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FOIPA Request No.: 1344058-000
Subject: WILSON, FRANK JOHN

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 552</th>
<th>Section 552a</th>
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21 pages were reviewed and 21 pages are being released.

☐ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning, other Government Agency (ies) [OGA].

☐ This information has been referred to the OGA(s) for review and direct response to you.

☐ We are consulting with another agency. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is completed.

☐ In accordance with standard FBI practice and pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. § 552/552a (b)(7)(E)/(j)(2)], this response neither confirms nor denies the existence of your subject's name on any watch lists.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S. C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under “Contact Us.”
The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP’s FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.” Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

☐ The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

☑ See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,

David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

In response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, enclosed is a processed copy of the responsive documents you requested. The enclosed documents represent the final release of information responsive to your FOIA request. This material is being provided to you at no charge.
EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

(b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;

(b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;

(b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;

(b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;

(b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;

(b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or

(b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

(d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;

(j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;

(k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;

(k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;

(k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;

(k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service he release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;

(k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FBI/DOJ
January 2, 1947

Mr. Frank J. Tilson
2910 Tennyson Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Tilson:

Upon returning to Washington I noted in the papers the details of your retirement. I thought that your interview which appeared in the Times-Herald last Tuesday was excellent.

I do hope that your plans will develop in accordance with your expectations and that you will fully enjoy your much deserved rest after your long career in the Secret Service.

May the New Year bring you an abundance of everything you could desire.

Sincerely yours,

E. Kissar Hoover

LBN:RC
January 6, 1947

J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

My dear Director:

Your kind letter of the 2nd, in reference to my retirement, is deeply appreciated. I wish to extend my thanks to you and the members of your efficient bureau for the many courtesies extended to me, and the valuable cooperation extended to the United States Secret Service during the last ten years.

With kindest personal regards and wishing you a Happy New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,

Frank J. Wilson

RECORDED 62-82519-2
Wilson Na\ Atomic Data
Consultant

Frank J. Wilson, former United States Secret Service chief, has been appointed a consultant on security to help maintain and improve control of atomic energy information, the United States Atomic Energy Commission announced yesterday.

Wilson, who headed the Secret Service for 10 years prior to his retirement December 31, will advise the commission on security matters.

He will assist in developing a security system to protect secret atomic energy data as required by the Atomic Energy Act, the commission revealed.

Wilson served in the Intelligence Unit of the Bureau of Internal Revenue for 17 years before becoming chief of the Secret Service in 1936. He directed the income-tax investigation of Al Capone and was instrumental in the capture of the Lindbergh kidnapper.

"There will be more and more reason for more and more security in protecting our atomic secrets," Wilson said in accepting the appointment. He said he was not at liberty to disclose his plans.

Wilson said he had no information about the salary connected with his new duties but indicated he would be happy to serve on a "dollar-a-year" basis, if necessary.

He is an uncle of Carroll L. Wilson, general manager of the Atomic Energy Commission.

In announcing the appointment of Wilson, the commission said: "It is vital that the people of the United States be fully aware of the importance of maintaining inviolate the restricted information concerning atomic energy until Congress determines that adequate international control of atomic energy has been established."

Wilson, a member of the executive committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, lives at 2910 Tennyson st. nw.

Temporary assignment of Thomas O. Jones of Chicago as a special assistant on security problems was also announced by the commission. Jones was a security and intelligence officer for the War Department's Manhattan Project for three years during the development of the atomic bomb, later served as security officer for the tests as Bikini.
TO: MR. D. M. LADB

FROM: V. P. KEET

SUBJECT: FRANK WILSON, CONSULTANT—ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

As you know, the press on January 26 carried an article that Frank Wilson, former head of Secret Service, had been employed by the Atomic Energy Commission as a part-time consultant.

Major Frank B. Rhodes, Acting Administrative Officer for the Commission, advised Special Agent Lofton L. Knight confidentially on January 27, 1947, that he was under the impression that Wilson in his capacity as a Consultant in the Security Division of the Atomic Energy Commission would be employed at least for the time being full time. Major Rhodes stated that he was not personally acquainted with Wilson and that he did not know at this time what specific duties would be assigned to Wilson.

ACTION:

None. This memorandum was prepared for informative purposes only.
MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Nicholas

Reference is made to the attached article from the Chicago Daily News dated March 18, 1949, and particularly to your inquiry as to whether we had obtained the book written by Frank J. Wilson, retired Chief of the U. S. Secret Service.

You are advised that the Library of Congress and the Public Library do not have this book by Wilson. Likewise the principal book stores in Washington do not have any record of any such book. However, in Collier's magazine beginning with the April 27, 1947, issue there was a series of articles by Wilson entitled "Undercover Man: He Trapped Capone." The newspaper article makes it appear that the book came out some time ago. It would seem that the newspaper story was really referring to the series of articles. These articles of course were previously sent through as they appeared. Unless advised to the contrary no further action will be taken.

Respectfully,

INDEXED - 68

DE-INDEXED DATE: 2/1/59

THIS MEMORANDUM IS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES
TO BE DESTROYED AFTER ACTION IS TAKEN AND NOT SENT TO FILES
October 27, 1954

Mr.
5031 Reno Road
Washington 8, D. C.

Dear Mr. [Name]:

Your letter of October 23, 1954, has been received.

In connection with the matter about which you write, I thought you would like to know that Mr. Frank J. Wilson, author of "The Al Capone Story," was never an employee of the FBI. For your information, he is a retired Chief of the U.S. Secret Service.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: File 62-82519 reflects that Frank J. Wilson who has written several articles regarding Al Capone, is a retired Chief of the U.S. Secret Service. He directed the income tax investigation of Al Capone.

File 74-1333 reflects on page 43 of serial 3071 that one was interviewed on February 16, 1949, at his office at the U.S. Tariff Commission where he had been employed for years. He had been employed as a statistician in the Economic Division. No derogatory information is reflected concerning him. Correspondent may possibly be the son of this individual.
October 23, 1954

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Is it possible that your staff does not know the difference between a "bullet" and a "cartridge" and has not been taught to use the proper word in the proper circumstances?

I have just read the second part of a story by Frank J. Wilson "The Al Capone Story" in Retiree's Life in which he reports himself as saying "Give me those bullets" when it is plain he means cartridges.

I have been conducting a losing battle against such improper usage by newspaper reporters but to find it by an F.B.I. man is the final blow.

Discouragedly yours,

RECORDED: 3 8 5 1 2 17

EX - 109
60-82519-6 IN THIS FILE SKIPPED DURING
SERIALIZATION.
9-10-63
Hon. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington 25, D.C.

October 30, 1954

Dear Mr. Hoover,

My apologies for attributing to the F.B.I. the ignorance of Mr. Wilson with respect to bullets and cartridges.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

5031 Reno Road
Washington 8, D.C.

b6
b7C
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Mr. Mohr
FROM: H. L. Edwards
SUBJECT: FRANK WILSON
Secret Service

SA W. E. Clark advises me that an amusing incident concerning Wilson and the FBI occurred at a dinner meeting 2/18/57 of officials of the Laymen's First Friday Club, Archdiocese of Washington, held at the National Press Club.

Wilson was in attendance. Club members had learned he and his wife were to take a vacation in Florida. They informed Mr. Wilson during the meeting that they felt he ought to take along a book to read and hence they were presenting him with a book which they thought he ought to peruse carefully. The book was, "The FBI Story."

The incident was related to Clark 2/21/57 by [signature] of the Veterans Service Section, Civil Service Commission, who attended the meeting and obviously enjoyed the Wilson affair.

[Signature]

7/25

[Signature]

16 FEB 26 1957

[Signature]

INDEXED-41

[Signature]

EX-173
Memorandum

TO: MR. MOHR

FROM: MR. J. F. MALONE

DATE: September 17, 1962

SUBJECT: FRANK J. WILSON

RETIRED SECRET SERVICE AGENT

On 9/17/62 an individual with a heavy, gruff voice called and stated he was from INTERPOL and he wanted me to go to New York immediately to investigate a ring that was operating.

I asked Wilson his name, which he was very reluctant to give, and then added that he was retired Chief of Secret Service. After trying to question him in regard to exactly what he wanted, he stated that I evidently was not the man he talked to previously because he explained this whole situation to him before. He stated that the man he wanted to talk to was the person who took L. B. Nichols' place. I told him that he probably wanted to talk to Assistant Director Cartha DeLoach. He stated he would call him later.

Wilson was calling from the Pennsylvania Station in New York.

RECOMMENDATION:

None . . . . for information.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

JFM:wmj

(3)
CHANGED TO

62-82519-10,11,12,13,14,15

63-8478-2,3,5,7,6,4

JUN 5  1963

MK-KE
March 25, 1965

Miss [Blank]
Editor
General Book Division
Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.
333 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Miss [Blank]:

Thank you for your letter of March 17, 1965, and I appreciate your interest in writing.

It was thoughtful of you to send us the proofs of "Special Agent"; however, I regret that it is not possible for us to furnish any comment. I am sure you will understand our position in such matters.

Sincerely yours,

Clyde Tolson

1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent with cover memo)

NOTE: See M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo, dated 3-25-65, captioned "Proofs of 'Special Agent' by Chief Frank Wilson." Proofs not being returned.

JVA:1cm (6)
March 17, 1965

Mr. Clyde A. Tolson
Associate Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Tolson:

At your suggestion, I am enclosing proofs of "SPECIAL AGENT" by Chief Frank J. Wilson and Betty Day which will be published by us on July 5, 1965. If after reading this manuscript, you feel you could give us a short comment for use on the book's jacket and advertising copy, we would be most grateful. In any event we would be very pleased to know what you think of this book.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Editor
Memorandum

TO: Mr. DeLoach
FROM: M. A. Jones
SUBJECT: PROOFS OF "SPECIAL AGENT" BY CHIEF FRANK WILSON

DATE: 3-25-65

By letter addressed to Mr. Tolson, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., has furnished us proofs of "Special Agent" by Chief Frank J. Wilson and Beth Day and has asked for a short comment on the book's jacket and advertising copy. Mr. Hoover and Mr. Tolson indicated that we should not comply with this request.

DATA IN BUFILES ON WILSON AND DAY:

Bufiles reflect that Frank J. Wilson is a former Secret Service Chief who retired in 1947; the Director wrote him a friendly letter on his retirement. There is nothing pertinent in Bufiles on Wilson since that time.

Bufiles reflect that Beth Day authored the book on Cal Farley "A Shirttail To Hang To" for which the Director wrote the preface.

"SPECIAL AGENT"

The book deals with Wilson's career in government service, most of which was in the Secret Service. He tells briefly the history of the Secret Service, mentions his career in the Food Administration during World War I; and his service as an Agent in the Internal Revenue Bureau during which time he investigated prohibition cases. He mentions former Attorney General Harry Daugherty and the corruption in government during that time.

Wilson goes into some detail on the Lindbergh case, mentioning that he was very close to Lindbergh during that ordeal and persuaded him to have the serial numbers of the ransom money recorded; Wilson goes on to note that the kidnaper was later located through one of these ransom bills. He does not mention the FBI in connection with this case. Wilson then mentions his investigation of Huey Long of Louisiana. In this connection he notes that the FBI and Post Office inspectors helped get evidence to convict some of the Long organization men.

Enclosure

1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure
M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo

RE: PROOFS OF "SPECIAL AGENT"

The remainder of Wilson's book deals with the Secret Service's protection of various Presidents, particularly President Franklin Roosevelt. He also takes credit for streamlining the Secret Service and making it a most efficient organization.

On pages 88-89, he notes that the Secret Service should have more men out in the field who work closely with police and FBI Agents. Wilson goes on to state that while not for some years has jealousy between these two agencies existed, the nature of their operations has kept them from cooperating to the fullest. Wilson believes the Warren Commission criticism will spur them to closer cooperation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., declining comment.
June 10, 1965

Miss [Name]
Editor
General Book Division
Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.
383 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Miss [Name]:

Mr. Hoover and I received the copies of "Special Agent" which you sent with your letter of June 5th.

We certainly appreciate your thoughtfulness and are looking forward to reading these.

Sincerely yours,

Clyde Tolson

NOTE: By letter of 3-17-65 Miss [Name] sent to Mr. Tolson "proofs" of this book and asked for a short comment on the book's jacket and advertising copy. Mr. Hoover and Mr. Tolson indicated that we should not comply with this request and Miss [Name] was so advised by letter of 3-25-65. The book deals with Wilson's career in government service most of which was with the Secret Service. In accordance with Mr. Tolson's instructions the book will be reviewed for Mr. Hoover's information by the Crime Research Section.
June 8, 1965

Mr. Clyde Tolson
Associate Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Tolson:

You were so kind last March when I sent you proof copies of SPECIAL AGENT by Chief Frank J. Wilson and Beth Day that I would like to present you with this copy of the book, which is just off the press. I am also taking the liberty of enclosing a second copy of the book for Mr. Hoover.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Editor

6-9
Subject: BRIEF REVIEW OF BOOK TITLED: "SPECIAL AGENT... A Quarter Century With The Treasury Department And The Secret Service" BY CHIEF FRANK J. WILSON AND BETT DAY. PUBLISHED BY HOLT, RINEHART, AND WINSTON, INC.

On June 8, 1965, Miss [name] Editor, General Book Division, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., sent a letter to Mr. Tolson and copies of the above-titled book to the Director and to Mr. Tolson who requested that a brief review be made of this book.

The book opens with this statement: The terrible tragedy at Dallas, on November 22, 1963, when our President, John F. Kennedy, was assassinated by the Marxist Lee Harvey Oswald and the subsequent report and recommendations made by the Warren Commission have turned the country's attention in an unprecedented way on the duties and methods of the United States Secret Service. For it is the first and foremost job of the Secret Service to protect the life of the President.

Wilson then delves into the founding of the Secret Service in 1865 for the purpose of dealing with counterfeiting; the informal protection which Secret Service Agents afforded President Grover Cleveland from 1894-1896; then McKinley's assassination in 1901, which awakened Congress to the fact that this country had lost three Presidents in 36 years. In 1902, therefore, an appropriation was made by Congress and a formal White House detail established. The Secret Service was given the responsibility at that time for the protection of the life of the President.

Wilson then relates the history of the Secret Service from 1902 to the present date, its accomplishments and his own accomplishments during the time he was its Chief.

Wilson castigates the Dallas Police, on page 9, for allowing Oswald to escape. He states: "When they rushed into the building where the assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was hiding, he was allowed to escape. Oswald was captured within two hours but not before he had shot and fatally wounded a Dallas police officer." Wilson then comments unfavorably on the Dallas Police publicly announcing the hour at which time Oswald was to be removed from Police Headquarters to the county jail. He states: "The removal became a melodramatic spectacle, which ended in a disgraceful and tragic event, when, in the basement of police headquarters, Jack Ruby, a man with a Dallas police record, approached Oswald, placed a revolver in his middle, and killed him, as the negligent Dallas police stood by and millions of the nation's astonished television viewers looked on." (page 10)
Wilson relates he had boyhood leanings toward law enforcement because his father was with the Buffalo, New York, Police Department and protected President McKinley during his first visit to Buffalo. Wilson tells of his inability to stay in the Army because of poor eyesight and his first investigative job with Herbert Hoover's Food Administration. He says after the Armistice in 1918, he joined the Intelligence Unit, Internal Revenue Bureau. He says his trial by fire came during the corrupt Harding Administration and he tells of the part he played in investigating the "Ohio Gang" and particularly the Daugherty-Penrose organization. He relates a variety of cases in which he gives the Secret Service full credit for solving such as the Al Capone case and the Lindbergh kidnapping. FBI receives no credit in either case. He relates his investigation of the late Senator Huey Long of Louisiana, and his eventual murder. He deals with counterfeiting and states he was made Chief of Secret Service in 1936 because of increase in counterfeiting.

He deals with Presidential mail received from cranks, nuts, and anonymous letter writers who send threatening letters and mysterious packages. He expresses his great admiration for Franklin D. Roosevelt. He mentions White House problems resulting from the Pearl Harbor attack and World War II. He discusses travels of the President inside and outside the United States and the part he played in traveling with President Franklin Roosevelt in the United States. He discusses narrow escapes of Presidents from hands of assassins and gives details of a narrow escape Andrew Jackson had. Wilson states his biggest headache was providing Presidential protection at those times when public parades or large gatherings at the Capitol were going to take place. This was particularly true in the Inaugural gatherings at the Capitol. He mentions the shock he received on April 12, 1945, when a message came through from Warm Springs: "The President had a sudden attack. Condition serious." In a few minutes further news arrived advising President Roosevelt had suffered a fatal cerebral hemorrhage.

Wilson discusses President Truman taking over the White House and problems incurred by Secret Service during Truman Administration. He relates details of Potsdam Peace Conference. Wilson mentions the two atomic bombs dropped in Japan in August, 1945, which resulted in victory in Japan on 9-2-45. He then relates the Puerto Rican fanatics trying to shoot President Truman at the Blair House on November 1, 1950, praised the Secret Service's protection of Truman and lastly the need for all Presidents to take no chances in the future by using bullet proof cars, and Congress improving our defective Federal laws.

Wilson's book is strictly a book letting the world know the part Frank J. Wilson played in the affair of protecting the Presidents of the United States and handling other matters under the jurisdiction of the Secret Service during an important era in our history.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.
SPECIAL AGENT

A Quarter Century
with the Treasury Department and
the Secret Service

BY CHIEF FRANK J. WILSON
AND BETH DAY

HOLT, RINEHART AND WINSTON
NEW YORK CHICAGO SAN FRANCISCO

UNCORRECTED PROOFS