

Life Says Roy Cohn Had 3 F.B.I. Agents Here

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Transferred

Roy M. Cohn was able to use his influence with J. Edgar Hoover to have three agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation censured for cooperating in the prosecution of Mr. Cohn, the current issue of Life magazine reported.

The three agents who helped Robert M. Morgenthau, United States Attorney here, were transferred out of New York City on 36 hours' notice after Louis Nichols, a friend of Mr. Cohn who had been a high F.B.I. official, "charged into the Washington headquarters of the bureau demanding that the agents be censured," the magazine said.

The transferring of the agents after they gave the Government affidavits in the Cohn bribery conspiracy case became public on June 20.

Life, in its issue dated Sept. 1, which was released Sunday night, said:

"Hoover personally ordered the three agents transferred out of New York. On May 2, each received a letter of censure and was given 30 days to report to his new post."

When Mr. Morgenthau complained, Life magazine said, "the next day Hoover personally directed the New York field office to inform the wayward agents that they now had until midnight the following day—36 hours in all—to report to their new stations, which they did."

The F.B.I. declined in Washington to comment on the case yesterday. Mr. Morgenthau, Mr. Cohn and Mr. Nichols could not be reached for comment on the Life report.

Bus Line Involved

The case involves Mr. Cohn, New York lawyer and promoter and former protégé and aide of the late Senator Joseph McCarthy, and three others. It stems from the affairs of the 5th Avenue Coach Lines when the city was taking over the service in 1962.

At one time Mr. Cohn was a



Roy M. Cohn

Associated Press

director of the bus line and his law firm, Saxe, Bacon & Boland, was counsel to the company.

Last November Mr. Cohn was indicted on charges of paying a \$75,000 bribe to an unnamed official in connection with the affairs of the bus line.

The trial is scheduled for Sept. 23.

The Life magazine article concerns Mr. Cohn's pretrial motions to have the case dismissed. As part of this attempt, he offered an affidavit by Milton Pollack, an ex-convict, who said that Mr. Morgenthau had ordered him transferred from a state prison to the Federal House of Detention to help get evidence against Mr. Cohn.

Pollack swore that the Government prosecutors had asked him to use electronic listening devices to get evidence against Mr. Cohn, but said that he refused to do the job.

In rebuttal, the Government offered the affidavits of the three F.B.I. agents, who said they had talked to Pollack and that Pollack, not the Government, had suggested that he would like to use electronic eavesdropping equipment against Mr. Cohn.

The agents were Donald E. Jones, with 24 years' service, and Russell F. Sullivan, with 15 years' service, both of the organized crime unit, and Jack D. Knox, with six years' service,

assigned to the stolen property and securities unit.

Their affidavits were filed in court last April, the magazine said in an article written by William Lambert and labeled "Investigative Report."

Mr. Cohn gave his copies of the affidavits to Louis Nichols, a former assistant director of the F.B.I., who retired in 1957, but maintained his friendship with Mr. Hoover, the magazine said.

When Mr. Nichols left the F.B.I. Mr. Cohn, according to the magazine, helped him get a position with the Schenley liquor complex.

Regulation Is Cited

It was Mr. Nichols, the magazine said, who took the agents' affidavits to the F.B.I. in Washington.

"Nichols recently told Life that he thought the agents had acted improperly and that he felt F.B.I. headquarters ought to know about it," the magazine reported.

The magazine said that Mr. Jones was transferred to St. Louis, Mr. Sullivan to Louis-

ville and Mr. Knox to Pittsburgh.

The agents were said to have been transferred because they violated an F.B.I. regulation requiring Washington to approve the filling of affidavits.

Life said: "This time the men were being moved for doing what in essence they were paid to do—helping a U.S. Attorney protect his case."

"Needless to say, the episode not only added luster to the Cohn legend but thoroughly shook up some of Morgenthau's witnesses. If Cohn through Nichols could bring about the arbitrary transfer of three F.B.I. agents, what chance had an ordinary citizen," the magazine said, adding:

"Word leaked out of the U.S. Attorney's office that Morgenthau was having a hard time convincing prospective witnesses that the Cohn prosecution was going ahead as scheduled by the court."

So far, the magazine said, Mr. Cohn had failed to block investigation of his case and delay his trial.