

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, DC 20409



October 18, 1976

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

We have received your September 28 request for access, under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, as amended, to all records in the National Archives concerning you.

The National Archives holds more than one million cubic feet of records which have been transferred from other Government agencies for permanent retention. The records which we receive from Federal agencies are maintained according to the filing system used by the originating agency. This usually means that the records are filed according to the element within the agency which created them; for example, by a bureau within the agency, then by division or branch within the bureau and so on to the lowest filing unit within the agency. Agency records do not usually include a name file index.

To assist you, we would need to know with what Federal agencies you have had correspondence and if possible the offices within the agency. In addition, we would need to know what dates the correspondence took place and the reasons for the correspondence. If you can provide us with as much background information as possible, we will attempt to locate the information you have requested.

We presume that you are referring to only information that might be located among accessioned records in the National Archives, and not to correspondence with you that is located in our operating files. We are aware of your past correspondence with other offices in the National Archives.

People in the Department of State's Privacy Act office have informed us of past correspondence with you and of documents they located in their files. We have also talked to Mr. Goff and the Records Officer for the Secret Service about your request. We have recently accessioned a master subject and name index to Secret Service records created during the 1932 to 1971 period. Secret Service administrative files accessioned by the National Archives, however, date only as late as 1950. Secret Service investigative files accessioned by the National Archives date only as late as 1938. Mr. Goff is incorrect in stating that the document in question, a December 15, 1954, memorandum to the record, is in our custody.

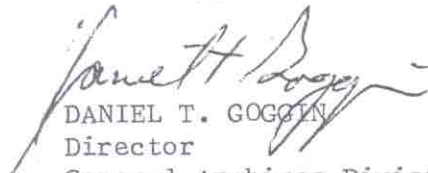
We have made a search of indexes described in the above paragraph and have located one card which definitely refers to you. We have also located two other cards for a Harold Weisberg, but we are not certain that they refer to you. In any event, we are sending you copies of these three cards for your use in writing to the Secret Service for another search of records still in its custody.

The Freedom of Information Act does not apply to most of the holdings of Presidential Libraries because they are donated historical materials and were not originated by Federal agencies.

We have, however, contacted the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library and have been informed that files created by and donated to the Library by Homer Gruenther include a memorandum concerning you. Personnel at the Library also informed us that access to the memorandum is not restricted. They are responding to you directly.

We note that the card referring to the December, 1954, memorandum concerning you also indicates that you were once employed with the United States Government. Your personnel records may be located at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Your request for access to such records should be directed to the United States Civil Service Commission as that agency has authority over the records. In requesting access to your files you should provide your social security number and date of birth.

Sincerely,


DANIEL T. GOGGIN
Director
General Archives Division

Enclosure

12. WEISBERG, HAROLD
 WEISBERG, ESTHER
 GROSS, LEE TAN MARY ELIZABETH
 700 N. 1st St.
 SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA (OLIMPIA, ARIZ.)
 HARRIS, JENNIFER
 GIBSON, MARIE A. GIBSON, MARSHALL
 GIBSON, MARSHALL POLICE
 GIBSON, MARSHALL SUPPLY SOURCE

13. Ladd, Dale Jackson
 Subjects are active in Political Party & work to
 spread the Bill to House. Background check previous
 Govt. employees & with interest in loyalty (see
 memo 5/12/66; 10-24-69; 10-24-69; 4-15-69)

WEISBERG, HAROLD

5-23-66

601.0

WEISBERG, HAROLD

10-24-69

601.0

Mr. Daniel T. Goggin, Director
General Archives Division
National Archives
Washington, D.C. 20408

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
10/21/76

Dear Mr. Goggin,

Thanks you for your letter of October 18 and the attached copies of three Secret Service cards. I address those to whom you referred me by carbons of this letter. I do hope that any search at the St. Louis Records Center is more productive than the responses I have received to date from all sources and its own failure to find my military records when I needed them to exercise my veterans' rights. (Serial number, AUS, 32484933)

Where your letter refers to an act it is to FOIA only. I also used PA.

Little as is the information contained on those three Secret Service cards it serves to illustrate the wisdom of the Congress in enacting the Privacy Act and the extreme paranoia of what was called "loyalty" programs. It is an endorsement of egregious error by police who were turned for political reasons from the areas of their authentic expertise. I understand the Act to give me the right to ask for the correction of all error. In this letter I intend to exercise that right.

You refer to communication ~~is~~ with Mr. Goff. If you have not told him the file number on one of these cards appears to be CO-3-2817, I herewith so inform him.

The amount of factual error on a single 3x5 index card, even after my extensive experience in looking into and earlier of working with federal agencies astounds me.

I recall the visit of SA Griffith and some of our conversation, as without result I have told Mr. Goff. His visit was a surprise in more than one way. In part this was because of the initial factual error, that I initiated any effort to be a White House supplier even though in that part of my life I was officially the best chicken-producer in the country. I did not, Mrs. Eisenhower did. I have never spoken to her. In part my embarrassment was because of the work I had been doing when I was called to meet Mr. Griffith. My clothes and books were covered with a mixture of chicken manure and sawdust from the work I was doing with a neighbor on my buildings.

Rather is this connected with the entry of John Foeter Dulles. He was my customer, again not on my initiative but from my reputation. There was an occasion on which Mrs. Eisenhower was the guest of honor at the Dulles home. She so enjoyed my poultry that she went to the kitchen and asked the cook, whose name I recall as Bertha, her source. Although it is not generally known the late Secretary of State suffered from the gout. One of the foods that never caused him distress was what I supplied.

Here I digress to record the utter stupidity of this matter and the program of which it appears to have been part. I worked closely with the personal staff of those in high station, like the Dulleses. There were a number of ambassadors and embassies. This extended to the United States. It included many luminaries, like Winston Churchill in the British Embassy and the organizational meetings for the SEATO treaty in two embassies that I recall, one vividly. If there had ever been any question about my "loyalty" can you begin to imagine what I could have done? There were even occasions on which foreign heads of state dispatched personal messengers to my farm to obtain my poultry. Once a crew from the White House stopped off by prearrangement on the way to Camp David or the Eisenhower farm.

This reminds me of another exemplification of the stupidity of all of this fetish of false "security." The Eisenhowers, as I recall the President personally, wanted some rare ducks of my breeding to beautify the farm. When I delivered them, by prearrangement, the Secret Service was not only not informed- it was not even present at the open gate! One of evil intent could have done as he wished. I finally went to what had been the dairy of the barn, where Mr. West, who has recently written a book on his years in the White House, took the opposite end of the crate of live duck. Together we carried them to the pond. There I notice there was only a female Canadian honker. I asked where her mate

was. Mr. West said he had been stolen. If one knows anything about any male geese, in particular honkers, one has a sermon on the kind of protection provided the President. (I then was an expert on geese. I was a consultant on matters relating to them to parts of our government and that of France, which is famous for its goose products.)

During the San Francisco convention at which he was renominated President Eisenhower sent Mr. West to see me to express his pleasure over these ducks, their rarity and their beauty. He also sent the message that he would thank us as soon as he returned to Washington. If the Eisenhower Library does not produce a carbon of this its search will be incomplete. I recall also a letter from the President's secretary, Mary Jane McCaffrey as I recall her name, in which she conveyed the President's pleasure at reading some of our or my wife's recipes. My wife and I were both national cooking champions and the President was an accomplished amateur chef. SA Griffith told me of having a "belly full of good Eisenhower stew" the President had cooked for the Secret Service.

Contrary to the inferences of this defamatory and inaccurate ~~record~~ record which I shall address in another manner, after this my wife and I were invited to the White House to be photographed with the President. Individually and together we declined this honor. There were two reasons I recall. One is the quid pro quo that was made clear: on leaving we would say that we were going to vote for him, the other our objections to this. We would not vote for Mr. Eisenhower, who we liked, because it meant voting for Mr. Nixon. We also never commercialized any of our customers as a matter of principle and we would not abandon principle for commercial gain. We did not like the implication of the buying of our votes, either.

With neither of us is it accurate to state that we were "released" from previous government employment "on loyalty grounds." With my wife there is no basis at all for this and the contrary is true. Her last offer of such employment was from the very conservative Republican leader in the House of Representatives, Congressman Wadsworth, who knew her. I had been "released" by the State Department, which then withdrew its baseless action and I resigned. An examination of the names, which I presume is currently embarrassing to the State Department, indicates anti-Semitism was one of the insane factors in what was reported prominently in that period. The fact is that my "security" was cleared by the FBI and after this State Department action the late J. Edgar Hoover himself told the New York Herald-Tribune that there was no basis for it. The late Bert Andrews so reported after his personal interview. (Mr. Andrews won a Pulitzer Prize.) The late Mrs. Ogden Reid was responsible for Mr. Andrews' assignment to this investigation. It was on the initiative of one of two prominent lawyers who voluntarily and without fee undertook the defense that included me, as a result of my initiatives. One of the late Judge Thirman Arnold, with whom I had worked when he was head of the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice. The other is former Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas. The State Department is month late in delivering its records. I can understand its embarrassment because prior to arranging for this defense I was able to conduct a successful investigation that established the political blackmail behind it. I am confident that there are Department records showing some of my knowledge of this as well as a reluctance to make complete disclosure. However, with this, having been patient and I think understanding for many months ~~with~~ since the promise of compliance within a month, I am asking for full and prompt compliance. I do not want these entirely unjustified defamations to remain uncorrected in any secret government files. To this end I also want a copy of the decoration I was awarded for my wartime intelligence service. It was not returned by the Arnold and Fortas firm which since has not been able to locate those records, a separate matter of wonder to me.

Nor do I want an more injudicious official leaks of such defamation now when I can see motive for it.

In your third paragraph you ask for the agencies with which I have had correspondence. These include all branches of the military, Justice, Treasury, all the World War II agencies having anything to do with economic warfare, the Office of Government Reports (which I believe also was otherwise described or titled) and Commerce, I believe limited to patents and matters related to cartel arrangements that interfered with our defense preparations.

While my request and interests are not limited to them I do have special interest in what relates to my investigations of that period in which I exposed Nazi espionage and other intrusions into our defenses, which involved Justice and Treasury in particular in their actions following my exposures and through the records I gave them; and the military in its intrusions into my rights and privacy and through several successful lawsuits I filed as a result of the ruin of our farming by military aviation. With regard to the latter I have specific knowledge of Army, Air Force, Navy (including Marines) and Justice files. These relate to the litigation in federal district court in Baltimore over helicopter overflights and sonic booms, to my establishing a new principle of noise ecology law and resistance to it, including the corrupting of a witness and other such acts and in particular to a totally false report that I had threatened to shoot a helicopter. This latter fabrication is obviously harmful to me. I have added interest in it because I believe it was misused in a manner that may contribute to my present medical condition by severely limiting the physical activity in which I was able to engage. Some years ago I did see references to this falsehood in military aviation records.

The late Martin Dies and his partners in activist UnAmericanism undertook to try to frame me when I was researching a book on that committee. This began in late 1939 or early 1940. As a result of the investigation I was forced to ~~make~~ make in my own defense and the documentary proofs I developed that David Dubois Mayne was actually paid for his efforts by the Dies Committee, especially as I now recall through J. Farnell Thomas, then a Congressman later a convicted felon, ~~he~~ Mayne was indicted and entered a plea of guilty to two charges, of uttering and forging and of false pretense, in federal district court in Washington. I do not recall the judge. The United States Attorney then was David Fine. His immediate assistants were Edward Curran and Ed Fihelly. Mr. Curran and Mr. Fine both became chief judges of that district, Mr. Fihelly war-crimes prosecutor in Tokyo. Aside from their records I do not know what agencies have relevant records. However, I do hope you will cause a diligent search to be made for all of them. You say you are familiar with my correspondence with the Archives. From this I believe you can see the relevance of this ~~prior~~ personal experience to my present inquiries.

If in response to your third paragraph you want more information please let me know.

In your ~~fourth~~ fourth paragraph you assume I have no interest in your operational files. This ~~is~~ is not entirely true. I have interest in those containing notations added to both my letters and copies of those sent to me. I also included GSA as it was involved in these matters. I believe I failed to mention the name of Mr. Harding in the general counsel's office. His name appears on some of these notations.

Next you refer to State and Secret Service. With regard to Secret Service I did broaden this request to include Treasury. You state that Mr. Goff was inaccurate in ~~re~~ referring to "a December 15, 1954 memorandum to the record." The inaccuracy establishes the existence of that record. You follow this by saying you are not certain that the two other cards (all three on one electrostatic copy) refer to me. For Mr. Goff's information both bear the number 601.0. They are dated 5-23-66 and 10-24-69. Both dates can relate to my publication. The general edition of my first book appeared May 7, 1969. As of May 23 the Washington Post was engaged in an inquiry that included the Secret Service preparatory to its main news story in the edition of May 31 as I not recall it. October 24 was a few days prior to the publication date of my fourth book. It also followed the appearance of my third book. All of my books contain extensive references to the Secret Service. Copies of the fourth book had been distributed for review purposes prior to pub date. It is possible that the 12/15/54 memo relates to the Griffith "supply" investigation. I have not been told that search has included the Protective Research files. I do want the further Secret Service search to which you refer. Mr. Goff has not responded to my letter of some time ago on this.

Your last paragraph refers to my government employments, the Records Center and the Civil Service Commission. My requests included all such records, civilian and military. I renew it with carbons to those agencies.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg