

The Attorney General
62-109090-
Director, FBI

March 21, 1967

NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
1967 MIDWINTER CONFERENCE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH A. BALL, COUNSEL TO WARREN COMMISSION

I thought you would be interested in learning of the remarks made by Mr. Joseph A. Ball, Counsel to the Warren Commission, at a luncheon Thursday, March 16, 1967, sponsored by the National District Attorneys Association at its 1967 Midwinter Conference, Statler-Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles, California. Inspector W. Lynn Edwards of the Bureau, who maintains liaison with the association, was in attendance.

Mr. Ball described the functioning of the Warren Commission. He made a devastating refutation of Mark Lane and several other critics of the Warren report. In paying highest tribute to FBI work, Mr. Ball said some persons may question the Commission's use of the FBI but he felt it entirely proper for the Commission to avail itself of an investigative body which he described as the very finest in the world. In referring to FBI reporting techniques, he said he had never seen such thorough, objective, dispassionate reporting, devoid of all coloring, opinion, and all partiality. He characterized the reports as reading like "a stream of conscience." He mentioned the FBI had interviewed over 25,000 persons and handled all leads quickly and thoroughly. He described the FBI Laboratory as "absolutely the best in the world, bar none."

Mr. Ball referred to the current New Orleans angle involving the activities of New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison. Although taking a "no comment" position, Mr. Ball described how thoroughly all New Orleans angles had been checked out by the Warren Commission and said the FBI had combed the French Quarter and the homosexuals there without developing any evidence of a conspiracy involving Lee Harvey Oswald. Mr. Ball conceded the Warren Commission had realized the possibility some future evidence might arise to shed additional light on the Lee Harvey Oswald case but he insisted such a development could not be considered as any indictment of the thorough job performed by the Warren Commission with all the available evidence at the time. Mr. Ball added he had not personally seen

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

1 - Mr. Wick 1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Casper

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The Attorney General

any important evidence to date which the Commission had overlooked and claimed he knew only what he read in the newspapers.

Mr. Eali's remarks were given considerable coverage in the local press, on radio and television. The "Los Angeles Times" also reported an informal poll of some District Attorneys attending the conference. Several criticized District Attorney Garrison's "granstand" conduct. One said Mr. Garrison should have made the information available to the FBI instead of proceeding on his own. A few supported his integrity.

1 - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

NOTE: Based on memorandum H. L. Edwards to Mr. Felt dated 3-17-67 captioned "National District Attorneys Association, 1967 Midwinter Conference, Los Angeles," HLE:wmj.