

1/20/04

Dea Les,

Thanks for thinking about it, anyway. Meanwhile, as I think I indicated, the FBI and its lawyers have moved the rubberstamping Smith to amend the judgement against me so that my lawyer, Jim Lesar, is required to pay. I think you can see what this means to all lawyers who may handle FOIA (and perhaps other) cases for scholars and others who are without means or even wealthy lawyers whose corporate clients refuse to pay such an improper judgement on principle.

The danger I saw to FOIA is here, now, and I am not able to get to DC to stir up any interest of action. How I wish I could get someone like Hirschkop to really get into this case and take some initiatives!

Jim is one of the finest human beings I've ever known, but he remains the flower boy he was in college in the 60s. He is just emotionally incapable of fighting.

The underlying issues are even more significant for FOIA. Believe me, if the FBI is upheld on appeal, for all practical purposes FOIA is over.

Apparently the public-interest lawyers fear that the government is just waiting for a case to take to this Supreme Court and have FOIA declared unconstitutional.

An initiative such as this incredible case makes possible could have a very good effect. I think I am in a position to sue them for money damages, and once that happens, there may be fewer lawyers and FBI SAs making careers for themselves by uninhibited mendacity and other anti-American practises.

But thanks for thinking of it.

Best wishes,