

8/9/74

Dear Dr. Rhoads,

Your letter of the 5th informs me that CD1131 (4p.) and "the deleted sentence of page 26 of CD 1552 (a)" have been declassified.

With what I am sure you believe is propriety you also inform me that I may have these four pages and a sentence for your new minimum charge of \$2.00.

The charge is nominal enough but I believe there is a principle involved and it is about that I write.

There are some functions of government that were never intended to return a profit. They are supposed to be services rendered to citizens. I can't pretend to know what your costs are but your price for xeroxing has gone up when commercially it has dropped considerably.

This, however, is not my major complaint.

You have on several occasions put me to considerable trouble and expense in improperly denying me what was not supposed to be denied. The recent occasion should be fresh enough in your mind, if not in Miss Smith's. In this you have also wasted much for the government, a small share of which also comes from me.

I have yet to be given access to anything that was ever denied me where there ever was any for the original denial.

But in each case, in varying degrees, there was an extra cost to me and extra trouble and intrusions into my work and my ability to do the work.

I think you owe those of us who use the Archives a policy in which at the very least it assumes responsibility for its own - shall I call them "errors?"

In the last case, the extra cost to me was half of the cost at the time of the original request. And that no matter how small the sum, as a matter of principle there should in such cases be no ~~minimum~~ minimum.

With regard to those pages referred to in Miss Smith's letter, I would like to know who classified originally and the basis, the same for the declassification and why the declassification seems to be out of the regular order.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg