

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Branigan
DATE: 5/24/66

Tolson	_____
DeLoach	_____
Mohr	_____
Bishop	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

FROM : D. J. Brennan, Jr.

1 - Mr. Lenihan
1 - Liaison
1 - Mr. Papich

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON
THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY
(WARREN COMMISSION)

Allen Dulles telephonically furnished the following information to Agent Papich on May 23, 1966.

Dulles had just received a phone call from Fletcher Knebel, well-known writer. Knebel informed Dulles that he was collaborating with one Edward J. Epstein in writing a book on the Warren Commission report dealing with the assassination of President Kennedy. Knebel indicated that this book would "throw a new light on everything." He did not elaborate but stated that Epstein had access to FBI reports. He explained that this access had been arranged through Wesley J. Liebeler, who had been a member of the Warren Commission working staff. Knebel was looking for Dulles' reaction and Dulles advised Knebel that he would be way out of line if he were using FBI reports. Dulles raised the question concerning legality and handling of classified information. Knebel made no further comment but did indicate that Epstein personally may have been in contact with Dulles in the past.

Shortly after, Dulles called again stating that he had checked his diary. He learned that Epstein had telephonically contacted him on September 27, 1965, explaining that he was a graduate student at Cornell University and that he was writing a thesis on the Warren Commission report. Epstein told Dulles that he had talked to other members of the Commission and he was interested in meeting with the former CIA Director. Dulles stated that he saw Epstein about three days later and they had a conversation concerning the work of the Warren Commission. The entire conversation was in general terms and he recalled that Epstein never expressed any personal views concerning the work of the Commission. He definitely gave no indication that he was planning to write a book.

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Enc.

sent 5-25-66 62-109090-481

JUN 9 1966

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Dulles asked that we not contact Knebel or Epstein at this time and not identify Dulles as the source of this information. Dulles made the observation that the current atmosphere is such that he and the Bureau can easily be charged with "suppression." Dulles made it clear that he certainly was not restricting the Bureau from making any inquiry and he fully recognized that this might become necessary. He stated that if "the chips are down" and he is needed, he will be ready to cooperate with the Bureau.

Bufiles indicate that one Edward J. Epstein, born December 6, 1935, described as a student, residing at 121 Wright Road, Rocky Avenue Centre, New York, traveled as a tourist in the Soviet Union in 1958 (100-351585-3339).

Our files also indicate that in 1955 Edward J. Epstein, a student at Cornell University, complained that a telephone conversation between him and another student had been tape recorded by a member of an investigating committee connected with the Student Council of Cornell University. The Committee was looking into campus election irregularities. The facts were submitted to the Department for possible violation of unauthorized publication or use of communications and the Department declined prosecution (139-198).

OBSERVATIONS:

A large number of FBI reports and other documents were set out in part or in their entirety in the "Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy." In addition, it is to be noted that a large number of FBI reports prepared in connection with the assassination of the late President Kennedy are in possession of the National Archives and are available to the

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public. As a matter of policy the National Archives will not release material originating from the FBI without prior FBI approval, however, the above material was specifically reviewed by us for release. It is not known what documents Epstein allegedly may possess, but there is a definite possibility he may have documents which have been cleared for release to the public.

ACTION:

Enclosed for approval is a letter to the Attorney General advising him concerning this matter. He is being informed that the Bureau does not contemplate any further action.

Handwritten notes and signatures:
A large handwritten signature, possibly "Wesley", is written vertically on the left side.
A checkmark (✓) is written in the center.
The initials "OK" are written in the upper right.
Below "OK", there are several other handwritten initials or signatures, including what appears to be "D.H." and "a".