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Los Angeles FBI agents blast their superiors

(Continued from last week)

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Recently, several Special Agents attached to the Los Angeles office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation filed a series of charges with Attorney General Ramsey Clark urging that J. Edgar Hoover be removed as a result of his "rapidly advancing senility and increasing megalomania".

A few years ago such language would have been considered treason within the FBI—and not only there. Today, many agents within the Bureau and many former agents feel that the efficiency of the organization would be greatly increased if Hoover retired.

In a previous article I discussed some of the failures of the FBI in major cases as detailed by the Los Angeles Agents in their letter to Clark.

Efforts to reform the Bureau starting with the Los Angeles office have thus far been notably unsuccessful. According to the memorandum submitted to Clark, "Some months ago Special Agent Charles Stein, formerly of this office, allegedly called some of Grapp's (Wesley G. Grapp, Special Agent in Charge, Los Angeles office) unbelievable activities to Hoover's attention and Hoover sent some inspectors to investigate. Grapp was contemptuous of them and a whitewash was administered. Stein was flown from Dallas, Texas, to Washington, where he was subjected to violation of his rights as a Federal employee and was forced into involuntary retirement. Stein knew about the allegations as everyone in the office did; He was made to retire for not re-

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porting the matter when it happened. Stein does have evidence against Grapp, proving misfeasance and malfeasance in office, including Fraud Against the Government. He is now living here in Los Angeles and will tell the truth. "To corroborate accusations attributed to Stein, additional allegations were made later against Grapp which would have been easy to conform. Hoover sent a top aide, Mark Felt, out here and Felt turned up dozens of serious derelictions but he, too, is afraid of Grapp. Felt did something unknown in F.B.I. inspections—he turned the damaging allegations back to Grapp to handle, to the bitter disgust of all of us here. Grapp later stated to Agent personnel of this office, "I don't have anything to fear from the inspectors—they can't touch me."

The memo illustrates many of the odd pécadillos that appear to afflict the FBI leadership group. In each instance the agents made reference to some odd behavior and submitted the name of the agent who could support the contention. For example: "Former Assistant Director John McGuire could tell how Hoover and Tolson, seeing a teen-age boy with pimples in an FBI headquarters elevator, set off a large number

of disciplinary actions including McGuire's retirement." "Special Agent in Charge Frank Price in San Francisco can tell how Gale's (James H. Gale, FBI official) disapproval of pictures on his office wall led to his demotion and transfer to Honolulu, and eventual retirement."

"Erwin Pieper, former Special Agent in Charge of the City of Los Angeles, can tell how Hoover and Tolson demanded a restaurant owner be investigated because he would not put them ahead of all others in a line awaiting seating for dinner. Pieper was later demoted and forced into retirement because of this."

"Assistant Special Agent in Charge Jim Moreland of San Francisco can tell how his nervous twitch in Hoover's presence recently brought about an inspection in San Francisco resulting in SAC Curtis Lynum being forced into retirement after 25 years of outstanding service to our nation and this Agency." Hoover's constant race track companion, Clyde A. Tolson, receives a fair share of criticism

August 9, 1968

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Los Angeles, California

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.
Confidential

Attorney General Ramsey Clark
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clark:

First I must say that I cannot sign this report because such an act would cause me ungod handshaps. Hoover, I want to assure 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 F. B. I.

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 President's first request after taking over the White House was for about 1200 dossiers from confidential F. B. I. 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 FBI 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 F. B. I. Agents. He later bitterly criticized the Washington Police Department for Jenkins's arrest, concluding maybe F. B. I. employees to wonder anew about Hoover's homosexual inclinations.

Here in Los Angeles, F. B. I. personnel are subjected to almost daily indignities by a man appointed by Hoover as Special Agent in Charge, Wesley G. Grapp. Grapp has enhanced his position with Hoover in recent years by lying under oath to the United States Civil Service Commission in a hearing involving former Special Agent William W. Turner, now staff writer for Ramparts Magazine, 301 Broadway, San Francisco. The Civil Service Commission was completely dominated by F. B. I. officials in this and many other personnel actions and even though Turner should have been upheld, he was ruined by lies of Grapp.

THIS IS THE FIRST PAGE OF THE L. A. BUREAU FBI LETTER

by the Los Angeles Special Agents also:

"Hoover's rapidly advancing senility and increasing megalomania have resulted in a big power play among F. B. I. top brass to take his place or move. Clyde A. Tolson, Associate Director and No. 2 man in the FBI hierarchy, is merely Hoover's constant companion (with unhealthy implications) and has no independent ability or stature in FBI operations. He would have been thrown out many years ago without Hoover's personal affection for him. Tolson has been at the point of death and quite ill off and on for most of the past ten years, is unable to work a great deal of the time, reportedly never takes sick or annual leave and does not want anyone to know he is ill. To help you evaluate Tolson, some years ago the exceedingly competent FBI Laboratory devised an electrical gadget which would permit Hoover to lay in his bed and raise and lower the windows of his room. Nothing spectacular—similar to any vacuum window-raising device on any late model car—but Tolson had the gall to claim he invented the device, had it patented and claimed he designed it."

The agents describe one top FBI official as "really the most powerful man in the FBI including Hoover because he handles all important personnel appointments, transfers, raises, etc. for Hoover, who has no intimate knowledge of any of his personnel or their abilities except Tolson." The agents claim that this "most powerful man is "an alcoholic, has been involved in many drunken scenes including one in Toots Shor's in New York City some years ago and on numerous airline flights and in many field offices including Chicago, where

on one occasion he demanded not one—but two prostitutes be provided for his enjoyment by that office. He also forced the Chicago FBI office to buy him an engine for his personal boat at a cost of about \$1,000. This is covered by phoney vouchers in the office confidential fund for informant payments. This is well known to Hoover. Any new agent in Chicago office could prove it but no one dares expose the man for fear of instant retaliation." According to the memo this same gentleman hired his own brother as an FBI agent some years ago although the brother had upwards of one-thousand dollars in bad checks outstanding at the time. The memos states

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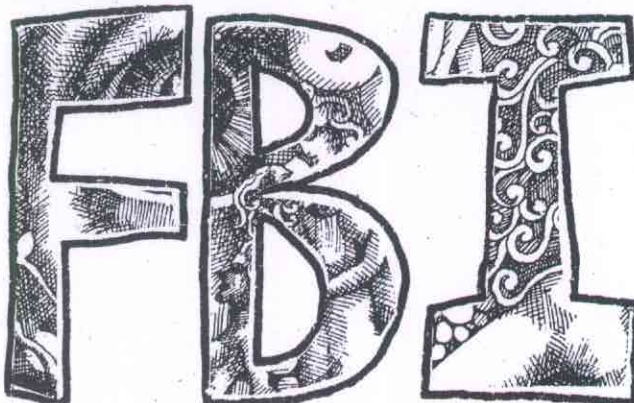
that although the brother's "personnel file has been purged" the "investigating agent and Washington Field Office supervisors will tell the truth under oath with guaranteed protection." The agents add "this is demoralizing to thousands of dedicated agents who know this story and its ramifications."

The agents wrote that the official "now in charge of our top hoodlum drive" is "the number one reason the drive is faltering." Of that official the agents state that he is "not qualified mentally or morally for any position in the FBI. His emotional instability is a matter of record in his official personnel file. His continued employment appears to be based upon his skill in covering the illegal diversion of FBI funds and drunken scenes engaged in by the man alluded to as "the most powerful man in the FBI." He has in fact been "rewarded with numerous promotions."

Another of the top ten men in the FBI is an Inspector described by his Los Angeles colleagues as "an alcoholic hatchet man and liar." According to the document, "Some time ago Hoover sent (the Inspector) to Phoenix to make an important speech for him before a large group of attorneys in the southwest, but he got so drunk they thought he was dead and of course could not appear. Much to his embarrassment, the Phoenix SAC (Special Agent in Charge) Edward Boyle, had to fill in for him. Later the same evening, the Inspector, in a drunken state made it back on the

streets in a car, ran through several red lights and on the wrong side of the road, and was arrested by the Phoenix Police." The men described in the report as "the most powerful man in the FBI" and "not qualified mentally or morally" then "ordered the drunken driving and traffic tickets fixed."

According to the report, the Inspector was cleared of any wrongdoing and retained his GS-17 job. Boyle, the former SAC of Phoenix, has since retired and



according to the report "will now tell the truth as will the Phoenix Police officers who still want to prosecute." Early in 1966 the Inspector Ed Clayton, Tolson's top assistant, who ran in and told on him. The Inspector was then reduced in rank to GS-15 and assigned to Detroit. The Special Agents stated that the Inspector then "got on his knees to Hoover and got his job back and his GS-17 rating, much to the disgust of 15,000 FBI employees who know what a degenerate he really is." As to Clayton, he was "forced into retirement for exposing the Inspector."

The agents also discuss Hoover's misuse of federal funds: "Hoover has become independently wealthy in his job and could retire at full salary. He makes thousands out of books and articles written for him by FBI employees, and many thousands in government funds have been spent by FBI employees on his property in Washington and California. Inspector Leo Gauthier, a grade GS-17 carpenter, was in charge of this thievery for many years, but is now retired and will tell all. These expenditures are a national scandal and at least \$25,000 has been spent on improvements and upkeep alone, of Hoover's Washington home and furnishings. The FBI agents sum it up this way:

"Hoover and Tolson make Senator Thomas Dodd of Connecticut and Congressman Adam Clayton Powell of New York look like petty thieves when you consider the forty years they have vacationed at FBI expense in New York, Florida, and California without spending a dime, but submitting outrageous expense accounts."

The letter to Clark ends with this plea, "We need a director willing to stop destroying his own men and organization and willing to carry out the duties of his office as it was intended. Action on your part, Mr. Clark, will take great moral courage. Nicholas Katzenbach reportedly wanted to dump Hoover but according to Drew Pearson, Hoover caused Katzenbach to be kicked out of the Cabinet and into an inferior government position. We in the FBI know there is sound basis for Mr. Pearson's contention. Everything outlined in this report will be vigorously denied by those concerned. There is no one in the FBI that is able to furnish any information unless placed under oath and given protection against retribution by Hoover. Nothing short of a personal investigation by you or a congressional investigation, which we would like to avoid, will bring out the whole truth. Hoover won't hesitate to drop 'leaks' about you, and will do everything in his considerable power to run you out of government if you try to expose him or correct the situation now existing in the FBI. There are hundreds of us agents prepared, however, to come forward once an investigation is under way and it is set out that we will be protected. Only then will the truth come out and this organization corrected, and a stop put to Mr. Hoover's prostitution of the FBI. The first move is up to you, Mr. Clark, and we hope and pray that you waste no time in taking it."

Actually, of course, the first move was made by the courageous, but evidently rather naive, Special Agents assigned to the Los Angeles Office. It is only with the greatest difficulty that one can imagine Clark's reaction when the eight page letter was handed to him. The agents were no doubt correct in stating that it would take a man of great moral courage to clean up the snakepit that operates as America's secret police force. Unfortunately, for the country, Clark has thus far demonstrated neither morality nor courage.

It appears unlikely that very much will be changed by the precedent shattering memorandum submitted by the agents. No doubt the FBI will continue to be operated as if it was the real life and all male version of the typical American family—residing on Peyton Place. The complaining agents will be fortunate indeed if they escape expulsion or worse. To ask Clark for help is to emulate the beleaguered Caesar who, it is said, turned upon his tormentors with a warning, "You boys are in trouble now. Here comes my good friend Brutus".