

Dear Les,

7/15/80

Tried to save a day in getting a copy of the FBI letter to you and learned that the copy I gave Jim Lesar was made when our machine needed service and has a long streak of white down each page. You should still get that one before the good copy that will be enclosed. I'll replace his also.

In the event you want some quotes I enclose a copy of George Hardner's story on the suit before Gesell. I think Gesell also referred to my age, now 67. The medical problems begin with the circulatory. When you saw me in the hospital I was about to learn that I'd lost the service of the main veins in both legs and thighs. Two years later, arterial obstructions were diagnosed. (Coming and going, so to speak.)

The FBI and some parts of DJ will try to put a proper face on all of this. If you have any questions about the law, Lesar's office phone is 223-5587, home 484-6023. Handling this kind of litigation has been financially ruinous to him. He's had to take part-time work from Bud, in whose office he now is. He's never received the public credit that is his due. He's in the great tradition of American lawyers, principled, pioneering and without any support. (Sort of like the great tradition of American journalists and their capacity for indignation - too few are great enough to retain that capacity, with all the good that can come from it.)

If one of Jack's young associates wants a number of column items, I think in a day he can get quite a few here. Came on one day before yesterday in some records it has taken four years to get - how the FBI controlled the internal investigation of it by preparing incomplete inventories of the records it held on what it had done to Dr. King. The Atlanta inventory does not include a room full of tapes. My problem will be remembering all of them.

For your amusement KK I'd made a carbon of an appeal last year, forgot to send it, I suppose because I intended trying to find a better copy, but can still do it if you'd like a copy of it and the underlying record.

Many thanks for your willingness. Defending FOIA is defending the most basic American belief. It is a means of deterring authoritarianism and what the errant agencies won't admit, of improving them. Best Wishes,