

8/14/68

Dear Richard Sobel,

More than the three weeks during which you said I would hear from you have elapsed. If this is because you have not made up your mind, it is good, because now I can offer you some assurances of the most important but entirely unofficial and silent help in a suit against the government, from lawyers who cannot be publicly (or here) identified who, I think, can qualify as the world's experts on the Freedom of Information bill. They are anxious for the suit to be filed, in Washington, and can help in other significant ways.

When you know you are coming to Washington, I would like to be able to arrange and bring you and them together. At least one is frequently out of town, so I should know in advance.

Since I saw you there have been no developments in the "Ringier" case of which I have been informed. I have been getting rumors that others plan similar suits against me, in two other States, neither of which is my own, at the very least. One may be in California, the other in Florida. Both are frivolous suits, but they may attract considerable attention because these reports include the reported interest of LIFE magazine and a TV network. While I would welcome the suits if I have legal assistance, I will not be happy about the accompanying defamations. I think this is not unrelated to my unpublished work.

Before I went to New Orleans I had drafted much of a book I call COUP D'ETAT. Since my return, certain sensational materials I had expected have become available. These also bear vitally on government suppression. What has not been suppressed I have incorporated in the text, which is not about 50,000 words. What I have here is pretty much the story of the Birmingham church bombing, among many other things! What is suppressed deals with this bombing. I have the name of the man supposed to have done it, the names of accessories, and the federal government knew all about it, even had the voice of one accessory describing it, on tape, which I now have. Not from the federal government, however, but from a private source. There is no doubt of the content of what, in this case, is suppressed, for it was indexed and I have the index!

This book should be valuable and exciting to Negroes. I wish I thought there was chance of its immediate publication. I now have three unpublished books and have no prospects of the help without which I cannot publish. With slight help I could have that one out in less than a month. I wish I could reach responsible Negro leaders and let them see what I have and how it can help them, without it costing them anything, perhaps with the possibilities of yielding their organizations an income.

I hope I can get good news from you soon.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg