

December 12, 1974

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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. Nettles

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,

EAT
Edward Allen Tamm

EAT:ska

Enclosure

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Author suggests Hoover would

By ROBERT 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 undercover 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 dissipated under any circumstances," 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 external 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 indirect—with their agencies.

"they have decided that no one else was involved..."

"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 a FBI agent and you just didn't try to clear it up and you just look Hoover's word.

Weisberg, of Frederick, Md., a leading advocate of the assassination conspiracy theory, obtained the transcript and other documents under the source

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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 difficulty in trying to question

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ould Have Masked Oswald's Ties

was Freedom of Information Act a just after a lengthy court battle. In his book and in an interview's view, Weisberg said the commission was so intimidated by Hoover's power that it settled for pro forma denials from Hoover and the McCone instead of trying to get independently to the force of the undercover

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

with the book, said the commission 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.

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.