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16 May 1996

Ben A. Franklin, Editor
The Washington Spectator
London Terrace Station
P.O. Box 20065
New York, NY 10011

Dear Mr. Franklin:

I am a subscriber to your very fine newsletter.

In the May 15, 1996 issue you provide an interesting analysis of how FOIA requests have been handled since the first enactment in 1966 and the amendment in 1974. You state

"When bureaucrats continue to resist the FOIA, the courts came to the rescue."

You go on to state that judicial opinions made the FOIA a "more useful tool" and so forth. Well, it depends. Harold Weisberg, a noted Warren Commission critic who has published a number of books on the JFK assassination recites in his most recent book, "Never Again", Carroll and Graf/Richard Gallen, New York, 1995, how the federal courts repeatedly sided with the Department of Justice/FBI in the thirteen FOIA lawsuits that Mr. Weisberg filed seeking information relating to the JFK assassination. While occasionally Mr. Weisberg would get a quasi-favorable decision from a federal judge, most of the time he was met with stubborn hostility from federal judges who seemed almost totally committed to protecting the FBI and other federal agencies. If you haven't read his book, or talked to him (he lives in Frederick, Maryland) perhaps you should do so!

This is for your information.

Yours truly,

THE JOHNSTON LAW OFFICES, P.A.

By _____
James P. Johnston

JPJ/lw

CC/ Harold Weisberg