

HR JNS, JW

6/5/72

PH (re; Goulden),

I was at the American Booksellers' Association convention today. One of the press conferences was Joe Goulden's, on his new book on the Washington lawyers. I waited until the scheduled end to go there and found him about free. When he was free I introduced myself and told him that when he had completed the promotional campaign on this book, I'd like to talk to him about the report that LHO was an agent, etc. He was interested and willing, and we agreed that he would come here in three weeks to a month. He would like copies of the FBI reports, which he has never seen, and I told him I'd provide them.

Later, when I was visiting with a friend who runs a hospitality room at the convention, he came in and sat down with me for a while. It turns out that he had reason not to trust the FBI or its purposes and intent from the beginning and therefore was reluctant to talk to them. I found it interesting that he that early detected their dishonesty.

His source was Bill Alexander. He thinks Alexander was also Hudkins' source but he is not certain. Hudkins was definitely NOT Goulden's source. The story I told him on Hudkins' source was news to him.

He hears from Hudkins intermittently. As of a couple of months ago Hudkins was still in Baltimore, still with the News-American. He regards Hudkins as a bit strange and sometimes not dependable.

My impression is that Goulden doesn't and didn't credit the WR. We didn't talk for that long either time, but this is the impression I have. It is possible that he has reasons not attributable to study of the report, reasons independent of it, perhaps this lack of confidence in the FBI.

He did seem interested in talking to me, did several times says he'd be up. I presume he will be. So, if there are any special questions you'd like me to ask him, let me know and I will. He still lives in Washington.

Best,