

RELEASED PER P.L-102-526(JFK ACT)  
 NARA CP DATE 3-76-76

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MR. A. H. BELMONT

10/5/64

MR. I. W. CONRAD

WARREN COMMISSION REPORT

I recognize that many far more capable hands than mine are doing a tremendous job in countering the unfair criticism of the Bureau contained in the Warren report. However, little else has occupied my mind since the release of the report, and while I feel sure that the following ideas have probably already been thoroughly considered, nevertheless I feel constrained to set them forth for any possible assistance.

1. The Director and the FBI enjoy greater prestige and greater respect from the citizens of the country than do the members of the Commission, either singly or as a group. Therefore, other things being equal, the public is basically for the Bureau in any contest of views.
2. The Commission in its report, and at least one of the members, Gerald R. Ford (R. - Mich.), in a Life Magazine article have said their piece and all of us in a position to know recognize it as a slanted, self-serving piece in so far as it relates to the Bureau. In general, outside of the high respect and trust which they have come to associate with the FBI, members of the general public have no authentic way of recognizing or knowing of the slanted, out-of-context nature of the report as it relates to the FBI.
3. The attack on the unfounded criticism by our newspaper friends is unequalled, and represents a terrific job already. However, it is respectfully suggested that at a time considered appropriate, the Bureau may wish to consider also saying its piece; and that the FBI may wish directly and publicly to defend its position and set the record straight with respect to the principal, basic issues involved. It is my personal view that such a statement or release would provide the authenticity needed by the general public on which to base their judgment of the invalidity of the Commission's criticism.

I recognize that there are many pros and cons involved and that many times the better course of action is to ignore unfounded criticism. However, I cannot overlook what I consider to be a fundamental fact that an innocent party in serious jeopardy speaks out in his own defense; and in my opinion, the hurt in this instance is so serious that to me it warrants all-out rebuttal, even if it should involve taking public issue with the Commission on the part of the Bureau. After all, the

1-Mr. Belmont  
 1-Mr. DeLoach

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
Re: WARREN COMMISSION REPORT

Commission improperly, selfishly, and unfairly initiated the controversy by misrepresenting the facts and I see no reason to show the Commission any more courtesy than they showed the Bureau. It is felt this rebuttal might appropriately take the form of a little booklet carefully prepared and documented. In this manner the rebuttal could be permanently available as a historical document which would not normally be true of a press release.

ACTION:

Respectfully submitted in the hope that it may be of some small assistance in meeting the current problem.