

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson
FROM : L. B. Nichols
SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

DATE: Dec. 21, 1955

Tolson
Boardman
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Tele. Room
Gandy

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Warren Olney came to my office on the afternoon of December 20, 1955, to advise that he had called [REDACTED] and had him come down to the Department where he saw him yesterday. He stated that he told [REDACTED] that he had talked in terms of a subpoena before a grand jury; that he had mentioned the matter to Deputy Attorney General Rogers and Rogers had made the statement that [REDACTED] was not the type of person who would have to be called before a grand jury. Olney stated that he purposely did not get specific but presented the matter in such a way as to let [REDACTED] think that they had the full details. He stated that [REDACTED] in turn, was somewhat vague, but admitted that the incident of making a recording involving [REDACTED] did occur. It was either in 1945 or 1946 and the recording was made when he was approached by someone from the White House and, in his own mind, he figured the President must be in back of this. The recording was made by placing a microphone in an adjoining room on the third floor of the Willard Hotel, on the Fourteenth Street side. The microphone was placed under the rug and the wire ran to the adjoining room. The recording was of approximately 45 minutes' duration. [REDACTED] specifically stated it did not relate to the sale of postmasterships, but it concerned airplane companies and airplane stock. Olney did not pursue this further.

Olney stated that he pointed out to [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] indicated the embarrassing position this put him in and his desire not to become involved, that he was just as anxious as [REDACTED] was not to involve him and that he did not want to involve him if he could get the facts in any other way. [REDACTED] stated that his wife's recollection of the whole matter was better than his as she kept the books, and that his wife must have been the source of the information reaching Olney to the effect that the recording had been made. [REDACTED] thereupon volunteered to consult with his wife, refresh his recollection and prepare a statement which would be given to Olney sometime on Wednesday, December 21.

Olney wondered if there was anyway whereby we could go back to our source to determine if the information came from [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]'s wife,

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MAIL [REDACTED]

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Memorandum to Mr. Tolson from L. B. Nichols

RE: [REDACTED]

further details as to the name of the individual in the White House which had previously been reported as [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] and whether the source would be in a position to point out to [REDACTED] the desirability of furnishing all the information that he can. b7C

I told Olney with reference to whether [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

King, D. H.

He then told me that he had [REDACTED] check at the White House and nobody by the name of [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] had been on the White House rolls. b7C

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*We must not let our
ambassadors out
course.*
