

P.S. to Mr. Shea, 3/17/78

Also in today's mail is the copy Jim Meszar sent of your letter of 3/13 forwarding Ms. Walster's 3/7/78. The copy you sent me has not come so Jim sent me a copy.

We appreciate this effort.

And cannot understand how the FBI has no record.

One day in the earlier period of our farming at Hyattstown, when I was either carrying a basket of eggs to the house or working along the road, an FBI car stopped. The agent spoke to me along the road. He was looking for my wife. She was then still working in Washington and commuting. I told him when she would be home and where to reach her in Washington. He said they would see her in Washington. Later she told me that they had.

The reason they looked her up is that she had worked for the Senate Munitions Committee (Nye committee) and thus was a fellow employee of Hiss.

Although from my extensive reading of FBI reports I would be inclined to expect a mention of the agent's having stopped at the farm and spoken to me I am aware that this need not have been the case. However, I cannot believe that there was no report of the interview with my wife or any reference made to it.

I have not followed the Hiss FOIA/PA matter closely so I do not know the source of the records provided to them. I presume it would include both Baltimore and Washington Field Offices as well as FBIHQ. The agents should have been from one of these.

I am reminded of more of that early period, earlier than this one. This also relates to the PA request and the Wayne case.

An agent from the southwest, New Mexico or Arizona, was conducting a security check on Wayne, who despite the felony conviction was employed at or being considered for employment at an atomic installation. This agent interviewed me when we lived in Arlington, Va. I don't think he travelled that distance not to file a report. I believe he drove because I think I recall that license on his car.

Aside: Wayne was not only a confessed and convicted felon. If you examine the list of my requests there is an item about a plot to overthrow the government. A for-real one. Wayne was in on it. I obtained the records from him. Does it tell you something of the time and the prevalent official mind when despite this I was asked if I regarded him as a "security" risk?



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Route 2  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

MAR 13 1978

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Just a quick note regarding your effort, with your wife, to obtain personal materials on yourselves.

The enclosed letter from Ms. K. Randlett Walster of the firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin & Standard, is probably definitive as to references of any possible significance in the Hiss records. As I told you, they are the lawyers for Mr. Hiss. I still anticipate that we will hear from Mr. Perlin, attorney for the two Meeropol (Rosenberg) boys, as well as from Professor Weinstein. Whether those leads are positive or negative, the next step should be for us to talk it over and see where to go.

Another letter or two will be going out today or tomorrow (including the list), but I did want to get this off to you right away.

Sincerely,

Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., Director  
Office of Privacy and Information Appeals

Enclosure

CC: James Lesar, Esquire



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March 7, 1978

Mr. Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., Director  
Office of Privacy and Information Appeals  
Office of the Deputy Attorney General  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Shea:

In response to your letter of February 28, 1978 regarding Mr. Harold Weisberg, I contacted the assistants who are processing Hiss materials released under the FOIA. They have no recollection of documents regarding Mr. Weisberg. A check of our index system shows they have not indexed documents under his name.

I am sorry I cannot be of more assistance.

Sincerely,



K. Randlett Walster

KRW:lb