

March 25, 1940

The following information comes from John Henshaw:

To obtain the press releases of the Civil Service Commission about its controversy with J. Edgar Hoover, see a Mr. Hathaway at the Civil Service Commission.

Elmer J. Irej, Chief of Staff of the Special Intelligence Unit of the Treasury (who was in charge of all the T-men) has a personal feud with J. Edgar Hoover which Henshaw says is based upon personal jealousy. This animosity, he says, is many years old and flared into the open during the Lindbergh case. Irej had been assigned by President Hoover to assist on this case. At the famous cemetery ransom paying, he says Irej was with Condon and Lindbergh who paid the ransom pursuant to Irej's recommendation. Irej himself, Henshaw says, threw the money over the cemetery wall. Irej's failure in this case tickled J. Edgar Hoover.

Before going to the Department of Justice, Hoover was a book-runner at the Library of Congress. He had never had any field experience as an investigator before becoming Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Reporters used to rib Hoover about this and it was following the ribbing by reporters that Hoover personally directed the now famous search of a gangster's headquarters in New York which caused the strong criticism of Hoover and the FBI by Commissioner of New York Police Valentine. This is supposed to be Hoover's first participation in an actual investigation.

Gaston B. Means was influential with the Department of Justice at the time of William J. Burns.

Bruce Bellaski, who was formerly Director of the FBI or a very important official within this bureau, is now employed by a fire insurance group in New York City. Bellaski is credited with having introduced the FBI fingerprint system which Hoover has enlarged upon.