

December 17, 1974

DEC-312

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Honorable Edward Allen Tamm
United States Circuit Judge
District of Columbia Circuit
United States Court of Appeals
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Judge:

Many thanks for your kindness in sending me the article entitled "Author Suggests Hoover Would Have Masked Oswald's Ties" from the December 1st edition of "The Hartford Courant." It was thoughtful of you to take the time to bring this to my attention and I certainly appreciate your doing so.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

- 1 - New Haven - Enclosures (2)
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt - Enclosures (2)
Attention: Mr. Hettles

NOTE: Judge Tamm is a former Agent who EOD 12-1-30 and resigned 6-25-48. He is on the mailing list to receive Bureau publications. Salutation per mailing list.

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United States Court of Appeals
District of Columbia Circuit
Washington, D. C. 20001

Chambers of
Edward Allen Tamm
United States Circuit Judge

December 5, 1974

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

Clarence M. Kelley, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20535

My dear Clarence:

Although I know the Bureau has substantial access to newspaper stories appearing in various parts of the United States, I have just received the enclosed clipping from The Hartford Courant for December 1 and pass it on to you to guard against the possibility that it was not brought to your attention.

Sincerely,

Edward Allen Tamm

EAT:ska

Enclosure

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Author suggests Hoover would

By ROBER M. ANDREWS/
WASHINGTON (UPI) —
Former CIA Director Allen
W. Dulles told his Warren
Commission colleagues early
in their investigation that
they had no choice but to
accept J. Edgar Hoover's
denial that Lee Harvey
Oswald was ever an under-
cover FBI agent.

In a newly declassified
document now made public,
Dulles indicated the FBI
director might not
acknowledge Oswald's
employment even had he
known it was a fact.

In the transcript of a
private commission meeting
Jan. 27, 1964, Dulles said
both the FBI and the CIA
probably would lie to
everyone but the President
to conceal the identities of
their agents and informants.

The transcript, published
in a new book by Harold
Weisberg entitled
"Whitewash IV," shows that
the high-level commission
investigating President John
F. Kennedy's assassination
was troubled by spreading
rumors that Oswald had
been on the FBI payroll.

"What you do is you make
out a problem. If this be true,
make our problem utterly
impossible because you say
this rumor can't be dis-
sipated under any circum-
stances," complained House
Democratic Whip Hale
Boggs.

"I don't think it can, unless
you believe Mr. Hoover, and
so forth and so on, which
probably most of the people
will," Dulles replied.

"You can't prove what the
facts are," he added later. "I
don't think there is an exter-
nal evidence other than the
person's word that he did or
did not employ a particular
man as a secret agent. No
matter what."

In sworn testimony before
the commission a few
months later, FBI Director
Hoover and John A. McCone,
then Dulles' successor at the
CIA, denied Oswald had any
connection—direct or in-
direct—with their agen-
cies.

...they have de...ed that no
one else was...ived...
"They have tried the case
and reached a verdict on
every aspect," Russell said.
"Yes, We know who killed
cock robin," said John J.
McCloy. "That is the point.
It isn't only who killed cock
robin. Under the terms of
reference we have to go

beyond that."
The members seemed to
agree with Russell's
observation that "of course,
we can get an affidavit from
Mr. Hoover and put it in this
record and go on and act on
that, but if we didn't go any
further than that...there still
would be thousands of
doubting Thomases who

would believe this man was
an FBI agent and you just
didn't try to clear it up and
you just took Hoover's
word."
Weisberg, of Frederick,
Md., a leading advocate of
the assassination conspiracy
theory, obtained the
transcript and other
documents under the

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At one point during the
Jan. 27 meeting, Sen.
Richard B. Russell, D-Ga.,
turned to Dulles and touched
on the delicate question of
interrogating the
investigators.

"If Oswald never had
assassinated the President,
or at least been charged with
assassinating the President,
and had been in the employ
of the FBI and somebody had
gone to the FBI, they would
have denied he was an
agent," Russell suggested.

"Oh, yes," Dulles replied.
"They would be the first to
deny it. Your agents would
have done exactly the same
thing."

"Exactly."
At another point, Dulles
said it was "a terribly hard
thing to disprove" that
someone was a secret agent.
But if he were, Dulles said,
the man who recruited him
would refuse to disclose his
identity under oath and
might even keep it from his
superior.

"I would tell the President
of the United States anything,
yes, I am under his control.
He is my boss. I wouldn't
necessarily tell anybody
else, unless the President
authorized me to do it," he
said.

A few moments later, he
added: "What I was getting
at, I think Mr. Hoover would
say certainly he didn't have
anything to do with this
fellow."

During the 3½-hour
meeting, J. Lee Rankin, the
commission's general
counsel, said part of the dif-
ficulty in trying to question
...of authorities about what

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ENCLOSURE

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ould Have Masked Oswald's Ties

was Freedom of Information Act
u just after a lengthy court battle.
p and in his book and in an inter-
ver's view, Weisberg said the
commission was so in-
kerick, intimidated by Hoover's power
ate of that it settled for pro forma
piracy denials from Hoover and
the McCone instead of trying to
ther get independently to the
: the rce of the undercover

agent rumor while also
questioning FBI authorities.
He accused Rankin of en-
neering a cover-up of what
the transcript quoted Rankin
as calling a "dirty rumor"
that "must be wiped out in-
sofar as it is possible to do so
by this commission."
Jim Lesar, a Washington
lawyer who helped Weisberg

Rankin, reached by
telephone in New York,
declined comment. He said
he had no "independent
recollection" of the matter
without checking his
voluminous files.
Dulles, Russell, Boggs and
Earl Warren, then Chief
Justice and the commission
chairman, are dead.

mission was "caught in the
situation where the only
investigators they had were
those of the federal agencies
themselves, which put them
in the position of
investigating themselves."
"Consequently, no real
investigation was made,"
Lesar said.