

Senator Charles Mathias  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

10/15/86

Dear Mac,

In going over a box of old things Lil found a letter to me from the distant past and it reminded me of something I've been intending to ask for many years but forgot. It is important enough to me for me to ask the favor and to take time I ought be spending in an FOIA appeal in which I am, unfortunately, pro se. I'm supposed to spend five hours a day now taking care of myself and that is a big hunk out of every day, so I don't have the time I need for anything.

Back in the winter of 1940 when I was a magazine correspondent I began work on a series of exposes of Nazi cartels. That was the shibboleth period, of the Nazi-Soviet pact. One of those exposes was of the makers of plexiglas, Rohm & Haas. It appeared in Click, then the third largest picture magazine, owned by the Annenbergs. Mo was then in jail and Walter ran the entire operation. They were quite impressed by that article and they sent copies to all the Members of both Houses and to many in the executive agencies. In response there was a quite heavy <sup>volume</sup> of very favorable letters, praising me in some cases. Several members of the cabinet, people in the White House, and what interests me most of all, J. Edgar Hoover. (Naturally, the FBI has never been able to find his letter of praise, even when I told them where it was filed.) To the best of my recollection, the issue in which that article appeared was dated June, 1941. It may have had a slightly <sup>earlier</sup> ~~later~~ date and appeared that month. The next month they published excerpts from these letters. Because of the FBI's intensive efforts to falsely portray me as some kind of Communist, I'd like very much to have at least the page of those letters or them and a copy of the article. The magazine should be on file at the Library of Congress, if nowhere else I believe in the copyright files.

<sup>October, 1941</sup>  
The letter that triggered this was from a U.S. representative of the anti-Nazi Polish underground. I was in touch with a number of the undergrounds and wrote then at least one article, with copies of some of what I'd gotten from that man. It may interest you to know that those with whom I was in touch were not anti-Semites but were the opposite. Unfortunately, this was not true of all Polish factions.

If when you have more time and you are up this way you are interested, that Rohm & Haas business involved Hugh Scott, then a Congressman, working behind the scenes and at a secret Patents committee hearing, a real kangaroo court, on behalf of the Nazi outfit. Rohm & Haas then was exactly that. It was vested after my story appeared. I gave all the evidence I collected to the anti-Trust Division of DJ, to Joe Borkin. Quin Shea told me that he believes Joe, also a friend of his, took all of that with him when he left the Department. It was while I was working on Rohm & Haas that I blundered into what I could never get printed, the cartel arrangements by which we were denied use of the German patents on synthetic gas and rubber, which I also gave to DJ and which now does not have them. Shea was satisfied about that.

The appeal in which I'm pro se may interest you. In a FOIA suit for the Dallas and New Orleans FBI records relating to the JFK assassination investigation they demanded discovery of me, without precedent under FOIA, which places the burden of proof on the government. I refused for a number of reasons, including that I had already, voluntarily, provided all such information and documentation of which I was aware (undeniedly, two file drawers of it!), that it was burdensome, excessive, beyond my capabilities, etc. Judge Smith gave them a money judgement which I also refused to pay and he denied me permission to take the issue up on appeal. DJ then threatened to seek a contempt citation, which I dared, because that would have required, I believe, a trial they'd never dare risk. Instead they sought and got a duplicating judgement, for the same claimed expenses, from my friend and lawyer, Jim Lesar. That would have been a horrible precedent and it was eliminated on remand. While this was then on appeal the FBI disclosed to another requester proof that it had committed perjury, fraud and misrepresentation to get the judgement. But that

they got the judgement against Lesar created a conflict of interest and thus I'm pro se. As I'm not able to get to the Library of Congress I'm not able to get to where I can seek counsel on this.

I've filed the proofs, they can't be denied and are not, they are just ignored by both the defendants and the courts. And we live in a period in which undenied felonies by the Department and Bureau are not news, so there has been nothing in the papers. These proofs leave it without question that what Smith was told by the government, under oath and by counsel, were false, were known to be false and that as I'd said under oath, without denial, leave it without question that the reasons given to get the discovery order and thus also the judgement were known to be false when uttered. There has been no apology to any court, nothing has been withdrawn, and all the indications are that despite their undenied felonies to get the judgement and thus to hurt me and I fear to establish evil FOIA precedent, they will prevail.


I filed for relief from the judgement under Rule 60(b) and included that it is now inequitable, one of the provisions of that rule. So, it is not easy for a nonlawyer, particularly when he can't get to a law library and has little time.

This is an indication of where we now are under the present administration and of the changes in the judicial system and the press. What has happened to us, both question mark and explanation point.

I'm sure you'll be happier in your new life, in which I'd and I wish you the best of luck and happiness. Our best to Anne and the boys, too.

Thankd for anything you can do to get me the copies. I do want to be able to include them in the archive I'm leaving.

Sincerely,



Harold Weissberg  
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