

Route 12 - Old Receiver Road  
Frederick MD 21701

April 17, 1979

Tom Bates, Editor  
Oregon Magazine  
Portland, Oregon 97200

Dear Tom Bates:

A hasty offer of help if you get sued for publishing your CIA story.

I have had much experience with the CIA and other spookeries in Freedom of Information cases. Their perjury on "national defense" claims is SOP and always, without exception, supported by the government's lawyers. I have court records that remain without dispute on this. They include my providing proof that the CIA had already disclosed what it swears must be withheld under "national security." Even after I notify them that they have sworn falsely, in private communications to avoid the scandal that would come from attention to court records, they do not respond, do not relieve the perjury and actually persist with it before judges who do not question them or fear to.

They have actually claimed under oath that not to withhold the name of a newspaper and of a hotel could lead to the breaking of diplomatic relations and other horrors by locating a station in a country. They claim under oath that they have to withhold identification of the countries in which they have operations yet like newspaper and hotel names until recently they never withheld them. And who doesn't know?

Like me, you may be caught up in a spook campaign against the people's right to know what government does, the words and spirit of the FOIA. They seek to misuse these meaningless things to an end, to be able to suppress, with what they establish in one case being used in all others. So they look for what they think they can get away with for use where they really do fear embarrassment from disclosure.

My lawyer is Jim Lesar, 910 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20006 (Suite 600); telephone 202/223-5587, home 484-6023.

The investigatory files exemption of FOIA was amended over one of my suits in which the FBI prevailed by ~~serious~~ misrepresentation. This resulted in the opening of investigatory files where there is no harm. So hurray for your standing up for the First Amendment because some good may come of it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg