

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO THE DIRECTOR

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DATE: 9/4/57

FROM L. V. Boardman

Justice Department

SUBJECT: RELATIONS BETWEEN FBI AND DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS

Foison, Nichols, Boardman, Mohr, Parsons, Ladd, Trotter, Nease

Pursuant to your suggestion, I made comments as follows at the Executives Conference this morning:

The shabby and insolent manner in which we have been treated by Olney, and more recently by Tompkins, reflects that the extent to which we have been more than courteously civil, and have furnished them more than the bare evidential data necessary for prosecutive purposes, is the extent to which we have been "played for suckers."

We should learn that the seed of friendship is planted in barren soil as regards the Departmental attorneys. Self-glorification, with the view to enhancing their personal ventures into the political or professional arenas, is their primary motivation. They are not Government careerists, but instead opportunists. We should carefully refrain from assisting them in the accomplishment of their aims by henceforth furnishing them only the material essential to the successful prosecution of the violations of the law which we uncover.

We should also be exceptionally careful that we not leave ourselves open to requests for additional investigation. Direct reference on this point is made in the "Look" magazine article, being published in the September 17th issue, 1957. "The lawyers of the Internal Security Division receive raw information from the FBI and other intelligence agencies. Then they analyze it and decide whether or not legal action can be taken. As a case progresses they often ask the FBI to dig up more information. The Division's Troy B. Conner, Jr. says, 'Ordinarily we, ourselves, don't investigate, but let's say there are things we get curious about and personally want to look into further.'"

I have repeatedly cautioned re this. H

For the Director to deal firmly with these characters is of no avail if his subordinates, in their daily contacts with Departmental people, are playing up to them by way of informally advising them of interesting tidbits and otherwise keeping them informed of matters of which they need not officially have cognizance. There should be an immediate cessation of this "palsy-walsy" intercourse between the Agents of the FBI and the Departmental attorneys.

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I hope Robert L. ... optimistic that the lesson has been learned by my ...

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