

During JFK Inquiry

FBI Files Depict Bureau, Panel at Odds

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Newly released internal FBI files undermine the public's assumption that the bureau and the Warren Commission worked in close cooperation to establish the whole truth behind the murder of John F. Kennedy.

Instead, the 58,000 pages of files which the FBI was forced to make public yesterday tell of a jealous rivalry between the two over matters big and small and disclose that Gerald Ford, the House Republican leader at the time, volunteered his services as the FBI's informant on the Warren Commission's internal operations and disputes.

The FBI refused to store evidence for the commission. Each accused the other of leaking material to the press. The commission suggested the slaying might not have occurred if the FBI had told the Secret Service all it knew about Lee Harvey Oswald.

Like the 40,000 pages released in December, the flood of new information added a wealth of details about the assassination and its investigation.

But nothing appeared to challenge the central finding of both the FBI and the Warren Commission: that Oswald, taking guidance from no one, killed Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

The files expose the personal scorn J. Edgar Hoover felt for Chief Justice Earl Warren and other critics, and his outrage at the commission's criticism of the bureau's operations.

"We are being clobbered by everybody . . . The bureau will never live this down and will (be) viewed as a second-rate outfit henceforth," he complained.

As for conspiracy theoreticians like author Mark Lane and comedian Dick Gregory, the bureau maintained a public silence while privately complaining of "monstrous

fabrications . . . absurd . . . trash . . . gutter talk."

Many critics were labeled sexual deviants or communists.

Hoover accused the chief justice of making "a needlessly dirty dig" at him for complaining about the "skeletal" form of an FBI report to the panel.

The FBI accused Warren of using columnist Drew Pearson as a conduit to get his own views before the American people.

After the Warren Commission in its report criticized some aspects of the FBI's work, Hoover reported to associates he had informed President Lyndon Johnson he was "outraged" at the criticism.

Within days of the creation of the seven-man commission, Ford volunteered his services as the FBI's friend on the inside.

Ford went to Cartha DeLoach, assistant FBI director, and complained that Warren was trying to run a "one-man commission" by installing his own man as chief counsel.

Ford told of how he — acting as "a minority of one" — resisted Warren's effort to issue a speedy report affirming that no international conspiracy had existed to kill Kennedy. Hoover also fought pressure for such a preliminary report.

"Ford indicated he would keep me thoroughly advised as to the activities of the commission," DeLoach said in a memo. "He stated this would have to be on a confidential basis . . ."

"We have had excellent relations with Congressman Ford for many years. He has been given an autographed copy of the director's book, *A Study of Communism*, and has been in touch with my office on numerous occasions in the past."

Hoover wrote in hand on the bottom of the memo: "Well handled."