

DeLoach to Mohr memo  
RE: William Manchester  
Author of Book Regarding  
Assassination of President Kennedy

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DeLoach to Mohr  
4/24/74  
62-109660-MR*

I told Manchester that I felt certain he could understand our position in being reluctant to give him specific facts concerning our investigation, particularly inasmuch as a Departmental official had seen fit to allege to the Warren Commission that the FBI was "leaking" information. I told Manchester that this allegation had of course been false. However, the fact still remained that the FBI did not want to be placed in the position of releasing information prior to the issuance of the Commission report.

Manchester stated that although he could understand our viewpoint he would still like to talk to the Director concerning the Director's specific activities immediately following the assassination. I asked Manchester what he had in mind. He stated it would be far better if we furnish him a great deal of information and then let him later pose specific questions in order to round out the information. I told him this seemed to be the cart pulling the horse inasmuch as we would first want to know what he had in mind and before we went to a great deal of work. I told him regardless of what he desired he would still have to realize that no information concerning our investigation could be released until after the issuance of the Commission report.

Manchester asked if the allegation were true that the FBI had known that Oswald was in Dallas, Texas, and at the Texas Book Depository at the time of the assassination of the President. I answered in the affirmative. However, explained at great length the fact that Oswald was not a violent-type person and there had been no reason to notify Secret Service of his presence. I also explained to Manchester the cooperation which had existed for many years between the FBI and Secret Service and of the fact that we constantly informed Secret Service of threats made against the President.

Manchester told me that he was having considerable difficulty in getting any information from Secret Service. He stated that this organization has been criticized so severely and its personnel are so heartbroken over the tragedy that they are reluctant to talk about the assassination.

In leaving, Manchester told me that he would be in town for approximately three months living in a rented apartment. He stated that sometime during this three months he would appreciate having a visit with the Director. I told him that the Director's schedule was quite filled, however, we would be in touch with him if the Director had an opportunity to see him. I also told him that rather than wait for an appointment might desire to write out his questions and give them to me. I reminded him, however, that it was doubtful that we could be of any assistance to him until after issuance of the Commission report.

The meeting with Manchester was on a cordial and pleasant basis, however, he fully understands our position. Bufiles reflect that our relations with him in the past have been most cordial. He does appear, however, to be somewhat of a dreamy non-specific type of individual.

ACTION: None at this time.

*Handwritten signatures and initials at the bottom of the page.*

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