

Post 7/31/70

Mr. Hoover's Displeasure

The purpose of this letter is to express my extreme displeasure with the malicious distortions contained in the article entitled "FBI: Top Secrets at Top Cost" by Aaron Latham, which appeared in the July 25 issue of your newspaper.

Contrary to the false impression created by Mr. Latham's muckraking article, I have never "reclined on a couch" in my inner office while "architects sat in an outer office." Nor have I "talked through a closed door" to Mr. Karel Yasko or any other official of the General Services Administration. As a matter of fact, Mr. Yasko is completely unknown to me, and there is no record that he or any other architect employed by the GSA has submitted a request at any time to see me regarding the new FBI building.

Mr. Latham's assertion that I have caused "problems" for the GSA—particularly by indicating that I wanted our new building to be in the shape of a box—is equally untrue. At no time have I suggested to the GSA or anyone else that the FBI building should be shaped like a box.

J. EDGAR HOOVER.

Washington.

Editor's note: The Washington Post quoted as its source architect Karel Yasko, special assistant to the Commissioner for Design of the General Services Administration. Mr. Yasko has been involved with supervision of the design of the FBI building since it was first announced in 1962. The reporter tried on three separate occasions to give the FBI the opportunity to comment on this story and each time the FBI refused, and referred him back to GSA.