

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : MR. FELT

DATE: March 17, 1967

FROM : H. L. EDWARDS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
1967 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE, LOS ANGELES

Joseph A. Ball, Counsel to Warren Commission, was yesterday's key speaker. He made a devastating refutation of Mark Lane and several other critics of the Warren report. He described the functioning of the Warren Commission and paid highest tribute to FBI work.

He said some persons may question Commission's use of FBI but said in his opinion FBI represents the very finest investigative body in the world and why shouldn't the Commission avail itself of it. He referred to FBI reporting techniques and said he has never seen such thorough, objective, dispassionate reporting, devoid of all coloring, opinion and all partiality. He said, "They read like a stream of conscience."

He said the FBI interviewed over 25,000 persons, handled all leads quickly and thoroughly and did an outstanding job. He described the FBI Laboratory as absolutely the finest in the world, bar none.

Ball referred to the New Orleans angle and District Attorney James Garrison (neither Garrison nor any of his staff are in attendance at this conference). Although taking a "no comment" position, Ball described how thoroughly all New Orleans angles were checked out and said FBI Agents combed the French Quarter and all of its homosexuals without developing any evidence of a conspiracy between Oswald and people there.

Ball said the Warren Commission realized the possibility that some future evidence might arise to shed more light on the Oswald case, but he insisted such a development could not be considered any indictment of the thorough job which was done with all the available evidence at the time. Ball said he had not seen to date any important evidence which the Commission had overlooked and he claimed he knew only what he read in the newspapers.

Ball's remarks were given considerable coverage in local press, on radio and television. The Los Angeles Times also reported an informal poll of some District Attorneys attending conference. Several criticized Garrison's

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CONFIDENTIAL

Memo for Mr. Felt
Re: National District Attorneys Association
1967 Midwinter Conference, Los Angeles

grandstand conduct; one said Garrison should have made the information available to the FBI instead of proceeding on his own. A few supported Garrison's integrity.

Nothing critical concerning FBI was stated by Ball or anyone else in attendance. Ball was strongly applauded and many favorable comments were heard concerning the effectiveness of his refutation of the Warren critics.

RECOMMENDATION:

None informative.

WTSB

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