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4/21/87

Dear, lucky David,

Congratulations!

The Post says your next is on the old FBI. If so you ought not overlook, if he is still alive, Al Bernstein, who was Max Lowenthal's research assistant on Max's book. Al is Carl's father. I've looked in our old DC directory and there is no phone listed for him at the address I knew, River Road at about 45 or 46, NW.

While other things may account for it, Al was for all practical purposes unemployable after his work for Max.

Also a man Lil and I knew well before World War II, Mike Fooner. I understand he is now a criminalist and when last I heard was in NYC. He and if I remember correctly another FBI clerk, no relative, named Weisberg, were fired by Hoover for daring to talk about organizing a union.

There is much that ought still be ^{available} on the early Hoover that was published. What survived of my records when I was in the army I gave to Wisconsin. Ask Dave Wrone, History Dept, Univ. Wisc. Stevens Point, 54481. Hoover was the darling of the ultras of that day, like the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies, and often wrote for and was published by them. It is one of the ways he built his power base, by getting the extreme right of those days behind him.

One of the groups of the left of those days, I suppose long defunct, that had records on the FBI and Hoover was the International Labor Defense. If those files still exist they should be a valuable source, including clippings from all over. If you can locate any old reads up there you might get a lead. Of those I remember who worked for it one who may still be alive is a woman, Sascha Small. I think she later worked for TASS. (The ILD organized the defense of the Scottsboro boys.)

My first close contact with the FBI was in the late 30s when the DJ borrowed me from the Senate Civil Liberties Committee to help in the then famous Harlan conspiracy case (U.S. v. Mary Helen et al, Mary Helen being the name of a coal mine). I lived in Harlan town and the seat of the court, London, in Laurel County, for some months and may have a few stories that might interest you. (Lived with the official party.)

I've just gotten a record indicating their interest in the press per se, not for any law enforcement purpose and will enclose it. The magazine became the third largest picture magazine of the time, after LIFE and LOOK, and I was its Washington correspondent. Hoover wrote a letter approving a story I'd written and they will do anything except provide me with a copy. (It was part of a series I did in 1941 exposing Nazi cartels.) I've never been able to decide when they started to hate me and why but from other things they still withhold I guess it is because I defeated them and the old Dies Committee when they connived against me. Defeating them and not fearing them are red flags to them, I guess. I do not believe that any of my early writing offended them. Perhaps some of my associations did, but they've released nothing indicating that. God knows which of the people I then knew were bugged, especially labor union people. Anyway, from fairly early days they used File Classification 94, officially "Research Matter," to hide their files on the press. It also includes their lobbying, etc. These Click records, entirely incomplete, are the first 94s they've ever released to me. When searches are made, it is decided that "research matters" are not relevant and they are withheld - apparently from everyone, including DJ. Good luck and if I can help, let me know. Best wishes, Harold Weisberg

Harold

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

KRM:CJ

January 7, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

The magazine Editor and Publisher, dated January 1, 1938, on Page 12 carries an item to the effect that the new picture magazine called "Click" is published by the Annenberg Interests in Philadelphia. It made its debut during the week of January 1, 1938. It sells at ten cents a copy and will be published monthly.

Walter Annenberg, Vice President of the Philadelphia Inquirer is Supervising Director. The Editorial Board is composed of

- Curtis Mitchell
- Emile Guavereau
- Carl Schraeder
- John J. Fitzgerald
- Sam Conwab
- Rod Butterworth.

"Click" will not solicit advertising. According to Walter Annenberg, it will be published in Philadelphia.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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