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FBI MEN ATTACK J. EDGAR HOOVER

L.A. FBI men blast J. Edgar Hoover

MARK LANE

Several Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation assigned to the Los Angeles Office have recently called for the removal of J. Edgar Hoover as the Bureau's director. In an eight page single spaced letter, written on F.B.I. stationery, the agents related numerous acts of betrayal and incompetence.

The four thousand, five hundred word document is in the form of a letter addressed to Attorney General Ramsey Clark. It reveals almost incredible cupidity and incompetence by those in control of the Bureau and states that those in charge are alcoholics, perjurers and blackmailers.

The document, probably unprecedented in the history of the F. B. I., discloses inside information regarding the Bureau's many failures in important cases over the years.

The letter states that various officials within the FBI instructed agents to make false statements under oath to the United States Civil Service Commission in a hearing involving former Special Agent William Turner who is now a staff writer for Ramparts Magazine.

On this question the agents concluded "while we do not fully agree with the various writings of Turner or the methods he has chosen to strike back at Hoover and these people, we do know he was terribly wronged by the FBI through Grapp (Wesley G. Grapp, Special Agent in Charge of the Los Angeles Office) and others at Hoover's direction."

Yet despite this disclaimer the document attacks upon Hoover and his associates in the upper echelons of the FBI by the agents are far more virulent and savage than any comments published by Turner or any other critic of the FBI.

The letter begins with a summation:

"Hoover lives in the past, dreams of days of Dillinger, Pretty Boy Floyd and others; is surrounded by aged or incompetent men who have spent their careers looking backward and telling Hoover what he wants to hear. President John F. Kennedy, and his brother, then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, planned to retire Hoover on his 70th birthday (January 1, 1965) but the assassination of President Kennedy saved his job. President Lyndon B. Johnson seriously considered replacing Hoover. Hoover has stated that the President's first request after taking over the White House was for about 1,200 dossiers from confidential FBI files on Johnson's political adversaries, and the number has increased since that time. I am sure you know this is blackmail. Hoover promptly sold out our organization and his integrity to stay in power.

"Hoover has long been in politics, coming out more openly in recent years to the disenchantment of millions of Americans. For example, he "cleared" Walter Jenkins, top LBJ aide found in homosexual contact in a Washington YMCA in 1964, and even sent Jenkins flowers and a note (which he later lied about) and even sent a top aide to assist Jenkins in interrogation by FBI agents. He later bitterly criticized the Washington Police Department for Jenkins' arrest, convincing many FBI employees to wonder anew about Hoover's homosexual inclinations."

The agents invited an investigation by the Department of Justice into the many serious allegations contained in their report. They wrote "I want to assure

Continued on page 3

Lane: FBI mismanagement

Continued from page one
you that an investigation on your part will disclose every word to be true. Our strong loyalty to our country and interest in what becomes of our organization in the future prompts us to report to you certain background information regarding J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI."

Perhaps the most amusing story of F.B.I. mismanagement relates to the kidnapping of Kenneth John Young in Los Angeles last year. Ransom in the amount of a quarter of a million dollars was paid to the kidnapper under the direct supervision of the FBI. Yet the kidnapper escaped from the scene and has not as yet been apprehended.

This vignette has not yet been presented by ABC-TV in its series starring Efreim Zimbalist.



The Los Angeles agents recount the tragedy/comedy in this fashion:

"He (Grapp) very badly botched the Kenneth John Young kidnaping case here in Los Angeles which occurred April 2, 1967. \$250,000 ransom was paid for the safe return of the victim, under the watchful eyes of the F.B.I. Grapp's supervision was incredibly stupid. A taxicab used as cover in the payoff could not keep up with the kidnapper and he was lost. Grapp became hysterical at this point, tied up radio traffic with his obscenities, and instructions could not be gotten to surrounding agents in time to follow and apprehend the kidnapper after release of the victim. Millions of dollars may be spent before this case is ever solved. Gale, mentioned above, was sent to help direct the case, but he is held in as high contempt by the agents as is Grapp. Hoover reportedly

threatened both Grapp and Gale if the case is not solved, adding further incentive for the agents NOT to solve it. Unfortunately, Hoover and Grapp refused to tell the Chief of Police in Beverly Hills, where the kidnaping occurred, about the case, hoping for a quick solution and a grab of all the publicity. Now the Chief refuses to touch the case, rightfully so, even though there is no F.B.I. jurisdiction since no state lines were crossed and the kidnaping victim was not harmed."

Recently, various transcripts of the meetings of the Warren Commission were declassified. They reveal that there were repeated and serious discussions among the Commission members regarding leaks to the press.

On June 4, 1964, one Commission member, Congressman Gerald Ford, opened the meeting by complaining "of news stories that have recently appeared in the press throughout the country. I don't know where these writers have obtained their information." Ford quoted one newspaper story to the effect that "Commission members have come to the conclusion that President Kennedy's assassination was the act of a lone individual. There is no evidence that he was working in any way as an agent of a foreign government."

Ford, who was hoping to link the assassination to an international Communist conspiracy, then stated, "Any statement that Commission members have come to this or that conclusion is obviously false." He added that most of the articles "if not all start out or contain in the substance of the article a Commission source, or a source close to the Commission."

He said "by these kinds of articles, they are creating an atmosphere throughout the country that will, I think, create a predetermined public of what we may or may not have come to. In my judgment somebody somewhere

is planting or leaking these stories," he said.

Ford noted that stories containing inside information appeared simultaneously on the A.P. and U.P.I. wires. He said, "I have checked a little bit with some of my newspaper friends, and they tell me that any time A.P. and UPI have a story with the same date on it, there is no doubt that it was a leaked story by a government official, or by anybody else who was involved."

Earl Warren, often confused by the facts, responded typically, "I have no idea where that could possibly have come from."

The solution to this mystery is now in the hands of the United States Department of Justice. The Special Agent of the FBI assigned to the Los Angeles Office described Cartha D. DeLoach, the assistant director of the FBI, as "the self-styled heir apparent to