

Samuel A. Franks
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John F. Kennedy

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I've been deeply grateful for your sacrificial service rendered the American people over many decades and I want to take this moment to thank you again. But I'm a little confused about your talk to the Wash. Heb. congregation as related in my S. D. Union.

My paper relates that you denounced the "hate mongers", the "lunatic fringe", and those who preach intolerance as serving the Communist cause. I was distressed when I first read this in my paper, probably because this statement followed the fatal shooting of Kennedy, ^{so soon} and I think I got the idea you were siding ~~the~~ with such obnoxious liberals as Warren, et al. I imagine the liberals will use this statement against us to the very full.

I didn't love JFK for one minute, ^(due to his radical politics) but I couldn't possibly countenance such a deed as Oswald perpetrated for many reasons. Foremost is my Christian conviction that murder is grievous sin--which I learn in the Bible. Secondly, it's unconstitutional to do such a thing--or we soon wouldn't have any constitution if people behaved in that fashion very long. Another reason is that I fear what can happen to other minorities, such as the conservative minority, if such a thing can happen to the president.

Most conservatives are very religious people, like myself. I haven't met any hate-mongers among them. The hate-mongers seem to all come from the left, to me--from the liberals (what irony), the communists, etc.

If my observations are in error I truly wish you would set me straight.

11 DEC 13 1963

In deep respect,

Samuel A. Franks
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JH/mcd

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