

See FOIA - (1996 Renewal of Requests

Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division
Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

10/28/96

Dear Assistant AG,

The October 25 form letter referring what is not by any means a new request by me to what I take it is a component within your division is inappropriate, is not in accord with the facts stated in my letter of October 11, and I am offended at this newest in an endless series of official delays with my proper requests. I am, as my letter states, 83 and in precarious health. My letter is quite specific in referring to the much earlier requests that included the withheld information proof of the existence of which I enclosed. I think it is indecent for the government to put this at the bottom of its endless backlog when it relates to requests of more than two ~~exceed~~ decades ago given my age and the state of my health and the requirement that requests be processed in order of the time of receipt. Do you have requests of more than 20 years that can properly precede this one about which the Department and the FBI merely lied in order to frustrate it?

I do not know if any of those in your division involved in FOI/PA matters were there when I was making my requests but it appears that the bureaucracy has learned nothing from them. In the end efforts to frustrate my requests took enormous amounts of time and were quite costly. One of the costs was, according to the legislative history of the 1974 FOIA amending, was the amending of the investigatory files exemption.

As my letter states, there can be in this the possibility of official embarrassment. I have no interest in that, justified as it would be, and I hope that the department and its components have enough of that without enticing more of it.

The referral to your division, which I take it the abbreviations on the referral slip indicates, is not in accord with the clear language of my letter. The withheld information the existence of which is proven by the attachment to my letter is relevant in both FOIA requests I filed and litigated and my PA request which was not litigated.

We deposed both of the FBI agents who provided David Fisher with the proof that they withheld from me for his book Hard Evidence and they both withheld that information ~~from me~~. That information also is obviously relevant in my PA request and it was ~~to~~ withheld.

I would like a prompt, truthful and responsive letter from you soon. Otherwise despite my age and the state of my health I may, as under the law I now can, file in federal district court. Perhaps this insight into how you people do not comply with the law can get a little attention then. Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg