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File with Early Evidence

to be assigned to the Bureau's legal attaché office in Paris. I mentioned my passport snafu in 1952 which had resulted in a disciplinary transfer, and my hope that it would not preclude an assignment to a legal attaché office. Sitting back in his executive chair, Hoover listened attentively. I was pleased that I'd delivered my remarks clearly, maintaining constant eye-contact. I waited for his response.

He spoke rapidly, giving me the impression that he had just read my file. He appeared satisfied with my attitude and gave no indication that I lacked the necessary experience or grade for assignment to a legal attaché office. I felt buoyed when he said my request would be noted.

Over the next several days, we listened to a dozen or more instructors who were Bureau supervisors. Most were section chiefs with many years of desk experience at FBIHQ. Each delivered a well-prepared lecture on such arcane subjects as infiltration of subversive groups like the Communist Party-USA, espionage, counter-espionage, double-agents, placement of surreptitious entry devices in foreign embassies, decoding and encryptions, and intelligence estimates. Guest speakers from the Pentagon and the National Security Agency also spoke to us. Questions were encouraged and little was held back or too highly classified to mention.

Security In-Service also included three days on the ranges of the FBI Academy at Quantico, and we shipped down to the big U.S. Marine Corps base in northern Virginia. In contrast to the rather tense atmosphere in the academy building when Bureau brass was present, the mood among the Quantico instructors was informal.

Both at headquarters and the Academy in Quantico, Virginia, In-Service instructors invariably impressed us with the breadth and scope of the modern FBI. Under the Director's leadership, the Bureau was widely recognized as the world's preeminent law enforcement organization. Hoover had introduced modern methods of crime detection including a renowned identification division, the finest police laboratory, a national academy dedicated to raising standards of law enforcement professionals, and staffing of field offices and legal attaché offices abroad. Politicians no longer could place one of their cronies in a choice Bureau office. Advancement was based on merit and years of hard work.

In-Service instructors, some of them former police officers, enjoyed telling stories about cases they'd worked. One regaled the class with his tale of a car parked for several hours in the vicinity of an FBI stakeout at a D.C. mansion leased to a madam suspected of

Praise for Bureau
was deserved

h. Keenan MS