

February 5, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. ELLMONT
MR. ROSEN
MR. SULLIVAN
MR. DE LOACH
MR. EVANS

The Attorney General called and stated he had heard that there has been some discussion about a report on Martin Luther King before the Rooney Committee and also some discussion about the Department of Justice wanted to recall that report and he, the Attorney General, wanted to recall our conversation about it because someone, of the impression he, the Attorney General, requested it be recalled. I told the Attorney General that the only discussion before the Rooney Committee was off the record; that there was inquiry off the record as to the association of Martin Luther King with the Communist movement and I reviewed the information that we had developed in the monograph and said copies of the monograph had been delivered to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the White House, and that it was later recalled because it was feared it might leak out. I stated one of the members of the Committee, a Republican, made the statement he thought it ought to be exposed, and Chairman Rooney said he thought information of that kind should be kept in the back of the head rather than come out as public information. I stated I made the remark that that was the intention in recalling the document. The Attorney General stated he understood that they are saying he had requested it be withdrawn. I stated it was nothing of the kind; that in other words he, the Attorney General, and I had talked about it several times and he had questioned the wisdom of its distribution and I indicated I would have the copies withdrawn and I did. The Attorney General stated he did not want to have the idea that he had requested it. I stated both of us had feared a leak might get out from the Departments which had copies of the monograph; and if it happened during a sensitive time of negotiations going on with the Negro leaders, it would have caused a serious incident as King was concerned.

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The Attorney General said another thing he was calling about is that DeLoach said to Ed Callahan that the Attorney General should be concerned about the letter written about King and speaking on behalf of the FBI, if they were he, the Attorney General, they would be concerned. The Attorney General

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

Miles Holmes
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Section 78

February 6, 1964

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, Rosen, Sullivan, DeLoach, Evans

stated he did not know what is going on with this thing, that he just knew the letter was cleared with the FBI before it was sent. I stated I did not know what the letter is, that I would check on it because that is a new development I had not heard about. The Attorney General stated that just last weekend he heard that there was apparently some conspiracy on the part of President Kennedy and himself in connection with this; that he did not mind it coming out, but he wanted the facts. I stated there was no discussion on the record at all, it was all off the record and as I had stated, there was one member who thought the information about King ought to be exposed and Hooney spoke up that it is better at times to have matters of this kind in the back of the head rather than have it leak out or be disseminated, and I stated that was the intention of recalling the document. The Attorney General stated he remembered the conversation we had had. I stated as regard to this matter of some letter that DeLoach mentioned, I did not know what that is about and I would talk to DeLoach about it and check on it.

10:00 AM

I called the Attorney General and advised him I spoke to DeLoach about it and he emphatically denies he made any such statement to Guttman; DeLoach said Guttman came around to see him yesterday about the fact the press is getting information regarding Martin Luther King which concerned him. DeLoach says his remark was it also concerned us because it imperils any sources of information we might have. I continued that there was a reporter in Atlanta who, I believe, arrived in Washington yesterday and who is doing an article for the Saturday Evening Post exposing King; that while he was in Atlanta he made the statement down there concerning O'Dell's connection with the Communist Party and was concerned about Levison writing King's speeches and he was then coming on to Washington to see the Department people here to supplement this or get any additional information he could. I stated that gives us great concern because of the fact what Levison does, that is a highly confidential matter from one of our informants who is associated with Levison. I stated there has been a leak somewhere concerning that particular thing, but at no time was any reference made concerning the fact that he, the Attorney General, should be concerned about any letter he wrote.

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The Attorney General stated he is concerned about that as he understood I was. He stated a lot of these things seem to be coming out in the papers which were not before. I agreed and stated Drew Pearson, I happen to know, in regard to his column this morning, got the entire information from the Air Force who have copies of our reports; that this man (Reynolds) was in the Air Force and we made an investigation of him then because of the security risk; that Pearson got access to the files of the Air Force and has attributed it to us - that when you read the thing, it sounds as though everything was furnished by the FBI when in reality Pearson could not get inside any door of the Bureau as he is held in contempt by everybody in the Bureau. I stated Pearson hangs it on to the FBI as if it emanated from us. I stated Pearson did the same thing in regard to the assassination of the President, that he attributed certain information to the FBI which, as a matter of fact, he got from Earl Warren himself. I stated Pearson and Warren are close friends; they travel together and spend vacations together. I stated I had been tipped off in advance that Pearson was writing a column critical of the Bureau and giving information regarding the John Edgar Hoover case and Pearson made it appear we were leaking information when as a matter of fact nothing ever was leaked out until after the report left the Bureau and then things began leaking out. I stated a lot leaked out in Dallas from the Police Department, which was doing a lot of talking about the evidence they sent us like the gun, the fingerprints, et cetera. I stated we identified them and in turn made a report to the Dallas Police Department and the Chief then went on TV and radio and reported what we found. I stated I told the Agent in Charge to tell the Chief I wanted him to shut up; of course, the Chief could have ignored me, but nevertheless I thought he was doing a great deal of harm, but the Chief did shut up and he never appeared on TV or radio again, but the harm had been done because certain members of the Presidential Commission on the assassination thought the material was leaked out by the FBI. I stated Pearson was the author of that kind of a column just as this morning if you read his column, the FBI furnished everything about this fellow Reynolds who is involved in the Bobby Baker case when, in fact, copies of our reports of an investigation on Reynolds years ago went to the Air Force. I stated I was tipped off last week that Pearson's man had obtained access to those files in the Air Force and he was going to write a column, not only one but I think four columns, which will be favorable to Walter Jenkins and the President and discrediting Reynolds particularly.

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The Attorney General stated he thought his relationship with me, and the Department and the FBI, have been good since he has been there; that he was going to be there just a few weeks longer and if at any time there are any disagreements, he would like to continue talking as we have in the past; that he just wants to make sure we continue our close relationship. I stated as the campaign comes on there are a lot of lies which people begin to circulate in columns or by word of mouth which spread around. I stated just like that woman we had in here last week who retracted all the statements she had made about sexual relations with the former President; with him, the Attorney General; and everybody else; that there were only two Senators she stuck to, but we had gotten her under oath and she had retracted her statements. I stated some private detective had recorded her statements and was selling it for \$500 a copy. I stated I understood the Hearst papers bought one for \$500, but she involved President Johnson and any number of Senators. I stated she is another one of these call girls, but she admitted under oath, as the Kozlowski girl did, that it was false. I stated it is so hard to catch up with these liars and when you get a retraction there is no way to get it out. I said people who listen to the recording, which is a wire recording, get a colossal pleasure out of it and then repeat it until it boils up. I stated it rolls like a snowball. I said it is an outrage to the people themselves, but Washington is filled with gossip. The Attorney General stated he thought if we all just work closely together that is the best thing and I agree.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 3:25 PM
DATE 2-5-64
BY [Signature]