

Dear Jim, attached Richard E. Sprague correspondence 2/10/78

No, I'm not being cantankerous.

If this time he does not do as asked let us forget the whole thing. I hated to have to take this time all over again.

There is always the chance that Ted improved on what I wrote but what does it say of Dick if he expected that I could give the FBI a letter like that attached - under any circumstances - or that it could recognize a letter that does not identify him as PA authorization?

Unreal and quite immature.

This is not a good day. I also did overdo it chopping the ice. But alas if I do not do it we can have more trouble. I can't begin to do all of it but at and near the house it is essential and it is also essential that I remove what I chop out to a safe distance.

If tomorrow has a sun like today's I'll have all close to the house away, the lane clear to past the turnaround and some of it clear. This means that when people come in, and 'il has strangers daily, it will be as safe as I can make it at the house, where they park their cars and walk.

But I was strong in the letter to avoid any more departures from what I said.

If you find what I said is adequate there now is no need for you~~x~~ to write him, saving you that time.

Please not that I said I'd make no distribution of anything nasty. I think this is necessary, particularly to Bud because Sprague is calling him CIA.

Best,

Richard Sprague
193 Binewood Road
Hartsdale, N.Y. 10530

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
2/10/78

Dear Dick.

Your letter was delayed reaching me because several years ago they renumbered the rural routes. We have not moved but we are now on 12, not 8.

It has been a long time, as you say. I don't know what you have been told about my situation so I'll explain and perhaps at the same time explain a certain degree of exasperation over having to write all over again and ask you to do what I asked you to do, not the substitution, which is totally useless and irrelevant.

More than two years ago there was acute thrombophlebitis in both legs and thighs. Damage was permanent. It reduced my capabilities very much. Last year an arterial problem was also diagnosed, further reducing my capabilities. Neither contributes to longevity.

This morning I started before 5:30 a.m., not much after 5, and this is not uncommon. I should not be doing this but if I am to do as much as possible of what I have undertaken I have no real choice. This I hate wasting time. Getting up that hour is not unusual. Sometimes it is earlier. And I do nothing now except this work.

Our lane is longer than a football field. It is the only way in or out of our place with snow or ice on the ground. For a week it has been solid ice, 8 or more inches in some places. I have not dared try my car on it all this week. Getting them all represents some hazard because I'm on a heavy dose of anti-coagulant and may not fall. I'll bleed internally if I do and the anticoagulant is to deter clotting.

Today I'm more tired than usual because I spent more time than I should have chopping and shovelling ice. When I get tired I also get weaker and the already reduced blood circulation is reduced still further.

I'm sure you realize that I have no personal interest in the personal lives or others or what is more probably, the distortions of them by the FBI.

I have an unusual situation in court which enable me to get the records on you under certain conditions. I was quite specific about those conditions in what I wrote Ted, having heard that you had moved. If he paraphrased and misled you I'm sorry. But I'm also surprised that you think I could flash a letter most of which is none of the FBI's business at FBI HQ and walk out with the files on you. You should know them better than that. Matter of fact it would be quite wrong for them to provide records on that basis. That way they could get away with leaking all the viciousness they could invent.

I said nothing about the CIA and as of now think I am not able to do anything about records there although I have filed the same request there.

My ability to do this is limited to an FOIA request of FBI and DJ that includes an item on the CIA. They told me that for those whose records I want I have to file the kinds of papers I wrote about. You were in CIA so it includes you. That simple. Also that limited.

I will not be acting as your agent and I neither said nor suggested any such thing. If I show something like that I'd be accused of misusing that FOIA request. But in the sense of giving you whatever I get I will be acting in the non-legal sense as your agent.

Jim Lesar may write you separately about this. He may now have to take time he also does not have to provide a draft for you to fill in. So you'll understand, he is doing all of this without fee and at the cost of taking cases from which he could get a fee. He also sometimes works around the clock to get done what he is able to get done. His time also should not be wasted.

From your letter you should have already done what is required, execute an affidavit of identification. It includes your SS number, name, address, date and place of birth. I think it would help to include prior addresses going back to when you first joined CIA. Now please restrict it to this unless Jim says something else. The sole purpose is to identify you to the exclusion of all others. So don't even say anything about your work. I guess you should say "I have been a member and member of the board of CIA." (Don't even add that you resigned. That is not relevant and none of their business.)

Going along with the affidavit write this simple letter:

I am the Richard E. Sprague identified in the accompanying affidavit. I will write and provide this affidavit to Harold Weisberg and his counsel Jim Lesar, in connection with C.A.75-1996 and the CTIA Item of the request in that matter. My purpose is to authorize the release to them and to nobody else of any all records of any form, nature or origin possessed by the Department of Justice in its various components, including but not limited to the FBI, headquarters and all field offices; the Civil Rights Division; the Criminal Division; the Office of Professional Responsibility; and any other part of the Department that has had anything to do with the subject of political assassinations.

Now they'll probably demand that we make a separate application of each and every field office. So please give us a list of those you have reason to believe may have a file on you. This means any place you have made an appearance at least. It also means the field offices in whose territories you have lived. If there is a separate one for where you now live, include New York City in the list.

Send all of this to Jim because he is the one who will use it.

Copies of the prior correspondence and records that you refer to can be helpful. It would probably be better to send them to me and let me go over them and see what I can pick up. I'll then send them to Jim with a separate memo.

I know some of the records the FBI got from CIA because Bud got some but not all. I think there is a way we can handle that: they are required to refer to the CIA for disclosure. That they be able to do this is why I used the words "origin" and "possessed."

Where there are occasions on which you met and talked with FBI people, please include that in a separate memo. Still a separate one on what they said about me, with details, please - place, date, what they said, what they showed you (Ted told me about the pix and I have requests for the pix going back to 1968).

There will be costs, 10¢ a page, maybe 6¢, and it will probably include a copy of everything you have written for Berkeley and others.

I'll send Jim a carbon of this. He'll have it Monday. I understand from Ted that you will be away for 2 weeks. If Jim feels it is necessary to write you further or to correct any of this you'll have a letter from him by the time you return. If you do not, PLEASE do as I ask LITERALLY. I'm getting too old and too tired to waste time needlessly.

As I also wrote Ted I believe that where there is anything that can be defamatory in one of these records I would prefer to send any such record to the person involved. (In your case Jim or I will send them only to you in any event, unless Jim has to use one in court. In that event he would mask the nasty stuff.) Each critic can then decide whether or not to make further distribution or to accompany any such distribution with a memo. Understand, you also have the right under PA to file a correcting memo and to have it always with those records you may claim and not accurate. While I'm far from having all the records on me what I have encourages me to encourage you to take my advice. They do terrible things - and believe it is right.

Jim will understand what you have written because I'll send your letter to him. His address, if you do not have it, is (home) 1231 4 St., SW, 20024. Best wishes,

Feb 7, 1978
193 Pinewood Rd.
Hartsdale, N.Y. 10530

Dear Harold :

It has been a long time. Ted Gandolfo sent me a copy of your letter to him mentioning the FBI's documents on me. Please consider this letter as your authorization to try to obtain any documents they have on me, under the FOIA. Also I authorize Jim Lesor to see them as well as yourself.

On July 28, 1975 the FBI (Kelley) sent me a letter enclosing two totally innocuous documents they "found in their files" on me. This was in response to my request under FOIA to see their files on me. In Kelley's letter is the following paragraph.

"Other information which you requested is exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Title 5 United States Code Section 552, subsections (b)(2) and (b)(7)(C) and (D)."

And later, "You have never been investigated by this Bureau, although your name is mentioned in several of our records, primarily due to your interest in the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy."

There follows a detailed listing of thirteen publications where I was mentioned or was an author.

Harold, that is all bunk. How did I get my top secret security clearance, which I held for twenty years at least, (1942 to 1962) without an FBI investigation? Also, how did they come up with all of those references to me if I had not been investigated. I'm familiar with the FBI's information system and it's not that good, unless someone spent a lot of time pulling all of that data together somewhere along the line.

The clincher is that I met and talked with a number of FBI agents who were assigned to attend and report on my lectures around the U.S. I spotted many more in my audiences. What happened to all of their reports? I suppose Kelley will maintain they are in local files. I would not believe that. I'm sure there are central files on all of us, certainly any one who was active in the CTIA.

I would like to see all of that type of information. I don't know whether you can pull it off or not, but with your recent success, you probably have a greater impact on the FBI than any of us. I will pay for any costs associated with obtaining those records if you encounter any. Please try to get the stuff referred to in Kelley's letter to

me, dated July 28, 1975, ^{that they withheld.} As a minimum I think I'm entitled to a detailed listing of that material and the specific reasons for withholding each item. I suspect the file on me contains the following, at least:

1. Reports from FBI agents from many cities around the U.S. on my photographic lectures on the JFK case. These should begin in 1970 and run through 1973 at least.
2. Reports on the activities of the CTIA with references to me as a board member.
3. Reports on a wiretap on my home telephone installed around 1974-75 sometime I caught a guy in the act of putting on or adjusting the tap.
4. Security clearance investigations dating from my Navy career days, 1944 to 1946, G. E. clearance 1942-1944, ^{withhold 1946-1973}

In 1975 I also initiated a request for the CIA's files on me under FOIA, which culminated in a letter from Gene F. Wilson, dated Dec 10, 1975. It said they conducted a thorough search of their records and located only one item pertaining to me. They sent a copy of it. It was a letter from Bud to the CIA dated March 1971, on CTIA letterhead which listed my name as a board member.

They coordinated their search with the FBI because Wilson mentions that the FBI had already provided me with a copy of another document which the FBI obtained from the CIA. It was one of the two

innocuous documents enclosed with Kelley's letter.

Harold, the CIA must have voluminous files on all of us, especially me, because I have been publicly accusing the CIA of being involved in JFK's assassination, in the cover up conspiracy, and in the control of the media, ever since 1970. There is no way that those accusations could have failed to come to their attention for eight years.

Can you do anything about obtaining their records on me? If so, this is your authorization to do so, in addition to the FBI,

Good luck,

Dick (Richard E. Sprague)

P.S. All my best to your wife and to Jim Lesar.

P.S.S. I visited William Shackelford at the FOIA research room at FBI headquarters. He showed me color slides of the Powell photo. While there your name was mentioned by Shackelford and another FBI ^{man} ~~agent~~ in the room. It was prior to the judge's ruling on your case against them. They used a number of caustic remarks in connection with your suit, and it's too bad I didn't have a tape recorder.

P.S.S.S. On second thought I realize you probably need a separate page for your authorization, so I'm enclosing one.

To Whom it May Concern:

This is an authorization for Mr Harold Weisberg to act in my behalf in obtaining documents under the Freedom of Information Act, pertaining to me, in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Weisberg and his attorney, James Lesar, are hereby authorized to look at such documents.

Richard E. Sprague
Hartsdale, New York
Feb 7, 1978