

5716

11:30 a.m.

November 25, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
 MR. BELMONT
 MR. MOHR
 MR. CONRAD
 MR. DE LOACH
 MR. EVANS
 MR. ROSEN
 MR. SULLIVAN

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

I called Mr. Walter Jenkins at the White House and advised him that we had killed the editorial in the Post. I said the matter had been discussed with Mr. Friendly, the managing editor.

I further advised Mr. Jenkins that Mr. Friendly had said it had been discussed; that they did not think the report ought to be released by the Attorney General or anyone in the Department of Justice; that it should be released either by the President or some distinguished jurist who would review it.

Mr. Jenkins asked what I thought of this, and I said I thought we ought to see how the report shapes up; as it looked at the moment, I thought it probably would be better to have it released by the President; that yesterday the President felt it should be kept in the Department of Justice; but from the attitude of Friendly, his feeling is that in the country there is so much feeling against the Attorney General it might not be accepted as the complete and true picture notwithstanding the fact the investigation was made by the FBI. I said, in view of the Post's position which they naturally would have, it seemed to me the reports we will submit will have all the exhibits and could very readily be made available to the press by either the Attorney General or the President.

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Mr. Jenkins said he presumed the report will be pretty conclusive; almost speak for itself. I said it would; that the main one on the assassination we can probably have ready within the next twenty-four hours but I

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

JEH:rm (12)

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MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Section 1

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Mohr,
Conrad, DeLoach, Evans, Rosen, Sullivan

November 23, 1963

intended to run a strong editorial in favor of this Presidential Commission; that he asked if I could dissuade the Post from carrying the editorial and I told him, frankly, that I seldom read the paper but would get word as to what is being done and the possibility of the District Attorney who is still conducting an investigation. I mentioned that the District Attorney yesterday announced that the case was closed and later retracted and then said the investigation would continue. I stated that I was going to try to get word to the Post that to put out an editorial of that kind would do more harm than good.

I told Mr. Katzenbach that if things continue as they are being done now, I thought we could get the report up by Wednesday of this week. Mr. Katzenbach said he thought so, too, and that he had sent a memorandum over this morning indicating the same thing.

I further advised him that the President felt the way we agreed upon yesterday would be best; that the report on the assassination was practically completed; that we were going into the report on Oswald today; that we must find out why the police allowed Ruby in; that the picture in the Post this morning showed definitely that no effort was made to push the fellow away or grab him. I said that I understood Ruby had been very close and had many friends among the men in the police department; that he had brought down sandwiches the second day and, when they indicated they did not want the sandwiches, he gave them to the news men; that he ran a night club and was friendly with the police and probably they just let him in the building; that unfortunately they had given a timetable down there on when it was going to take place to the minute.

I also informed Mr. Katzenbach that I spoke to the Attorney General last night about the procession today; that I thought the parade from the White House to the Cathedral was very dangerous; that I told the Attorney General I felt he ought to give some thought to that because we had received information that he himself would be killed and Johnson would be killed in the parade today, and we ourselves had already assigned forty of our men to the Secret Service to be along the line of march there. I said I gathered that the plan of marching up had not been changed and would go through. Mr. Katzenbach answered that, unfortunately, he thought that was true.

Mr. Katzenbach advised that Mr. Guthman had met with Mr. DeLoach and that would be done.

I advised Mr. Katzenbach that, if I learned we could stop the editorial, I would let him know. Mr. Katzenbach indicated that

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to something. I replied that I thought it would be very good; that any contact he might have over there would be very helpful to dissuade them from carrying such an editorial.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D. O.	
TIME	3:21 PM
DATE	11/23/53
BY	QcK