

September 8, 1970

Mr. Jim Garrison
4600 Owens Blvd.
New Orleans, La.

Dear Jim:

This has been a pleasant, relaxing weekend, the first in a very long time, with no work as I conceive of work and a really enjoyable visit with Mary Ferrell, whose purpose in coming was also to relax. I am at an in-between point, having completed going over the editing of one of my books and with obligations of the coming week preventing concentration on other writing that had been laid aside.

As I presume you have been told, I've won the first freedom-of-information suit against the government (Justice), have filed two more (one against Justice and one against GSA and Archives), and have two others roughed out and ready for final revision before filing. I think the effects may be far-reaching and not too long in demonstrating what may be accomplished by such actions. Need I ask you what one can anticipate of the effects on anything today? However, I do permit myself some optimism about these.

With work not pressing upon me, and especially with the weekend's reminiscing, other things come to mind. I write you about one.

There came a time in the work I was doing down there when Louis told me you were without the funds to repay the costs. He told me that there was no certainty they could be repaid me but that if it became possible, it would be done. Nonetheless, because the work had to be done, I did follow it whenever I could, borrowing the money with which to do it. This remains part of what for me is an enormous indebtedness.

This question came up a number of times in my conversations with your staff, the last right before the Shaw trial. One of the reasons I was not there is because I simply could not add to my indebtedness. Moo and I also had several conversations about this, for he expected me to be there for the trial and I had to try and impress upon him that it was impossible. I believe on one of these occasions Jim Alcock was present and I know Bud was once, for he made a crack about the old fire-horse. At that time I not only alluded to the debt I had incurred in an effort to help you but made it quite explicit that I simply could not add to my indebtedness. Moo's response was a reiteration of the promise he had made on earlier occasions, that he would see to it, personally, that when it was possible these expenses would be returned to me and that somehow a means would be found, not only to see to my expenses for the trial, but also that a salary or fee would be worked out for the work I had done, especially in the period immediately before the trial. You may recall that you, per-

sonally, repaid those of my out-of-pocket costs for that period of time of which I had been able to keep a record. That was a time of the most intensive work.

Now that you have the Maryland case settlement, I hope you will repay these expenses. Louis has a record of them. My recollection is that the total, exclusive of what you repaid, is something over \$1,000. I gave Louis itemized accountings. My need for it remains urgent. The work I do has precluded employment for many years.

While the effects of these unrelenting years has slowed me down some, I believe the work has been successful. Not knowing whether your interest continues, I will not bore you with details when so many other things command your attention. Although I have not been focusing on it, this includes some rather interesting New Orleans information. In one aspect of that, your office had promised me some material that, I regret, has not been supplied. This will limit, to a degree, what I will be able to do with the project I have undertaken. One of my regrets derives from the fact that, if it is successful, it will be a meaningful vindication.

I presume you are getting to the point where you will be bringing the remaining cases to trial. Though the heavens fall ...

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg