

Confidential. Pls return when you come

4/15/71

Dear Senator Muskie,

Enclosed is a copy of my today's letter to Press Secretary Magler.

I have reason to believe and believe I can prove that this espionage against me continues, that there was a case within the past month (in that case for the CIA, not the FBI). The explanation may be in the subject and nature of my writing, which is a thorough exposure of the FBI. I enclosed two current reviews that may suggest this to you also.

This kind of wrongdoing extends into other areas. There is a systematic campaign to deny citizens' rights under the Freedom of Information Act. The record with which I can supply you, on Kleindisanz and Mitchell, should be close to unparalleled, begins with written and repeated lies by them and extending to perjury by subordinates and others, is one of undeviating falsehood.

It includes what we would once have regarded as the incredible, the actual confiscation of court records of the public trial of an American and the subsequent insistence that the government did not have them. Ultimately, when a hearing in my suit could no longer be delayed, I was finally given access to the records, but to this day, the copies were not completely delivered to me.

Do I have to tell you what kind of burden it is for a writer to have to sue for public information, to be confronted with nothing but offending official lies, and all this while he is the subject of official surveillance?

Or the depressing effect on that most basic freedom, freedom of information for all citizens and the freedom of a writer to write?

If you succeed in getting the board you propose established, you will also need a few rare experts, those who have penetrated and understood official semantics.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

4/19/71

Mr. Richard Selig, Director
Cent of Intelligence Agency
Langley, Va.

Dear Mr. Selig,

In your yesterday's speech before the American Society of Newspaper Editors you are quoted as having said that the CIA does not engage in any kind of spying or surveillance against Americans. I have no doubt you think you speak the truth.

However, you did not, and of this there is no doubt, for I am in possession of the unquestionable evidence.

I am one of those against whom it was directed.

Because I believe you think you did speak truthfully, I think it is worse than if you had deliberately spoken falsely, for this would be a reflection of an intolerable internal autonomy.

Do not misunderstand me. I do not believe that in today's world foreign intelligence is anti-democratic. But I also believe that domestic intelligence by the agency of foreign intelligence is anti-democratic. Rather than being opposed to our country's intelligence, I have, voluntarily, been part of it, in my younger days. I was this in both official and unofficial capacity, for as an investigative reporter I did produce reliable intelligence during World War II and delivered it to several government agencies. I was, in fact, what would today be called an "unregistered foreign agent", for I also worked with and supplied information to the intelligence service of a friendly foreign power.

However, the intelligence operations against me is of a different and I think wrongful character. First of all because I am a writer.

I am writing to ask that you conduct a thorough investigation and then provide me with copies of all of it. If your examinations tell you that what I say is not true, I am prepared to sue under § 552, where some of the exemptions could be invoked by your agency, and to produce in court copies of some of it. I would much prefer that it not get to that point, as I hope you would.

May I also suggest that if you are opposed to such things, what I ask of you gives you a chance to at least try to put an end to them?

I would also appreciate in full text of your remarks yesterday.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

4/15/71

Mr. Philip Anshardt
Assistant Managing Editor
LIFE Magazine
Time-Life Bldg.
Rockefeller Center
New York, N.Y. 10020

Dear Mr. Anshardt,

After all this time, you may not recall it, but during the summer of 1965, while he was recovering from surgery, Max Mathias, who with Ann are our friends, spoke to you about my first book, WHITSMAN, which was the first analysis of the Warren Report.

I write after hearing the CBS-TV morning news, which quotes Richard Helms as saying that the CIA engages in no spying on Americans.

This is false, though it may well be he is unaware of it.

I have a box of copies of CIA spying on me in my public appearances.

It is done through an obscure front, whose letterhead, bank account, even a check in payment for the services in one case involving me I have in photocopy. In turn, this front uses an established commercial service.

The most recent case was within the past month, in connection with my new book, of which I enclose copies of two reviews.

I recall the creation of the CIA clearly. I served in (and was honored for my service in) its forerunner, the OSS. It was made explicitly clear at that time that the CIA was to have no domestic functions.

However, there is no doubt that it is the CIA in the case involving me, and there are repeated instances.

The Army did the same thing. I spoke on but one subject, the political assassinations. Where the Army conducted the surveillance, it included shadowing (through a near-tornado during a nearby tornado), my topic was "The Integrity of Our Society", I was the guest of a major university, and the agents set nearby while I spent 12 hours at and on a radio station in a rural area.

Is LIFE interested in a story?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg