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Pearson Story 'False,' Miss Knight Charges

Frances Knight, head of the State Department's Passport Office, categorically denied yesterday writing a letter that columnist Drew Pearson alleged she sent to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover concerning a "press campaign" against them.

Hoover also said he never received such a letter.

The letter, printed in Pearson's column yesterday in *The Washington Post*, and signed "F. Knight," warned Hoover of a "sustained press campaign" building up against them over the FBI's request for information about Harvard Prof. H. Stuart Hughes.

Miss Knight categorically denied writing the letter. In a letter yesterday to *The Washington Post*, she said:

"This letter is absolutely false—a complete fabrication. I categorically deny that I wrote the letter. I consider its publication in your newspaper as a deliberate and malicious attempt to injure my reputation in the community. I also consider it as a deliberate and malicious effort to injure my professional career in the United States Department of State."

Miss Knight, in an exchange of memoranda with Assistant Secretary of State William J. Crockett, called the letter printed in Pearson's column a "forgery." A press office spokesman said her reply to