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August 20, 1971

Dr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

Your letter of August 13 in response to mine of July 17 and 20 in its second paragraph refers to regulations in a way not really consistent with the record, the nature of my request, and its purpose.

I hope you can agree that it was not the intent of Congress in passing the Freedom of Information Act to have agencies of the government ambulance-chasing for members of the bar.

It is not too large a task for you to provide copies of all relevant regulations in response to my repeated requests. Nor do I think it is proper or necessary for you, in the context of this law or outside it, to send me to a lawyer. I do think it is incumbent upon you to make unequivocal response to this request.

In the past, in response to these requests, you omitted in every case the one regulation specifically addressed to the Warren Commission materials. Because of your own record, which indicates that, should you respond to my requests, it is not until you have nothing else left to do, six months not being an exceptional lag, I asked someone else to make specific request for the regulation you always never provided. That person was told it did not exist. This was after I got a copy when you used it in other litigation. Now that you have revised it because of my action, you have been kind enough to send me a copy of the revised regulation, which I suggest, if it is at all applicable, cannot be applicable before its effective date. Your language is, "We believe we have answered your request. We are not in a position to advise you concerning your request for 'any and all rules, regulations, interpretations or any other things, such as definitions of records, required by me to properly and fully pursue my interests in obtaining what I regard as public information.'"

If there is any one place in the world where what the National Archives regards as <u>its</u> rules, regulations, interpretations and definitions of records, it <u>Is</u> the National Archives. In my reading of it, the law imposes the obligation upon you to supply this to me and to supply it promptly.

I have an additional purpose which ought not be unknown to you and that is that in acting on your behalf your counsel misquoted, distorted, edited, suppressed and in every way possible was deceptive on precisely these points, law, regulation, etc.

While I would prefer not to have to think in terms of litigation with my government in order to obtain what clearly is public information under the law, you have given me no alternative but to consider it a probability

when I seek for anything the government elects to suppress.

I therefore renew this request in a hope that at some time it will be less than a futility, that you will elect to live within the law, and will respond promptly.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg