

# Author suggests Hoover would

By ROBER M. ANDREWS/  
WASHINGTON (UPI) —  
Former CIA Director Allen  
W. Dulles told his Warren  
Commission colleagues ear-  
ly in their investigation that  
they had no choice but to  
accept J. Edgar Hoover's  
denial that Lee Harvey  
Oswald was ever an under-  
cover FBI agent.

In a newly declassified  
document now made public,  
Dulles indicated the FBI  
director might not  
acknowledge Oswald's  
employment even had he  
known it was a fact.

In the transcript of a  
private commission meeting  
Jan. 27, 1964, Dulles said  
both the FBI and the CIA  
probably would lie to  
everyone but the President  
to conceal the identities of  
their agents and informants.

The transcript, published  
in a new book by Harold  
Weisberg entitled  
"Whitewash IV," shows that  
the high-level commission  
investigating President John  
F. Kennedy's assassination  
was troubled by spreading  
rumors that Oswald had  
been on the FBI payroll.

"What you do is you make  
out a problem, if this be true,  
make our problem utterly  
impossible because you say  
this rumor can't be dis-  
sipated under any circum-  
stances," complained House  
Democratic Whip Hale  
Boggs.

"I don't think it can, unless  
you believe Mr. Hoover, and  
so forth and so on, which  
probably most of the people  
will," Dulles replied.

"You can't prove what the  
facts are," he added later. "I  
don't think there is an exter-  
nal evidence other than the  
person's word that he did or  
did not employ a particular  
man as a secret agent. No  
matter what."

In sworn testimony before  
the commission a few  
months later, FBI Director  
Hoover and John A. McCone,  
then Dulles' successor at the  
CIA, denied Oswald had any  
connection—direct or in-  
direct—with their agen-  
cies.

they have decided that no  
one else was involved...  
"They have tried the case  
and reached a verdict on  
every aspect," Russell said.  
"Yes, We know who killed  
cock robin," said John J.  
McCloy. "That is the point.  
It isn't only who killed cock  
robin. Under the terms of  
reference we have to go

beyond that."  
The members seemed to  
agree with Russell's  
observation that "of course,  
we can get an affidavit from  
Mr. Hoover and put it in this  
record and go on and act on  
that, but if we didn't go any  
further than that...there still  
would be thousands of  
doubting Thomases who

would believe this man was  
an FBI agent and you just  
didn't try to clear it up and  
you just took Hoover's  
word."  
Weisberg, of Frederick,  
Md., a leading advocate of  
the assassination conspiracy  
theory, obtained the  
transcript and other  
documents under the

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At one point during the  
Jan. 27 meeting, Sen.  
Richard B. Russell, D-Ga.,  
turned to Dulles and touched  
on the delicate question of  
interrogating the  
investigators.

"If Oswald never had  
assassinated the President,  
or at least been charged with  
assassinating the President,  
and had been in the employ  
of the FBI and somebody had  
gone to the FBI, they would  
have denied he was an  
agent," Russell suggested.

"Oh, yes," Dulles replied.  
"They would be the first to  
deny it. Your agents would  
have done exactly the same  
thing."

"Exactly."  
At another point, Dulles  
said it was "a terribly hard  
thing to disprove" that  
someone was a secret agent.  
But if he were, Dulles said,  
the man who recruited him  
would refuse to disclose his  
identity under oath and  
might even keep it from his  
superior.

"I would tell the President  
of the United States anything,  
yes, I am under his control.  
He is my boss. I wouldn't  
necessarily tell anybody  
else, unless the President  
authorized me to do it," he  
said.

A few moments later, he  
added: "What I was getting  
at, I think Mr. Hoover would  
say certainly he didn't have  
anything to do with this  
fellow."

During the 4 1/2-hour  
meeting, J. Lee Rankin, the  
commission's general  
counsel, said part of the dif-  
ficulty in trying to question  
OF authorizing about what

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war's view, Weisberg said the  
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piracy denials from Hoover and  
the McCone instead of trying to  
other get independently to the  
the ree of the undercover

agent rumor" while, also  
questioning FBI authorities.  
He accused Rankin of engi-  
neering a cover-up of what  
the transcript quoted Rankin  
as calling a "dirty rumor"  
that "must be wiped out in-  
sofar as it is possible to do so  
by this commission."

Jim Lesar, a Washington  
lawyer who helped Weisberg

with the book, said the com-  
mission was "caught in the New York  
situation where the only  
investigators they had were  
those of the federal agencies  
themselves, which put them  
in the position of  
investigating themselves.

Dulles, Russell, Boggs and  
Earl Warren, then Chief  
Justice and the commission  
chairman, are dead.