

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

DATE: March 18, 1968

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
AWARD OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO THE DIRECTOR

Per prior arrangements and Bureau approval, Inspector Donald R. Morris attended the Midwinter Meeting of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) which was held in New Orleans from 3/12 - 16/68. A separate memorandum is being submitted covering the highlights of the meeting.

Also, per prior arrangements, Morris accepted a plaque which recognized the cooperation existing between the NDAA and the FBI and which awarded honorary membership in the NDAA to the Director.

The plaque was originally scheduled to be presented at the final banquet of the meeting on Saturday night, 3/16/68; however, New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, without the prior approval of NDAA President William J. Raggio, listed himself as the main speaker at the banquet, and, when Morris learned of this, he arranged for the plaque to be presented at the Association's Luncheon on 3/15/68 (which was not attended by Garrison) to avoid sharing the platform with Garrison at the banquet. This change in time of presentation was accomplished quietly and without any concern being expressed to the general membership.

The award was presented by NDAA President Raggio and the plaque reads as follows:

Handwritten notes:
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...
...

"National District Attorneys Association presents to
J. Edgar Hoover
as an expression of the high esteem in which he is held by its members and in grateful appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered and the interest taken in our association and for his outstanding Contribution in the fight against Crime in our Nation, the Board of Directors Certify that he has been voted an

Honorary Membership

in this association and is entitled to all privileges granted under its Constitution and by-laws.

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- Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach (Enc.)
- 1 - Mr. Bishop (Enc.)
- 1 - Miss Holmes (Enc.)
- 1 - Miss Gandy (Enc.)
- 1 - Mr. Rosen (Enc.)
- 1 - Mr. Casper (Enc.)

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(CONTINUED OVER)

Memorandum to Mr. Bishop
Re: National District Attorneys Association
Award of Honorary Membership to the Director

In his brief acceptance remarks, Morris stressed the Director's opposition to a national police force and his belief in full cooperation with each agency fulfilling its responsibilities. Morris stated that he knew the Director would treasure the award as a recognition of the cooperation between the FBI and local prosecutors and that it was a privilege to accept the plaque in Mr. Hoover's behalf.

It is noted that Raggio subsequently became increasingly concerned about the possibility of Garrison making irrational charges in his proposed speech at the final banquet. Consequently, on Saturday afternoon, 3/16/68, Raggio, who is District Attorney at Reno, Nevada, and NDAA Vice President William Cahn, District Attorney of Mineola, New York, summoned Garrison and his Chief Assistant, Charles Ward, to Raggio's hotel room. At that time Raggio informed Garrison that he hoped Garrison would keep his remarks brief and that he (Raggio) felt the banquet was neither the time nor the place to discuss pending investigations nor level charges against anyone. Raggio later told Morris that Garrison replied that he would speak only for a few minutes but then, becoming highly emotional and irrational, stated that when he was through there would be no doubt in anyone's mind about the conspiracy in the Federal Government, etc. Raggio then stated if Garrison felt that way then he would have to ask Garrison not to speak at all as Raggio would not permit the NDAA to be a forum for such charges. Garrison stated that unless he was allowed to speak he would cancel the banquet and instructed Ward to lock the doors to the banquet room of the hotel and to not open them until his speaking time was assured. Raggio refused to be blackmailed in this manner, even though 600 people had tickets to attend the dinner which was to be held in the next few hours and the tickets had been paid for. Raggio again stated he would not allow the NDAA to be a forum for such behavior and instructed Cahn to inform the NDAA Board of Directors that the banquet was canceled. The NDAA had already paid the hotel \$15 per couple for the banquet and this money was not refunded to them.

The NDAA officers, Board of Directors, and general membership are solidly behind the Director and the FBI and it is felt that the attached note of appreciation to President Raggio should be sent.

RECOMMENDATION: That the attached letter to NDAA President William J. Raggio, Reno, Nevada, be approved and sent.