

# WARREN AND F.B.I. SPLIT OVER REPORT

## Document on Kennedy Slaying Ended Alliance of Hoover and the Chief Justice

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DURHAM, N.C., Nov. 28 — Government documents made public 22 years after the slaying of President Kennedy suggest that the Warren Commission's report on the assassination put an end to a long-standing political alliance and personal friendship between Chief Justice Earl Warren and J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

More than 1,300 pages of F.B.I. documents, released under the Freedom of Information Act, show that Chief Justice Warren and the F.B.I. had a cooperative relationship that began while Mr. Warren was a district attorney in California and continued while he was Governor.

The Warren Commission report, issued in September 1964, concluded that the President was assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald alone and found no evidence of a conspiracy. It cited the F.B.I. as taking an "unduly restrictive view of its role in preventive intelligence work prior to the assassination" and said, "A more carefully coordinated treatment of the Oswald case by the F.B.I. might well have resulted in bringing Oswald's activities to the attention of the Secret Service."

### Warren Report Termed Unfair

Mr. Hoover called the report's critique of the F.B.I. unfair. Less than three months later Chief Justice Warren was taken off the F.B.I.'s "special correspondents list," a collection of prominent citizens perceived to be strong supporters of the bureau.

To date biographers have assumed that Mr. Hoover came to dislike Chief Justice Warren because of his liberal Court decisions. In his years of public office in California, Mr. Warren was known for his tough law-and-order stance and anti-Communism.

But according to the documents, the friendship began to crumble nine days after the Warren Commission's first meeting. In a memorandum dated Dec. 14, 1963, Mr. Hoover said that the F.B.I.'s report on the assassination had been released to the press by Chief Justice Warren and "the Chief Justice had been very much annoyed at the information to come out in the F.B.I. report."

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Years later, however, a William C. Sullivan, a former assistant to the F.B.I. Director, admitted that the bureau had released portions of the report.

An F.B.I. document indicates that Mr. Hoover was opposed to the formation of the commission and prepared dossiers on members and staff that were updated after the report was issued. The document also describes reports concerning F.B.I. attempts to impede the investigation, including withholding information from the commission.

According to Amelia Fry, who is on leave from the Regional Oral History

Office at the University of California at Berkeley, which houses the Earl Warren Oral History Project, the Warren Commission "interfered" with Mr. Hoover's "private domain" and Mr. Hoover presumably considered it "a betrayal by someone he worked with and did favors for."

In 1979, the commission was criticized in the report of the House Select Committee on Assassinations as having failed to "investigate adequately the possibility of a conspiracy to assassinate the President."

### Panel Faults F.B.I.

"In large measure, the Warren Commission's inadequacies in investigating important aspects of the President's assassination was a result of failures by the C.I.A. and F.B.I. to provide it with all relevant evidence and information," the House report said.

Harold Weisberg, author of "White-wash" and five other books attacking the findings of the Warren Commission, contends that Chief Justice Warren knew that the F.B.I. was withholding information but felt it was his "national duty to preserve tranquility," and therefore did not press the F.B.I. But according to G. Edward White, professor of law at the University of Virginia, who wrote "Earl Warren: A Public Life," the Chief Justice "really believed, given what they were investigating, that the F.B.I. and C.I.A. would cooperate with the commission."

The trust between Mr. Hoover and the Chief Justice that began in the 1930's, developed into a special F.B.I. program entitled "Cooperation with Gov. Earl Warren." According to F.B.I. records, from 1948 to 1953, Mr. Hoover authorized agents to furnish confidential information to Mr. Warren. "He should be advised that the information is furnished in strictest confidence and none of the information can be attributed to the F.B.I.," Mr. Hoover wrote. Requests made by Mr. Warren illustrate his concern about Communist subversion.

The files also show that the F.B.I. provided favors to Mr. Warren, including a personal car and driver on several occasions.

"Whatever the Governor requests I want prompt attention accorded it," Mr. Hoover wrote in 1951.

One of the last entries in the F.B.I.'s file is a letter from Mr. Hoover to Mr. Warren after the Chief Justice announced his resignation in 1968. "You have contributed untiringly and unselfishly to furthering the best interests of the nation," Mr. Hoover wrote, "and your record of achievements will long stand as a monument to you."

A notation was fixed to the bureau's copy of this letter: "Chief Justice Warren was formerly on the special correspondents list but was deleted Dec. 11, 1964. He was then known to the Director on a first-name basis."