

July 14, 1969

Mr. Thomas J. Kelley, Asst. Dir.
U.S. Secret Service
Washington, D.C. 20526

Dear Mr. Kelley,

It is simply outrageous that you delayed a month and a week in replying to my letter of June 2 and then did not do what the law requires of you and what I specifically requested. Such undeviating and deliberate misconduct by your agency cannot but feed the suspicions its own record has more than warranted.

It is outrageous because you did precisely what I asked you not to. I did not write the Secret Service until having been entirely improperly held in limbo by the National Archives and other agencies of government for almost a half year. The second sentence of the second paragraph of my letter anticipated and responded to what you did. It is an unevitable probability that this inordinate delay in writing a very brief letter of but three dozen words was but a further deliberate federal violation of its own law and regulations, contrived to delay my work, put needless and improper obstacles before me, and could be done because you do not scruple to use and abuse the raw power you can get away with exercising. This manner of conduct is more befitting other societies. It can neither be condoned nor excused in a free society. It is what Hitler and his servants did. I wish I thought it possible you people were capable of feeling shame!

Now if you did not lie to me the Archivist of the United States and, but most certainly you did not both tell the truth. It has been months since I wrote and protested the refusal of my request of January, saying precisely what you did, that the federal copy was required to be in the Archives and available to me. Expecting the dishonesty that permeates government when a popular President is murdered, in my letter of June 2 I was quite specific: I asked for the proper form to execute under the Freedom of Information. Yours is the agency of origin and if it is not incumbent upon you to supply this, I do believe it is incumbent upon you to direct me properly. Your avoidance of this is but another of the disgraceful federal and Secret Service misdeeds. Certainly a prerequisite for being either Director or Assistant Director is the ability to read the language.

I now renew both requests: for a copy of the document and, if you refuse it, a citation of the authority that empowers this; and if you do not within a reasonable time provide this document, I renew my request for a copy of all instructions and forms required to invoke the Freedom of Information act or a citation of the authority to refuse to do this. I am determined to not only get what I am entitled to but to make my government work, to the degree I can.

If you find this letter intemperate, then I solicit your explanation of your long delay and non-responsiveness, not for the first time. And I ask you how a bureaucrat secure in the knowledge he will be protected in his total contempt for ever decent concept of democratic government is to be made to assume his responsibilities in a society such as ours. Disgustedly. May 14 1969

7/14/68

Dear Mac,

I think we know each other well enough for me not to hide my dismay that the new administration is no less the practitioner of the fascist-like abuses of its predecessor. I now have official confirmation of the fact that the Secret Service made of transfer of the autopsy pictures and X-rays is at the Archives. This makes everything that has been done of deliberate dishonesty. My last letter is still unacknowledged. In fact, it is two months since I asked for certain charges I advanced for an associate and charged to my account, and they have ignored repeated requests for even this simple thing. You never get a bill from them. You merely give them money and when you run out they stop filling orders until you renew the account. I have never asked for a bill in all these years, nor has an accounting ever been volunteered. Which is one way of running a government agency.

Enclosed is a copy of the indignant letter I have written Dr. Rhoads.

It is not short of completely outrageous that government can so conduct itself. These people are not naturally dishonest. They do not do these things that can be no better than a blot upon them without someone demanding it.

The Department of Justice has on every occasion failed to respond to my requests, including the knowledge and documents required for use of the Freedom of Information Act. It makes no difference what administration is in power, you boys are just a bunch of bums to them. Pass laws as you will; those uncongenial to the devious purposes of the bureaucrats will be ignored.

Now it happens that with regard to this autopsy material, the record is much worse than I have sent you. I asked for all of it in the spring of 1966. I was not given all of it. Fediouly, I have dug more out. When they leaked the Kennedy-family contract to the New York Times, secure in the knowledge the uninformed reporter would misuse it and kill the story, they never made proper response to my inquiries, not to this day. When they did the same thing with the Commission executive sessions, all over again, the same. Now I have proof that this papers I have sought since January, when its official existence was disclosed by the Clark "Panel Report", has been in the Archives all along and merely suppressed because a citizen does not have the power to make them obey the laws. However, it falls within the description of what I asked for in 1966!

Nothing remains but the trappings of freedom.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

July 11, 1969

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Since the National Archives is the official repository of the document you asked for in your letter of June 2, 1969, your request has been forwarded to that agency for such action as they consider appropriate.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Keiley
Assistant Director

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UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

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