

Senator Denounces Anonymous Letter Attacking Hoover

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (AP) — Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper denounced today the circulation of what he termed "a sort of putrid" anonymous letter attacking the morals of J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Iowa Republican said he intended to make a brief statement about the matter in the Senate Monday to bring into the open attacks he said were being made not only on Mr. Hoover but other law enforcement officials as well.

The Senator said he had received the letter, bearing a Baltimore postmark, last week and had sent it to Mr. Hoover for his information and to find out if there was a pattern of letters.

A reply from Mr. Hoover, made public by the Senator, said the letter was one of many anonymous mailings sent to members of Congress and other Government officials in the last week.

"They are part of a concerted Communist smear campaign which was launched a year ago," Mr. Hoover wrote.

Mr. Hickenlooper said he would not put the anonymous letter into the Congressional Record because of its vulgarity.

The letter contained what Mr. Hickenlooper described as an "obviously forged" copy of a letter over Mr. Hoover's signature to a former White House aide, Walter Jenkins, who resigned in October, 1964, after two arrests on morals charges were made public.

Mr. Hoover wrote that examination of the letter supposedly signed by him showed it to be "a crude forgery" and that comparison of all the letters disclosed they had been prepared by the same person or persons.

"Further comparison with other letters circulated in the past in this and other countries by the Soviet Disinformation Department proved irrefutably that this was a Communist scheme," the bureau director's letter said.

Mr. Hoover said a Central Intelligence Agency report published last year said that a Soviet "Disinformation Department" was waging a broad-scaled offensive against United States agencies and pointed out: "I and the F.B.I. are priority targets for attacks."

Mr. Hoover said the intelligence study also had disclosed that "a preferred instrument used by the Soviets in their attacks is the forged document."

Letters That 'Smear' the FBI Chief

Washington

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Hickenlooper told newsmen he intends to make a brief statement about the matter in the Senate Monday to bring into the open attacks he said are being made not only on Hoover but other law enforcement officials.

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REPLY

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"Further comparison with other letters circulated in the past in this and other countries . . . proved irrefutably that this was a Communist scheme," the FBI director's letter added.

See also this file
~~14 Jan 66~~ 28 Oct 64.