

To Alan Theoharis & Hays

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could have done the leaking. Obviously, the content of the O'Leary story had to come from the FBI because it had not yet distributed any copies of its report.

I've not been able to resolve in my own mind whether the kind of note Hoover appended, here and so often, was self-serving, pretending he had no knowledge at all of the leaking, or if he was really kept in the dark (in his later years) by those closest to him and in day-to-day control. (A reporter friend who was the recipient of these FBI leaks believes that Hoover then knew. I don't know and haven't been able to make up my own mind.)

This leaking boxed the Warren Commission in, for your information, as they let down their hair in executive session 1/21/64 and told themselves. The leaks served to limit what the Commission could and could not do and formulated the national and international mind. If you were to examine CD1 you'd see that it is not on the assassination at all but is a diatribe against Oswald. It does not even include all the known wounds JFK sustained and has only two sentences on the assassination itself. I'll try to remember to locate and send what the reaction was when the then general counsel of DoD demurred and found the report thin and inadequate, later when he got a copy.

DeLoach et al had their way in the end because they arranged the release for after the Star had gone to press. (afternoon paper) But just in time for the AP and UPI wire to be included in the evening TV newscasts (Serial 2466)

Hoover reacted strongly to the mild criticism of the FBI in the Warren Report. The FBI immediately leaked what could embarrass the Commission to the Star, exclusively. Here Hoover wrote a thank-you letter to O'Leary 10/2/64. (The Report was released 9/27)

Serial 5153, 10/8/64, is the beginning of what I wrote you about earlier, that the FBI got the Dallas police chief to grovel and then after he did, broke off all relations, even training. DeLoach moved immediately, without regard to the truth of what Chief Curry had said, and got the Dallas SAC to get the police chief to apologize, which he had done. Now bear in mind that they all know that Curry had been truthful, but that his truth was hurtful to the FBI. So, in addition to having Curry apologize they tapped their AP, UPI and O'Leary sources, O'Leary alone as an individual reporter (his paper reached the Congress, among others), all intended to box Curry in (see p.2)

With what the DeLoach memo spells out, note carefully the FBI's language in the attached proposed release -which really says the opposite, (raf 2)

62-109060-4264, O'Leary gave the FBI an advance copy of Leo Sauvage's book, then wrote his own book review. Of which Hoover noted, "Very well done by O'Leary."

Before I forget, I've not heard anything further in response to my efforts to get a copy of the Earl Golz story in the Dallas Morning News re Hoover breaking off all relations and the indications in my file are that I sent him the only set of duplicates I had when my copier wasn't working. So, I suggest that you'll get at least the minimum if you ask the Librarian at the Morning News for a copy from his morgue. Gary Mack was to send me a copy but he hasn't. He is a friend of Golz' and has a small newsletter.

The 1968 record relate to O'Leary's services to the FBI and its to him when Dr. King was assassinated. 44-38861 is the FBI's main file codenamed MURKIN. By the time this was disclosed to me the FBI was hiding all leads to the more sensitive DeLoach 94 files thus the obliteration of where the original is filed. Under DeLoach Tom Bishop was a chief leaker, including in the JFK case. I think but I'm not now sure that he was an assistant director. Here (5/3/68, 5/9) the proposal goes upward, to help O'Leary with an article for the "Readers Digest on James Earl Ray. The proposal begins

by puffing itself, the Digest and O'Leary up. Tolson recommended against it and Hoover concurred. Bishop noted that DeLoach told the Digest "that no cooperation can be furnished." Ditto for O'Leary. I can imagine what DeLoach really told O'Leary from Bishop's 5/8 to him, reporting that O'Leary was doing a puff story on the FBI which emphasized its alleged secrecy and making of only three releases and would include only information O'Leary himself had dug up "from an assiduous study of newspaper and other news accounts from all over the country." (Picture of O'Leary with taped coverage of all the radio and TV stations!) Bishop was careful to note that they had given O'Leary only what was in their three formal releases. I'm also including the FBI's abstract on this.

After the passing of a little time and O'Leary's page-one story in the Star was out Jones renewed the proposal, Serial 3877. This is followed by emphasis on O'Leary's allegedly great original work and research and "his strong background on this case." So, Jones recommends that they give O'Leary the same cooperation they did in an earlier Digest piece on the ten most-wanted fugitives. Bishop was careful to go on record against this (having already done it), "No, we can't play favorites..." But Hoover noted, "OK."

What this next page, separated in my file of duplicates from <sup>its</sup> first page, has Jones reporting to Bishop is that they have revised O'Leary's ms. And that it be returned to DeLoach for him to give it (called "returned") to the Digest's Washington office. Bishop remains careful to note having some questions still.

The page marked 235 is the DJ Office of Professional Responsibility (ugh!) summary of section ~~47~~ 47 of the MURKIN file. It states that Hoover approved that O'Leary be "encouraged to do a story, using public information and with Bureau approval of the manuscript." Next is the first page of the story, from the FBI's copy, as it appeared in the Digest. Clearly FBI puffery.

The effect of this story on Ray and subsequent history is in the FBI's copy of Ray's letter to the judge after it appeared. Note that this copy was before the post-marking. All Ray's mail was intercepted and copied, even though the judge had ordered that this could not be done, except that his mail could be scanned to see that there was no escape plan. Ray tells the judge that if such prejudicial publicity "dont stop I mite as well waive the trial and come over and get sentenced." And that is what ultimately happened. To this day there has not been any trial and he has tried since to get one. The interception was by the sheriff, who delivered the interceptions to the DA, where the copying was done and distribution began.

Some of these records were in the JFK files, and when they were disclosed O'Leary was seriously embarrassed because his peers detected immediately that he had agreed to prior censorship. He claimed not to have agreed to pre-publishing editing privileges for the FBI but didn't deny it because "they gave me most of the information." as Ray had recognized, nothing else was possible.

They Ray did, he claimed under coercion, and that is obvious, enter a guilty plea, through Percy Foreman. He feared Foreman would throw the case before a jury, so as soon as he got to the jail to which he was transferred he wrote the judge withdrawing his plea. But the day after he entered his plea, Serial 5654, DeLoach was urging Tolson that they get a ~~man~~ "friendly, capable author of the Reader's Digest, and proceed with a book on this case." Tolson asked "who do you suggest" and someone added the m to whom. ~~DeLoach~~ DeLoach was considering the Digest or Gerold Frank, and they liked him. Hoover gave his OK.

M.A. Jones reported 5/20/69 that the Digest was considering having Jim Bishop do a book, but Hoover believed they should wait and see what moves Ray makes to open his case. By then Ray's letter(s) to the judge had been published. As I'm sure I told you earlier, they then did not work with the Digest and Bishop on a book and that the reports the FBI wanted published were leaked to Frank by the Memphis prosecutor, to

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