

July 20, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Hires

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Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a letter dated April 21, 1964, from Melvin Belli, former Ruby defense counsel, to Walter E. Craig, President of the American Bar Association. The letter came into possession of this Bureau through a confidential source and it is requested that you consider this fact prior to any disclosure of the information set forth therein.

It is being forwarded for your information inasmuch as it contains data relating to Jack L. Ruby and his trial in Dallas, Texas.

With reference to the statement made by Mr. Belli on page 17 of the letter to the effect that Sergeant Dean of the Dallas Police Department recently complained to his chief of police that the FBI had accused him of lying, I wish to advise you that this statement is completely false. No Agent or representative of this Bureau has accused Sergeant Dean of lying nor have they at any time discussed with Sergeant Dean his testimony given at the trial of Jack L. Ruby.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

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SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.
Enclosure

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NOTE:

Dallas obtained from a confidential source a copy of a letter directed by Belli to Walter E. Craig, President of the ABA in which he states that he will not resign from the ADA and tells Craig that he will have to be kicked out publicly. He goes into a lengthy and typically Belli discussion of the public charges made by Craig against him concerning his handling of Ruby's defense and attempts to justify and defend his position against these charges. He states on page 17 that Sgt. Dean was allowed to testify to conversation by Jack Ruby a half hour after Ruby's arrest (these statements indicated premeditation on Ruby's part). He said that Dean complained to the Chief of Police that the FBI had accused him of lying. This refers to the incident wherein Dean was interviewed by Mr. Burt Griffin of the President's Commission after the trial of Ruby, after which Dean complained to Chief Curry that Griffin had accused him of lying in his testimony at the trial. Chief Curry complained to Mr. Rankin who recalled Griffin from Dallas. His only other reference to the FBI is on page 22 where he speaks of the many rumors concerning the assassination and Ruby which he felt hurt his case as they made it appear that the law enforcement agencies, local, national and the FBI, could not or would not report the "plot" in all its intendments.