

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Conrad

DATE: 4/22/70

FROM : W. D. Griffith

SUBJECT: PAUL L. HOCH
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN FBI REPORT UNDER
PUBLIC INFORMATION SECTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE
PROCEDURE ACT

This recommends advising the Justice Department that we have no objection to the release of information requested by Paul L. Hoch which is a part of Page 329 of Warren Commission Document 7 which is an FBI investigative report.

This issue arises because one Paul L. Hoch in a letter to the Department has requested some material that was withheld. Deputy Attorney General has referred the matter to us. Hoch is the Berkeley, California, graduate student who has been making inquiries about the assassination of President Kennedy over the past five years. He has directed numerous inquiries to the National Archives. In a letter to the Attorney General dated 9/19/69, he wrote of "some sort of hidden relationship between" Oswald and the FBI. On a memorandum dated 10/6/69, concerning Hoch, the Director noted, "I dislike the humoring of a character like Hoch who is obviously a 'smear' artist."

The material requested by Hoch consists of results of Laboratory examination of seven magazines obtained from Mr. Adrian T. Alba, Crescent City Garage, New Orleans, Louisiana. These are five copies of "The American Rifleman," one copy of "Guns and Hunting," and one copy of "Field and Stream," that Oswald had access to prior to the

Enclosures *and 4-23-70*

ENCLOSURE

105-82555

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Raupach)
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (Mr. Goble)
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Griffith
- 1 - Mr. Shaneyfelt

REC-25

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Memorandum to Mr. Conrad
Re: Paul L. Hoch
105-82555

assassination. A coupon in one of the magazines for the Klein's store in Chicago had been torn from the magazine and the examination established that the coupon torn from this magazine was not the one used by Oswald in ordering the rifle. The examination of these magazines for indented writing was also negative.

The results of examination covered on Pages 328 and 329 of this investigative report were withheld from public disclosure because of other evidence submitted for examination along with the magazines and there appears to be no overwhelming reason why the paragraph on Page 329 covering the negative examination of these magazines could not be released to Hoch, however, the other portions of Pages 328 and 329 should continue to be withheld. The Department has previously stated that the denial of request for official records creates the possibility of a law suit against the agency which may result in a judicial interpretation adversely affecting the Government as a whole, and they believe that requests for arguably exempt records should be granted unless there is a compelling reason for non-disclosure. This is the only reason we are recommending disclosure since a suit on the basis of the content of this paragraph may be difficult to defend. Under similar circumstances, the Bureau has previously released information that has been found to no longer have compelling reasons for non-disclosure.

There is attached for approval a letter to the Deputy Attorney General advising him that we have no objection to the release of this one paragraph and further pointing out to him that if the Department decides to release this material to Hoch, the National Archives should be advised that this paragraph of Page 329 of Commission Document 7 may be released for public disclosure. There is also attached to this memorandum a copy of the letter from Mr. Paul L. Hoch and a copy of Page 329 of Commission Document 7 showing the portion to be disclosed and the portion not to be disclosed.

RECOMMENDATION: That the attached letter be forwarded to the Deputy Attorney General.

Handwritten signatures and initials:
A. R. [unclear] ✓
B. [unclear]
J. [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

- K27 Five copies of magazine "The American Rifleman," issues of June, 1963; July, 1963; September, 1963; October, 1963; and November, 1963
- K28 One copy of magazine "Guns and Hunting," issue of January, 1964
- K29 One copy of magazine "Field and Stream," issue of December, 1958
- K30 New Orleans Public Library card bearing known handwriting and hand printing of LEE H. OSWALD

Result of examination:

It was concluded that the pertinent handwriting, hand printing, and signatures on Q35 through Q39 were written by LEE HARVEY OSWALD, K4 and K5, whose additional known writings are designated above as K24 through Kc26 and K30.

No indented writing was found on page 61 of the June, 1963, issue of the magazine "The American Rifleman" in K27. It is noted that the murder weapon was shipped from Klein's store in Chicago on March 20, 1963, and the order blank for the weapon could not have been torn from page 59 of the June, 1963, issue of the magazine in K27.

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ENCLOSURE

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