

Memorandum

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
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TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 6-17-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: BRIEF REVIEW OF BOOK TITLED: "SPECIAL AGENT...
A Quarter Century With The Treasury Department And The
Secret Service" BY CHIEF FRANK J. WILSON AND BETH
DAY. PUBLISHED BY HOLT, RINEHART, AND WINSTON, INC.

On June 8, 1965, Miss Louise Waller, Editor, General Book Division, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., sent a letter to Mr. Tolson and copies of the above-titled book to the Director and to Mr. Tolson who requested that a brief review be made of this book.

The book opens with this statement: The terrible tragedy at Dallas, on November 22, 1963, when our President, John F. Kennedy, was assassinated by the Marxist Lee Harvey Oswald and the subsequent report and recommendations made by the Warren Commission have turned the country's attention in an unprecedented way on the duties and methods of the United States Secret Service. For it is the first and foremost job of the Secret Service to protect the life of the President.

Wilson then delves into the founding of the Secret Service in 1865 for the purpose of dealing with counterfeiting; the informal protection which Secret Service Agents afforded President Grover Cleveland from 1894-1896; then McKinley's assassination in 1901, which awakened Congress to the fact that this country had lost three Presidents in 36 years. In 1902, therefore, an appropriation was made by Congress and a formal White House detail established. The Secret Service was given the responsibility at that time for the protection of the life of the President.

Wilson then relates the history of the Secret Service from 1902 to the present date, its accomplishments and his own accomplishments during the time he was its Chief.

Wilson castigates the Dallas Police, on page 9, for allowing Oswald to escape. He states: "When they rushed into the building where the assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was hiding, he was allowed to escape. Oswald was captured within two hours but not before he had shot and fatally wounded a Dallas police officer." Wilson then comments unfavorably on the Dallas Police publicly announcing the hour at which time Oswald was to be removed from Police Headquarters to the county jail. He states: "The removal became a melodramatic spectacle, which ended in a disgraceful and tragic event, when, in the basement of police headquarters, Jack Ruby, a man with a Dallas police record, approached Oswald, placed a revolver in his middle, and killed him, as the negligent Dallas police stood by and millions of the nation's astonished television viewers looked on." (page 10)

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: Brief Review Of Book

Wilson relates his boyhood leanings toward law enforcement because his father was with the Buffalo, New York, Police Department and protected President McKinley during his first visit to Buffalo. Wilson tells of his inability to stay in the Army because of poor eyesight and his first investigative job with Herbert Hoover's Food Administration. He says after the Armistice in 1918, he joined the Intelligence Unit, Internal Revenue Bureau. He says his trial by fire came during the corrupt Harding Administration and he tells of the part he played in investigating the "Ohio Gang" and particularly the Daugherty-Penrose organization. He relates a variety of cases in which he gives the Secret Service full credit for solving such as the Al Capone case and the Lindbergh kidnaping. FBI receives no credit in either case. He relates his investigation of the late Senator Huey Long of Louisiana, and his eventual murder. He deals with counterfeiting and states he was made Chief of Secret Service in 1936 because of increase counterfeiting.

He deals with Presidential mail received from cranks, nuts, and anonymous letter writers who send threatening letters and mysterious packages. He expresses his great admiration for Franklin D. Roosevelt. He mentions White House problems resulting from the Pearl Harbor attack and World War II. He discusses travels of the President inside and outside the United States and the part he played in traveling with President Franklin Roosevelt in the United States. He discusses narrow escapes of Presidents from hundreds of assassins and gives details of a narrow escape Andrew Jackson had. Wilson states his biggest headache was providing Presidential protection at those times when public parades or large gatherings at the Capitol were going to take place. This was particularly true in the Inaugural gatherings at the Capitol. He mentions the shock he received on April 12, 1945, when a message came through from Warm Springs: "The President had a sudden attack. Condition serious." In a few minutes further news arrived advising President Roosevelt had suffered a fatal cerebral hemorrhage.

Wilson discusses President Truman taking over the White House and problems incurred by Secret Service during Truman Administration. He relates details of Potsdam Peace Conference. Wilson mentions the two atomic bombs dropped in Japan in August, 1945, which resulted in victory in Japan on 9-2-45. He then relates the Puerto Rican fanatics trying to shoot President Truman at the Blair House on November 1, 1950, praised the Secret Service's protection of Truman and lastly the need for all Presidents to take no chances in the future by using bullet proof cars, and Congress improving our defective Federal laws.

Wilson's book is strictly a book letting the world know the part Frank J. Wilson played in the affair of protecting the Presidents of the United States and handling other matters under the jurisdiction of the Secret Service during an important era in our history.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

J. M. [Signature]

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