

Dear John,

12/28/91

I've enough time before a friend is due to respond to your 12/24.

First I've forgotten to ask you - if you see anything on the Oliver Stone movie other than in the Post I'd appreciate copies. No time now for explanations but I am the one who began the exposure of the fraud and travesty he commercialized and exploited and not only might the information be useful now, it will help perfect the historical record.

Including, of course, in your travels.

I've not been to the Archives in years so McMonough is unknown to me. Her behavior is not in keeping with her responsibilities, to say the least. If she does not know the truth she is on that basis alone unsuited to her job. It is well known.

That one transcript is withheld by decision of the D.C. federal court. The given reason, by the government and agreed to by the judge, is to protect Norman Redlich's privacy. I believe the real reason the government withheld it under 7(C) is to protect Gerald Ford in particular and a number of other politicians, of whom I remember Sawyer,

who was on the HSCA, for their virulent anti-Sedition at the behest of the right extreme. I have all the other ex. session transcripts as a result of that suit. this session, apparently forced by Ford in an effort to get Redlich fired.

The government's claim was spurious because it had already disclosed to me some 300 pages of the filth that Ford used to get Redlich fired. The Commission would not do it.

So, first it would do no good to file under FOIA and then what could be obtained is of little significance compared to other undisclosed records.

The records are in the suit you identify. Lesar and I have all the records in it.

Thanks for your good wishes. We both hope the coming year is better than realistic indications promise.

Sincerely,

5530 Eastbourne Drive  
Springfield, VA 22151  
24 December 1991

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
7627 Old Receiver Road  
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

On the drive home this evening I had thought about starting this letter *You're not going to believe this...* but then I thought that, yes you would, and moreover would have expected it.

As I arrived back in town this morning, I decided to stop off at the Archives to view Entry 1 of RG 272, Executive Session Transcripts, as *Whitewash IV* had peeked my interest. Well, I got them, checked them against Marion Johnson's inventory, and found that they were all present except for the 19 May 1964 file. In its place was the GSA Form 7117 (inclosed), dated 12/18/80, announcing that access had been restricted. More about this later...

After spending 90 minutes at the copier, I had to have the copies reviewed for purposes of insuring that they had been appropriately *declassified*. At that point, the poor individual in the bulk copying room became overwhelmed with the problem and called Ms. Sue McDonough, who is, as best I can determine, the current archivist for RG 272. As an aside, the first time I met Ms. McDonough and introduced myself she kind of nodded and I had to ask her ... "And you are?" ...before she even deigned to give me her name. Her body language simply reeked with ...*Here's another one who wants to snoop in my files...* Getting back to the main point, she and another assistant had to come down and personally go through the 470+ pages of material and ascertain that I wasn't stealing *state secrets*. She had to personally stamp pages of material (when I got home I realized that they were now out of sequence which required some work to re-order them). At one point she mandated that they had to be stapled together. When I asked why she said, "So you can get through the guards." When I suggested that the copies were my personal property; that I didn't want staple holes in them; and, that simple banding them and wrapping them (a common governmental practice) to which she could certify inspection on the outside of the wrapper could suffice, she replied, "That trick might get you the night in the D.C jail" ...so much for having a hoilday spirit.

Eventually, after about 75 minutes of this, she finished her work, and returned the copies to me. At that point I asked her about the May 19, 1964 transcripts. Question: Can you elaborate as to why they are still restricted? Answer: No, file a FOIA! At that, she turned and walked out. Merry Christmas, bah humbug! As you might guess, the guards didn't even see the material in my briefcase, being absorbed with my telephone and computer...state secrets they might have been but the guards would never have known it.

See, you would have expected it, but this was my *first* experience with the Archives on this issue and this is 1991, not 1965!

With respect to the May 19th transcript, it's interesting that the GSA form is 11 years old and uses *NA* as its authority. If they used *NA* as I would, that would indicate that there is no authority...but that wouldn't be surprising. Therefore my questions:

1. Johnson's 1973 inventory indicates that it was included in Entry 1 at that time. Your court actions are an historical record that could only indicate that at time of filing they were not available. As the GSA Form indicates it being a withdrawal notice, was the May 19th transcript, at any time available to the public? If they were, can they be withdrawn once publically available?
2. Are the last actions regarding this transcript your suits DCCA 78-1731 and 77-1831 or are there subsequent actions of which you have knowledge?
3. Is the May 19th transcript worth new action?
4. Would you recommend a FOIA request?

Your views on the above would be appreciated.

As this is Christmas Eve, allow me to wish you and your wife a very happy holiday and a healthful and joyous New Year.

Sincerely,

  
John

ACCESS RESTRICTED

The item identified below has been withdrawn from this file:

File Designation Executive Session Transcripts

Date May 19, 1964, Transcripts

From \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_

In the review of this file this item was removed because access to it is restricted. Restrictions on records in the National Archives are stated in general and specific record group restriction statements which are available for examination. The item identified above has been withdrawn because it contains:

- Security-Classified Information
- Otherwise Restricted Information

NA

Authority

12/18/80  
Date

WITHDRAWAL NOTICE