

Mr. Belmont

3/9/64

A. Rosen

JOSEPH ANTHONY BALL
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy
SECURITY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Memorandum from Cleveland to Evans dated 3/3/64 recommended a letter be delivered to Mr. J. Lee Rankin at the President's Commission, advising Mr. Rankin the Bureau did not contemplate an investigation of Ball under Executive Order 10450 (Federal Employees Security Program) in the absence of a request from the President's Commission.

The above mentioned letter was delivered to Mr. Rankin and in conversation with him on March 6, he was advised that the Bureau had told the Civil Service Commission that no investigation would be conducted by the FBI in the absence of a request from Mr. Rankin. Mr. Rankin was also advised that the Bureau had been told by the Civil Service Commission that it would furnish him the results of its partial investigation of Ball.

Mr. Rankin stated he did not quite follow the situation wherein the Bureau was not conducting this investigation, inasmuch as it was his understanding that in those instances where there was an allegation of a subversive nature, such investigations were handled by the FBI. Mr. Rankin said there was a question in his mind as to whether or not we did not desire to conduct this investigation because we felt there might be a connection between Mr. Ball and Chief Justice Warren. (Joseph Ball has been a resident of California since he completed his education at the University of Southern California Law School in 1927.)

Mr. Rankin was advised that the Bureau knew nothing concerning any association of Mr. Ball with the Chief Justice and that if the President's Commission desired the Bureau to conduct the investigation we would be more than glad to proceed immediately. He was told that the only reason we did not go ahead with this investigation was because we felt the President's Commission should be aware that the Civil Service Commission had requested this type of investigation concerning one of its employees and that because of the type of inquiry being handled by

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1 - Mr. Evans (President's Commission)
1 - Mr. Cleveland
1 - Mr. John Reilly

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Memo to Mr. Belmont from A. Rosen
Re: Joseph Anthony Ball

the President's Commission we felt they should be the ones to decide whether they did or did not desire the investigation.

Mr. Rankin then commented that he sincerely appreciated the Bureau calling this matter to his attention by letter and the additional information furnished to him orally. He advised that he would present this matter to the seven-man Commission in order that they could make a decision as to whether they did or did not desire the Bureau to proceed with a loyalty-type investigation.

ACTION: None - for information.