

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701

4/3/77

Prof. Lewis Wolfson
School of Communication
301 Mary Grambon Center
American University
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Prof. Wolfson,

Howard Bray has informed me of having mentioned my need of a research assistant to you. I do not know what else he told you. If in this I do not tell you all you might want to know please ask. 301/473-8186. I take it from your not having told Howard you have no idea that you perhaps might have a candidate or two in mind.

What I need is an all-around helper. One who can edit would be ideal, particularly if this person is a good typist. It makes no difference to me if this person is a man or a woman. Part of the work will have to do with obtaining material for me from my own files, part with going over the enormous amount of once-suppressed official records I have and continue to get in a virtual deluge, part will consist of filing. While I am active and can probably put in more hours than the helper I had ~~xxx~~ acute thrombophlebitis in both legs and thighs several years ago and I must be careful not to interfere even for brief periods with the circulation that remains.

The work will give the helper some experience with FOIA and other legal matters. I have used FOIA more than any other private person. One of my suits is the first of four specified as requiring the 1974 amendments to the Act. I have three current cases. Because I deal with evidence, from knowing where it is hidden to obtaining it to using it there can be a kind of apprenticeship in this. Two of my current cases deal with the JFK assassination, the third with that of Dr. King. In the latter case the FBI is disgorging about 500 to-now secret pages a week to me. The rate will increase by next month. In one of the JFK cases we have been deposing FBI agents and those who resigned in an effort to avoid being deposed.

Aside from what Howard may have told you if you would like to learn what values working with me can hold I can refer you to others, some readily available to you.

When I spoke to Howard I was expecting a publishing contract for a new book on the King assassination. I have not received it. As soon as I could after Howard told me he had spoken to you I wrote the prospective publisher. If we had not reached a verbal agreement I would not have been expecting to be able to pay an assistant. Actually I was offered a four-book deal if I would deliver the three after the first within a year. I declined this. The verbal agreement is for a decent advance on and a 50% interest in the King book. With it I can pay a nominal salary. Without it I can pay nothing. But if there is the deal on the first book thereafter for the right person it should be pretty good, not just a better salary and practical experience in what is not taught. Better for one who writes well.

For some years I held off on the Wisconsin interest in the archive I will leave, hoping for interest closer to me. It exists at Hood, but not in any practical way. When I was taken ill I did start a deposit in Wisconsin under an agreement that can be over-ridden by ~~xxx~~ foundation support requiring other institutions. The real reason for my preference for Wisconsin is David Wrono of the history faculty of the Stevens Point branch. He is a fine human being and what is not common in this field, a thoroughly responsible man. You may want to speak to him.

I know him through my friend and lawyer, Jim Lesar, 484-6023 in Washington. You may want to speak to him, too.

If you have someone in mind please feel free to make any kind of check you might want. I have no reluctance in directing you to those who do not agree with me. Among students who do not disagree there are some on your campus. In this age group most of all would I suggest Howard Roffman, who was just graduated No. 2 at the University of Florida law school. He is about to become clerk to a federal appeals court judge. For perhaps another month his address is 1111 SW 16th Ave., #156, Gainesville, Fla. 32601, phone 904/373-9194.

In the press this can range from The National Enquirer, several editors and reporters who are in touch with me with fair regularity, to The New York Times, particularly Martin Waldron, with whom I am working this weekend and who has seen my work tested in court. George Gardner's story in today's Post came from me this past Tuesday or Wednesday. Les Whitten may be unhappy about the sharpness of some of my more recent letters but if he tells you what he told me when he came to see me when I was hospitalized and helped him established FBI back channels it will be, approximately, that I am the last of a dying breed of investigative reporters- those who do not depend on or cater to sources. Among blacks there is Les Payne, of Newsday. In the alternative press Jon Newhall of Zodiac.

Ordinarily I do not drive to Washington because it is not good for me to keep my legs pendant and unmoved the hour it takes, a little less from your campus. I can and after the 15th I will when my wife and I have our semi-annual dental checkups at Wisconsin and Macomb.

If you would like to come here and have no car I am certain that a student, Kim Gorr, would be happy to bring you here.

I do hope you have someone in mind.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg