

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
5/31/77

Miss Jane Smith
Director, Civil Archives
National Archives
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Miss Smith,

Your letter of the 27th came today, with the enclosed pictures, for which I thank you.

Happily my medical problems do not include low blood pressure. If they did I would benefit much from letters like yours.

This would only begin with what I wrote you to which you do not respond.

For more than a decade I have maintained a non-interest bearing account at the Archives. During all of this time I have been paying interest and I have never demanded an accounting of this fund of the Archives. Generally I seek to keep about \$100 there.

In all of these years there has been no release of JFK materials you have made that I have not obtained. Two years ago, when I was first taken ill, I tried to persuade the Archives to send me automatically each release as it was made. I then, as always, offered to maintain an adequate deposit (on which you can make money) and as always assured any added cost. The Archives refused this. Not because my desires and my intentions were either unknown or unclear.

It is now about two month since I requested the newest release. You have made this release. Others have been writing me about it for quite some time. But despite all our correspondence, including that signed by you and by me, in all this time you have not told me its cost. (The Archives did write me that I had a negative balance when this was untrue, when I had a positive balance of the usual \$100.)

Now you tell me that the cost will be "about \$170." I have no objection to having a few pennies more on deposit, but after you have been making this available to others while denying it to me am I to believe that you do not know the exact number of pages? That you do not know what you have been charging those others to whom, in discrimination against me, you have been sending copies while not providing me with copies?

A check for \$170.00 is enclosed.

You do say that "copies of the documents that you ordered will soon be completed."

For all the world as though you had not said this and for all the world as though I had not asked for these public records two months ago in the very same paragraph you also say "To order copies, please send a check..." For all the world as though I have not maintained this non-interest account and had not assured any added cost.

I'm getting older and tired and I may not have the memory I once had. However, I have no recollection of your informing me of this release. I have a very clear recollection of having asked for everything once withheld once it was released and of the Archives' refusal. And I am entirely without doubt that I did make specific request for this release and sent an extra check to assure you.

Not that at 20¢ a page for xeroxing when I have a \$100 deposit you have to worry about loss. Not that if there is any one part of government not commercializing the JFK assassination, at 20¢ a page, it is not the Archives. Your cash cost per copy is about a cent a page, unless as I suspect you have built inefficiency in. And you are to render public service. Not make money of this terrible crime.

You are really talking about a couple of hours of work on a machine quite inferior to what the government provides its bureaucrats when you say "copies of the documents you ordered will soon be completed." You are talking about not much more than 10 minutes' work on a modern machine for copying.

After about two months?

"While you generally avoid responsiveness and there generally is nothing I can do about it I do ask you to let me know how many orders for these same records you have filled since you received mine and why, when there is no claim to any Archives FOIA backlog this long after my request you are only now telling me that it "soon will be completed."

I do want to know if you have supplied these records to any others whose requests you received after mine.

If there is only one, and I believe there are more, I also want to know why any one request was complied with prior to mine, which as of now has not been complied with.

I also want to know why when years ago I first asked about the Secret Service index I was given a figure half the size of the number of entries you now tell me it includes. The Archives received this index at least ~~several~~ a decade ago. Has it in this decade taken the biblical injunction to be fruitful and multiply this literally?

If in your ivory tower you are detached from what I refer to above about copying machines, as I am sure I have written you today they can make two copies a second. At your inflated charge of 20¢ a page you are talking about 850 copies.

That I can feel and express indignation over all of this you may not let yourself understand. However, if I am in factual error, I do solicit correction.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, DC 20408



May 27, 1977

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Frederick, MD 21701

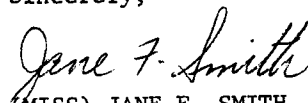
Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letters of May 9, 17, and 21, 1977, concerning the records of the Warren Commission.

Enclosed are the copies of Shaneyfelt exhibits that you ordered. The electrostatic copies of documents that you ordered will soon be completed. The cost will be about \$170.00. This does not include the CIA document that you do not want or the Secret Service indexes. The indexes include about 12,000 cards. We can furnish you a microfilm copy of the indexes for about \$200.00 or an electrostatic copy for about \$400.00. The actual cost will depend on the meter count when the records are copied. The balance in your deposit account is now \$69.50. To order copies, please send a check or money order made payable to the National Archives Trust Fund (NNFL) and addressed to the Cashier, National Archives (GSA), Washington, DC 20408.

The Secret Service records that were recently released have not been deposited in the National Archives, and we have no information concerning them.

Sincerely,


(MISS) JANE F. SMITH
Director
Civil Archives Division

Enclosures



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