

5885 Edenfield Rd., Apt. B-29
Jacksonville, Fla. 32211

July 12, 1977

Freedom of Information Appeal
Deputy Director
U.S. Secret Service
1800 G. Street N.W.
Room 944
Washington, D.C. 20223

Dear Sir:

I write in reference to a letter to me dated July 6, 1977, from Thomas A. Trombly, SAIC FOI/PA, Office of Public Affairs. The letter is outrageous and should be brought to your attention.

Mr. Trombly's letter enclosed three documents pursuant to my FOIA request. These documents are heavily masked and Mr. Trombly's letter cites a myriad of FOIA exemptions, never specifying which exemptions apply to which deletions. I am confident that few, if any, of the exemptions apply. In fact, there has been a gross abuse of the FOIA by your agents in this case.

To begin, two of the pages sent to me with deletions were earlier furnished to another researcher, Mr. Harold Weisberg, without a single deletion. Why the double standard? How can the deletions qualify for exemption in one case and not in another?

For your reference, I enclose copies of the pages sent to me and those sent to Mr. Weisberg. A comparison reveals that Mr. Trombly improperly invoked the FOIA exemptions in making deletions on the copies sent to me.

Among the items deleted from my copies were the name of James J. Rowley, Director of the Secret Service, "Mr. Clark," the Attorney General, Martin Richman, Acting Assistant Attorney General, the file number which is publicly known and was on other documents furnished to me by the Secret Service.

I will not embarrass you by asking that you tell me how disclosure of any of the above information would, as Mr. Trombly alleged, "constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" and "endanger the life or physical safety of law enforcement personnel." Surely, Ramsey Clark's privacy would be invaded if word ever got out that he had been Attorney General. Surely, James


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Rowley's life would be in danger if the public ever knew he was the recipient of a memo concerning transfer of the windshield.

And for this indecency I am charged \$5.30.

I appreciate the burdens that the FOIA may place on your agency, and I am willing to be patient while your agents comply with my requests pursuant to their statutory mandate. I am, however, deeply offended by this flagrant abuse of the law and the consequent imposition on me. I hope you will see to it that in the future your agents make mature, rational decisions with respect to releasing documents and deleting information.

Sincerely,


Howard Roffman