

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: October 19, 1966

FROM : A. Rosen *ARM*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Raupach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11/22/63

SYNOPSIS

V D.C.
Wesley J. Liebler, former Assistant Counsel to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, by letter received 10/17/66, claims he is deeply concerned about some of the recent books attacking the Warren Commission and its report. Alleges he has discussed situation in some detail with other members of Warren Commission staff, resulting in his undertaking the writing of a book describing generally how Commission conducted investigation, reviewing evidence relating to basic conclusions, and discussing major criticisms of the Commission report and its work.

Liebeler solicits Bureau assistance in several matters which were thoroughly checked into by Warren Commission. He apparently desires data from Bureau contained in reports made available to Commission but not fully utilized by Commission. He alleges he is being sued by Mark Lane, author of "Rush to Judgment", but no process served to date.

Based on prior experience with Liebler, Bureau could not expect favorable treatment regardless of whether Bureau assisted him or turned down his request. He is obnoxious and made numerous idiotic requests of Bureau while on Warren Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) If approved, that attached letter be sent to Liebler acknowledging his letter and advising him that as he is aware, Warren Commission made all of its material available to National Archives and in accordance with Public Law 89-312, all material in Bureau's possession turned over to National Archives and any information he desires will be available through National Archives.

sent 10-21-66
62-109060-4228

Enclosures

JRM:mpd (9)

REC-51

OCT 24 1966

CONTINUED - OVER

Section 102

Memo to Mr. DeLoach from A. Rosen
Re: Assassination of President

(2) Inasmuch as Liebler was a member of the Warren Commission staff, it is believed advisable to alert the Department to the fact that he is in the process of writing a book. Attached is a letter to the Assistant Attorney General. Vinson.

*Don't send to Vinson - send
to Acting A.G. H*

(3) Upon approval of the letter to Liebler, a copy of his incoming letter as well as the Bureau's reply will be made available to the Dallas Office for its information inasmuch as Liebler, during the existence of the Warren Commission, spent considerable time in Dallas and had contact with the Dallas Office on several occasions. Dallas will be instructed not to comply with any requests which Liebler might make to that office without first clearing such requests with the Bureau and awaiting a specific Bureau reply. (It is not intended to cooperate with Liebler but it would be well to know the nature of any requests he might make.)

The Los Angeles Office will also be furnished copies of this correspondence inasmuch as Liebler is now living in the Los Angeles territory and they will be furnished the same instructions as Dallas concerning any requests from Liebler.

*Letter to Acting
Attorney General
Vinson
10-10-66
JRM:hw*

✓

10-10-66

FOR DETAILS - SEE OVER

- 2 -

Memo to DeLoach from Rosen
Re: Assassination of President

DETAILS

Contents of Liebeler's Letter

Bureau is in receipt of a 3-page letter dated October 14, 1966, (received in Bureau 10/17/66) from Wesley J. Liebeler, former Assistant Counsel to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. In his letter he states he is deeply concerned about some of the recent books attacking the Warren Commission and its report. He states he has discussed this matter in some detail with other members of the staff of the Warren Commission and in view of the circumstances has undertaken to write a book describing generally how the Commission conducted its investigation, reviewing the evidence relating to the basic conclusions reached in the report, and discussing the major criticisms which have been made of the report and the work of the Commission.

In his letter Liebeler solicits the assistance of the Bureau relative to several matters which were thoroughly looked into by the Warren Commission during its hearings. Liebeler is apparently desirous of the Bureau going beyond the material reported by the Warren Commission and is asking the Bureau to furnish him additional facts which may be in FBI reports.

He also comments that as he proceeds with his work he will have additional questions and mentions that W. W. Norton and Company have agreed to publish the book he is now working on. He comments he understands W. W. Norton and Company are also publishing a book about the FBI which is being written by the Overstreets. Liebeler is referring to Dr. Harry Overstreet and his wife who are known to be preparing a book favorable to the Bureau. Assistant Director W. C. Sullivan has been in contact with the Overstreets during preparation of their book and parts of their manuscript have been reviewed by both the Domestic Intelligence and Crime Records Divisions.

According to Liebeler, Mark Lane, author of "Rush to Judgment", announced to the press he was suing Liebeler for slander. Liebeler states Lane was at the University of California, Los Angeles, on 10/7/66, and Lane refused Liebeler's challenge to debate. Liebeler claims that following Lane's press conference he held one immediately thereafter and charged Lane was going around the country telling lies for money. He states he has not yet been served with any process.

Memo to DeLoach from Rosen
Re: Assassination of President

Prior Experiences with Liebler:

During the existence of the Warren Commission, Wesley Liebler was the most obnoxious attorney on the staff and was constantly making completely unreasonable oral requests of the Bureau. This occurred to such an extent that he was told on numerous occasions to clear his requests through Mr. J. Lee Rankin's office to make sure the Commission actually desired the work he was suggesting. Such refusals to honor his requests rarely had any effect and he would be back the next day with another equally "screwball" request. In addition, Liebler constantly requested assistance in locating material which had been previously supplied to the Commission. Such requests were regularly turned down but this did not deter him from continued requests.

In a memorandum dated June 9, 1964, from Rosen to Belmont, captioned "James R. David, Information Concerning, Security Violation," it reveals that David, by letter dated June 4, 1964, advised he was a retired Naval reserve officer who performed duties as a security officer. David stated that on May 31, 1964, while en route from Keene, New Hampshire, on Northeast Airlines to New York, he observed an individual, who occupied the seat adjacent to him, openly display a report with a cover identifying it as "U. S. Department of Justice, Copy No. 10 of 10, President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy" marked in large block red letters "Top Secret." David furnished a description of this individual and added he had a rather full red beard and the attache case from which he removed the report previously referred to bore the initials "W. J. L." The Commission was furnished a copy of Mr. David's letter on June 9, 1966. (62-109090 Section 14, Serials 170-171).

In a memorandum dated July 8, 1966, concerning the book "Inquest" by Edward Jay Epstein, about the functioning of the Warren Commission, which is severely critical of the Commission, Epstein indicated that one of his sources of material for his book was Assistant Counsel Wesley J. Liebler who stated that the Commission did "nothing"; the staff members did all the investigating. Liebler was also quoted as saying that although the FBI was extremely efficient in answering questions submitted in writing, the Agents did not develop any information that was not specifically requested of them. (62-109060-4144)

Memo to DeLoach from Rosen
Re: Assassination of President

Based on our experience with Liebler we certainly could not expect favorable treatment in any book he would write and it is believed this would be true regardless of whether we volunteered assistance or turned him down completely on his requests. In view of this it is not felt we should render any assistance whatever to Liebler.

P JEM *✓*

REC-52 62-109060-4228

The Acting Attorney General
Director, FBI

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Wick

October 20, 1966

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS, NOVEMBER 22, 1963

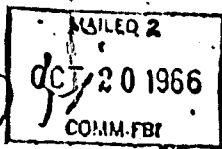
With reference to the assassination of President Kennedy, I am in receipt of a letter from Wesley J. Liebeler, a former Assistant Counsel to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, dated October 14, 1966, in which he makes several requests for information from the FBI concerning matters relating to the assassination.

Inasmuch as he indicates that he is writing a book, I thought you would be interested in his letter and my reply thereto. A copy of each is attached.

Enclosures (2)

JRM:hw
(9)

NOTE: See memo Rosen to DeLoach 10-19-66, same caption.



56 OCT 25 1966
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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SCHOOL OF LAW
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

October 14, 1966

SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

Mr. Gile
Mr. E. G.
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss H. E.
Miss Gann

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

As a former assistant counsel to the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, I am deeply concerned about some of the books, attacking the Commission and the Report, that have been published recently. I have discussed this matter in some detail with Messrs. Ball, Griffin, Specter, Stern and Willens, all former members of the Commission Staff and with some of the members of the Commission. In view of the circumstances I have undertaken to write a book describing generally how the Commission conducted its investigation, reviewing the evidence relating to the basic conclusions reached in the Report and discussing the major criticisms that have been made of the Report and the work of the Commission.

I am sure that you will appreciate that your Bureau could be of immense help to me in this endeavor. In view of the seriousness of the matter, I hope you will be able to extend your cooperation.

I would propose at this juncture to submit specific questions which I think could be readily answered from the reports and other records in your possession. One of my basic problems is to find my way back into the materials with which we worked at the time the Commission was in operation. This involves to a great extent the matter of indexes to reports of your Bureau, many of which are now available to the interested public at the Archives. I must be frank to admit that even while we were working on the Report there were many times when the only way in which I could locate material in your reports was to ask your office for a reference to the specific reports involved.

EXP. PROC.

REC 22

EX-113

62-109060-4232

12 OCT 20 1966

Section 102

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
October 14, 1966

Page 2.

Let me indicate the kind of thing I have in mind: On pages 348-50 of his book "Rush to Judgment", Mark Lane comments on Commission Exhibit 5, a picture Oswald took of the rear of General Walker's house. You will recall that CE 5 depicts an automobile and that the picture has been mutilated in such a way as to obliterate the license plate of that automobile. After this came to my attention I examined Marina Oswald about it in Dallas on July 24, 1964, in an attempt to determine whether or not the hole was in the picture when it was first shown to her before the Commission. She said that it was not, but I do not believe that she was correct in that regard. That testimony is set forth at 11 Hearings 294-5.

I see three problems possibly raised by the hole in CE 5:

1. How did the hole get there?
2. Whose automobile is depicted in the picture?
3. What is the year of the license plate, i.e., during what year was the picture taken?

There is no problem with (3), since the date on which Oswald took the pictures of the area around General Walker's house was clearly established by the analyses of the stage of the construction of the building shown in the background of CE 2-P2. The report of this investigation is set forth in a report from your Dallas Office, dated May 22, 1964 (CE 1351).

As to (2), Robert Surrey indicated that the car appeared identical to one owned by Charles Klihr, a volunteer worker for General Walker. (CE 1953, p. 9) Surrey was not so certain about that when he testified before the Commission (5 Hearings 437), and General Walker did not recognize the automobile at all (11 Hearings 411-12).

At this time I am not able to determine whether you interviewed Klihr about this. I would very much appreciate information as to that and either a copy of the report of the interview, or a description of it so that I can obtain a copy from the Archives.

On the question of how the hole got there, I note that Detectives Stovall and Rose of the Dallas Police Department have indicated that the hole was in the picture when they recovered it from Ruth Paine's premises.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
October 14, 1966

Page 3.

All of this material was turned over to your Bureau on November 26, 1963. CE 5 also bears FBI Inventory Number 369. I would greatly appreciate having a copy of the inventory, or at the very least, an indication as to whether or not the inventory indicates the presence of the hole at the time the item was turned over to the Bureau.

Detective Stovall testified that he made a list of the property taken from the Paine residence on November 22, 1963, assisted by Detective Rose and two FBI agents (7 Hearings 190). Perhaps those agents, whose identity I am not able to determine, would recall the picture and whether the hole was in it at the time. Of course, if your inventory of November 26, 1963, indicates the presence of the hole, that coupled with the recollections of Stovall and Rose would strongly suggest that Oswald or his wife mutilated the picture.

I am sure that I will have additional questions as I proceed with my work. You might be interested in knowing that W. W. Norton & Co. have agreed to publish the book on which I am now at work. I understand that they are also publishing a book about your Bureau that is being written by the Overstreets.

Mr. Lane has announced to the press that he is suing me for slander. He was here at U.C.L.A. last Friday and refused my challenge to debate. He then held a press conference. I held one immediately following and charged that he was going around the country telling lies for money. I have not yet been served with any process.

It is clear to me that something must be done in response to the wave of criticism that seems to be building up on this matter. I hope that you will be able to give me the help I am asking.

Very truly yours,


Wesley J. Liebeler

REC 22

62-109060-4232

October 19, 1966

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Wick

EX-113

Mr. Wesley J. Nebeler
University of California
Legal Forum, School of Law
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Mr. Nebeler: W. J.

Your letter of October 14, 1966, has been received, wherein you advise you are in the process of writing a book relating to the work of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy and in which you inquire concerning several matters relating to the assassination.

With reference to your request, you are no doubt aware that the Warren Commission, upon termination of its activities, made available to the National Archives and Records Service all material which it accumulated during its inquiry. Under Public Law 89-312, enacted November 2, 1965, the FBI turned over to the National Archives all material in its possession relating to our investigative efforts concerning the assassination of President Kennedy.

In view of the foregoing, it is suggested that answers to any questions you may have concerning the work performed by the Warren Commission or the FBI would be available for review at the National Archives.

Sincerely yours,

- 1 - Dallas (see note page 2)
(Enclosure)
 - 1 - Los Angeles (see note page 2)
(Enclosure)
- JRM:mpd (12)
- John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: See memo DeLoach from Rosen 10/19/66 re Assassination of President Kennedy, Dallas, Texas 11/22/63.

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REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

Mr. Wesley J. Liebeler - page 2

NOTE Dallas: You will note the incoming letter from Wesley J. Liebeler makes certain requests of the Bureau and the Bureau's reply declines to comply with his requests. In the event any inquiries are received from Liebeler by your Office, you should make such requests available to the Bureau with any recommendations you may have. No information is to be given Liebeler without Bureau authorization.

NOTE Los Angeles: Note receipt of letter from Wesley J. Liebeler and Bureau's reply so that in event any requests of any kind should be received from Liebeler by your office, make same available to Bureau and furnish no information without specific Bureau authorization.