OLC-PA

Mr. John M. Harmon
Office of Legal Counsel
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

7/10/90

Dear Mr. Harmon,

Thank you for your letter of the 7th and the enclosures.

For the record, the letter to the editor of Commentary is not an intra-agency memorandum and you make no other claim to exemption, although I presume you had 7C in mind in withholding the names, in violation of the Attorney General's directive of 5/5/77, Department policy, and particularly after they have already been disclosed.

Withholding David Slawson's name from a letter he wrote for publication is stretching it a bit, isn't it?

Although his letter is not the only reflection of partisanship in OLC, it is a very clear one, and it is exaggerated by his virtuoso display of ignorance of the conclusions and evidence of the Commission for which he worked and whose record he quotes at some length. Not that he isn't imaginative, as in writing about the bullet allegedly imbedded in the limousine's windshield.

Of course I have serious questions about the propriety of OLC spending tax money in so partisan a venture, especially because I am one of those "others" whose work he hardly reflects but does criticize. It required quite a bit of tax-paid time to locate all those citations and the time of the typist.

When OLC is overtly partisan on this controversial subject, how can the people regard it as impartial in its decisions, again I say particularly as they relate to me?

That is remains partisan is illustrated by the fact that it still withholds pertinent records pertaining to the JFK case and to my PA request, after many years. (You are more than three years overdue in this limited compliance, five under PA.)

Records in my possession establish that OLC has non-exempt records not provided. However, if you decide to claim exemptions, you are still required to account for the records and make specific claim to exemption with regard to each withholding, are you not?

In this mailing you provide what appear to be Criminal Division records, from its stamp, initials and a name written on. If so, may I please have the OLC copies? Any annotation is information. There is public interest in the names, which the Department has been disclosing and the Department's policy in this case in particular does require.

I believe I have written OLC before about its non-compliances. May I please have an unequivocal statement in which I am informed when I may expect the records that should have been provided so long ago?

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg