

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701  
7/16/77

Dear Donovan,

Because I fear that any letter from me to anyone on your committee will cause suspicion, no matter how innocent the letter or how unrelated to the committee's work, I am asking Mark Allen to give this to Kevin for you when he sees Kevin. I would also like Mark and Kevin to consider if they can provide a statement of similar nature.

In addition, I'm enclosing a copy for Jim Ingram. I do not know how to address him. The request of him is similar and as with you it relates to the previous Congress.

For some time Jim Lesar has been reserving rights to recover all costs in my FOIA cases. In one in which they have become quite heavy for me we finally forced a DJ decision. Instead of granting the request they offered me a bargain-basement discount. I have appealed in writing and if there is no reconsideration, the crumb offered being the result of an appeal, Jim will be going to court on the issue when time permits.

In that particular case as will be true in all I have already consigned all of my records to a university system. More than two file cabinets of material have already been delivered. This is without any quid pro quo, not even what I'd love, foundation support for continuing work.

I think that for this and for other reasons I qualify for the options in the Act that permit the remission of all charges. What I would like is to obtain first-person statements, perhaps best as affidavits, from those who know that I have operated my records largely publicly. You and Tim know of this from your Abzug subcommittee days. Tim also know that I have made freely available in addition to the records the knowledge I have obtained from those records.

Tim knows better than I the provisions of the Act and decisions under it on the provisions. You both know the contributions my records and knowledge made toward the hearings then pending. If Tim is willing it might be helpful for him to recall that my willingness extended to a time of dangerous illness and considerable pain and that I took this time for his committee on the way to the hospital, that he drove me to DC on that occasion and for that purpose. (Reminds me Scott has spend weeks going through my files and could file a statement.) Please mention this if you see him.) Tim may or may not recall what I am sure Scott will because he delivered me to the hospital room, that in order better to serve the committee and a Senate one I took a private room, which I paid for and could not afford.

I'll get in touch with Scott but please mention this if you see him.

Jim and Howard Roffman are my executors, so Jim can confirm what is not essential for the more limited statements I'm asking of you, that I have in fact made arrangements for 100% of my records to be public records in a university archive.

My hope is that the statements I obtain are both specific enough and general enough to be used in all FOIA cases where the sums involved are sufficient to justify the effort to obtain the remission of costs.

Thanks and best wishes to you all.

Harold Weisberg