

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701  
8/13/76

Mr. James J. Kilpatrick  
White Walnut Hill  
Woodville, Va. 22749

Dear Mr. Kilpatrick,

Your letter of the 10th states a problem with which we are all too familiar. You state is fairly. We each have more to do than we can do well. So, each decides for himself how he can best spend his time.

I can't and don't argue with you and I do thank you for giving some thought to the situation of John Ray.

In two areas I seem not to have informed you as much as I'd have liked to.

While you can say I was suggesting a crusade to help John, I had more in mind. And perhaps less. I had in mind only one column. I also had in mind that this victim of injustice of the right is a symbol of what has happened to justice and what I think must be done about it in the nation's interest. Of course a single, responsible column can require some work.

It is not only the FBI that erred in this and in other cases. The same is true of the CIA, which did not discover mex or invent the wheel. Fairness to thms means not blaming them for more than they did, if they have yet to be blamed for some of it.

I know of no case, including John's, in which the FBI could have gotten away with its multitudinous misdeeds without at least the silent sanction of Departmental lawyers. Currently I am having extensive experience of this kind in FOIA suits. False swearing and deceptions of courts are commonplace. The lawyers file these knowing better, knowing they are violating the law. From two such filings of the past two days and in one suit I'll have to write responses that will run to the length of a book for my lawyer. How dirty can these Departmental lawyers be? They've delayed this until they knew my lawyer would be abroad for four weeks and I would be without counsel. No paper just filed is not a month old and some go back to May.

The corruption of the system of justice is the deepest subversion, to me. Perhaps from this you can understand my interest in John.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold Weisberg

JAMES JACKSON KILPATRICK  
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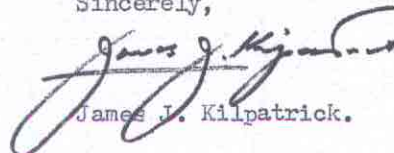
10 August 1976.

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Your letter of the 7th arouses my interest, but I have to be honest: It doesn't arouse my interest enough to propel me into girding my loins and donning armor for a crusade in Ray's behalf. The years have taught me that I can be effective in only so many causes at one time, and I have about all I can handle now.

My old childlike faith in the FBI has been shaken by recent revelations, so I wouldn't put anything past the Bureau, but the kind of exhaustive investigation in which you have engaged is an enormously time-consuming task. My trouble is that my limited time is too consumed as it is.

Sincerely,



James J. Kilpatrick.

Mr. Harold Weisberg,  
Rt. 12,  
Frederick, MD 21701.

VS.