

Dear Al,

3/25/75

There is a name I'd appreciate your checking out for me at the library when you have time. Not an emergency, so don't go to too much trouble. Make it when it is easiest for you. I'll explain.

On February 27, 1975, an Anne Reid Ober died near Washington. She was the widow of Harold Ober, who founded a New York literary agency. She was 85. The agency's address is 40 East 49.

Both Harold and Anne were in their way famous long ago, from the authors represented by that agency, from her having been a magazine editor before World War I, etc. They were married after that war. He died in 1959. They had two children of whom I know, Richard and Nathaniel. My interest is in Richard and that is the part I'd appreciate your checking out.

The obituary in 1959 should give the survivors Harold left, something about the agency and maybe something about some of the survivors.

It may not be fruitful, but checking the index, if it gives births, may show when Richard was born to the Obers.

Richard may not be listed in Who's Who but Harold and Anne should be.

I don't know when LMP was begun, but it also should be checked under Ober to see if Richard ever worked for the literary agency. It would not likely be before 1940 from when they were married.

Richard probably won't be listed in the New York Times index on this, but the years for the Vietnam war should be checked, I'd say beginning 1960, to see if he is mentioned. He may have been the CIA's expert on what they call terrorism.

To put this another way, there was a Richard Ober who had this function. The question is is he the Richard Ober who was Harold and Anne's son?

This means that if these are but one man - and more than one man can have the same name - proving that they are one man, not two different ones.

It would be a good idea to check the Times index under Richard beginning about 1940, although he then may have been a bit young to have appeared in the news. It would be good to check Richard and Harold in Who's Who beginning about then. However, if I were to play a hunch I'd say that ~~Richard Ober was a CIA agent~~ Richard may have stayed in some intelligence role from World War II. I don't know, just a hunch. But it is not impossible that he began as say a writer and got interested in being a spook.

He is mentioned as a witness before the Rockefeller Commission in February and as having resigned in the Angleton part of the CIA scandal in early January. I have those stories so don't make copies of them.

If you can take the time, when you check LMP for the Ober agency, it would be a good idea it list all names connected with it by year. They may come and go but some of them, if this suspicion has any basis, may fit elsewhere.

There is little new here except that Lil's period of hardest work will last only three more weeks and that I have obtained something very important about which I can't now say anything. I think you'll know about it before too long. Until that I can't say anything. And although I can't expect honesty, I have been promised more that I've been trying to get.

I think I told you I was in NYC just long enough to tape a Black Journal show aired last week and that when I had a chance to phone nobody answered.
Best to everyone,

and thanks,

Anne Reid Ober, Friend of Authors, Dies at 85

Anne Reid Ober, 85, widow of Harold Ober, founder of the New York literary agency that bears his name, died Wednesday at the Sleepy Hollow Manor Nursing Home here after a long illness.

Born in New York City, Mrs. Ober was one of the first editors of the magazine, *Suburban Life*, which she left to join the American

Red Cross in World War

I.

She met her husband in Paris, where he was directing a Red Cross project, and they were married after the war in New York City. He died in 1959.

For many years, they lived in a converted farmhouse in Scarsdale, N.Y., which became a mecca for such au-

thors as Catherine Drinker Bowen, William Faulkner, Walter Edmonds and Philip Wylie.

When the late F. Scott Fitzgerald left the East Coast to work in Hollywood in the late 1930s, Mrs. Ober "adopted" his daughter, now Scottie Smith, who remained on the East Coast. Mrs. Ober also kept up a close friendship with his

wife, the late Zelda Fitzgerald. She preserved the correspondence between Fitzgerald and Ober, which was edited by Matthew Brucco and published in 1972 under the title, "As Ever, Scott Fitz."

For many years, Mrs. Ober raised Briards, a variety of a French sheep dog, and was frequently a judge at dog shows.

She had been active in the Westchester County Red Cross in New York, Democratic Party affairs and with the USO in World War II.

She is survived by two sons, Richard, of Washington, and Nathaniel, of Amityville, N.Y.; a sister, Helen Good, and a brother, Graham Reid, both of Denver, and seven grandchildren.

HW:

Herewith what we've able to find on Richard Ober in more than three hours of rummaging. He is not listed in Who's Who in America for 1974-75. What we've found is not much, but should enable you to search your own files with less wasted effort.

WXPost for 9Jan75 carries a Jack Anderson column on CIA files on citizens mentioning Ober as the CIA's anti-terrorist expert. You should have that, so we did not copy for you.

Hersh's initial story on the name lists was in the NYTimes for 22Dec74 and could have named Ober, but this was a Sunday issue which we don't have.

What we've found seems to make it clear that Richard Ober was shifted from CIA to NSA, as you note. However, this doesn't mean he's necessarily the son of Harold. In Who's Who I found an Ober (not a Harold Ober, but I can't recall the first name) who is a very old man, a retired Baltimore lawyer who appears to be a right winger, and who has two sons, one named Richard F. I tried to copy this page at the Library but couldn't get the copier to work and had to give it up. Anyway, it ~~SEEMS~~ seems there is a good chance of two Richards.

jdw 18mar75

'Confirmation' of CIA List Story

Washington

A Justice Department domestic intelligence unit provided the Central Intelligence Agency with names of 9000 to 10,000 U.S. radicals in 1970, a Justice Department official confirmed last night.

James T. Devine, now with Justice's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, said the names of domestic radicals were provided to the CIA with a request that the spy agency increase its surveillance of these people while they were on trips abroad.

It could not be learned whether the names supplied by the Justice Department were the same ones mentioned in a recent New York Times story alleging that the CIA conducted illegal domestic surveillance on anti-war activists and had the names of 10,000 Americans in its files.

Devine said he supplied the names while he was head of the Interagency Domestic Intelligence Unit in the Justice Department. He said he gave them to Richard Ober, a senior officer in the CIA's counterintelligence division. The Times named Ober and his supervisor, James J. Angleton, as managers of the CIA's alleged domestic surveillance program.

Devine said the names included members of the Black Panthers, the Weathermen, the Students for a Democratic Society, some Arab organizations and other New Left groups.

The names had been compiled by the FBI as part of

its monitoring of domestic demonstrators and violence-prone radicals, as well as in investigations of anti-riot violations and threats against government personnel and property, Devine said.

"Quite a few of them were going overseas, particularly to meetings in Europe," Devine said. "We wanted CIA to increase their coverage of them there to see who they were meeting, what they were planning, whether they were getting foreign training in sabotage and other foreign support."

The CIA reports on foreign activity were channeled back to the FBI, Devine said.

Two sources said Ober had been given the assignment of tracking foreign radicals abroad late in the Johnson administration. CIA intelligence analysts had been asked to determine whether domestic radicals were being supported or influenced by foreign powers, they said.

This report concluded that there was no evidence to support that belief, but Johnson administration officials were reluctant to accept it, these sources said.

The analysis job was then given to Ober in counterintelligence and additional manpower was shifted into his office, they said. One source said he may have had as many as 50 people working for him.

"But we never did find any hard evidence of foreign support or financing for these domestic radicals," one source said.

Associated Press

Rockefeller Probe Studies FBI-CIA Relationship

Washington

Vice President Nelson Rockefeller said yesterday the relationship between the CIA and the FBI is "part of the total picture" of his commission's investigation into charges that the intelligence agency spied illegally on Americans.

But talking with reporters after the commission's fourth weekly meeting, Rockefeller would not go into detail about what he termed "the delicate balance" between the FBI and

the CIA.

Rockefeller was quoted earlier as telling a private Republican fund-raising cocktail party in New Jersey that the CIA became involved in domestic activities after FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover refused to carry out investigations requested by the White House.

"The question of the CIA and the FBI has been part of this total picture because one is international and the other national," Rockefeller said. "There is a very deli-

cate balance here between protecting the rights of citizens and protecting the national security."

Asked to elaborate, he said "that question will be discussed fully in our final report."

Rockefeller said that in the commission's initial four meetings it had acquired "a clear picture of this issue." The panel, appointed by President Ford to investigate reports of domestic spying by the CIA, has hired seven investigators who will interview witnesses prior to their appearance, he said.

The commission yesterday called Lyman B. Kirkpatrick Jr., who retired in 1965 as executive director-comptroller of the CIA.

Kirkpatrick, now a Brown University political science teacher, had worked with the CIA from its founding in 1947.

Kirkpatrick testified for nearly 3½ hours and was followed by Richard Ober, a former CIA official and now a director of intelligence coordination for the National Security Council. It was Ober's second appearance before the commission.

Rockefeller said he did not know why former California Governor Ronald Reagan has missed three of the four commission meetings.

"He will be here on the 17th," Rockefeller said. "He'll have a lot of reading to do."

United Press

NY TIMES FEB 4 1975 ROCKEFELLER SEES LONGER C.I.A. INQUIRY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 (AP)—Vice President Rockefeller said today that his commission's investigation of alleged domestic spying by the Central Intelligence Agency might require more than the three-month period set by President Ford.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the commission's fourth weekly meeting, Mr. Rockefeller said "we'll do our best" to complete the inquiry by April, but added that "we may have to ask for additional time."

The panel heard further testimony from Richard Ober, who once reportedly headed a counterintelligence group, which the C.I.A. director, William E. Colby, has conceded kept files on 10,000 American citizens.

Mr. Rockefeller described Mr. Ober as the "former chief of the special operations group of C.I.A.," but refused to discuss Mr. Ober's testimony.

Mr. Ober, now on the staff of the National Security Council, again declined to make any comment to reporters. It was his second appearance before the Rockefeller commission.

Earlier, the commission heard from Lyman B. Kirkpatrick Jr., formerly No. 3 man at the agency and now a professor of political science at Brown University.

Ober testified at closed

hearings 27 Jan 75.

NYT 28 Jan 75
(story has no further details on Ober)