

Dear Les,

7/3/80

There may be nothing that a novelist in the throes can do and for some reason not apparent to me because we've never even spoken Jack apparently finds me a taboo, but in today's mail I got something from the FBI on which I, meaning the people for whom I'm surrogate, need help. The Department of Justice made the administrative decision to waive fees in providing information on the JFK and King assassinations. The FBI has just ~~cancelled~~ cancelled this and said that it won't even search for records- that I requested under FOIA as much as more than a decade ago - until I agree to pay what it ⁰knows I can't pay.

It may be part of a ploy to cut the throat of the head of DJ FOIA/PA appeals, who has overturned the FBI more than half the time, in all cases, not mine. They and those in DJ who are opposed to FOIA have been out to get him for some time.

It forces me to litigate, which effectively "stops" me and my writing, the FBI's word for its intent in records I've obtained. And it costs the government much more than xeroxing paper does. Even lots of paper.

What I have is in all meanings of the word a public archive. I make it public now and I've arranged for it to be a permanent university archive after I'm dead. I make the records and my knowledge available to all, even those I like and mostly those with whom I do not agree. I provide copies and have worn out a copying machine I can't afford to replace making copies most of which were not for me or my writing.

⁰Overcoming the determined official opposition to obtain these records has made my use of them in writing that I wanted them for impossible. Knowing this the FBI and DJ have spent vast sums of money to keep me tied up in court. They've had as many as six DJ lawyers ~~and~~ I don't know how many in the FBI - working on me at one time. All not to comply with the law of the land and deter disclosure of what can embarrass the FBI and perhaps lead to needed reform.

I meet the legal and regulatory requirements for the fee waiver, otherwise I'd not have obtained it. A federal judge has held that I do.

The vast machinery of eminent bureaucracy turned against one man, with the limitless treasury or public funds, and through him against the people's right to know. Hastily,