

Treasury FOIA/P4 - DJ referrals, SS.

Dear Ms. Kennetti,

12/30/79

I'm sorry not to have been able to respond to your 12/3/79 sooner. This does confirm that I agreed to a short extension of time when you phoned about Department of Justice referrals. Thereafter I heard from your Mr. McBrien, who wanted a little more time. This confirms that I told him to take whatever time is necessary for proper processing.

Because you received this referral on 11/2/79 and in almost two months have not completed the processing, perhaps there are problems with which I can help. I did make this offer, in all seriousness, to Mr. McBrien. With such matters as what is within the public domain, what has been disclosed by other agencies and things like that, I can help or can refer you to others whose memory may be better than mine.

After we spoke I wrote the Secret Service about its non-compliance with my PA and FOIA requests going back to 1971, perhaps earlier. I know I filed an all-inclusive JFK request in 1971. I enclose Mr. Bacherman's 12/13/79 reply, which I regard as stonewalling and non-responsive. Obviously there is no connection between his reference to the 1974 amendments (for which I have some responsibility) and my requests of three years earlier. If in fact the Secret Service did turn over all copies of all its records to the National Archives in 1979, I also regard that as immaterial to my 1971 requests. I am aware of earlier reports of such transfers that were not true.

In plain English Mr. Bacherman's references to compliance are not true. I am aging, I'm not well, and if I'm going to have to spend time proving these kinds of things to those whose own files hold the records I'll do it for a court instead.

It is not possible for me to enclose a copy of the 1971 inclusive request because a student is going over my Secret Service files and putting them in order. But I assure you that recently I did see the 1971 request and that the Secret Service files will not disclose any compliance.

What happened at about that time, probably a bit earlier, is that I was invited in for a conference, with Counsel Goff, Assistant Director Kelly and p.r. man Jack Warner. They did not want me to sue and I did not want to either. We made an agreement that they would give me certain records that they could not withhold under the Act in any event and I would not sue. They then were leaned on by others who did not want the embarrassing information disclosed and they did not keep their agreement. However, I did not sue, for reason I'll explain if you desire. Later I did file the inclusive request. It includes everything. Even when Secret Service was forced to disclose about 6,000 pages to another they did not provide me with copies. When I was about to sue the Archives for some of what Secret Service withheld it provided copies of those records.

Pretty much of the foregoing is included in records disclosed by other agencies, particularly to one to whom I gave a privacy waiver.

Compliance with my PA request was entirely incomplete. One of the areas of non-compliance may explain the other non-compliances: the FBI galled the Secret Service with false reports of which I now have excised copies. By accident, in another matter, the FBI did not excise what identifies this notorious character, an extremist of the far right and in other ways thoroughly un dependable. He told the FBI that the Secret Service was conspiring with me to besmirch the FBI and the FBI passed this on to the Secret Service. It is false, a fabrication without any basis. But nobody did any checking. The FBI, for its own reasons, didn't want to. Its records disclose its determination to "stop" me and my writing and that was an effective means.

I doubt very much that I'll want to use any records I may obtain from the Secret Service in my planned writing, what will be possible for me at my age and state of health. But I am leaving a public archive, I want it to be as complete as possible, and I do want an opportunity to use the PA to cleanse some of the official garbage that can be used and has been used to undermine my work and its credibility.

When I can I'll be writing Mr. Decherman again. If anything can be done to keep this from becoming as unpleasant as it can get I think it would be a good idea and in the end will cost the government less and cause much less embarrassment. If some of what I have gets aired in court and gets any attention there will be some embarrassment.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg



ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

December 3, 1979

RE: 79-11-02

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is to confirm the extension of time for response to your Freedom of Information Act request for material relating to the John F. Kennedy assassination, (referred in part to this Department by the Department of Justice) which we discussed via our telecon on November 30, 1979. The extension you granted for our response is December 14, 1979.

Attached is a copy of our original acknowledgement letter to you which indicates the date we received the referral from the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

Linda K. Zannetti
(ms)

Linda K. Zannetti
Chief, Disclosure Staff

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Route 12
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Pm 1322

Enclosure

November 2, 1979

RE: 79-11-02

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is to inform you that the date of receipt, in accordance with 31 Code of Federal Regulations 1.5(e) of the Freedom of Information request submitted by you to the Department of Justice, which has been referred in part to this agency is November 2, 1979.

A response to your request will be dispatched by November 19, 1979 unless such limit is extended as provided in 32 CFR 1.5 (g) or 1.5(1).

Further inquiries concerning this request should be directed as follows:

Freedom of Information Request, OS
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

and should make reference to the number indicated above.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Linda K. Zannetti
Chief, Disclosure Staff

Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Frederick, Maryland 21701

CODE	INITIATOR	REVIEWER	REVIEWER	REVIEWER	REVIEWER	
SURNAME						
INITIAL/DATE	/	/	/	/	/	