

10/16/77

Dear Wendell,

Someone who deplores what Lane does and represents sent me the enclosed clipping.

Among the few researchers who are serious and responsible he is deplored, recognized as for all practical purposes as a disinformation operation more effective than the government agencies could train and use.

I make no special efforts to keep up with him but things are sent to me, including what by now totals a fair number of tapes of appearances. He has been growing even more vicious about reporters. Mostly Burnham and Lordner and ~~max~~ sometimes O'Leary but not excluding you. In your case he may not have mentioned the name. With the others of course they are all CIA agents. The tawdry sells well.

This is the only thing I've received since we spoke.

For some reason the CIA is stonewalling me on the mind-bending records. I've been onto this since long before the first story, my FOIA requests are old if not the very first, and the CIA had been complying. In turn I've been making copies for others, ranging from a reporter who is interested and far from D.C. to a psychiatrist far away. But beginning with the time they admitted finding what was first described as financial records only, right after Turner took over, they have been pretending I've not filed under FOIA and have to stay at the bottom of the list. I've not received a page since then.

I have no personal interest in those records or that subject now. My interest in obtaining the records I can ill afford is to add them to the archival deposit I will make and in the present to get copies to two experts. My reporter ^{friend} had an involvement in the early days of that despicable concept of national security.

If the Times got those records, do you think I could borrow them long enough to make copies? I'd post any bond required to assure against loss or anything like that. There have been quite a few pages released. In fact I'd be surprised if they did not have an occasional special one buried where a reporter with a deadline would not reach, especially if it is the kind of record requiring a subject knowledge.

Of course I could pressure the CIA by going to court. I've exhausted my required administrative remedies, the phrase of the Act, not the reality. But that would be a waste of the little time I have. I have no special interest in FOIA scalps. They'd probably deliver as soon as I filed a complaint because they have no excuse or defense. But I'd much rather not waste that time and money and give them more statistics relating to how FOIA has made it impossible for them to concentrate on their mission, etc. They and the FBI are compiling statistics they've been creating to weep all over the Congress to get FOIA amended so they won't have to disclose as much and can hide more.

Thanks if you can do anything.

Best,