

Jeffrey Frank, Outlook
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Dear Jeffrey,

If Myra MacPherson's today article on the FBI's hounding of Izzy Stone reflects the kind of information she wants for her book, perhaps I have a little. She makes no mention of his addiction to government records, particularly of hearings. I presume she knows of this and will use it. To a degree I can date when at the latest Izzy had that addiction. When I was the editor of the Senate Civil Liberties Committee beginning in the last half of 1936 I was asked to send Izzy galley proofs of our hearings. He was then on the NY Post. The person who asked me was the editor of Bert Wheeler's railroad investigating committee. Earlier she had been editor of the Nye munitions investigation. So while I do not know when Izzy started those collections, I do know that it was not later than 1936.

And my the impression ^{those} that fat US Senate envelopes should have made on mail coverers.

"Still in that climate," apparently referring to "an official needed only to be spoken of favorably by one of the conspirators (no "alleged" in her direct quotation of Walter Goodman) for him to become part of the conspiracy," MacPherson then says, "Still in that climate 11 State Department employees were dismissed from their jobs." *

Perhaps there were 11 but when it was leaked to the old Times-Herald, there were 10. I was one. While I do not doubt that Hoover and the FBI were part of it, that does not show in anything I know ^{of} or have seen.

It was under the McCarran Rider. It ^{authorized} gave State and ^{a few} other agencies to fire at will, for no reason given or heeded. ^{Four} ~~Five~~ of us were Latin American ^{ists}. Two were anthropologists, Margaret Head proteges. The third taught as I recall Latin American history. All were PhDs. (Mine is honorary) They all thought they could return to teaching. When I convinced them that would not be likely they authorized me to seek a defense for us.

I had known Thurman Arnold when he was assistant attorney general, anti-trust and handled Nazi cartel cases. I took all I dug up for a series of magazine articles on those cartels to him. I know Paul Porter when he was in private practise, in the Earle Building. The firm of Arnold, Fortas and Porter ^{of} represented us so successfully that we were rehired with a public apology and then all quite (I got gypped out of my back pay.)

One of the firm got Mrs. Odgen Reid to put Bert Andrews on the story. He got Hoover to admit that there was nothing on any of us but if we had worked for him ^{he'd have told} some of us were keeping questionable company. The Post carried that Trib story but my copy disappeared long ago.

It was in fact a pogrom. The four of us were Jews and I understodd that all or all but one of the others also was. One was a case of mistaken identity.

It was not as simple as Hoover alone. With us^H the House Appropriations Committee, NY GOP Neandertahl Taber chairman, ax-man^H Harold Barger, blackmailed George^M Marshall to agree to fire us or have his appropriation cut. And State ~~is~~^{so}-called "security" was deep in it.

I was fired first on a claimed but non-existing reduction in force. Being a veteran, I went to the Civil Service Commission. They told State it could not RIF me. McCarran soon followed. I was given no charges, no hearing, just told to empty my desk and go. (I'd been an old Guild member and I'd belonged to ~~the~~^{I and to} government-employees unions only.)

I got an FBI record of John Peurifoy's call to Hoover when Hoover was not in. E.A. Tamm, later an appeals court judge who ruled against me in FOIA cases, took the message, approximately that Peurifoy had finally gotten me fired. He was happy about it.

(None of this was disclosed to me by State in response to my FOIPA request for all records on or about me. Not a page!)

That was after Dies began and before McCarthy got started.

If the FBI was covering Izzy that closely, they did not disclose to me that they picked me up when I visited him at his Nebraska Ave. home ~~on~~^{and} his Press Building PM office. Perhaps also when he was with The Nation.

But then it withheld much else from me, so maybe it also did her. I can tell her, unless they were very careful in their copying, what some of the duplicate filings mean and what those files are. She should get excited if she sees any file numbers that begin with 94 in HQ records and with 80 in the field offices. They are for hiding just the kinds of things she writes about. Oh, ~~yes~~ yes, one that begins with 66 is usually about surveillances, especially electronic. The list of file classifications doesnot indicate ~~the~~ these realities.

In that sick beginning of the lingering national illness being for ~~the~~^{was} peace ~~as~~ also a crime, as the Izzy file reflects. I must try to remember when someone is here to do the searching for me to get the CIA's copy of the Ramparts ad of the first writers and editors protest of the Viet Nam war. There were a few more than 100 of us. The CIA marked only six or seven of us. Beside me, I remember only that Dr. Spaack was marked.

My how sick it all was. Peurifoy made ambassador to Guatemala, where he worked on the overthrow of its first legally elected government with the CIA and David Phillips. (Peurifoy ~~as~~ was quite wild. He killed himself down there ⁱⁿ a one-car accident.) But he, whether or not Otto Otepka, was in with Hoover on the firing of those 10 who may have grown to 11.

Best,

Harold
Harold Weisberg