

FBI vs CIA

Dear Jeff, Prugh, LA Times

7/24/80

This is hurried to make today's outgoing mail and because the professor under whom my materials will be archived is here. I'll try to complete what I can before he gets here from his motel this morning.

So I don't have time to put it together. But you'll have no trouble.

On the FBI's knowing of the CIA plots against Castro before they were told about it by former FBI SA Edward P. Morgan, lawyer for Rosselli and Giancana (in 1967, and I have the FBI records on that if you decide you want them):

In an 8/22/76 story on the Morgan angle after it ~~was~~ broken, and Hoover's response to then Secret Service Director James P. Rowley, drafted by an FBI supervisor, "This official's job was complicated by the fact that he had never been informed of what Hoover and his closest circle of confidants in the FBI learned early in 1962 - that the CIA was deeply involved in assassination attempts against Castro..."

How they learned, as I told you when Maheu/CIA paid Giancana off by surveillance of his home (Wa Post 9/12/76, Style section) girlfriend: "... the placement of the bug was a disaster. Maheu's private eye left ^{the tap} ~~it~~ unattended on the afternoon of Oct. 31, 1960, and it was discovered by a maid who reported it to the local sheriff ..."

Same source quotes Church committee as finding that the CIA paid for this Maheu operation, that Rosselli paid the operative's bail "and eventually, the Attorney General, acting under pressure from the CIA, ordered any contemplated prosecution be dropped because it could jeopardize the national security operation in which Giancana and Maheu were involved."

After Rosselli's murder, Miami Herald, 9/19/76, "In 1961, through a bungled wiretap, the FBI became aware of Rosselli's CIA activities. While Giancana and Rosselli were in Florida planning the operation, Giancana wanted to return to Las Vegas to check on his girl friend, Phyllis McGuire, whom he suspected of dating comedian Dan Rowan. To keep Giancana in Florida, it was agreed that bug would be placed in her hotel room...but the private detective they hired with CIA money ...was discovered and arrested. ...Prosecution was avoided when the CIA intervened and said the 'national interest' would be damaged..."

All of this was covered up again in a 1966 Senate wiretapping investigation.

I remember more, more colorful language, but I don't think it worth the time to continue a check of fat files because of the time required. Ask if you want more but all I'm trying to show is that the FBI had this on the CIA for years and waited until the for them propitious moment, which ~~it~~ happened to be when they were under severe criticism from a number of my books and others that followed.

LBJ's doubts about there not being a conspiracy were edited out of his CBS series, Cronkite interviews. My WxPost clip is undated but is about 4/28/70. It was leaked from inside CBS to a friend of mine who gave it to the Post. "A CBS source, who confirmed that the former President expressed reservations about the Warren Commission finding that Mr. Kennedy was murdered by a single assassin, refused to disclose the wording of the question put to Mr. Johnson and his answer."

I can remember the name of the man who wrote the Atlantic "onthly story on his interview with LBJ in which there is the quote, approx, "We were running a God damned Murder, Inc., in the Caribbean," referring to the CIA, so I can't include that because I can't find it. I'm sure there were wire stories on it and that your morgue has it. The stories quoted above have references of general nature but not the quote. If I think of it enf can provide the quote, I'll phone you with it.
(I think Leo Janos, Lesar Janis, but he doesn't have it.)

The record from which I read to you is unclearly marked as from the 62-109060 file, captioned as on the face. The serial number is clear: 5075. I read the bottom of p. 3 and p. 4. The only marks I've added are the broader, outer vertical lines plus the under-scoring of "Further." The double lines are on the copies I got from the FBI. The slashes and X marks are FBI filing directives. The fancy "B" is DeLoach's regular mark, the check mark Clyde Tolson's "T." The regular channel to Hoover was via Tolson. This is the one quoting Watson, to whom the FBI sent what it sent: "Watson stated the President felt that the CIA had something to do with this plot," or "a plot to connection with the assassi-nation" of JFK.

As I go over the copies I made for subject filing some relating to the Morgan disclosures appear to be unusual so I include them. One is Hoover's 2/15/67 letter to

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Rowley, a ho-hum apparently drafted by Kenneth M. Raupach (KMR) of the then General Investigative Division. What it refers to in the added note is enclosed, Serial 4500. It decides not to tell the White House "since this matter does not concern, ~~it~~ nor is it pertinent to the present Administration." (bottom p. 2) Despite this, they sent what I begin with and read to you, dated 4/4/67.

They also decide to make no investigation. The answer or ~~explanation~~^{ation} they didn't have to.

In the 12/2/63 memo on the memo for Oswald's rifle, the part bracketed (on original) speculates that the Marine Corps order was really for the CIA. I don't know who the ~~is~~^{is} Mr. Thompson for whom two copies are indicated. One of that name was a supervisor then in the Rosen General Investigative Division and I have an indistinct recollection of a Mr. Thompson (Lee?) in some kind of LBJ liaison role. It may be neither.

I'm checking the original records to see if the 4/26/67 memo was provided to me and if it adds anything.

As you may recall, I keep the original records as I receive them and make copies for subject filing, largely as guides to those who use the files in the future. So there can be other pertinent records I did not copy in the belief that the copies would lead future researchers to them. I know there are many more Morgan records, including the interview report the FBI filed, and more pertinent to the one I read but I assume adding nothing I regarded as significant.

There are two memos of the same description. Both are withheld from me in the Assassination and Commission files, as referred to the CIA, which has not acted on those referrals since 1977 (under the 10-day Act.) Most of the memo was provided in the Oswald file. Of what is withheld the FOIA processing worksheets says it was referred to the CIA. This includes a number that appears to be 13667. Means nothing to me. Including such a number is not general practise. The initials are of R.E. Long, then an FBI supervisor, later an Assistant Director, Finance and Management.

I'm including this for a different reason because it adds nothing to the part about convincing LBJ that the CIA was in on the JFK job. On page 2 the FBI discloses, without referral to the CIA, the CIA's "sensitive" coverage of both the Cubans and Russians in

Mexico, a supposed secret. It refers to electronic surveillance, etc.

This is not new now. The Cubans claim to have found bugs in all the electric outlets. That they picked Oswald up on a tap also is not new, although it was kept secret for years.

This is not one of my better days. I'm a bit unsteady so perhaps also a bit unclear. If you have any questions, ask.

On the other story, which I gave to Gardner the day he was put on the Billy Carter story, I phoned him yesterday and asked if it could be switched to another reporter. He agreed but of course he's not boss. He knows I'll want to give it to someone else if the Post doesn't go ahead soon. I'll wait a little while longer and if I don't hear about this I'll phone again.

Best wishes,