

Dear Mark,

Z41D

3/11/92

Unless things have changed it is best to make FOIA requests of the originating source. You may find that after long delay the FBI referred your OLC request to it. And that you've lost that much time.

As you'll see from the enclosed, I've reminded George.

I'm aware that Hickey is not really a public figure in the meaning of the libel decisions. The FBI Legal Counsel Division also made such a determination with regard to Shaneyfelt in 1967.

How good is your source that Hickey might sue? If he does I think I can be of help and I surely would be. Donahue is an ungrateful, lying bastard. I told him what pictures disprove his impossible invention, I showed him others and he borrowed and copied one, and he was here without even looking at the records to which I offered him access, particularly what I got on the test results via FOIA that he says are worthless. He not only did not look at them- his wife added a postscript to his letter saying that when they were up again she'd like ~~st~~ to.

He shudda choked on the apples I gave him and they liked so much, their letters say. I've bot seen the book. I was sent copies of the pages referring to me. I'm getting that trash and may annotate it for the historical record.

By andlarge I think your book outline is very good. I've made a few notes for when you are here. I'm making a separate file of it for easier retrieval.

Apparently you have had little experience with hardback publishing. It is generally about six month from time of acceptance before publication. You figure it would be published six month from manuscript completion. You should get an agent now while the market is good for all the assassination trash.

When you are in DC and can figure when you can be here, give us a call.

Thanks and best,

Heedle

March 5, 1992

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I am in receipt of your letter of February 29, 1992.

With regard to the DOJ Office of Legal Counsel's opinion, I am unaware if Isikoff had worked out any agreement on not disseminating copies. I believe I told you I had spoken with Isikoff about it and he was reluctant to send me a copy because others had asked him first. But perhaps if Lardner asks for a copy he would be willing to give one to him.

I filed a FOIA appeal with the FBI today. I have not yet requested a copy directly from the DOJ OLC office in writing. However, last September I met with one of the Assistant Attorney Generals and they were not willing to disclose the information. Supposedly they are afraid the legal analysis set forth in the opinion might help Noriega's defense in his Miami trial.

I already have copies of the three tramps' arrest records, but thank you. A Current Affair did two stories on Doyle. I was one of the researchers to locate his whereabouts (several days before the show aired) but the show took the full credit as if they had done everything themselves. Gedney is supposedly living in Melbourne, Florida and everyone suspects Abrams is dead. The FBI finally interviewed Doyle last week after 28 years! I still do not understand how these records were never found.

As you requested, I have enclosed everything I could find on the new Donahue book. It is so disheartening to see "books" like this published. Each one detracts from the legitimacy of the true researchers and will only cause damage to the movement. As each new day comes about it appears that there is a new book containing false or unsubstantiated allegations on the market. I find myself spending as much time disproving theories of fellow conspiracists as I do the government. It is time spent unproductively but time that needs to be spent so that people know the real truth.

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I have heard that SSA Hickey might sue Donahue and I hope that he does. Hickey probably would not be considered a public figure and thus the standard for malice would be less than if you considered to sue Donahue. You would be considered a public figure and would then have to prove that Donahue actually intended to commit malice. If you are interested in pursuing this further, just let me know and I will do the necessary research.

I thought I had briefly mentioned my book to you, but in any event I intend to write a book on the trial of Lee Harvey Oswald. I have enclosed my first draft of an outline. I really feel it will offer new insight into the case for it will be a legal analysis of the events and not just a book written by a lawyer. I am planning to begin the project in August after the bar examination. I hope to finish it by March 1993 so I can find a publisher and have it published by September 1993. Any ideas or suggestions you might offer I would be certainly anxious to hear.

I will be in Washington D.C. from March 28-April 6. Perhaps I can cash in my rain check for dinner? We can discuss that as the time draws nearer. By the way I am scheduled to participate in a symposium next month in Woodstock, N.Y. I believe one of the other panelists will be Robert Cutler. I imagine it should be a very interesting evening.

As always, I hope all is well and I wish you and your wife the very best. I look forward to your next letter.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Zaid