

see also earlier + other letters Paul Hoch

Dear Gary,

2/1/78

A hasty note while I await the Enquirer people, who are due about now.

There came a time when requests and prior compliance or not the CIA just stopped letting me have any records. I suppose it will be that way until I get them into court. So my copies stopped just short of the number Ken gave me for the Jackal// records. I'd appreciate copies because they are interested. Ken thought this was in the new material. I'd heard of it before.

I don't know how much I'll be able to do for others, as a practical matter, but I can tell you what I plan. That is to keep a separate place in the files for records of the interests of other and to the degree possible, of what others have gone over. It will not be possible for me to go over these now. If people come to go over the records and will not have time to go over all I'll ask them to consider starting where others have stopped and to leave notes. If possible I'll keep a separate file of copies others have taken, which might make it possible to add to whatever was perceived.

Enclosed will be a copy of each page they've taken back to Florida. They are leaving in the a.m. They liked your idea of your checking. Hil is now copying what they selected yesterday and she'll do today's selection tonight.

The House assassins had the Willises and several others, Mrs. Willis thought who had taken pictures, subpoenaed for now. Mrs. Willis phoned me last night from D.C. She did not know the names of the others. She said that they had copyrighted another 6 pix.

We cleared a separate area of the cellar for these new FBI releases. I got enough file cabinets to hold them all and more. They will all be mechanically separate from the other files and all will be in numerical sequence. I'm going to keep them all just as I receive them for a number of reasons. One is to be able to contest withholdings or to make it possible for others to do this. Before they released a single piece of paper I filed an FOIA request for the records of the reviews and withholdings. They have not responded. We can now take this to court. We intend to as time becomes available for it. (We are also after big hunks of what they have not released.)

My own view is that the FBI took this course to be able to keep control and to be able to make litigation much more difficult. As well as to be able to stage media events of the releases. They knew that before long I'd be after them with about 25 FOA requests all at least 2 years overdue and some more that 9 years. Not a good record for them to face in court. I'm sure they also had Paul and his requests in mind, perhaps others of which I do not know.

If you want copies of any of these pages please give us the file number, if possible the section, but for sure the Serial. The first, of two parts, like 105-82555, is the file number that is written on the document. There is the Serial, which can be of as many as four digits. Sometimes they have a Not Recorded. If you want one of these a description of it, like dates and two and from whom, plus the immediately preceding Serial will make retrieval possible. Hil will then take the Section apart and copy what is asked for and then put the Section together again to keep it as it was. This has been our practice for a while and it is essential in being able to establish what was withheld.

Our victory in getting these records has other importances. As of my last word from Jim the crazy DJ is actually considering suing to recover the records they gave me. They did not appeal when they lost. Now the vindictive nut may force this to become precedent, which it wasn't. While I would think saner heads might prevail and would hate for Jim and me to have the extra work entailed, I'd kind of like them to because of what it will enable me to do.... We have asked for the first 40,000 on an informal level and will file suit if they don't decide soon. In fact if it can be part of the suit we won, I think, and already have status as before a court. Best to you all,