

12/11/72

Chief, White House Helicopter Detail
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

This will be new to you, so I begin with a background. You should find a file on us with a Nysatstown address and a map showing our property there near the intersection of I703 and State Route 109.

Our farming and we believe our health were ruined by low-flying military helicopters, including those of and used by the White House. There was a law suit in which we won and in which the court held that at 800 feet the helicopters became trespassers. However, the medical consequences were such that we had to abandon the farm, on medical advice. We moved to this more remote area, about .3 mile off Shookstown Road, on Old Receiver Road, which is pretty close to Camp David. Generally we are aware of traffic to and from Camp David, but generally it is either not overhead or quite high. My wife's reaction to these flights is little more than annoyance.

At about 9:30 this morning there was a very low overflight. By low I mean under 800 feet, well under the higher part of the mountain on which we live, and directly overhead. Its flight path was slightly off right-angles to our house, or roughly North to South. It was so low that we could feel the pressure of the beat of the rotor inside a completely insulated house that, because of the weather, was entirely closed. As I remember the types from the days when I was to report overflights to the Pentagon, this was a Huey, a type that seems to have been used extensively in the past month or so. Except for the OD color of the bottom, no identification was possible.

I still remember the White House number of your office I had been asked to call reverse if I so much as saw a White House helicopter, SF3-0555. Today it is not a good number. So I write because I am confident the sympathetic attitude Major Doster then had continues today. I don't think any of you wants to hurt us, particularly my wife. Aside from emotional conditioning to helicopters because of what they did to us, my wife has a glaucoma condition for which such distress~~xxx~~ is bad and holds some jeopardy.

When the Department of Defense learned of what was happening to us, it issued directives that all aviation avoid us by five miles and regularly for some years it included a special notice to this effect on its manuals, of which my lawyer has some copies. I cite this as official recognition of the situation and the hazard for us.

So, I write to ask that you learn where we now live, mark your maps accordingly, and have the pilots avoid us. This would seem to me to represent no problem for the pilots and no inconvenience or delay for the passengers. Because we appreciate the beauties of the area, we can well understand how the President finds it relaxing, as we can understand the need, when he is nearby, for others to visit him. However, this does not seem to require inconvenience or danger to us, and the medical danger is real.

I look forward to hearing from you or your representative so that we might effect the relief we require without drawing any attention to it. If I do not, however, I shall have to ask our lawyer to seek injunctive relief, for I am deeply concerned about what can eventuate without it.

Sincerely,

cc: r. Harvey Clapp, III, Esq.

Harold Weisberg