

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: March 4, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Tavel
- 1 - Mr. Trotter
- 1 - Mr. Tele. Room
- 1 - Mr. Holmes
- 1 - Mr. Gandy

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Bishop
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

SUBJECT: "THE DAY KENNEDY WAS SHOT"  
AUTHOR: JIM BISHOP

### SYNOPSIS

Mr. Bishop's second installment of his book "The Day Kennedy Was Shot" has been reviewed. It deals with the period of time and events prior to President Kennedy's arrival at Love Field in Dallas and up until the time he was pronounced dead at the Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. Mr. Bishop writes in a descriptive narrative style describing events and actions of principals who became involved in the assassination. He still maintains a great admiration for President and Mrs. Kennedy throughout this installment.

This installment has numerous references to the Director, FBI, and FBI personnel. In addition, Mr. Bishop describes former Attorney General (AG) Robert F. Kennedy and the Director's relationship with him. Mr. Bishop writes about this in the following manner:

Mr. Bishop describes the AG as the most energetic of the Kennedys, the most belligerent and, in the same set of scales, the least tactful. He was the President's brother, campaign manager, buffer, and hatchetman.

Bishop said President Kennedy thought Robert F. Kennedy would be a good AG, but he found little support for the appointment even among his followers. Bishop described the AG as having little experience in courts, and even less in the field of political compromise, but the President was pleased with his work.

Bishop said the AG, when counsel to the "McClellan Committee" fought organized crime and applied himself to exposure of union racketeers, notably James Riddle Hoffa. Exposure turned out to be easy with assistance of renegade witnesses and television, but conviction in court was seldom achieved and devising of new statutes by the committee was lax and ineffectual.

Bishop said the AG found that the FBI belonged to his Department. This opened a new avenue of investigative procedure, a broad

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SYNOPSIS CONTINUED - OVER

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Hosen to 'Loach in C. Budum  
RE: "THE MY WINTER WAS SHORT"

one encompassing the use of thousands of trained Agents. "The free use of this weapon, Kennedy found, was blocked by the massive presence of John Edgar Hoover who had been prosecuting interstate felons since 1931, the year before Bobby was born."

Bishop said that "Hoover had enjoyed the confidence and respect of Presidents from the administration of Calvin Coolidge onward. Now, in advanced years, the old Tiger and the young Wildcat were in the same hunting preserve." Bishop said one of the least appreciated of the JG virtues was his habit of stepping across polished shoes of other public servants. In some cases, fear of the President kept the visitors from protesting. "In others, notably Hoover and the FBI, the scissel became the gaping wound, unhealing and suppurating." Bishop said the JG wanted to take charge of the FBI. "Hoover did not relish being summoned by an inexperienced boy," and in this respect, the President could not help his brother. "Hoover was a national hero; his FBI was never tainted by scandal, and permitted no encroachment by other departments." Bishop said the President could not risk the wrath of the people by "retiring Hoover," and "the Wildcat was stuck with the Tiger."

Bishop said "Dobby" in making one of his moves designed to keep a needle in the "hide of Hoover," had a group called "The Organized Crime Committee," and their work was to expose "American Mafia," or Cosa Nostra which was high on the agenda of the FBI, but "Robert Kennedy was hoping to jail malefactors where Hoover and his FBI had failed."

The above quoted references to the Director and the FBI are not further amplified or commented upon in this installment of Jim Bishop's book.

Joseph

(A)  
Bishop incorrectly describes La Cosa Nostra (LCN) hoodlum Valachi as an FBI prisoner who in return for furnishing information on LCN, was promised protection by the Bureau. No such promise was ever made to Valachi by Bureau Agents. The responsibility for Valachi's security and custody was always that of Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Bishop mentions SAC J. Gordon Shanklin of Dallas and several other Agents who participated in the assassination investigation but not in a derogatory vein. He describes the "bedlam" existing in the Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, after the President was shot and vividly describes Mrs. Kennedy and her actions relating to President Kennedy.

Bishop's book will come to about 200,000 words and will conclude at 3:25 a.m. 11/23/63, when the body of the President is met at the White House Gate by a United States Marine Honor Guard.

Rosen to DeLoach Memorandum  
Re: "THE DAY KENNEDY WAS SHOT"

ACTION:

It is recommended that Mr. Bishop be contacted and informed that his comments concerning Valachi are incorrect in regard to the FBI in that no promise was made to Valachi by Bureau Agents and the responsibility for Valachi's security and custody was always that of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

He should also be advised in connection with his remarks that the FBI had failed in jailing individual members of the American Mafia that all information concerning the existence and activities of the "Mafia or La Cosa Nostra" were developed and furnished to the Department of Justice by the FBI.

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Memorandum to McLoach Memorandum  
RE: "THE DAY KENNEDY WAS SHOT"

DETAILS

Mr. Bishop has made available the second installment of his book "The Day Kennedy Was Shot." It has been reviewed.

The second installment deals with the period of time and events prior to President Kennedy's arrival at Love Field in Dallas and up until the time he was pronounced dead at the Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. Mr. Bishop writes in a descriptive narrative style describing events and actions of principals who became involved in the assassination. He still maintains a great admiration for President and Mrs. Kennedy throughout this installment.

He describes President Kennedy as a person to be remembered as a leader with high purpose and firm resolution who was at his best when he was politically, economically, and inspirationally far ahead of his people. Mr. Bishop said veterans of Congress studied President Kennedy and often viewed him as an opportunistic son of a rich and merciless man.

In defining President Kennedy's ability for work, Mr. Bishop said that on President Kennedy's wedding night, he disarrayed his bride by locking the door to their suite at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel and sitting at a desk to note his speaking engagements for the following two months.

This installment has numerous references to the Director, FBI and FBI personnel. In addition, Mr. Bishop describes former Attorney General (AG) Robert F. Kennedy and the Director's relationship with him. Mr. Bishop writes about this in the following manner:

Mr. Bishop describes the AG as the most energetic of the Kennedys, the most belligerent and, in the same set of scales, the least tactful. He was the President's brother, campaign manager, buffer, and hatchet man.

Bishop said President Kennedy thought Robert F. Kennedy would be a good AG, but he found little support for the appointment even among his followers. Bishop described the AG as having little experience in courts, and even less in the field of political compromise, but the President was pleased with his work.

Loosen to DeLoach Memorandum  
RE: "THE TAY BROTHERS WAS SHOT"

Bishop said the AG, when counsel to the "McClellan Committee" fought organized crime and applied himself to exposure of union racketeers, notably James Riddle Holt. Exposure turned out to be easy with assistance of renegade witnesses and television, but conviction in court was seldom achieved and devising of new statutes by the committee was late and ineffectual.

Bishop said the AG found that the FBI belonged to his department. This opened a new avenue of investigative procedure, a broad one encompassing the use of thousands of trained agents. "The free use of this weapon, Kennedy found, was blocked by the massive presence of John Edgar Hoover, who had been prosecuting interstate felons since 1924, the year before Lobby was born."

Bishop said that "Hoover had enjoyed the confidence and respect of Presidents from the administration of Calvin Coolidge onward. Now, in advanced years, the old Tiger and the young Wildcat were in the same hunting preserve." Bishop said one of the least appreciated of the AG's virtues was his habit of stepping across polished shoes of other public servants. In some cases, fear of the President kept the victims from protesting. "In others, notably Hoover and the FBI, the schism became the gaping wound, unhealing and suppurating." Bishop said the AG wanted to take charge of the FBI. "Hoover did not relish being summoned by an inexperienced boy," and in this respect, the President could not help his brother. "Hoover was a national hero; his FBI was never tainted by scandal, and permitted no encroachment by other departments." Bishop said the President could not risk the wrath of the people by "retiring Hoover," and "the Wildcat was stuck with the Tiger."

Bishop said "Lobby" in making one of his moves designed to keep a needle in the "hide of Hoover," had a group called "The Organized Crime Committee," and their work was to expose "American Mafia, or Cosa Nostra" which was high on the agenda of the FBI, but "Robert Kennedy was hoping to jail malefactors where Hoover and his FBI had failed."

Bishop said on the surface, the Department of Justice and the FBI worked well together. "The attitude of subordination was maintained by Hoover, and the Departmental amenities flowed in accordance between the wings of the big doughnut-shaped building on Pennsylvania Avenue. But, in the law, Robert Kennedy could issue unpalatable orders and force their execution."

The above quoted references to the Director and the FBI are not further amplified or commented upon in this installment of Jim Bishop's book.

Loson to DeLoach Memorandum.  
RE: "THE LAY MENHAY WAS SHOT"

In discussing Valachi, the La Cosa Nostra hoodlum who testified before a Senate Committee on Organized Crime matters, Bishop incorrectly describes him as an FBI prisoner, who the Bureau had promised to protect "even if they had to arrange security in a Federal prison." This of course is untrue. Valachi was originally convicted of a narcotic violation and while an inmate at Atlanta Penitentiary, committed a murder which resulted in a life sentence in a Federal pen. Valachi's security, therefore, was and is the responsibility of the United States Bureau of Prisons. In the interviews we conducted with Valachi, we obtained voluminous data from him concerning the individuals composing the organization La Cosa Nostra. No promises, of course, were ever made to Valachi concerning his protection and safekeeping by any of our Agents.

It was noted SAC J. Gordon Shanklin of Dallas was mentioned on several occasions, one of which concerned his conference with Dallas Agents prior to the arrival of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963, regarding the dissemination of any information coming to the attention of any Agents concerning the President which should be made available to the U.S. Secret Service.

It is noted that Bishop has misspelled Shanklin's name as "Shanklin" in several instances.

Bishop mentions that following the shooting of President Kennedy, SAC Shanklin telephonically notified the Director who instructed Shanklin to offer the full services of our Laboratory, and to find out how badly the President was hurt and to call back. Bishop also mentions the Director calling the Attorney General Robert Kennedy in McLean, Virginia, notifying him of the event.

Bishop mentioned SA James P. Hosty who had the Lee Harvey Oswald case assigned to him in Dallas, prior to the assassination, and described him as a "solid non-panic Agent."

Bishop described the "bedlam" which existed in the Earland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, after the President was shot. He told about SA Doyle Williams standing inside of the door phoning SAC Shanklin and, at the same time rubbing his jaw. He said Williams had hurried into the emergency area, "and two overwrought Secret Service men, one with a machine gun, punched him against a wall before Mr. Williams had time to reach for his Government identity card."

Mr. Bishop agreed with the President's Commission in that three shots were fired from the Texas School Book Depository Building;

Wosen to McLoon's Memorandum.  
RE: "THE ONLY KENNEDY WAS SHOT"

however, he claims the first shot hit the pavement causing debris to strike President Kennedy causing his initial reaction. He continues that a portion of this shell was that which struck a bystander. Bishop's theory is, the second shot was the one which struck President Kennedy, traversed through his body, and struck Governor Connally, and the third shot was the fatal shot to the head.

In the conclusion of this installment, Bishop vividly describes Mrs. Kennedy and her actions relating to President Kennedy at the hospital up until the time he was declared officially dead, even though it was known by those close to President Kennedy, he expired prior to the time of the official announcement.

This second installment of Mr. Bishop's book was comprised of 17 double-spaced typewritten pages. He indicated his book will come to about 200,000 words and will conclude at 3:20 a.m., November 23, 1963, when the body of John F. Kennedy is met at the White House Gate by a U. S. Marine Honor-Guard.

*John R. ... of ...*