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4:24 PM

February 17, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. BELMONT
MR. ROSEN
MR. EVANS
MR. DE LOACH

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. William Randolph Hearst called from New York City. He stated the new Life Magazine which comes out tomorrow has a black and white picture of Lee Harvey Oswald with a rifle and pistol in his pocket. Mr. Hearst stated the Knight papers, sparked by the Detroit Free Press, and Life are both claiming copyright. Mr. Hearst wanted to know if they have a copyright of something they may have stolen from the Bureau.

Texas USSR

Texas

I told Mr. Hearst they did not steal it from us; that my recollection is that Oswald's wife had the picture and she may have sold it as she has a business manager and lawyer and whether she sold it or not or whether the Dallas Police Department got it, I did not know. Mr. Hearst stated the Dallas Police Department did have it as Johnny Harris, who is from that neck of the woods and was down there, said he saw it there. I stated they may have gotten it from her either before or after she sold a copy to the magazine. I stated Oswald's mother, who is in New York today I thought to make a speech tonight, claims to have a lot of pictures and evidence that will prove her son's innocence but which she did not give to the Warren Commission. I stated I had heard that the reason she would not present this to the Commission was because she could not get any assurance that they would not make it public as she wants to write a book. Mr. Hearst commented that if she wants to prove his innocence, she better give it to the Commission first. I commented that Oswald's wife admitted that she believes he committed the crime. Mr. Hearst stated that Oswald had shot at General Walker and the picture was supposed to have been taken right after that. I stated I understand the wife or Mrs. Paine, with whom the wife was living, had the photograph of him with his gun and revolver, the gun being the gun he used to shoot at General Walker and later used to shoot the President.

Mr. Hearst stated that they better keep hands off then as it is a piece of private property. I stated it at least was; that there have been a lot of leaks come out of the Dallas Police Department before Oswald was killed. I stated after he was killed, the Dallas Police sent to us the gun and bullet which we examined in our

1 - Miss Holmes
JEH:edm (9)

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

MAR 24 1964
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MAR 24 1964

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FBI - FBI CAJ on use

Sutton 107

February 17, 1964

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Rosen, Evans, DeLoach

Laboratory here and made certain findings and then we sent the report back to our Dallas Office, who in turn turned it over to the local police, but, and this was for his, Mr. Hearst's, confidential information, the Chief of Police, who was trying to please everybody, was giving interviews on TV most of the time until I sent him word to keep his mouth shut, as he was going to hurt the case with the evidence being given out as we did not know what lawyers were going to be used.

I commented that there is a mess in Dallas now as to whether Ruby can get a fair trial in Dallas in view of the publicity. Mr. Hearst stated the defense will probably confuse the issue so Ruby will get off. I stated that, of course, we merely give findings, but in my own mind I am convinced that Oswald killed the President and that the Commission will ultimately reach that finding. I stated that in the meantime there are all these wild rumors going around such as the story that Oswald was an employee of the FBI, and just the other day his mother claimed he was an employee of CIA and John McCone had to issue a statement denying it. Mr. Hearst stated the European papers are the worst in this. I agreed and mentioned that our man in Rome sent in several wires about four papers which had that story on the front page. I stated I thought it was all a planned smear by the communists and Mr. Hearst stated he would not be surprised.

I stated Oswald was a communist and openly admitted it. I stated at the very beginning the communist press out of Moscow had a statement that the man who shot the President was of the extreme right, and when it was exposed that Oswald was a Marxist and tried to defect to Russia, then they began to swing it around the other way. Mr. Hearst stated the Russians are better at keeping their mouths shut, because if they say what they want and then get embarrassed, they never say another word. I stated they would like to prove Oswald was employed by us or CIA or the Government and then smear that branch and the one branch they hate the worst is the FBI.

Mr. Hearst thanked me.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 9:12
DATE 3-23-64
BY JH

Handwritten notes:
Total Hearst's
Big plus for FBI