

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Gale

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

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: March 2, 1965

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Cleveland
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lohan

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

The March, 1965, issue of "Esquire" magazine contains an article entitled "A Critique of The Warren Report" by Dwight Macdonald. This article is a critical attack on the Report issued by the Warren Commission and it also contains criticism of the FBI, Secret Service, State Department, Dallas Police Department, and the Warren Commission itself.

DATA REGARDING AUTHOR:

Check of Bureau files disclosed we are currently conducting a Special Inquiry investigation for the White House concerning Dwight Macdonald. The position for which Macdonald is being considered by the White House was not given. Our investigation disclosed that a Dwight Macdonald, apparently identical with author of instant article in "Esquire," has previously had articles in "Esquire" wherein he has been critical of the FBI and the Director. Macdonald was born in 1906 in New York City and was educated at Yale University. He joined the Socialist Workers Party, a Trotskyite group, in approximately 1937 or 1938 and reportedly left this group in April, 1940. He later became identified with the Workers Party, which he left in 1941. He has been active in activities of the Socialist Workers Party and has been active in attempts to secure the release from prison of Morton Sobell, convicted Soviet agent.

ANALYSIS OF CURRENT ARTICLE IN "ESQUIRE":

Macdonald's article primarily is a ~~boasting~~ attack upon the Report issued by the Warren Commission in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy. Throughout his article, Macdonald draws upon his knowledge of Greek literature and mythology to make a comparison of Greek heroes and the individuals whose names appear in the Warren Report. He does this to such an extent that it appears his main objective is to impress upon his readers his vast knowledge of Greek literature and mythology.

Enclosure
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References (9)

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Macdonald's main criticism of the Warren Report is its length and heap of inessential facts. He accuses the Warren Commission of using testimony of certain witnesses to build corroborative findings of the Commission and claims that the Commission ignored or rejected the testimony of other witnesses where such testimony did not fit its findings.

On page sixty of his article, Macdonald makes reference to the Director as: "J. Edgar Hoover, whose G-men had efficiently kept Oswald 'under surveillance' as a defector to the USSR and a pro-Castro agitator, but who neglected to tell the Secret Service about it and whose response to a reproof in the Report was 'Monday-morning quarterbacking,' accurate, but somehow inadequate."

On page sixty-two of his article, Macdonald charges that FBI Agents Hosty and Bookhout, who conducted the interrogations of Oswald after the assassination, are "professionally stupid," whose "thinking has become so bureaucratized that it excludes unofficial reality, i.e., real reality."

Macdonald, on the same page in his article, is also critical of the FBI, Secret Service, and the Dallas Police Department for not making taped recordings and verbatim transcripts of all interviews conducted with Oswald after the assassination while Oswald was in custody of the Dallas Police Department.

In describing certain of the individuals or agencies whose names appeared in the Warren Report, Macdonald states as follows:

1. Lee Harvey Oswald - "Resentful underdog trying to give meaning to his failed life by elbowing his way into History."
2. Jack Ruby - "Hero-worshipper of cops and Presidents, who killed Oswald to avenge Jackie and the kids."
3. Judge Joe Brown - "Who presided over Ruby's trial chewing tobacco and occasionally leafing through magazines on the bench."
4. Police Chief Curry - "Who led the fatal motorcade and whose appetite for publicity made his headquarters a televised chaos while Ruby easily penetrated in his mission of vengeance."

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5. District Attorney Wade - "Who tried and convicted 'the suspect' on TV during Oswald's miraculous survival for almost two days in the custody of the Dallas cops."

6. Chief Justice Warren - "The Washington of the Supreme Court," whose "rectitude was as important to the Commission as Washington's was to the infant republic. But, like Washington, his character is as solid as his intellect is not."

7. United States Secret Service - "Under established procedure, they had instructions to watch the route for signs of trouble, scan not only the crowds, but roofs and windows of buildings--except, it seems, the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository."

8. State Department - "After thinking it over for half a year, the State Department decided that, since he (Oswald) had failed to denationalize himself, he was still a citizen and his passport must be renewed. The travel loan was routine; almost any American stranded abroad without funds can get one, it seems."

In his article, Macdonald also is critical of a number of phony authors and spokesmen who made wild statements and wrote wild articles of the assassination. This group includes Mark Lane, Joachim Jeeben, Thomas G. Duchanan, and Trevor-Roper. He criticized these individuals and their unrealistic criticism of the findings of the Warren Commission. He claimed, "These diehards wouldn't have been convinced by the Warren Report if Jehovah had descended in person and had the Recording Angel engrave it on tablets of stone before their eyes."

After fifteen pages of rambling from one end of the Warren Report to the other, Macdonald finally arrives at the conclusion that Oswald alone killed the President; that there were no accomplices, and that there was no conspiracy. He charged that, instead of the long, cumbersome, involved Report that the Commission published of its findings, it would have done far better had it confined its Report to a "tidy, organized presentation of the 'hard' evidence plus a tough-minded evaluation of the 'soft' evidence, mostly eye witness testimony."

In connection with this charge of Macdonald, it is ironical to note that the report of the assassination prepared by the FBI and furnished to the President's Commission in early December, 1963, appears to be the exact type of document Macdonald feels should have

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been issued to the American public. This FBI report was never published by the Warren Commission in either its long report or in any of the other twenty-six volumes of its Hearings and Exhibits.

ACTION:

Note. For information. "Esquire" magazine containing instant article by Macdonald, beginning on page fifty-nine, is attached.

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