

December 2, 1968

Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Vinson:

By the time you got around to answering my September 14 letter, almost two months had elapsed; therefore, you described it as "recent". This, however, is better than you have done in the past, when you failed entirely to respond because you dared not.

Yet it is consistent with the content of your writing dated November 7. That epistle is responsive to nothing, certainly not to my letter. It is written as though you were one of the authors of the Warren Report. When it concludes with "thanks" to me "for the confidence" I "have shown" in the Attorney General, it reads into my letter what is not in any sense warranted.

On the remote chance this is all some horrible accident, a case where an officious clerk undertook to answer a letter to which the Attorney General himself did not deign to reply, I again respectfully request a meaningful response to my letter of September 14.

In order to be completely honest with you, I do not intend to let the matter drop when you (for cannot I depend on the government to be consistent?) either evade or, without looking into it at all, reject my proper request. Therefore, I want you to know that I have some of what you have suppressed and assure you that you are doing so in violation of law and regulation.

If, as I anticipate, you will again ignore this request, I ask that you outline to me those steps I must take to carry it forward in the prescribed manner. That is my intention. I believe it is also the urgent national need when government lies to the people.

For the record, I do not have confidence in an Attorney General of the United States who speaks with the authority of his office about important matters of which he has no knowledge, speaks of them erroneously and wrongly, and in the pretense of ending suppression, formalizes and perpetuates it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
CENTRAL DIVISION

Department of Justice
Washington 20530

November 7, 1968

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

The Attorney General has asked me to reply to your recent letter concerning your request that certain Warren Commission documents pertaining to the late David W. Ferris be released to the public.

At the time the Warren Commission went out of existence, it transferred its records to the National Archives so that they could be permanently preserved and made available, to the maximum extent possible, for research purposes.

The major portion of the records of the Commission has been reviewed in accordance with guidelines established by the Department of Justice and is now available for research. With regard to the Commission material which has not yet been released, a periodic review is now being conducted to determine what further Commission records can now be made available to the public. We expect that this review will be completed in a short time.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and want to thank you for the confidence you have shown in writing to the Attorney General.

Sincerely,



FRED M. VINSON, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General