

Mr. Les Whitten
114 Eastmor Dr.
Silver Spring, Md. 20901

3/9/85

Dear Les,

This is for glugs, laughs about the incredible, the ridiculous, the LBJ presidency, his pettiness and sensitivities. If you see a column item in it unless you'd enjoy the diversion any of Jack's associates ought be able to handle it fairly safely.

When the critics were making points on the Warren Report in 1966, LBJ decided that something had to be done, a book with a couple of alternatives, and that J. Edgar Hoover ought do the book. At least one FBI agent, a supposed Communism expert Ted Goble, was assigned to it. Wick came up with a formula that got them off the Hoover book hook.


You ought remember Wick. Not the same Wick who is scandalizing as USA head is it?

What I enclose is just enough on this one thing, to keep it simple and not give the overly imaginative young ones too much to improvise upon. It was disclosed to Mark Allen and I've just gotten copies today.

Besides, I'm not sure that Jack would want to go with the rest of it, which is, for purists about journalism, pretty raunchy stuff. Wick and DeLoach dreamed up having Sid Epstein, then Star city editor, ~~write~~ write Hoover a letter to be used as a peg for an FBI release and a letter to him from Hoover. Epstein went for it big and agreed in advance to sign the letter to Hoover that the FBI would prepare for him to sign. It went through some revisions and then Wick, personally, hand carried it to the Star. The covering memos are dated to the minute! At 2:53 p.m. Wick was on his way there, at 4:45 he was back and had gotten approvals in DJ, etc. Epstein guaranteed page 1, they delayed it over a holiday for more attention, and after the Star got the exclusive ^(FBI) they gave it to the wires. I remember clearly that the Times reprinted the release verbatim. The supposedly impartial editor signed the FBI's criticism of the critics without qualm, Fortas and the FBI avoided the "Hoover" book that without question would have been a disaster, the attention to generalized crap was international and extensive, and LBJ was placated.

Now you know, if you didn't earlier, what it takes to be President of the USA!

Best,



Can you imagine a President wanting his FBI director to do a book responding to critics of a government report?

October 10, 1966

MR. TOLSON:

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY;
MEETING WITH JUSTICE FORTAS, 2 p.m. 10/7/66
AND REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR TO WRITE BOOK

15
Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. DeLoach ✓
Mr. Mohr ✓
Mr. Wick ✓
Mr. Casper ✓
Mr. Callahan ✓
Mr. Conrad ✓
Mr. Felt ✓
Mr. Gale ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Sullivan ✓
Mr. Tavel ✓
Mr. Trotter ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Miss Holmes ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

I saw Justice Fortas at 2:45 p.m. this afternoon at his chambers at the Supreme Court Building. Pursuant to the Director's instructions, I outlined to Justice Fortas the many reasons why the Director could not accede to the President's and Justice Fortas' request that a lengthy article, series of articles or book be written by the Director concerning captioned matter. I told Justice Fortas the Director wanted to be of all possible assistance to the President and him, however, in this particular instance the Director would appreciate consideration be given to the above reasons why it would not be logical for him to undertake this project.

Without any hesitation, Justice Fortas told me he agreed with the Director. He stated he could not indicate this previously, however, he had argued with the President that it was not logical for the Director to prepare this book inasmuch as the Director in doing so would necessarily have to substantiate the investigative efforts of many other agencies other than those of the FBI.

Justice Fortas indicated he had no argument whatsoever with the Director's thoughts. In reply, I told him the Director had suggested that Chief Justice Warren might undertake such a project inasmuch as he, the Chief Justice, would be acting in his capacity as Chairman of the Warren Commission rather than in the capacity of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Justice Fortas stated he doubted Chief Justice Warren would agree to this assumption. He added, however, that Lee Rankin, the Chief Counsel of the Warren Commission, had agreed to write a book; however, Rankin's book would not be ready for publication for approximately one year.

Justice Fortas stated he and the President would deeply appreciate the Director giving consideration to issuing a statement or writing one brief article restricted solely to the controversy

CDD:hmm
(2)
1 - DeLoach

CONTINUED - OVER

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MEMO TO: MR. TOLSON

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY;
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AND REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR TO WRITE BOOK

raised by critics with respect to the differences as shown in the autopsy between the FBI reports and the final conclusion of the Warren Commission. I told Justice Fortas this would be brought to the Director's attention and I felt certain the Director would be agreeable to the issuance of a statement in this regard so long as the statement pertains to this one point.

I brought up the subject of Harold Reis with Justice Fortas. After outlining to him the fact that Reis was undoubtedly responsible for any misunderstanding which had arisen between the Department and the FBI, Justice Fortas interrupted me and said he had known Reis for many years and disliked him intensely ever since he, Justice Fortas, had represented the Puerto Rican Government in dealings for the United States. He stated Reis had stuck a knife in his back on more than one occasion. Justice Fortas stated in one instance he had told former Attorney General Katzenbach in President Johnson's presence of the fact that Reis had a very brazen, undesirable personality and that Katzenbach should get rid of him. Fortas asked me to tell this fact to Ramsey Clark the next time I see Clark. I will, of course, do that this afternoon.

Pursuant to the Director's instructions, we are preparing a statement in line with the President's and Justice Fortas' request.

Respectfully,

V. P.
C. D. DeLoach

See me re: D.

*Sent through
by memo
10/10/66
5*

Rev. 7-8-70
DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION - FBI
SOVIET SECTION

9/8, 1970

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Sizoo | <input type="checkbox"/> Correct |
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*Bill - Per our conversation
earlier today - for your
information. Raupach is
out A.L. this week.*

*You know - I am
assigned to the "book writing"
detail and Post Taylor has
been my alternate on Oswald*

ThB

T. N. GOBLE
RM. 818 94D, EXT. 436

(Rev. 5/25/70)
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
CRIMINAL SECTION

9-8, 1970

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Rowse | <input type="checkbox"/> [Redacted] 6523 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Schutz | <input type="checkbox"/> (NSPI) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> [Redacted] 500 13th & K |

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- For Information

*John - Attached
for info in
case you get in-
volved. I have
arranged for Raupach
to meet with
Steven Lockman of
the Dept, AM,
9-14-70.*

Room 2258

SUPERVISOR

J.D. Huppert