

JFK assassination records appeals

Harold Weisberg 10/26/79

Files not searched- the DeLoach operation

dossiers on the press

information not from Central Records searches indicating other files

Withholdings- FBI FOIA attitude

Leaks

attached are copies of 62-109060-3299 (2 pp. only) and 3300. The Van Horne column is among the matters the FBI hierarchy considered important enough for the Director's time and attention. He appended a note to it reading, "What do we know about this Van Horne character?" I appeal the withholding from what is provided and the denial of what is quoted without being provided.

The letter indicates that as part of the DeLoach operation, the files of which have never been searched despite my requests and appeals, there are separate files and that these hold information not included in Central files. It is explicitly stated that Bureau files hold only certain information, which does not include what Jones does include in his memo for DeLoach. So where else could he have gotten it?

De Roach, in turn, asked permission to put pressure on Van Horne through his contacts. That he succeeded in this is clearly indicated, with part of what resulted being withheld, I believe quite improperly.

I do not believe that media manipulation or any control over what people may think, say or believe is a proper function of even the FBI. Particularly not when what the FBI itself quotes from the column is accurate and has become public knowledge in the years since the column was published.

I call to your attention the fact that while the FBI's phoney cover-the-Bureau paper would lead one to believe that it never leaked anything this Jones memo does claim that what she wrote was "already discredited by the FBI." This was more than four months before the Warren Report appeared. Please note also that by the brackets remaining the FBI originally intended withholding the fact that it has records on her and what little is in Central Records. Despite what Jones does include. Such improper withholdings typify the processing of the records provided. The FBI FOIA mindset is protect the FBI from embarrassment, not compliance with the Act. It permeates.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 5-27-64

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: HARRIET VAN HORNE  
CRITICISM OF FBI  
NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM AND THE SUN  
DATED MAY 26, 1964

BACKGROUND:

Captioned individual in her column of May 26, 1964, entitled "Doubts About Dallas" refers to recent writings about the assassination of President Kennedy. In referring to historical writings in general she states she is a skeptic and refers to some of the recent news stories about Lee Harvey Oswald and the doubt that has been expressed by some that he is the assassin. Miss Van Horne refers to the rumors and erroneous stories already discredited by the FBI such as the recently released photograph allegedly showing an individual who resembled Oswald in the doorway of the Texas Schoolbook Depository at the time President Kennedy was shot; there were five bullets involved in the assassination, some of the shots coming from in front of President Kennedy; Oswald was working as an informant for the FBI. Miss Van Horne claims these questions will be argued by historians for years and refers to the ineptitudes of the Dallas Police Department and the Secret Service and the "arrogant, above-the-fray attitude of the FBI. In a democracy there is no place for 'secret police,' however holy their reputation."

INFORMATION IN BUREAU FILES:

Harriet Lowe

According to the current edition of "Who's Who of American Women," Harriet Van Horne was born 5-17-20 at Syracuse, New York. She received a B. A. degree from the University of Rochester in 1940. She is married to David Lowe. She is a television critic and columnist with the New York World Telegram and the Sun where she has been employed since 1942. She has also been associated with the Scripps-Howard Newspapers as a TV columnist since 1962. She is a free-lance writer and is a frequent panelist on radio and television. She resides in New York City.

According to the current issue of "Celebrity Register," Harriet Van Horne has made news several times with her columns; a parody of an Ed Sullivan column regarding Cardinal Spellman which was later pulled from the paper; her columns on Margaret Truman's singing, one of which stated "She got her best reception when the audience was entirely members of a ladies Democratic club."

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

11 JUN 17 1964

SENT DIRECTOR  
5-28-64

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JUN 17 1964  
24-5-64  
cc: [unclear]

M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo  
RE: Harriet Van Horne

Bureau files reveal only three references to Miss Van Horne. In 1958 one of her television columns referred to the television industry's efforts to improve television programs. In connection with violence on television she referred to typical letters she had received from TV viewers one of whom referred to the Director as stating that some types of television programs are unhealthy entertainment and a contributing factor to juvenile delinquency. The two other references deal with her name being mentioned during our investigation of subjects of Bureau cases who referred to her radio or television column but there was no indication that Harriet Van Horne was associated with these individuals.

A check of the New York indices today failed to disclose any pertinent references to Miss Van Horne.

Richard D. Peters, Editor of the New York World-Telegram and the Sun, is on the Special Correspondents' List and we have had cordial relations with him and his newspaper. Last outgoing correspondence to him was 5-13-64 in connection with the Director's 40th Anniversary.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

Suggest I talk with  
Walker Stone re this  
woman -  
JAN 25/68 ↑  
New. J  
Dud

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

TO: Mr. Mohr

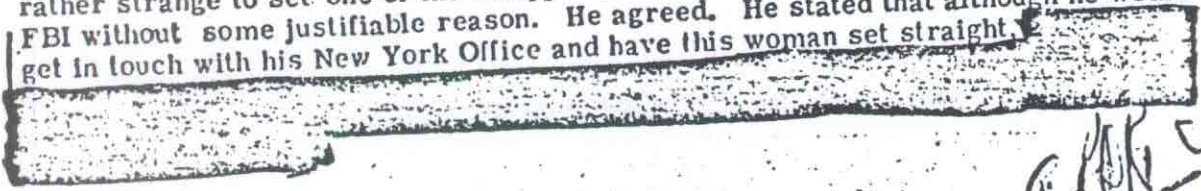
FROM: C. D. DeLoach

DATE: June 5, 1964

SUBJECT: HARRIET VAN HORNE  
CRITICISM OF FBI  
NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM AND THE SUN  
DATED MAY 26, 1964

Reference Mr. Jones' memorandum to me dated 5-27-64 in captioned matter. Harriet Van Horne, in referring to the Kennedy assassination, mentions several specific questions that she believes will be argued by historians for years. She referred to the ineptitudes of the Dallas Police Department, the Secret Service and the "arrogant, above-the-fray attitude of the FBI." She added, "In a democracy there is no place for 'secret police,' however holy their reputation." It was recommended that I talk with Walker Stone, Chief Editor of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers, regarding this woman.

I talked with Walker about this matter on 6-3-64. I told him it seemed rather strange to see one of the Scripps-Howard columnists taking off against the FBI without some justifiable reason. He agreed. He stated that although he would get in touch with his New York Office and have this woman set straight.



ACTION:

For record purposes.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Jones

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

CDD:saj  
(6)

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*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*