

3/4/71

Mr. Gerald D. Fines
Assistant to the Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Fines,

Your letter of February 22 arrived when I was out of town. In response, let me begin by quoting the first part of your second paragraph, for I think it is inaccurate and that it would be unfortunate were such a misconception to become a fixed idea:

"In order for your request to be considered, it is necessary that you complete the enclosed Form DJ-118 in detail."

This is not accurate as a matter of either fact or law, and most of the information provided by your Department and others is provided without completion of such forms. You may legit to require the completion of the form. Because you have this right, I enclose the completed one.

Naturally, I could have included one with the original letter. However, as you may not understand, I find the whole concept that a citizen must use legal force to obtain public information from his government inconsistent with the theory of our society and government.

I do hope the day comes when government feels the same way.

The required check is also enclosed.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg