

# Memorandum

TO: Mr. Mohr

DATE: December 2, 1963

FROM: C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Reference is made to the attached copy of the Drew Pearson column in Washington Post 12-2-63. This column unfavorably criticizes the FBI, Secret Service and the Dallas police.

Many of our news media friends have called me and the men in this office today concerning Pearson's unjust and unfounded remarks. These men offered to literally "take Pearson apart" if we will just give them the go-ahead. They have volunteered to start an effective campaign against Pearson for his attack on the FBI.

While certainly a campaign against Pearson would be justified, the fact remains that to effectively refute Pearson, our friends would necessarily have to bring up and rehash the charges made by Pearson. This is believed undesirable. We are, therefore, informing our friends that we have no comment to make on it and would prefer that no action be taken.

### Enclosure

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

REW:saj  
(8)

*Not  
G.P. or*

*Unfortunately we are  
not in a position to  
comment on this  
Pearson.*

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

*Wiley  
Haley*

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- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
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- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The Washington News-Record

# FBI, Secret Service Need Study

By Drew Pearson

There are three Government agencies that are sacrosanct: far as congressional investigation or criticism is concerned: the Secret Service and the Central Intelligence Agency. In the interest of protecting the life of the President, however, it is my belief that a rigorous investigation of the first two should be undertaken.



There are some facts that should be investigated: The Secret Service—Six Secret Service men charged with protecting the President were at the Fort Worth Press Club early in the morning of Friday, Nov. 22, some of them until nearly 3 a.m. This was the day that President Kennedy was assassinated. They were drinking. When they departed, they were reported en route to an all-night beatnik rendezvous, "The Cellar."

The Secret Service, which has done a notably good job in the past, prides itself on having men who will give their lives for the President. They are charged with throwing their own bodies in front of the President in case of attack.

For the sake of maintaining a splendid reputation, the Secret Service should disclose the names of the six men, lest their behavior reflect on the entire organization. Additionally, it should make known what dis-

ciplinary action, if any, it proposes to take toward them. Obviously, men who have been drinking until nearly 3 a.m. are in no condition to be trigger alert or in the best physical shape to protect anyone.

It has been stated that it was an impossibility for the Secret Service to check the occupancy of every building along the route. While this is true, it is also true that warehouse-type buildings, such as that in which the assassin hid, should be searched, and the extra time spent by Secret Service men at the Fort Worth Press Club could have been spent in doing so.

## Fort Worth Press Club

What happened at Fort Worth was that the Press Club, which is supposed to close at 10 p.m. under local liquor laws, sent word inviting Vice President Johnson and Gov. Connally, both honorary members, to come over, and on that excuse stayed open after hours. Neither Johnson nor Connally accepted the invitation; but the Club stayed open anyway.

When I asked Calvin Sutton, president of the Club, he explained that "A lot of big bylines were in town whom we had heard about but never seen in person, so we took the liberty of staying open. We shouldn't have done it, but we did."

Some of our correspondents they issued out guest cards to the press on the president's party. I don't know how the Secret Service men were alerted and to him of

surprised me when they arrived, but they all had guest cards. They got in about 11 or a little later."

Sutton said it was 3 a.m. when he locked up and the Secret Service men left ahead of him.

"They wanted to know where 'The Cellar' was, and I told them. But I did my best to discourage them. I don't know whether they went or not."

Sutton said they seemed to be in pretty good shape when they left.

## File of Suspects

The FBI—in Dallas, police stated that the FBI had interviewed Lee Oswald but had not informed them about the interview. In Washington, the FBI denied they had interrogated Oswald recently.

Whether he was interviewed recently or a long time ago, it is the job of the protective agencies of government to check on each suspect in any city the President visits and to make sure where he is at the time of the visit.

A man who had been head of a Fair Play for Cuba Committee, who had professed Marxism, and whose record showed a mixed up, unsteady emotionalism, should have been kept under careful watch on the day the President entered his city and in the most lawless and unpoliced cities in the United States.

The Secret Service should be made up of people who have not been threatened by threatening letters to the President or who are not suspected of being Communist agents. If Oswald was not on their list, the FBI should have equipment furnished with the Secret Service and they interviewed him.

*Signature*

- The Washington Post and Times Herald **B 32**
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
  - The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_
  - New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
  - New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
  - New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
  - New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
  - New York Post \_\_\_\_\_
  - New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
  - The Boston Globe \_\_\_\_\_
  - The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
  - The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
  - The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
  - Chicago Daily News \_\_\_\_\_

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