don't mind, I would like some more information. I am particularly interested in what you termed in your letter as "domestic intelligence activities aimed at Memphians" as this topic is quite newsworthy and would be highly read here. There has been considerable news coverage of the state of Mississippi's official spying on civil rights workers and minorities and those files are set to be made public this year. The Memphis Police Department apparently conducted similar activities here in the 1960s, but I'm told former Mayor Chandler ordered those files burned in the 1970s. It appears your files may help fill the gaps that Chandler created. Can you tell me: What type of specifics are contained in these files? Were files maintained on individuals? This spying involved political campaigns as well? Was the spying documented in your files limited to the sanitation strike or did it cover other periods too? What if any news coverage or other published information has there been on the spying in Memphis? Do your files go beyond or provide additional details to what's been published in Melanson's *The Murkin Conspiracy*?

Please, the answers to these questions will be quite helpful. You may reach me by telephone at 1 800 444 6397, ext. 2545, or by fax at 901 529-2522. My mailing address in above.

Again, thank you for your help and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



*Marc Perrusquia*

Marc Perrusquia  
A SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWSPAPER