

Mr. Carl Stern  
NEO News  
4001 Nebraska Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20016

2/14/83

Dear Mr. Stern,

In anticipation of what I thought I saw coming, another government effort to rewrite FOIA using me as a presumed unpopular plaintiff, I wrote you and a few other reporters about a year ago. You took time to write, and I appreciated it, but please do not feel any such need because my purpose is merely to inform you. I've been through this before and I expect nothing from those who have been, are and will be the major beneficiaries of FOIA. I expect no major media interest or coverage, much as I believe the abuses and excesses are newsworthy when we have an administration with a clear record of withholding information and making it impossible for major events to be covered.

Please excuse me for using a copy of a letter I wrote Mac Mathias yesterday but I'm a little older and a little wearier.

I suppose I should get some satisfaction from the fact that these powerful people, after contriving a situation in which they could have me held in contempt, fear doing that. And fear taking their judgement to a Maryland court. Maybe I do, I don't really know because any such feeling is lost in my concern for the Act and all it can mean and the new threat to it and to lawyers that these authoritarians have evolved.

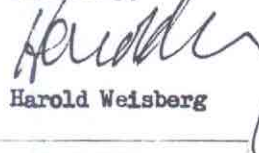
If the records I refer to are of interest to you, please let me know and I'll send you copies. I do not include them because I know you stay busy and I do not want to seem to be asking you to read more than you have time for.

My lawyer has an appeals brief for another client due today and he was behind on it when we spoke last week so if there have been any developments I am not aware of them. If there are any that appear to be significant, I'll update you.

I've informed the Reporters Committee on Freedom of the Press but I expect nothing from it. I've not had time to hear, however, because the address I had was wrong and when my mailing was returned I obtained the new address and remailed it. But I remember a similar situation of a little more than a decade ago when I went to it, the ACLU and the Nader people and asked them to file amicus briefs that clearly were more in their interest than in my one. None did. And Andy Jackson turned out to be right about one determined man.

I'm a first-generation American and that helps me be no less determined. But I can't do as much as I did then. I'll do what I can and I'll hope it may be enough.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

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