

demotion in salary too. Fifteen others, including me, were given letters of censure. I had never even seen the file on Oswald and had never heard of him before the assassination, but I was head of the division and was theoretically responsible for what everyone did. Hoover was once again able to cover himself.

Hoover was delighted when Gerald Ford was named to the Warren Commission. The director wrote in one of his internal memos that the bureau could expect Ford to "look after FBI interests," and he did, keeping us fully advised of what was going on behind closed doors. He was our man, our informant, on the Warren Commission.

Ford's relationship with Hoover went back to Ford's first congressional campaign in Michigan. Our agents out in the field kept a watchful eye on local congressional races and advised Hoover whether the winners were friends or enemies. Hoover had a complete file developed on each incoming congressman. He knew their family backgrounds, where they had gone to school, whether or not they played football, and any other tidbits he could weave into a subsequent conversation.

Gerald Ford was a friend of Hoover's, and he first proved it when he made a speech not long after he came to Congress recommending a pay raise for J. Edgar Hoover, the great director of the FBI. He proved it again when he tried to impeach Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, a Hoover enemy.

President Kennedy's death did nothing to soften Hoover's attitude toward Attorney General Robert Kennedy. "The press calls him Bobby," he once told me in a deprecating tone of voice. (Hoover also felt that Bobby demeaned the dignity of the Department of Justice by bringing his dog to the office.) But Hoover played up to him as long as Jack was president. Like his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy realized he would have to live and work with Hoover, and he went out of his way to make a good impression on the director just after the election. Bobby came looking for Hoover's support when Jack asked his brother to serve as attorney general, and he told the director he wouldn't take the job without his support. Hoover gushed his approval, although he told Kennedy he was not allowed to give