

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: March 20, 1964

FROM : A. Rosen *rw*

SUBJECT: PERCY FOREMAN
JACK L. RUBY
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Summary
Jim in relay
summary
D.E. Moore

The "Washington Post and Times Herald" of 3/20/64 contained an article wherein it is mentioned that Percy Foreman, a Houston, TEXAS criminal attorney who says he can afford to choose his clients carefully, agreed to replace Melvin Belli as chief counsel for Jack Ruby, who was recently convicted of the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald.

No investigation has been conducted by the Bureau concerning Foreman, who is President of the National Association of Defense Lawyers. Reportedly he has handled more than 700 criminal offense cases and has lost only one defendant to the electric chair.

Information in Bureau files reveals that Foreman has been characterized as one of the most brilliant criminal attorneys in the southwestern part of the United States. He constantly represents members of the criminal element and has been most successful in obtaining acquittal of individuals relative to murder, etc. He has represented individuals involved in investigations conducted by our Houston Division and on a continuing basis refuses permission for his clients to be interviewed by Agents. Foreman reportedly would stoop to any limit in an effort to "manufacture a witness" to gain acquittal for clients. He has been described as a "big blow hard" who will back down when confronted with the facts. He has a most lucrative practice and usually ends up with all the real and personal property of his clients. He is considered a high-priced "mouthpiece." (62-9-12-220) Foreman has a reputation for injecting into his cases such civil rights issues as alleging abuse by arresting officers.

Additional information in Bureau files reveals that Foreman was involved in a Federal Reserve Act case during 1955-1956 in which the U. S. Attorney in Houston on 2/21/56 advised no additional investigation was warranted and our case was closed. In an Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicle case in which he was defense attorney Foreman told a U. S. District Judge in Houston in chambers that he needed time to investigate an alleged ransacking by Bureau Agents of the law office of two subjects in Chicago. The subjects

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
 - 1 - Mr. DeLoach
 - 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- mr:ncb
(11)

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Re: Percy Foreman
Jack L. Ruby

had been arrested in Chicago in 1959 and had been ordered to appear in Houston for trial. There was no foundation for this allegation. During cross-examination of a Bureau Agent in January, 1960, in this case, Foreman referred to the Bureau as "constabulary" and "Federal police;" however, he promptly thereafter volunteered that he intended no disrespect.

In April, 1961, Foreman identified himself to our Houston Office as an attorney for Joseph Francis Civello, a top hoodlum of the Dallas Division, who was in attendance at the Apalachin meeting. (29-28704-3288)

Bureau files also reveal that an indictment was returned in Houston, Texas, in October, 1937, charging Foreman with subornation of perjury, a felony. A nolle prosequi was entered 3/18/38. Foreman was also indicted by a grand jury in Houston for keeping and exhibiting a policy game, a felony, and on 11/1/43 he was found not guilty after a jury trial. (87-55433)-5

Early in March, 1964, articles appeared in the local press that the Warren Commission had reversed its position regarding the protection of interests for Oswald and appointed Walter E. Craig, President of the American Bar Association, to protect Oswald's interests. It was indicated that the Commission in naming Craig bypassed Percy Foreman who, according to the articles, was among the earliest to suggest that a defense counsel for Oswald was necessary to get the truth.

ACTION:

None. For information.

JL
Keene
Just another shyster.