

Then the FBI also exercised control through its effective propaganda operation, hidden under the Orwellian title "Crime Records Division." Those sensitive records also are hidden, under the equally Orwellian file classification of "94. Research Matters." Under Cartha DeLoach, who rose to be third in the FVI hierarchy before he retired and went into private industry, the FBI turned the King assassination prosecution/ defense of James Earl Ray, entirely around, leading to the aborting of the American system of justice by avoidance of any trial at all. To this day Ray has not been tried and for years he did try to get a trial.

DeLoach's subordinates handled the leaks to the media and DeLoach, loudly, vigorously and self-righteously, handled the denials of the FBI's leaking.

While some of it was pretty far out, like the FBI's extensive and expensive alleged tracing of Ray's aliases to Ayn Rand's writing (with which there was no relationships at all) working through a longtime press front for the FBI, Jeremiah O'Leary, then of the since defunct Washington Star, the FBI both propagandized itself and led Ray to believe that the propaganda campaign against him would prejudice any and all prospective jurors and he might be better off copping a plea and then trying to appeal.

An imaginative citizen started the FBI off on its Ayn Rand kick and an imaginative DeLoach subordinate, triggered by an approach by the Readers Digest, led to the FBI's providing O'Leary with the essence of his Readers Digest article that, beyond doubt, was seriously prejudicial, more so because of the vast readership of the magazine and the subsidiary attention to the O'Leary/FBI opus.

Ray had used the alias "Eric Starvo Galt." This reminded the imaginative citizen of Rand's Atlas Shrugged. When this was read in the FBI, which then had virtually nothing at all to show from its great effort, there followed an intensive study of all of Rand's works. Complete with indexing of them. Then leaks to the press of the meaningless coincidences, all indicating the diligence of the FBI's manhunt - in which it never once got at all close to Ray.

Using O'Leary and the Digest was impossibly dangerous without J. Edgar Hoover's approval, so his approval was sought and, after initial denial, was obtained.

The initial effort to get Hoover's OK was keyed to letting the country know how effective the FBI's fingerprint operation was. Allegedly. As the DeLoach underlings bucked their proposal upward through the hierarchy.

In fact, it took the FBI and its fabled fingerprint-identification exactly two weeks to identify Ray's prints, and even then they were not identified from the FBI's own, or from those of the Army, which the FBI has, but from a Los Angeles record of one of the pettier or Ray's petty crimes.

At the same time Hoover was assured that nothing at all would be given to O'Leary, which would keep the FBI in the clear. He had done his own homework, DeLoach's flunkies wrote, and had what they described as a "strong background" on the case. It should have been "strong," as the FBI saw strength, because, as the embarrassed O'Leary later admitted, it came from the FBI itself.

(Pick up with docs in O'Leary/Frank files and conclude with Ray's intercepted letter to the Judge. Tie in with later 3/10 plea and resume with Crime Records's 3/11 proposal for an inspired book. Be sure to include DeLoach's intent to defame Mrs. King.)