

No. 24 *The Hoover Legend and Mythology*

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As you know you have become a legend in your lifetime with a surrounding mythology linked to incredible power. This is not good for either you or the Bureau. It is not all your fault. I share a responsibility here and so do all other officials. We did all possible to build up your legend. We kept away from anything which would disturb you and kept flowing into your office what you wanted to hear. Let us face it—everyone knew of your ego. This type of thing had gone on I was told long before I entered the FBI in 1941. One official followed in the footsteps of the other and so it was year after year. Gifts, letters of great praise on your many anniversaries, your return from west coast and Florida trips, which you did not call vacations but inspection trips and annual physical examinations, and any other occasion which would justify a letter. You may not know this but I would get a call from some official and he would say "do you know that so and so has just written the Director a flowery letter on his appearance on the Hill." The word went out at once and then all officials would write you a similar letter. This was all part of the game but it got to be a deadly game that has accomplished no good. All we did was to help to put you out of touch with the real world and this could not help but have a bearing on your decisions as the years went by. This is why I say you are not to be blamed for all of this. All the officials around you like myself down through the years must share the blame.

No. 25 *Military Leave*

A few years ago I could see the beginning of the breakup of the FBI. At first I did not admit it even to myself. I made excuses. I rationalized. I turned aside from the obvious. At last I had to face up to reality. You had abolished vital programs, your decisions were fouling up other operations and I decided I could better serve my country in the army and I wrote to you and said I would like military leave to go to Vietnam. This was a time when many of our young soldiers were getting ambushed and killed because of a lack of good intelligence, I was told. You made it clear you did not want me to take military leave so I dropped the idea. I wonder how much different it all would have been if you said "yes go ahead." No use now of speculating about it.

No. 26 *Leaks of Sensitive Material*

Mr. Hoover, you have regularly told the public FBI files are secure, inviolate, almost sacred. Years ago when I first discovered this was not true at all I was stunned. But, we had created in time a certain atmosphere in the FBI difficult to describe and one learns to live with what one learns, both good and bad. We have leaked information improperly, as you know, on

both persons and organizations. My first recollection was leaking information about Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt whom you detested. And so it was year after year right up to our leaking the investigation on the killing of President John F. Kennedy and thereafter to the present. This should also stop.

No. 27 *FBI and Politics*

This topic I have saved until the last because it has done more than anything else to bring on my disillusionment with the FBI. Like so many young men before I entered the FBI I thought the FBI was the epitome of purity and that you were about as flawless a leader that can be found. I held on to this belief while I was in the field offices despite stories told me by old agents. I held on to it for a long time after I returned to Headquarters as a supervisor. This again despite stories circulated that the FBI was the most political agency in government and that you were completely immersed with politics with every administration. I do not have to go into detail. I saw example after example of how you willingly served any powerful figure in an influential office. While you are extremely conservative yourself I noticed it did not matter whether the political figure was liberal or conservative, if it served your cuds, you were eager to act. It did not matter whether it was a Republican or a Democrat or whether the Administration in power was Republican or Democrat. I saw clearly at last that the FBI always presented to the American public as non-political, as being outside, above and beyond politics, was just the contrary. It was immersed in politics and even went so far as to conduct purely political investigations and inquiries. At times, it seemed that when we were not asked to perform politically we sought opportunities to do so. I was so concerned about this under Mr. Johnson's administration that I wrote you a letter and expressed my concern and urged that the FBI not be used politically. Again, you are not the sole blame here. We who helped you inside the Bureau to carry out such activities must share the blame. And, the politicians who used the FBI must also share the blame.

Final Observation

Mr. Hoover, you know this was not an easy letter for me to write, both physically and psychologically. The first is true because as you can see I am no typist so please pardon the mistakes and organization. The second is true because we have been friends and worked together for years even though our views often differed. The hardest decision I have ever made in my lifetime was the decision in July to take a stand and break with you hoping that some good would come out of it for the Bureau, not for me because I would be leaving. It was a last resort. You know well I tried in every proper way to bring about the badly needed changes. You did away with vital programs. You falsely accused me of writing the two fine letters which Sam J. Papich, former liaison with CIA, had written trying to prevent you from further

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Once agai We were all pa bility. This is i still time to br you do not hav down quietly l men together e Bureau. If you ble that bubble will only see th tion and it nec sional manner.

Mr. Hoov may I gently s telligence com never to retire; It looks now th gested above y after such a lor