



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

January 7, 1974

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Thank you for your letter of November 6, 1973, in which you restated your request for information concerning contracts with Robert R. Mullen & Co. In the hope that personal contact would be more helpful--and less bureaucratic-- I tried several times to reach you by phone but was unable to do so.

Apparently the Congressional interest to which you allude was an inquiry from the Chairman of the Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee, Committee on Government Operations, House of Representatives. By letter dated July 15, 1972, the Chairman requested copies of contracts for public relations services awarded by the Department and its constituent agencies for the period 1969-1972. Among such contracts was one awarded to Robert R. Mullen & Co. by the Office of Education. This contract, Contract No. OEC-0-9-18001-4565(604), is the contract which was referred to by the Honorable Edith Green. Her remarks appeared in the January 18, 1973 issue of the Congressional Record.

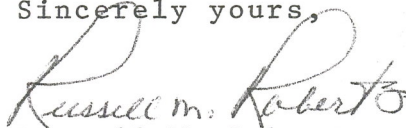
This contract was administered by the HEW Regional Office in Boston, Massachusetts and the contract file is in that office. Rather than refer your request to that office, however, and failing to reach you by phone myself, I arranged to have Mr. Don Jordan of OE's Office of Public Affairs here get in touch with you regarding the "Closer Look" project. I understand that Mr. Jordan, in addition to providing you with the information he had available, put you in touch with Mr. Harvey Liebergott, the Project Officer in our Boston Regional Office. This appears to be the only contract which the Department has entered into with Robert R. Mullen & Co.

I also asked the various components of the Department to identify any other contracts entered into with Robert R. Mullen & Co. On the basis of records which are extant, they have all now provided negative reports.

Since contract registers are kept by contract number, and name of contractor, this is the only means by which we may readily identify them. Therefore, if you are concerned with individuals who were or are presently employees of Robert R. Mullen & Co. and their involvement with this Department in a capacity other than employees of Mullen & Co. it would be necessary to identify the individuals and the appropriate time-frame. If these persons were employees of a firm other than Mullen, the name of the firm would be required to make identification possible.

I'm very sorry about my delay in getting this written response to you but sincerely hope that we have satisfied your request fully in your conversations with Mr. Jordan and Mr. Liebergott and in this letter. If, however, I can be more helpful, please call me (202) 245-6483.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell M. Roberts". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Russell M. Roberts
Director of Public Services
Department Information Center Officer