

Memorandum

Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 10/17/66

R. E. Wick

RICHARD WHALEN,  
PROPOSED ARTICLE FOR THE  
SATURDAY EVENING POST ON  
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

Tolson	_____
DeLoach	_____
Mohr	_____
Bishop	_____
Casper	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

*Handwritten notes and signatures:*  
Sullivan  
Bishop  
Tavel  
Trotter

By reference from Mr. Sullivan's office, Richard Whalen came to my office on October 12 and 14, 1966, and spoke with Bishop. Whalen is the writer in residence for the Institute for Strategic Studies and is the author of the book about Joseph Kennedy, father of the former President, entitled "The Founding Father." He is presently on leave of absence for two months from the Institute for Strategic Studies in order to prepare a definitive article on the assassination of the President for the Saturday Evening Post magazine, to come out sometime in December, 1966.

We have no identifiable data in Bureau files concerning Whalen.

Whalen advised that in his article he intends to make a very thorough and exhaustive study of all of the books which have recently been published in a critical vein concerning the Warren Commission Report of the assassination of the President and to point out the false premises upon which the writers of these books have based their conclusions. He stated that it is his personal feeling that following the publication of the Warren Commission Report it was the overwhelming opinion of people throughout the world that the assassination was the sole work of Oswald and, because of Oswald's Marxist background, the Marxist countries, particularly Russia, lost prestige. He stated that the recent wave of books critical of the Warren Commission Report, however, several of which have been written by individuals of "leftist" background, have served to discredit the work and conclusion of the Commission to the detriment of the integrity of the U. S. and its high officials. He advised that the purpose of his

*Handwritten note:*  
As he was referring to this book call me "Will"

ORIGINAL FILED IN 67

- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. M. A. Jones

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NOT RECORDED

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*Handwritten note:*  
Written by Tom Bishop

Wick to DeLoach memo 10/17/66  
RE: RICHARD WHALEN

Article is to point out that the books critical of the Warren Commission  
and its conclusion are without any sound basis in fact.

Whalen had a number of questions concerning the FBI's  
role in the investigation of the assassination, all of which are  
completely and thoroughly covered in various portions of the Warren  
Commission Report, and the pertinent portions were pointed out to  
Whalen in answer to his questions. He indicated that should additional  
questions along these lines arise, he may contact this office again.

RECOMMENDATION

None. For information.

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
✓

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

November 15, 1966

Memo to: Cartha D. DeLoach

From: Richard J. Whalen

Before setting forth my specific requests, I would like to restate a pair of general points. First, I believe we agree that it is clearly in the national interest, and therefore in the interest of the FBI, that the full truth concerning the assassination be made known to the American people. This, of course, also requires maximum disclosure of the means by which the truth has been arrived at. (And if the truth cannot be known with absolute certainty, as so often happens in human affairs, that, too, must be told candidly.) Second, I believe we share a rising apprehension at the new-won respectability and popular acceptance of the various conspiracy-mongers. Indeed, they now dominate the mass media. What is profoundly disturbing in this development is the implicit thrust of their attack. It is directed against the person and policies -- particularly the Vietnam policy -- of Kennedy's successor. If the Kennedy assassination is not to become an occasion for wholesale assassination of the integrity of individuals and institutions, and thus perhaps the most tragically divisive chapter in our history, it is imperative that the defenders of the main findings of the Warren Commission promptly regain the initiative.

That said, here are my requests:

1. Not-for-attribution interviews, of the most candid nature and at the earliest possible date, with the following FBI Special Agents: Francis X. O'Neill, Jr., James W. Sibert, Robert A. Frazier, Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt, and John F. Gallagher. To the maximum degree possible, I would like these gentlemen to have available for my inspection the documents on which their published testimony and reports were based.

2. The staff of the National Archives inform me that present restrictions on FBI documents stored there can be removed at the bureau's discretion. For a starter, I would like the restrictions lifted from the following documents:

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- a) Commission No. 107.1. Supplemental Report to the Report entitled "Investigation of the Killing of Lee Harvey Oswald," 1/13/64.
- b) Commission No. 277. "Lee Harvey Oswald" 12/3/63
- c) Commission No. 357. Memorandum entitled "The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy." 2/2/64
- d) Commission No. 696. Memorandum entitled "The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy." 3/30/64

3. I would like the bureau to use its good offices on my behalf with the Central Intelligence Agency, whose reports to the Warren Commission are presently restricted without exception. If there is nothing to conceal, the appearance of concealment must be eliminated, for it serves only the purposes of the conspiracy-mongers.

# Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Conrad

Tolson	
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Mohr	
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Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: November 18, 1966

FROM : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. Lenihan

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963

The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend that the Bureau cooperate with Mr. Richard J. Whalen in providing facts for Mr. Whalen to use in an article to appear in the "Saturday Evening Post" in the near future, aimed at silencing critics of the Warren Commission Report.

Richard J. Whalen is an intellectual conservative. He is reliable and trustworthy and has an extremely high opinion of the Bureau. He was born in 1935 in New York City and was graduated with honors from Queens College in 1957. He formerly was associated with the Richmond, Virginia, "News Leader" and subsequently was a contributing editor for "Time" magazine, writing on national affairs, and was later an editorial writer for the "Wall Street Journal." In 1962, he joined the staff of "Fortune" magazine as an associate editor. He recently wrote a book entitled "The Founding Father: The Story of Joseph P. Kennedy." This book was written by Whalen over the Kennedys' objections. It was factual and not praiseworthy of the Kennedys.

Mr. Whalen has contacted the Bureau and requested that the FBI cooperate with him in bringing forth to the American people the full truth concerning the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy. Whalen states he feels that this is absolutely necessary since he believed he and the Bureau shared a rising apprehension at the new-ton respectability and possible acceptance of the various conspiracy mongers. Whalen stated what is profoundly disturbing in this development is the fact that their attack is directed against the person and the policies - particularly the Vietnam policy - of President Kennedy's successor. Whalen stated in his opinion it is imperative that the defenders of the main findings of the Warren Commission promptly regain the initiative.

Whalen specifically requested that he be allowed to conduct "not-for-attribution interviews of the most candid nature and at the earliest possible date" with five Special Agents of this Bureau. Agents to be interviewed would be the two Special Agents of the Baltimore Office who were present at the Bethesda

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Written by RB Long

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*Absolutely no*

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

Memorandum Sullivan to DeLoach  
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT  
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY,  
NOVEMBER 22, 1963  
62-109033

Hospital when the autopsy was initially performed on President Kennedy on the evening of 11-22-63 and three Special Agents of the FBI Laboratory who furnished exacting evidence to the Warren Commission produced in our investigation of the assassination. (Special Agents Frazier, Shaneyfelt and Gallagher)

Mr. Whalen also requested that restrictions be lifted from certain documents now stored in the National Archives in order that Whalen could review such data. He listed four documents in particular he desired to have access to and a review of our files disclosed all four items are already available to the public in the National Archives.

OBSERVATIONS:

At the present time there is a considerable number of books, articles and newspaper stories appearing in American publications criticizing the Report of the Warren Commission and the manner in which the Warren Commission arrived at its conclusions. Among the more prominent critics are Mark Lane, who wrote "Rush to Judgment"; Edward Epstein, who wrote "Inquest"; Fonn Jones, Jr., who wrote "Forgive My Grief"; Leo Sauvage, who wrote "The Oswald Affair"; and Harold Weisberg, who wrote "Whitewash - The Report of the Warren Report." Each of these works contain wild and unsubstantiated allegations and all have been subject of separate review at Seat of Government.

Each of these writers, in criticizing the Warren Commission, has also directly or indirectly criticized the FBI and our investigation of the assassination. It appears that it would be in the best interests of this Bureau to cooperate with Mr. Whalen in his efforts to bring the complete truth before the American people. Our investigation was sound, we have absolutely nothing to hide, and no critic has brought forth even one scintilla of evidence that would disprove our findings; that is, that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin, that he acted alone, and that there was no conspiracy involved in the assassination of the late President Kennedy.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this Bureau cooperate with Mr. Richard J. Whalen, in strict confidence with no attribution to the FBI, on his current endeavor to bring the full truth concerning the assassination to the attention of the American people. This will necessitate permitting Mr. Whalen to personally discuss evidential matters with FBI Special Agent personnel and will also necessitate our assisting Mr. Whalen to locate specific data in copies of our reports and exhibits maintained in the National Archives, now public domain, which clearly refute the false allegations of the various critics of the Warren Commission Report.

*I attempted to contact Whalen... He did not return my call. Another attempt was made on 11/27 at his home. He advised that he did not care to talk to the FBI.*