

St. 12 Frederick, Md. 21701
4/19/77

Mr. Syd Stapleton
Political Rights Defense Fund
Box 649 Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003

Dear Mr. Stapleton,

In today's mail I have a copy of your 4/6/77 to Mr. Jim Lesar following my earlier letters to Mr. Corliss Lamont.

I hope Mr. Lamont is not ill. It is some time since I sent him some slides in which he had an interest. I have heard nothing further from him.

I am sorry about the lapse of time. It dims my recollection. However, I am pretty certain that the two areas in which I believed you might develop further evidence of FBI domestic-intelligence operations against the SWP relate to one Arnold Lewis Kessler and to the Michael and Ruth Paine, of Dallas in 1963, and their relatives, including one named Young in Los Angeles.

I know I sent Mr. Lamont all I had on Kessler. (Kessler is, as I recall, originally of the Detroit area, was in Mexico, and was in or had connections with San Francisco.) I know I had a memo on Kessler that was unclear. I believe I also sent it to Mr. Lamont.

After the lapse of time I do not recall if I cited to Mr. Lamont what I had in mind when I wrote him about the Paines. I have no records on them not of FBI origin and not from the National Archives.

Prior to the JFK assassination the Paines had separated. Afterward Marina Oswald resided with Mr. Paine, Lee Oswald visiting there weekends. After the tragedies the Paines were reunited. My latest information is that they again separated.

Despite family connections with SWP Mr. Paine held a security job with Bell Helicopter. He was an engineer.

The Los Angeles relative, Young, is referred to in these records in a manner suggesting he could have worked for the FBI. It is my recollection he was SWP.

There likewise are indications that Mrs. Paine, whose connections are to Philadelphia and New York publishing people, informed to the FBI.

I am without staff or regular income and although I have passed 64 I am working about 18 hours a day. It will be a problem for me to copy these Paine files for you but if you do not agree with my suggestion I will. I suggest that you ask the National Archives and the FBI for all records on Kessler and the Paines. You will thus have your own records and no question about how you obtained them.

It is possible there was an FBI source not part of the Cointelpro of earlier and similar operations. My source on the unclear memo on Kessler I sent to Mr. Lamont was Hal Verb, originally from the New York area, I think New Jersey, then of the San Francisco Bay area. He and an older friend of his named Leon were SWP in late 1966. This Leon, then about 70, wrote for or edited a union publication, as I now recall of painters. He still had a European accent. He also had a girl friend who was an FBI employee. She was much younger than Verb, who was half Leon's age or less. When Verb developed an interest in this woman it ruptured the relationship between him and Leon.

It is possible that I appear in the records you have obtained through my having appeared at an SWP function in San Francisco and my friendship with Verb et al. I spoke on the JFK assassination. Keating, who founded Ramparts, preceded me.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg

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April 6, 1977

Mr. James Lesar
910 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Lesar,

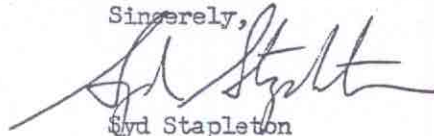
A few months ago a letter was given to me that had originally been sent by a client of yours to Corliss Lamont of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. ECLC gave me the letter because it offered information that might be of some use in the Socialist Workers Party suit against the FBI and similar federal agencies. Your client, Harold Weisberg, suggested that we contact you if we were interested in obtaining any of the documents he has secured through the Freedom of Information Act.

We managed to misplace Mr. Weisberg's letter, and only rediscovered it a couple of days ago. If he has received any documents from any federal agency that relate in any way to the Socialist Workers Party, the Young Socialist Alliance, or any of their members, we would be very interested in seeing them. While our case was filed over three years ago, we are still in pre-trial discovery. We have obtained nearly 200,000 pages of documents from the FBI, CIA, IRS etc., but we believe there is a great deal more we have not yet seen. Any previously undisclosed documents or information Mr. Weisberg has might help lead us to further disclosures.

Please let me know if you have anything that you think might be of value to us. I'm enclosing a collection of newspaper articles on our case for your general information.

Thanks very much.

Sincerely,



Syd Stapleton

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