

JFK assassination records appeals

Harold Weisberg 10/1/79

Files not searched

The DeLoach/propaganda operation (against the conclusions of the Warren Commission)

Among the most important historical records relating to the FBI and the investigation of the assassination of the President are all records relating to the FBI's extensive and persisting propaganda campaign against the committee. ~~Despite~~ Despite its loud denials and accusations against others the FBI was a regular leaker, the leaks designed to control what the Commission could or would do. The effect on the Commission is clear in the transcripts of its executive sessions. Except as they are included in those few files the FBI elected to search these records are withheld because the right files have not been searched. The right files are those of and relating to "Crisis Records," the euphemism the FBI employed for its propaganda activities. The refusal to search other files in itself is part of the FBI's continuing campaign to control, to the degree possible, what could be known and believed.

I have yet to see a record in which the FBI assessed criticism of it in an effort to learn whether the criticism was justified and whether it could improve itself by heeding the criticism. As attached 62-109090-253 reveals the FBI's response to criticism was to open an "offensive" against it and the critic(s), even the Presidential Commission.

The FBI's defense of itself against the mild criticism of it by the Commission is based on a lie and on the FBI's suppression and destruction of evidence. This is the fact that it had reason to believe that Oswald had a potential for violence and that it destroyed the proof and then kept it all secret until it was leaked in 1975. If the truth had been known at the time of the crime and of the Presidential Commission all of the history of the investigation of the assassination would have been different. Thus, true to Orwell, by controlling the past the FBI controlled the future. It also controlled the 1975 investigation.

In Serial 253 DeLoach boasts of his accomplishments in leaking, confirming what was known at the time that he leaked the Hoover Warren Commission testimony in early October 1964, before it was officially released in November by the GPO.

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The Star was a favorite and at the Star Jeremiah O'Leary was in a preferred status. He paid the FBI back in other ways, by rendering special services for it, as JFK assassination records disclose. This record discloses that the leak was also profitable for the Star. DeLoach boasts of the number of sales the Star made, information he could have received from the Star only.

Through O'Leary the FBI was able to manipulate the entire course of the case of James Earl Ray. While in C.A. 751-996 the FBI denied any leaking to O'Leary or others, when he was embarrassed by some of the JFK assassination news releases O'Leary confirmed that the FBI had provided almost all his information. (The FBI's cover-the-Bureau paper was created in advance to indicate the opposite.)

In the attached record DeLoach indicates others he had been able to influence. He attached samples of his successes to the record and in fact the FBI distributed copies within the Government and to those who wrote it.

The FBI's primary concern when it was so audibly criticized by the Commission was not rectification and improvement but "What is the public image of the FBI...?"

He turned an unfavorable attitude around by "the release of the Director's testimony" to the Warren Commission. (That this was an FBI leak/operation is disclosed in the 10/1/64 Belmont to Tolson memo, which counsel that "it may be better to wait until the Bureau testimony becomes public" than to take other offensive initiatives. The leak to the Star appeared the next day.)

While denouncing the so-called "liberal press, with the exception of 'The New York Times,'" DeLoach did not forget to denounce other agencies who the FBI felt were guilty of failures of which it was not guilty. He refers to the "culpability" of the State Department and the Secret Service.

The FBI's mass media manipulations did succeed and did control events, including the Commission and its Report. All records relating to this are of enormous historical importance and are essential in any historical-case disclosures, the promise to the nation of the Attorney General himself. They are also essential so that the people can know what its FBI does, a basic purpose of FOIA.

That the FBI's "public image" in connection with the Kennedy assassination and the Warren Report concerned most of its top echelon is disclosed in the Not Recorded 62-109090 Serial, DeLoach to Mohr of 9/23/64, and its attachments. (The Report, then in page proof, was to press the next night.) So simple a matter as a few FBI agents who had served the Commission having walk-on parts in a USIA film, acknowledged official propaganda, occupied the time of the top brass. (I cannot cite the file in which this record is serialized because the FBI eliminated that in xeroxing. However, attachments state that the originals of them are in 62-99359, from which no records have been provided.)

Balsam wanted the FBI to get credit for the Commission's work and said that what the USIA wanted of it "puts the Bureau on the side of right and will minimize the public feeling that the FBI was revised in this matter or had something to hide."

W.C. Sullivan counseled that because "...this picture will be released" the FBI could use it "to insure that our position and the outstanding work...are presented in the most favorable light..."

Rosen expressed a similar view spoke of the "proper image" for the FBI and urged that they "get this image in the hands (of the) appropriate news media as early as possible." He also wanted the FBI to get credit for the Report.

However, Hoover and Tolson opposed any participation. Therefore DeLoach had the USIA informed "that due to our heavy responsibilities we would not be able to cooperate" with the USIA. Not even in "A brief scene which would show 4 or 5 agents walking into the front door (exterior) of the Commission offices," the request made by USIA as put by DeLoach.

On the fourth day after DeLoach wrote USIA the leak of the Hoover testimony was in the Star.

The FBI's pre-occupation with its "image" in the investigation of the assassination of the President and its refusal to have any public association with the Presidential Commission, even in an official government film are other aspects of historical significance.

So you can better appreciate this and the nature and extent of the DeLoach
operation I attach his 10/10/64 memo to Mohr, Not Recorded in 62-109090, ^{where} the
is
Serials file illegible in the right margin.

DeLoach's manipulations arranged for the Dallas Chief of Police to retract in
writing what he had told the Warren Commission. While this would be in a private
letter the FBI would be able to leak it at any time. ("...the FBI at any time in the
future can indicate to the press that Chief Curry has admitted his wrongdoing.")

The Hoover and other notes on this record are illegible in the copy provided.
I would appreciate a copy in which they can be read for they are important.

Still another area of the DeLoach operation of "Crime Records" will be included
in an appeal from a withholding by classification by #2040 in a Not Recorded Serial
in 62-109090. Its original is in 94-5(7)-6-438. That file has not been searched and
there has been no compliance from it. The occasion for that record was a signed article
by Chalmers Roberts in the Washington Post. The Director did not like it and asked
"What do we know about Roberts?" 2040 found that some of what the files held on
Roberts had to be withheld for the security of the nation. This ranged from Chalmers'
Post assignment, which was published by the Post, to what the Russians and Czechs
knew but the FBI had to withhold from the people and the historical record.