

Dear Jim,

1/24/78

In today's mail I received the copies of the FBI field office replies to my PA requests ~~of~~ that you sent.

I've skimmed them only but spotted enough. When they are all in I'll go over them with care and make notes for you. I don't have to do that more than once.

Some of the responses are ludicrous in their childish semantics. Others are overtly false. And I did take notice of those what are late in responding and do see probable significance in lateness.

Where there has been compliance I can and will specify what is withheld. I mean this to relate to obliterations for which there is no justification - I believe in violation of a number of decisions - and to records the existence of which is denied.

Among the obliterations is the name of the local resident agent to whom I hand delivered those Minuteman files. I don't know him? And there is no record of any kind of his return of them?

This is but the merest illustration. From my experiences it does no good to try to obtain compliance outside of court. I think we'd best prepare to file a complaint as soon as it is possible. So that Lynne and Civil can know I'm sending her a carbon. If they want to make the FBI comply voluntarily I don't believe they can. I'm letting her know and Civil can do or not do whatever it wants. If anyone comes this afternoon I'll get this mailed to improve the chances of both of you having it before you meet Thursday.

I think there is enough deliberate evasion and deliberate falsification for you to get started. I've already filed a new appeal with Shea. I also appealed long ago with regard to both HQ and the field offices because my original request of more than two years ago was for both HQ and field office files and it was acknowledged over Kelley's signature.

A number of Divisions and Offices are also in non-compliance and I have filed more than one appeal on them. This includes Civil, which I believe has not responded to my specification of what files were withheld.

As I'm sure you've noticed, when I have obtained records I have also been able to prove them overtly false, deliberately unfaithful and in some cases careless manufactures. This is at least a major explanation of the reasons for the newest stonewalling. If there is anything really bad in any of the records they just are not true and I'll have no reluctance in facing them. The most recent, which implies that I was a communist because someone in New York with the same first initial was said to be a Communist, shows how much they stretched to contrive such records. They knew beyond question that one could not be me. It is they who fear having to face their records, not I.

If there is anything you can do to push this one faster please do it. If you want to do to them what they do to us you can file a series of individual complaints. In the end they'll be paying you for your time, believe me.

Sincerely,