

7/15/73

Mr. Archibald Cox  
Special Watergate Prosecutor  
1425 K St., NW  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Cox,

This is my appeal, under 5 U. S. C. 552, the so-called Freedom of Information Act, from the refusal of your office to provide me with a copy of what the law calls "public information", namely, the ~~released~~ pages of the transcript of the grand-jury testimony of E. Howard Hunt, ending with page 39.

After the release of these pages, I went to the office of the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia and asked for copies. I was told that everything had been given to you and that no copies remained in that office.

I asked a member of the District of Columbia bar to obtain these pages from your office. In my presence he made a number of fruitless - I might say responseless - phone calls to your office. Since then he informed me that your office told him it would release "nothing."

The law supposes that the applicant for public information will address his request to the agency of paramount interest. In this case that would seem to be the office of the prosecutor, who made the release and obtained the information I seek. According to the Attorney General's Memorandum on this law, if the agency to which the request is made is not the agency of paramount interest, it is required to forward the request to the agency it considers should respond, and that agency is required to handle the request as though it were made directly to it.

The law also requires <sup>the government</sup> to process such requests with "speed." I think you are aware that delay in obtaining public information can be particularly hurtful to a writer. In this particular case, the taint of suppression of information is one I would hope you would not want to exist, particularly because you do have an information officer.

If I do not hear from you within a reasonable time, I will have to consider the right given me by the law, to go to the United States District Court, where a complaint under this law goes to the head of the docket.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg