

# How FBI Spied on Warren

Washington

The FBI spied on and resented the Warren Commission's Kennedy assassination work, and the commission, in turn, suspected Lee Harvey Oswald had been an FBI agent, newly released files disclosed yesterday.

The nearly 60,000 pages of FBI assassination files show the bureau considered then Representative Gerald Ford as its informant inside the Warren panel, and that J. Edgar Hoover kept a bitter feud going with Chief Justice Earl Warren on grounds his commission lacked confidence in the FBI.

Hoover was insulted and infuriated by an early Warren Commission belief — apparently cleared up quickly — that the FBI had sent Oswald to Russia as an agent in 1959, by its accusations the bureau was leaking information to the press, and by its conclusion the FBI should have told the Secret Service what it knew about Oswald before John F. Kennedy went to Dallas.

Calling the final Warren report "seriously inaccurate in so far as its treatment of the FBI is concerned," the director lamented in one staff memo:

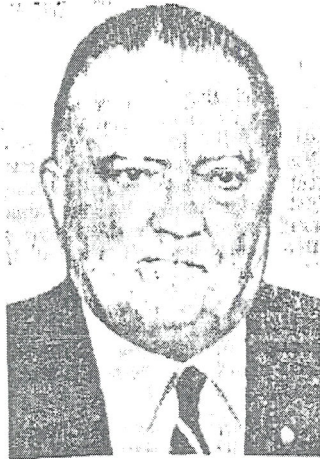
"The bureau will never live this down and will (be) viewed as a second rate outfit henceforth."

"We could not arrest every crackpot without creating a police state," Hoover said in another defensive rebuttal of allegations his men were derelict in not protecting Kennedy from Oswald.

Described himself as "outraged" at the Warren Report's criticisms on that score, Hoover took his gripe right to President Lyndon B. Johnson and noted in a file memo dated Oct. 20, 1964:

"The president stated that he was sympathetic with my views and that he intended at an early date to find the opportunity to publicly reaffirm his faith and confidence in the FBI and its director."

Railing at critics who ranged from Warren to Justice Department officials and such conspiracy theorists as comedian Dick Grego-



J. EDGAR HOOVER  
'Outraged' at criticisms



EARL WARREN  
Suspicious of FBI role

ry, Hoover made plain he took great pride in the FBI's Kennedy probe and its fast conclusion — only days after the killing — that Oswald acted alone, without conspirators from Cuba or anywhere else.

"We have left no stone unturned in this particular phase of our investigation," he said, in a file note, concerning the bureau's findings that Oswald had no Cuban connection whatsoever.

At a point early in the assassination probe, when the nation was assuming the FBI and the commission were working hand in glove, Hoover refused the panel's request that it maintain the commission's evidentiary exhibits.

The hostility and discord underlying the Kennedy assassination probe came to light with the release of 50,604 pages of censored FBI investigative files and 8150 pages of its memos to the Warren Commission.

Like the previous batch of 40,000 pages released in December, the new flood corroborated the Warren panel's finding that Oswald alone killed Kennedy and Jack Ruby alone killed Oswald.

They showed Hoover recommended that finding to the commis-

sion about two weeks after the Nov. 22, 1963, Kennedy murder in Dallas. And, like the earlier files, they illuminate the nation's greatest murder probe with rich tidbits of detail.

The new files recall, for example, that Oswald's wife, Marina, locked him in the bathroom of their Dallas apartment in April of 1963 when he began ranting about his intention to kill Richard Nixon, whom he mistakenly thought to be in town that day. Hoover speculated the Oswalds must have mixed Nixon up with Vice President Lyndon Johnson, who was in Dallas.

Washington

Interrogation of Lee Harvey Oswald ended just 11 minutes before he was shot to death, and the postal inspector who conducted the probe concluded Oswald never would have confessed to killing John Kennedy, records showed yesterday.

"Oswald at no time appeared confused or in doubt as to whether

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# Warren Commission

San Francisco Chronicle

★ Thurs., Jan. 19, 1978



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The new materials also contin-  
ue the saga of the FBI's exhaustive  
pursuit of tips and leads, no matter  
how bizarre, from such informants  
as a mentally unstable "mystery  
woman" in Cuba, a drunken Aztec  
Indian and a Bavarian cab driver.

More ominously, however, they  
show Hoover and his men warred  
privately with anyone who chal-  
lenged their competence or exclu-  
sive authority over the Kennedy  
probe, calling Deputy Attorney  
General Nicholas Katzenbach a liar,  
scoffing at investigations carried  
out by Texas officials and New  
Orleans District Attorney Jim Gar-  
rison and battling with the Warren  
Commission over news leaks.

None of that, however, deterred  
the Warren panel from  
endorsing the no-conspiracy find-  
ing recommended to them by Ho-  
over in his first report to the newly  
formed commission.

Dated Dec. 7, 1963, it said: "The  
FBI has made an exhaustive investi-  
gation into whether Oswald may  
have conspired with or been assist-  
ed by any person, foreign or  
domestic, in carrying out this das-  
tardly act.

"No evidence has been uncov-  
ered indicating that any person,  
including Dallas night club owner,  
Jack Ruby, was involved with  
Oswald in the assassination of  
President Kennedy."

The FBI-commission rivalry  
stemmed in part from the leak of  
Hoover's original report to the  
press, with each side accusing the

other, and from the suspicion of  
Warren Commission members that  
Oswald had been acting as an FBI  
spy during his sojourn in the Soviet  
Union from 1959 to 1962.

The files show the FBI some-  
how obtained the transcript of a  
confidential "emergency meeting"  
the Warren panel held on Jan. 11,  
1964, to discuss, in the words of an  
FBI analyst, "information to the  
effect Lee Harvey Oswald was a  
bureau informant" in Russia.

"The discussion shows that  
members of the commission felt the  
bureau would not admit that Os-  
wald had been an undercover  
agent," the FBI review said —  
thereby undermining the commis-  
sion's confidence in the bureau's  
investigation.

The FBI memo said Hoover  
eventually convinced the commis-  
sion "Oswald was not an informant  
or agent of the FBI ... and was  
never paid any amount of money  
by the FBI in any regard."

Ford's role as a trusted bureau  
informant within the panel was  
described in a series of memos filed  
by Hoover deputy Cartha DeLoach  
in December 1963, when the com-  
mission had just been formed.

On December 12, DeLoach said  
Ford, then a Republican congress-  
man from Michigan, had called him  
to his office "in the strictest confi-  
dence," expressed displeasure at the  
way Warren was running things  
and "indicated he would keep me  
thoroughly advised as to the activi-

## How Hoover Found Sartre

Washington

J. Edgar Hoover typically be-  
gan an FBI inquiry in June, 1964,  
when he read a newspaper report  
that the famous French philoso-  
pher Jean-Paul Sartre had joined  
the "Who Killed Kennedy Commit-  
tee."

The clipping identified Sartre  
only as an author.

Hoover promptly scribbled a  
memo:

"Find out who Sartre is."

New York Times

ties of the commission on a  
confidential basis."

One week later, on December  
19, DeLoach said Ford briefed him  
on a private commission meeting  
the day before at which the panel  
discussed the news leak of Hoover's  
confidential December 7 progress  
report.

Other documents show Hoover  
successfully blocked Warren's first  
choice for commission chief coun-  
sel.

The Warren panel, in turn,  
challenged the FBI's performance  
on some occasions including the  
leaking allegations and the Oswald  
suspicions.

United Press

# Oswald Hung Tough in Questioning

of Lee Harvey  
at 11 minutes  
to death, and  
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Oswald never  
essed to killing  
records showed

time appeared  
it as to whether

or nor he should answer a ques-  
tion," postal inspector H.D. Holmes  
said in a report dated Dec. 17, 1963.

"On the contrary, he was quite  
alert and showed no hesitancy in  
answering those questions which  
he wanted to answer, and was quite  
skillful in parrying those questions  
which he did not want to answer.

"I got the impression that he  
had disciplined his mind and reflex-

es to a state where I personally  
doubted that he would ever have  
confessed."

Holmes was assisted in the  
interrogation by Dallas police cap-  
tain Will Fritz with FBI and secret  
service agents present.

Questioning began about 9:25  
a.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, 1963, and  
ended at 11:10 a.m., the report said  
Oswald was shot by Jack Ruby at

11:21 a.m. as he was being trans-  
ferred from Fritz' office in police  
headquarters to the county jail.

During the questioning,  
Holmes said, Oswald emphatically  
denied having any knowledge of  
the Kennedy shooting, and said he  
was taken into custody just because  
he had "popped a policeman in the  
nose in a theater on Jefferson  
Avenue" during his capture.

United Press

1572