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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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Holmes
Gandy

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 10-6-64

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: CHALMERS M. ROBERTS — "THE WASHINGTON POST"

BACKGROUND:

A column by captioned individual entitled "Bureaucratic Feuding..Warren Report Stings FBI" appeared in the October 5th issue of "The Washington Post," and was critical of the Director's testimony before the Warren Commission. The Director has inquired "What do we know about Roberts?"

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Roberts was born November 18, 1910, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was graduated from Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1933 with an A.B. degree. Since 1933, Roberts has held a position as reporter with various newspapers and news services including "The Washington Post"; the Associated Press; the "Toledo News-Bee," Toledo, Ohio; "Japanese Times," an English-language newspaper in Tokyo, Japan; "The Washington Daily News," Washington, D. C. In 1941 Roberts went with the "Washington Times Herald," which was subsequently absorbed by "The Washington Post" with which he is still associated.

62-109090 —

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

Roberts was the subject of an applicant-type investigation by the FBI in 1942 when he was being considered for a position with the Office of Coordinator of Information. The investigation was favorable.

In 1954, the Department of State requested the Bureau to consider investigation of Roberts to determine the source of unauthorized disclosures appearing in two articles written by Roberts. He was interviewed by Bureau Agents but declined to divulge the source or sources of his information. The Department advised that prosecution would not seem feasible and no further investigation was requested.

ENCLOSURE

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Roberts' criticism of the FBI is not new. Back in 1955, he criticized the delay in our investigation of alleged "leaks" of classified information. Roberts hadn't checked with us to learn that the Department was responsible for the delay in that investigation.

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M. A. Jones to DeLoach
RE: CHALMERS M. ROBERTS

Roberts has had frequent contact with representatives of the Russian and satellite Embassies in Washington, D.C., over the past several years. As examples, in January, 1962, he had lunch with the Czech Counselor and in May of that year he also lunched with the Czech Ambassador. We have received information reporting that he met a Russian correspondent of "Pravda" for lunch in July, 1962. He subsequently had lunch with the Counselor of the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C., in August, 1963.

In connection with the above contacts, Chalmers has gone on record with the FBI in the past concerning his association with such individuals. By letter dated March 21 1955, to Mr. Nichols Mr. Roberts explained the reason for his contacts with personnel at the Soviet Embassy during the previous week. This dealt with his assignment to assist in preparing a TV program on the 10th Anniversary of V-E Day for "The Washington Post" TV Station, WTOP. He received this assignment as he was the diplomatic correspondent for "The Post." In a previous letter to Mr. Nichols, October 27, 1954, Roberts also explained other visits with members of the Russian Embassy staff. He pointed out he was the foreign affairs reporter for "The Washington Post and Times Herald," and explained he gave written reports of such meetings with Soviet officials to the USSR Affairs Desk, State Department, Washington, D.C.

On 11-17-54 Roberts lunched with the then Atomic Energy Commissioner, Tom Murray, with whom he had been trying to inveigle a luncheon engagement for some time at the Allies Inn. While there, Murray spoke for a few moments with Mr. Hoover and Mr. Tolson, who also had stopped there for lunch. When Murray returned to his table, Roberts stated, "I guess we will have to speak in whispers now." When Murray asked if Roberts was in trouble with the FBI, Roberts replied, No, but "they get into too many things." Mr. Murray resented Roberts' implied dislike of the Bureau and this information was subsequently relayed to the Director by Mr. Murray, who stated he would have absolutely nothing to do with Roberts again.

RECOMMENDATION:

He is a typical Washington Post "fake liberal." liberal

For information.

He is a typical