

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Tavel

DATE: 4-20-64

FROM : F. W. Waikart

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION -
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S
BRIEFING ON THEIR FILES SYSTEM

The attached memorandum from Brennan to Sullivan dated 4-17-64 outlines a briefing furnished members of the Presidential Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy of the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) procedures relating to the collection, indexing and dissemination of information during which reference was made to the FBI having "the most effective manually-operated indexing system in the world. The Director has inquired "What is this?"

CIA is referring to the Bureau's method of classifying, indexing and filing mail through the use of clerical employees as distinguished from so-called automated systems that search and store information automatically through the use of punched cards, tape, film or discs. The Bureau's system is manually operated in the sense that clerical employees physically handle such principal functions as searching our general indices to see what information the Bureau has on any given subject matter. By use of this simple and direct technique, the Bureau handles a tremendous volume of work and to our knowledge there is no mechanized equipment now on the market or even presently contemplated that could begin to handle the existing volume as rapidly and as accurately as is presently accomplished.

Since the mid-50's, CIA has, on a limited basis, been experimenting with the use of International Business Machines (IBM) punch cards in correlating certain types of information in their records. It is estimated that the conversion to automatic data processing equipment in this regard will cost in excess of \$6,000,000.00 and yet will only encompass a small part of CIA's records. We have been closely following

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen (attention Mr. Malley)
- 1 - Mr. Papich

FWW:bpr
(6)

ENCLOSURE

58 MAY 8 1964

SENT DIRECTOR
4-20-64

UNRECORDED
66-3669
10619075

62-109090-136
EX-105
DEC 24

Memo F. W. Waikart to Mr. Tavel
Re: PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION
CIA'S BRIEFING ON THEIR FILES SYSTEM

this operation and on occasion have observed the system. Many practical problems have developed and the day-to-day utilization of the system has necessarily been postponed until, as indicated in referenced memorandum, they now foresee that it will still take at least a year and a half to finish the job.

Through the Bureau's membership on the Committee on Documentation, U.S. Intelligence Board, and through personal contact with commercial firms such as International Business Machines and Radio Corporation of America, we are also keeping in touch with developments in the field of automatic data processing. We are, of course, particularly interested in the intelligence agencies in the Government where millions of dollars are being spent on experimentation. No "breakthroughs" have occurred that will accommodate a records system as large as ours or that will adequately handle the volume of requests we do on a daily basis up to this time.

ACTION:

The Director will be promptly informed of pertinent and interesting developments as they occur in this field.

AW *Key AC* *5/4/20*
I hope we are really on top of this & not following antiquated physical letters
H