

Memos on Hoover's Concern With Press

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FBI documents released yesterday show that the late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, was extremely concerned about news coverage of the investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Hoover's concern was reflected in efforts to sway editorial opinion and efforts to find unnamed sources in news stories.

The FBI documents, which relate to the bureau's investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, revealed that Hoover made an effort to persuade the Washington Post not to run an editorial and that the FBI thought its "many friends" in the news media could be used to put the agency in the best light or to attack its enemies.

Many contacts between journalists and the FBI are detailed in the 40,001 pages of documents, from newsmen providing tips to the FBI to the FBI probing for a journalist's sources.

"I thought no one knew this outside of FBI," Hoover wrote on a copy of one news story dated Dec. 3, 1963. "Certainly someone is doing too much talking."

Hoover said in a memo three days after the assassination that President Lyndon B. Johnson was upset by a possible Washington Post editorial calling for a presidential commission to investigate the Kennedy assassination.

"He asked if I could dissuade the Post from carrying the editorial and I told him, frankly, that I seldom read the paper, but would get word as to what is being done," the Hoover memo said.

But in another memo, written later the same day, Hoover said a conversation revealed that Russell Wiggins, editor of the Post, had refused to make a commitment that the newspaper would not run such an editorial.

The next day, the Post ran an editorial calling for a full federal inquiry into the assassination, but did not specifically mention a presidential commission.

In another memo, FBI official C. D. DeLoach suggested that a response could be made to an unfavorable column by the late Drew Pearson, which suggested the FBI should have kept tabs on Oswald during Kennedy's visit.

"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," the memo said.

Associated Press

S.F. CHRONICLE

Reports on Jack Ruby's Motive

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Jack Ruby fired a single shot from his three-year-old pistol, fatally wounding Lee Harvey Oswald, and turned to one of the police he liked to count as friends.

"I hope I killed the SOB," he told another.

These events were detailed in FBI documents released yesterday.

In a nationwide search that followed, according to the documents, hundreds of scraps of information about Ruby's character and past came to light — but none to contradict Ruby's own claim that he acted alone and for purely emotional reasons.

Scores of times in the files on Ruby the sentence appears, "(name of person interviewed) did not know Lee Harvey Oswald and has no knowledge of any connection between Ruby and Oswald."

The FBI notes on his interrogation say "Ruby states he was in a highly emotional state because of the President's assassination, had not known Oswald, conspired with no one."



AP Wirephoto

JACK RUBY
A 1964 photo

Ruby closed his two night clubs after Kennedy's death "because he was ashamed that anyone would want to participate in dancing after the assassination."

The FBI interviewed childhood chums, gamblers, underworld figures, prostitutes, strippers, "perverts," "pimps," a "fence," and a croupier, hoping to learn whether Ruby was any more than he appeared to be: A small-time operator who admired the President and liked police.

United Press