

Page 9/1/69

Hoover Said To Take 3 Off Cohn Case

From News Dispatches

NEW YORK, Aug. 31—Three FBI agents who helped U.S. Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau in his case against Roy M. Cohn were personally transferred out of New York City on 36 hours' notice by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, it was reported today.

William Lambert, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, said in an article in Life magazine this was just one example of the way in which Cohn's "friends and influence" protected him.

The FBI in Washington had no comment.

See COHN, A6, Col. 1

A6 Monday, Sept. 1, 1969
THE WASHINGTON POST

3 Reported Taken Off Cohn Case

COHN, From A1

Cohn, 42, who was chief counsel to the Senate committee of Joseph R. McCarthy and now is a New York lawyer and financier, is scheduled to go on trial in several weeks on charges of conspiracy, mail fraud, bribery, extortion and blackmail in connection with the city's condemnation of a private bus line.

But, Lambert said, the episode of the FBI agents in April "thoroughly shook up some of Morgenthau's witnesses" against Cohn and the prosecutor is "having a hard time convincing prospective witnesses that the Cohn prose-

cution was going ahead as scheduled by the court."

Lambert said the FBI incident involved Louis Nichols, Hoover's former No. 2 man who retired in 1957 to become a \$100,000-a-year executive with Schenley Industries and who now is "frequently mentioned as a successor to Hoover." Lambert said Nichols got the job through Cohn's intercession with Lewis Rosenstiel, the multimillionaire head of

Schenley's.

[Maxine Cheshire of The Washington Post reported in June that Rosenstiel—often described as a "father figure" to Cohn—had given more than \$1 million to the J. Edgar Hoover Foundation, whose president is Nichols. Nearly everyone connected with Nichols in the foundation is or was associated with the FBI or Schenley's, she reported.]

"It was not until last April that Nichols had an opportunity to show his gratitude for Cohn's favors," Lambert said.

The FBI agents became involved in the Cohn case over an affidavit that Cohn's lawyers submitted in seeking dismissal of the indictment against him.

The affidavit from Milton (Mannie) Pollack, who was serving time for grand larceny and awaiting trial on a charge of possessing stolen securities, charged that Morgenthau's office had promised to help him get a pardon if he would help "in inveigling Roy Cohn into some transaction that could result in his prosecution," Lambert said.

Morgenthau's aides filed affidavits refuting the charges and, at their request, so did FBI agents Donald Jones, Russell Sullivan and Jack Knox, Lambert said.

The agents made the mistake of failing to submit copies of their affidavits to the Washington FBI office, as required before turning them over the U. S. attorney, however, Lambert said.

"The agents' affidavits were filed with the court last April. Cohn promptly turned his copies over to Nichols, who charged into the Washington headquarters of the bureau demanding that the agents be censured," Lambert said.

Life said Hoover transferred the agents on May 2—Jones to St. Louis, Sullivan to Louisville and Knox to Pittsburgh—giving them 30 days to report. The time was later reduced to 36 hours after Morgenthau protested the action to John F. Malone, head of the FBI's New York office, the magazine said.

Lambert is the reporter who unearthed the link between former Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas and jailed financier Louis Wolfson that led ultimately to Fortas' resignation.