

5/14/74

Dear Mr. Susman,

Today's Post story on the administration's stonewalling on the FOI amendments reminds me that the Department of Justice is and has been stonewalling me again, knowing full well that there is a limit to the number of suits I can - or want to - file. It is once again public, court, released and published records.

In this instance it is Watergate evidence, the Cubans' addressbooks introduced into evidence at the first trial and those pages of Hunt's grand jury testimony that were released by Judge Byrne in the Ellsberg case.

I filed an appeal as directed by the Office of Special Prosecutor and several times thereafter, without response, wrote the Attorney General reminding him of his own regulations on responses. Not too long ago I phoned, was referred to his administrative assistant, was told he would call back, and he never has. It is about a year since I filed the unanswered appeal.

If on the face this might appear to be vengeful, two other explanations may be relevant. The Department could use this to smear the special prosecutor and the evidence I might find could be embarrassing. I am not without knowledge about either Hunt or his Cubans. The FBI never checked these addressbooks out. Names in them were not called. Some of these people could have come to my attention in earlier work.

I will be in Washington tomorrow to work on a cover for the coming book and for other purposes. I will be taking a xerox to Ron Plasser on the chance that it interests him and I will ask him to make a xerox on the chance it interests you. What it has on this new "open administration" leader who has been promising a return of truth and honesty is a word-by-word comparison of the parts he used of the Top Secret transcript that was denied me with the transcript itself. To remind you, he swore to the Judiciary committee that he had used no secrets. This transcript was still Top Secret when I filed 2502-73. He not only took it improperly and sold it for commercial gain, he also took considerable liberties with it, editing out what he did not want known and in general making substantial alterations not one of which is indicated. The eight pages of his book on which he did this are in facsimile, facing the annotation of alterations, both keyed to the page and line of the transcript, also in facsimile. This also bears heavily on his integrity as a Commissioner, as the excisions will show.

When the index is completed we will be ready to print. I hope soon. Messer and I both have to be in Memphis next week on the Ray case.

It may amuse you to know that there came a time when Commissioner Ford was righteously indignant that someone thought he had leaked something to Life magazine. He was not content to assure his colleagues that he had not done this. He asked an FBI investigation to "cover" him. That FBI investigation consisted in sending an agent to accept Ford's denial and as "cover" wrote in the report that is in facsimile in my second book, that was all the FBI or Hoover did. Not long thereafter Ford sold a private Warren Report to Life for I think \$5,000. Providentially, he had put his former campaign manager on the public payroll to be his ghost for the book and the article.

Sincerely,

Harold Weinberg