

From: 3rd assistant to the deputy

To: Chief, Speak First Think Later Div., Sneaky Thoughts Dept. 2/1/73

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Re: the Gray L. Patrick memo 1/28

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There are too many internal fractions for any one man to preside in peace. The Old Boys are a minor factor, for they are, those of real power, all Old. The wouldpbe Old Boys may be more of a problem.

One of Gray's problems is that in everything he has done that has brought criticism upon he, he has done exactly what his GL leader wanted of him. Once-in-a-great-while-Dicky is hardly upset about a two-day Gray because on those other days Gray is doing what needs Dicky doing and doing it the Dicky way.

I think the real problem is that Gray is precisely the kind of man Nixon wants and because he wants an authoritarian persuaded that evil is good, his advisers have to see the visible jaundice.

There never has been a time when the FBI hasn't been political in the broad sense. Hoover steered away from party partisanship only. No successors can dare, without major changes in the country, be as political as JEH was. When Gray crossed over into the party grove, he didn't do it on his own, if he was aware of it, which is improbable anyway.

The difference between Gray and Hoover can make Gray a more dangerous man today because he can't depend on the Hoover power and because he is and can be more subtle. In all major aspects he is an updated Hoover. Philosophically, he is Hoover again. He can make the FBI more dangerously anti-democratic than Hoover, who could not keep up with time's changes. Not having Hoover's personal power, Gray can't be as crude and if installed, will be more careful not to get caught in Dirtydickery or Dirtytrickery of other kinds.

What it boils down to is that dedicated bad guys who conceive badguyism as goodguyism (ref: Alch on McCord's legal obligation to take the law into his own hands) can't find a bad guy who smells like a good guy, and the beginning of an authoritarian regime is not the time to pick more fights than necessary and is the time to avoid all that can be. Yet emerge with The Man For The Job.

I don't think the participation of a Cartha DeLoach in an anti-Gray campaign means he wants Hooverism preserved. He was one of its victims. He may want the job. I don't know. But I don't think he is fighting what hurt him.

I don't know how much that is releveant you know about this Archives business. The report is by the autopsy doctors, of their examination of the film on 11/1/66. Aside from what a close examination of the inventory can disclose (rear wound in shoulder, n neck, one example), I suspect something is up because the reason given for denying me not subject to declassification and the text shows the reason is not applicable. They do not say it is all the film they exposed and the damaged X-ray had been damaged by then. Kelly told me it was perfect when he turned it over. A corpsman exposed the confiscated and destroyed film. He is not named, HW 2/2/73

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Reur 1/28 on sealed manhole covers: had not seen but I also did not take time to read those stories. I have a "Sewers" file and a "Jean Valjean" travelling file re Dallas. I'll out this in there and will be keeping an eye peeled. I can't imagine any way of really sealing them. Perhaps the idea is to make it visible if they have been disturbed, and not as sewer but utilities covers, which are after large, generally dry, and in most cases accessible only at that point, where sealed. I wonder if this was caused by the Garrison insanity? There was a legitimate interest in sewer possibilities in Dallas, not seen by my source of Garrison, but it is now killed by his gruesome excesses, in which he fixed upon the one thing totally impossible in each and every aspect. Unique genius. I had expected the triggering of violence. Perhaps I was wrong, perhaps the advance hints in the context of WG made it too risky. HW 2/1/73