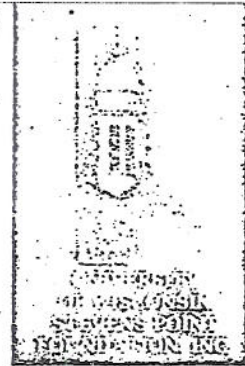


This is mine except for last paragraph, p. 2, which was added by Foundation without my knowledge

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN • STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN 54481

March 17, 1978



Mr. Stuart R. Mott
800 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Mr. Mott:

Will you consider funding a crucial Freedom of Information Act project which will be of historical significance, make legal history in the development of the Freedom of Information Act, and provide the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with the documents to develop an archive of national importance for the study of political assassinations.

The work of Harold Weisberg, a renowned critic of the investigations of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and a key figure in the court cases developing the Freedom of Information Act as an essential public tool, is at a vital stage and requires assistance. Mr. Weisberg will donate his voluminous archives on the assassinations and FOIA lawsuits to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where an archives for the study of the integrity of basic American institutions will be established. The University has already started to publish a series on the Freedom of Information Act and Political Assassinations based on a portion of the documentary records generated by Mr. Weisberg's lawsuits.

His work and files are of unique historical importance, exceeding in quantity as well as matching in quality the collections that established the nucleus of several modern research libraries. Mr. Weisberg has dedicated over 14 years to this work and his accomplishments have been the scholarly underpinning to the basic understanding of the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King. Through more than a score of fiercely contested FOIA lawsuits he has forced the FBI, Department of Justice, CIA, Secret Service, National Archives, Energy Research and Development Agency, and State Department to release massive amounts of material. In January, 1978 Federal Judge Gerhard Gesell stated in his decision releasing the second batch of FBI documents that Harold Weisberg's legal suits are the sole reason that the first and second batch was released by the FBI.

His development of the FOIA as a major investigative tool has been publicly recognized by courts, federal attorneys, and Congress. It is important today to carry the work of Mr. Weisberg to fruition on several

Mr. Stuart R. Mott
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crucial FOIA issues. This work will vastly enrich the value of the archives at the University, having an impact on scholarly investigation into this area for generations to come.

Mr. Weisberg must have the assistance of a professional person with specific credentials for an exacting task of three years duration. This person must have subject matter knowledge in the Kennedy assassination area, have writing ability, organizing ability, and a legal background.

For that reason we are seeking a grant to facilitate Mr. Weisberg's obtaining more documents, organizing them for scholarly use, and assisting in pulling together the several fundamental elements in his legal suits and from his research. The grant will enable him, also, to put in publishable form the work he has done and will do, in order to inform the public years earlier than could possibly be done under present circumstances.

The Civil Division of the Department of Justice has a six-person Weisberg team to resist several important suits now in litigation. Other agencies have similarly organized to resist. The government has continuously impeded Mr. Weisberg's efforts to obtain the evidentiary base on the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King. This has taken the form of transferring documents from one division to another so that their existence can be denied, an order from J. Edgar Hoover to the Bureau and its attorneys to ignore Weisberg's requests and suits, etc.

Time is important. Several of the legal cases are at critical junctures and Mr. Weisberg's health is impaired. It is necessary to use immediately his unique qualities and expertise.

If you wish to explore this matter more fully, please let me know. I shall be happy to discuss details with you over the telephone at your convenience.

We have a member of our faculty who is a national leader in the academic study of this material and a close friend of Harold Weisberg and James Lesar. If I cannot be reached, he will be able to provide you with specific information and the thrust of our planning. He is Dr. David Wrone, Department of History. His home phone is (715) 344-8148.

Sincerely,

Lee S. Dreyfus, Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

LSD:amt

Enclosure

PROPOSAL

1. Funding: \$135,000
2. Duration: 3 years--\$45,000 per year
3. Use: Salary of professional assistant to Weisberg
Sustaining funds for xerox, phone, file clerk, legal filing fees, etc.
4. Professional Assistant will work with Weisberg at his study in Frederick, Maryland. He must have the following qualifications:
 - subject matter knowledge of the JFK assassination
 - FOIA expertise
 - writing ability
 - legal background

Howard Roffman is the person who is potentially available.

24 years old; excellent credentials, personality, etc.
author: Presumed Guilty: The Framing of Lee Harvey Oswald (1975).
Understanding the Cold War (1976)

Law Clerk, 1977-1978, with Judge B. Simpson, Fifth Federal Court of Appeals.

5. UWSP will acquire a professionally organized, expanded, unique archives that the UWSP will make available to any seriously interested student of the assassination or FOIA. It will be enhanced with publications from time to time.

For immediate further information contact Harold Weisberg's attorney:

James Hiram Lesar Home: (202) 484-6023
1231 Fourth, S.W.
Washington, D.C. Office: (202) 223-5587

Harold Weisberg (301) 473-8186
R.R. 12
Frederick, Maryland

The UWSP Foundation, Inc. has the appropriate letters of determination from IRS to permit receipt of funds from individuals/private foundations.

Project Director

Dr. David Wrone
History Dept. UWSP

(715) 346-2296

Director of Development

Dr. Leonard L. Gibb
Executive Director, UWSP Foundation,
Inc.

(715) 346-3811