

HAROLD WEISBERG

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Congressman John Conyers
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear John,

When you were kind enough to arrange for a press conference for me to make available to the media the first of the records I obtained relating to the King assassination, now 17 years ago, I was not aware of the serious illnesses I was then incubating. I have not been in Washington since except for surgery and medical appointments to which I was driven. Since then I got about a third of a million pages of once-withheld government assassination records. Complications following 1980 arterial surgery ended my FOIA litigation and I've not been able to get any records since then. These, however, will all be a permanent public archive in local Hood College. They are and they always have been available to all writing in the field, including students.

One of the reasons I write is to ask if you will please be kind enough to send me copies of the hearings you have been holding recently at which my FOIA lawyer, Jim Lesar, and John Newman testified. I was enormously impressed by the Post's article on Newman's testimony. He said what is the thrust of all my work, now seven books, next year two more. I was able to help him a bit with his research in those CIA records with some of my own work. Not being able to attend those hearings I would like to read them and then deposit them at Hood for the use of students and others doing research there.

I have been given a copy of Gerald Posner's November 17 statement. If you will please have a committee staffer let me know, I'd like to know whether he testified or just filed that statement and whether he appeared by his own request or one made for him or not. I am writing about him now, an epilogue to the book titled Case Opened. If when there are proofs of his testimony, if he testified, I would very much appreciate a set of them. I do not know whether the Congress does this now but back in the 1930s when I was a Senate committee editor I was able to have extra proofs for the use of writers. If not, if I can have a xerox, I'll be glad to pay the costs.

I hope you are well and will be there for the good work you have always done for many more years! Thanks for it and for any help you can give me.

Sincerely,


Harold Weisberg