

This document is made available through the declassification efforts  
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

# The Black Vault

---



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)  
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are  
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages  
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

**Discover the Truth** at: **<http://www.theblackvault.com>**

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI**



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

EX-16

Date: August 23, 1950

To: Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
2210 F Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: [REDACTED]

*consulting with CIA*

From: J. Edgar Hoover, Director - Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: [REDACTED] b7C  
HERVIN H. [REDACTED]  
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

*Consulting  
with  
CIA*

You are advised that the files of this Bureau contain information indicating that an application was filed on November 12, 1947, for a license to export one LST consigned by Morris Flowitz, 500 Southern Building, Washington, D. C., as agent for an unnamed purchaser, to Balbot, Incorporated, 33 Central Avenue, Panama, P. R. The caller of the vessel is listed as the United States Maritime Commission and the vessel is alleged to have been de-militarized.

The following data was supplied in support of the application:

"The incorporators of Balbot, Inc. are:

- "1. Vicente Salazar  
33 Central Avenue,  
Panama, P. R.
- "2. Sydney Jocelyn Williams  
33 Central Avenue,  
Panama, P. R.

JEM:dmd

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

"Date of Incorporation: June 30, 1947.

"Directors:

- "1. Aladar Z. Balkany, (Nationality: Roumanian)  
10 Boulevard du Theatre,  
Geneva, Switzerland.
- "2. Alexandre D. Fotez, (Nationality: Cuban)  
118 East 65th Street,  
New York, N. Y.
- "3. Oscar Gunder, (Nationality: Swiss)  
10 Boulevard du Theatre,  
Geneva, Switzerland.

"Officers:

- "1. Aladar Z. Balkany - President
- "2. Alexandre D. Fotez - Vice President, Treas.
- "3. Oscar Gunder - Secretary

"Capitalization: 1,000 shares capital stock,  
value, \$1,000,000.

"Stockholders:

Aladar Z. Balkany 500 shares  
Alexandre D. Fotez 500 shares

"For your further information, this IST boat will not be transferred to any other company, association, person or persons, or to any other flag without first consulting with the Department of State of the United States or the United States Ambassador to Panama." (Unidentified memorandum appeared in file 2-869)

Consulting  
with  
CIA

Consulting  
with  
CIA

The information contained herein is being furnished for your confidential use and should not be disseminated outside of your Agency.

M e m o r a n d u m

Allen M. Jones, 207 National Press Building, Washington, D.C., filed an application dated November 12, 1947, for license to export one LST No. 860, to be consigned by Morris Elowitz, 500 Southern Building, Washington, D.C. (agent for purchaser) to Balbot, Inc. 33 Central Avenue, Panamá, R.P. The seller is listed as the United States Maritime Commission. It is claimed that the LST has been demilitarized and is desired for transportation of textiles and dry cargo from Mediterranean ports to the United States.

The following data was supplied in support of the above mentioned application:

"The purpose of the corporation is to operate boats, etc. The boat desired to be purchased will be converted for the purpose of carrying dry cargo. More than ninety percent of the cargo will be shipped between South American ports and Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Caribbean area, and less than ten percent of the shipping will be between American Ports and the Ports of Italy.

The incorporators of BALBOT, INC. are:

1. Vicente Salenz  
33 Central Avenue,  
Panamá, R. P.
2. Sydney Jocelyn Williams  
33 Central Avenue,  
Panamá, R. P.

Date of incorporation: June 30, 1947.

Directors:

1. Aladar Z. Balkany, (Nationality: Roumanian)  
10 Boulevard du Theatre,  
Geneva, Switzerland.
2. Alexandre D. Rotez, (Nationality: Cuban)  
118 East 65th Street,  
New York, N. Y.
3. Oscar Gunder, (Nationality: Swiss)  
10 Boulevard du Theatre,  
Geneva, Switzerland.

52 JAN 8 1948

Officers:

1. Aladar Z. Balkany - President
2. Alexandre D. Botez - Vice President, Treas.
3. Oscar Gmunder - Secretary

Capitalization: 1,000 shares capital stock,  
value, \$1,000,000.

Stockholders:

Aladar Z. Balkany 500 shares  
Alexandre D. Botez 500 shares

"For your further information, this LST boat will not be transferred to any other company, association, person or persons, or to any other Flag without first consulting with the Department of State of the United States or the United States Ambassador to Panama."

It is strongly suspected that the intended use for which this boat is desired is not as stated, but rather that it may be for activities in the Mediterranean adverse to this Government's position.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE NEW ORLEANS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 4/3/64	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 4/1/64
TITLE OF CASE  JNSUB; aka. R.A. Wagner; MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED] 67C	TYPED BY /scr
		CHARACTER OF CASE  EXTORTION	

## REFERENCES:

New Orleans airtel to Bureau 4/1/64.  
New Orleans airtel to Bureau 4/3/64.

- RUC -

LEADSMEMPHIS DIVISIONAT OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI

Will contact USA and determine if instant letter is a violation of the extortion statutes. If so, will conduct appropriate investigation and report results of FBI Laboratory examination.

SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:  ① - Bureau 3 - Memphis (1 - USA, Oxford) 3 - San Francisco 1 - New Orleans (9-1975)		42096-1	MCT-32
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT		NOTATIONS	
AGENCY.....		STAT. SECT.	
REQUEST RECD.....			
DATE FWD.....			
HOW FWD.....			
BY.....			

NC 9-1975/scr

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Will, in the event instant letter is determined to be a violation, will contact Mr. MELVIN M. BELLI to determine who handled same, provided the FBI Laboratory is successful in developing any fingerprints on same.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

67C On 4/1/64, the letter from Mr. BELLI was acknowledged by the New Orleans Division. For information of the Memphis Division, SA [REDACTED] has noticed several letters to the editor published in the Clarion Ledger and the Jackson Daily News, daily newspapers at Jackson, Mississippi, from a person, last name [REDACTED] FNU, and mailed from State College, Mississippi. These letters generally concern topics of current interest. In the event the letter involved is deemed a violation by the USA, it may be possible to obtain typewriter specimens from [REDACTED] typewriter, provided he is a student in Mississippi State University there.

67C

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Oxford

Report of: b7C SA [REDACTED] Office: NEW ORLEANS  
Date: April 3, 1964

Field Office File No.: 9-1975 Bureau File No.:

Title: UNSUB;  
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM

Character: EXTORTION

Synopsis: On 4/1/64, Airmail Special Delivery letter received Jackson, Mississippi, Resident Agency from Victim, San Francisco, California. Victim enclosed letter he had received postmarked 3/24/64 at Starkville, Mississippi, bearing return address R.A. WAGNER, 1302 E. Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi. This letter referred to Victim in derogatory manner and stated "if you're not careful, somebody's going to put a slug of hot lead between those beady eyes of yours". This letter bears typed name "The Committee". Letter and envelope typed. Letter forwarded to FBI Laboratory. Investigation Jackson, Mississippi, reveals 1302 E. Capitol Street is a non-existent address, as numbers of this street do not run higher than 500 block. No record of anyone identifiable with R.A. WAGNER on file with [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] b7D [REDACTED] and no reference to anyone by this name or initials local directories, Jackson, Mississippi.

- RUC -

## DETAILS:

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

On the afternoon of April 1, 1964, the following letter, addressed to "F.B.I., Jackson, Mississippi", postmarked March 31, 1964 at San Francisco, and mailed Airmail Special Delivery was received at the P.O. Box of the Jackson, Mississippi, Resident Agency, "Gentlemen: Enclosed herewith is a recent

NO 9-1975/scr

letter with envelope for your files, information, and consideration. It should be noted, in case of further developments, that this has been received by me as of this date: R.A. WAGNER, 1302 E. Capitol St., Jackson, Miss.". This letter is signed MELVIN M. BELLI and is written on letterhead stationery of BELLI, ASHE and GERRY, 722 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California.

The letter enclosed with Mr. BELLI'S letter is typed, as is the envelope also enclosed. The envelope involved is postmarked March 24, 1964 at Starkville, Mississippi, and bears a return address of R.A. WAGNER, 1302 E. Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi. It is addressed as follows: "Mr. MELVIN BELLI, Attorney at Law, San Francisco, California."

The letter states as follows: "Old Dago Belli says of Dallas, 'This city stinks!' We have news for you, jelly belli -- that's your upper lip you smell. Furthermore, if you're not careful, somebody's going to put a slug of hot lead between those beady eyes of yours." A typed signature "The Committee" appears on the letter, followed by "Remember, San Francisco is no sanctuary."

By airtel of April 3, 1964, the above letter and envelope were forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for appropriate examination.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/3/64

b7D

[REDACTED] after searching his records, advised that he could locate no record in his files identifiable with R.A. WAGNER and had no persons in these files whose names would start with an R and an A, WAGNER, which when combined could be identified as R.A. WAGNER.

-3-

On 4/1/64 at Jackson, Mississippi File # NO 9-1975  
by b7C SA [REDACTED] scr Date dictated 4/2/64

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 4/3/64

b7D

[REDACTED] after searching the files of the Department, advised that there was no record of an R.A. WAGNER on file with that Department. She likewise searched the files to determine if there was a record on file of any person whose names started with an R and an A with a last name of WAGNER, but was unable to locate any such person.

-4-

On 4/1/64 at Jackson, Mississippi File # NO 9-1975by b7C SA [REDACTED] /scr4/2/64

Date dictated

NO 9-1975/scr

b7C

On April 1, 1964, SA [REDACTED] examined the Polk's City Directory for Jackson, Mississippi for 1963, the latest available, and there is no listing which could be identified with R.A. WAGNER and no WAGNER listed whose first and middle names started with R.A.

b7C

Observation of E. Capitol Street in Jackson by SA [REDACTED] revealed that there is no 1302 E. Capitol Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Capitol Street is the main business street of Jackson and on E. Capitol Street the numbers do not go higher than the 500 block.

FBI

Date: 4/1/64

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (9-NEW) (P)  
 SUBJECT: UNSUB; R. A. WAGNER;  
 MELVIN BELLI-VICTIM  
 EXT  
 OO:MEMPHIS

At approximately 3:20 p.m. 4/1/64, an airmail special delivery letter postmarked 3/31/64, from San Francisco, Calif., was received at the Jackson, Miss. Resident Agency. The letter was directed to "FBI Jackson, Mississippi" and is from MELVIN M. BELLI, Attorney, 722 Montgomery St., San Francisco, Calif. This letter is dated 3/30/64, and stated as follows: "Enclosed herewith is a recent letter with envelope for your files, information, and consideration. It should be noted in case of further developments that this has been received by me as of this date: R. A. WAGNER, 1302 E. Capitol Street, Jackson, Miss." This letter is signed MELVIN M. BELLI.

A copy of same was directed to the U. S. Post Office, Jackson, Miss. The enclosed submitted by Mr. BELLI was mailed to him in an envelope postmarked Starkville, Miss., 3/24/64. The envelope bears a return address of R. A. WAGNER, 1302 E. Capitol St., Jackson, Miss. It is addressed as follows: Mr. MELVIN BELLI, Attorney at Law, San Francisco, Calif. Both the envelope and letter are typewritten.

3-Bureau  
 2-San Francisco  
 2-Memphis  
 2-New Orleans

SEV/cay  
 (9)

REC-53

3 APR 3 1964

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

NO 9-NEW/cay

The letter, which is undated and bears no autographic signature, stated as follows: "Old Dago BELLI says of Dallas 'This city stinks!' We have news for you Jelly BELLI--That's your upper lip you're smelling. Furthermore, if you're not careful, somebody's going to put a slug of hot lead between those beady eyes of yours." This letter bears the typed signature "The Committee" and the following sentence follows the above: "Remember, San Francisco is no sanctuary."

b7D The original of the above letter will be forwarded to the FBI Lab, with copies for Memphis and San Francisco. For the information of the Bureau, San Francisco, and Memphis, there is no record of a R. A. WAGNER or any person who could be identified with those initials in the records of the [REDACTED] and the various city directories of Jackson, Miss. Likewise, the address of 1302 Capitol St. in Jackson is fictitious as E. Capitol St. does not run higher than the 500 block.

Receipt of the above letter has been acknowledged by the New Orleans Division.

MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI

Will determine from the USA if instant letter constitutes a threat and will conduct any indicated investigation.

b7C SA [REDACTED] For the information of the Memphis Division, Jackson, Miss., recalls that occasionally in the past letters to the editor of the Jackson, Miss. papers have been printed bearing a signature of FNU [REDACTED] from State College, Mississippi.

A report will follow.

FBI

Date: 4/3/64

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (9-1975) (P)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; aka. R.A. Wagner  
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM  
EXTORTION  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re my airtel of 4/1/64.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau is the original letter and envelope referred to in referenced airtel. The envelope is postmarked Starkville, Mississippi, March 24, 1964, and bears a return address of R.A. WAGNER, 1302 E. Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi. It is addressed to Mr. MELVIN BELLI, Attorney at Law, San Francisco, California. The letter is signed "The Committee".

The Bureau is requested to process this letter for latent fingerprints, and to compare the type with specimens on file in the anonymous letter file in an effort to identify same. SA [REDACTED] New Orleans, opened the letter, in which the questioned letter was enclosed and touched the enclosed.

Copies of the letter and envelope are enclosed herewith to the Memphis and San Francisco Divisions.

Report of investigation conducted by the New Orleans Division follows.

- ③ - Bureau (Enc. 2)
- 2 - Memphis (Enc. 2)
- 2 - San Francisco (Enc. 2)
- 2 - New Orleans

SEV/scr  
(9)

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

COPY 1 SPECIMENS RETURNED TO LAB FOR LAB ACTION & REPORT 4-6-64

W  
4-1-64  
144-644

416832

1-42016-3



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20537

## REPORT

of the

## IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

### LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

YOUR FILE NO. 9-1975  
 FBI FILE NO. 9-12096 - 2  
 LATENT CASE NO. 49703

April 21, 1964

TO: SAC, New Orleans

RE: UNSUB., AKA R. A. WAGNER  
 MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM  
 EXTORTION

REFERENCE: Airtel 4-3-64  
 EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: New Orleans  
 SPECIMENS: Envelope, Q1  
 Letter, Q2

One latent fingerprint of value was developed on the outside of the envelope, Q1. No other latent impressions of value were developed.

b7C The latent fingerprint is not identical with the fingerprints of SA [REDACTED] or Melvin Mouron Belli, born in California, 7-29-07.

The latent fingerprint was compared with the fingerprints of a number of persons named R. A. Wagner, but no identification was effected.

Q1 and Q2 are enclosed.

Laboratory report separate.

APR 21 1964

COMM-FBI

Enc. (2)

2 - Memphis

1 - San Francisco

WCB:cjp

(7)

John Edgar Hoover, Director

RECORDED

4/7/64

PL

Recorded 4-14-64/4:00PM

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICELaboratory Work Sheet

Received 4-14-64/dab

NO LAB FILE

Re: UNSUB; aka R. A. WAGNER  
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM  
EXTORTION  
(OO: MEMPHIS)File # 7-42096-3  
Lab. # D-4468S2 JC  
lc# 49706

L A T E N T

Examination requested by: SAC, New Orleans (9-1975) A 4/3/64  
Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint Date received: 4/6/64  
Result of Examination: b7C Examination by: [REDACTED]Specimens submitted for examination

- Q1 Envelope postmarked "STARKVILLE, MISS. MAR 24 PM 1964" bearing typewritten address "Mr. Melvin Belli, Attorney At Law, San Francisco, California"
- Q2 Accompanying one-page typewritten letter beginning "Old Dago Belli says..." and ending "...is no sanctuary."

b7C Named for elimination: SA [REDACTED]

Examination completed: 3/11/67 4-17

Dictated: 4-17-67



RECORDED  
4/7/64  
PL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

NO LAB FILE

Re: UNSUB; aka R. A. WAGNER  
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM  
EXTORTION  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

File # 9-42096  
Lab. # D-446882 JC

L A T E N T

Examination requested by: SAC, New Orleans (9-1975) A 4/3/64  
Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint Date received: 4/6/64  
Result of Examination: Examination by: [REDACTED]

*Examined in LFPS  
LFPS will return Q1 & Q2 to New Orleans  
w/ 4-17-64*

*100-446882-4/14/64*  
Specimens submitted for examination *RS*

- Q1 Envelope postmarked "STARKVILLE, MISS. MAR 24 PM 1964" bearing typewritten address "Mr. Melvin Belli, Attorney At Law, San Francisco, California"
- Q2 Accompanying one-page typewritten letter beginning "Old Dago Belli says..." and ending "...is no sanctuary."

APR 8 1964



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, New Orleans (9-1975)

Date: April 15, 1964

Re: UNSUB; aka, R. A. WAGNER  
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM  
EXTORTION  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. 9-42096  
Lab. No. D-446882 JC

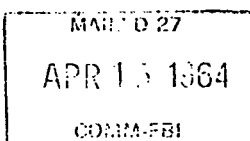
Examination requested by: New Orleans  
Reference: Airtel 4/3/64  
Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint  
Remarks:

Specimens Q1 and Q2 will be returned to New Orleans  
with the latent fingerprint report.

EX-108

REC-123

9-42096-4



APR 16 1964

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

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)  
1 - Memphis Enclosure (Lab report)

WLC:pl (5)

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

**REPORT**  
**of the**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

To: **FBI, New Orleans (9-1975)**

Date: April 15, 1964  
FBI File No. 9-42096  
Lab. No. D-446882 JC

Re: UNSUB; aka R. A. WAGNER  
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM  
EXTORTION

Specimens received 4/6/64.

- Q1 Envelope postmarked "STARKVILLE, MISS. MAR 24 PM 1964" bearing typewritten address "Mr. Melvin Belli, Attorney At Law, San Francisco, California"
- Q2 Accompanying one-page typewritten letter beginning "Old Dago Belli says..." and ending "...is no sanctuary."

Result of examination:

Specimens Q1 and Q2 were searched through the appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letter File but were not identified with other specimens in the file.

Specimens Q1 and Q2 will be returned to New Orleans with a separate report. Photographs are retained.

WLC: p1 (5)

son \_\_\_\_\_  
Mont \_\_\_\_\_  
W \_\_\_\_\_  
Ber \_\_\_\_\_  
Mahán \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Loach \_\_\_\_\_  
Vans \_\_\_\_\_  
Die \_\_\_\_\_  
Ken \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Ovel \_\_\_\_\_  
Potter \_\_\_\_\_  
Re. Room \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED  
4/7/64  
PL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE


Laboratory Work Sheet

NO LAB FILE

Re: UNSUB; aka R. A. WAGNER  
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM  
EXTORTION  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

File # 9-42096  
Lab. # D-446882 JC

L A T E N T

Examination requested by: SAC, New Orleans (9-1975) A 4/3/64  
Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint Date received: 4/6/64  
Result of Examination: **D7C** Examination by: 

Specimens submitted for examination

- Q1 Envelope postmarked "STARKVILLE, MISS. MAR 24 PM 1964" bearing typewritten address "Mr. Melvin Belli, Attorney At Law, San Francisco, California"
- Q2 Accompanying one-page typewritten letter beginning "Old Dago Belli says..." and ending "...is no sanctuary."

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MEMPHIS</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>5/20/64</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>4/10-5/12/64</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>UNSUB, aka R. A. Wagner; MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA [REDACTED] b7C</b>	TYPED BY <b>mnr</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>EXTORTION</b>	

REFERENCE:

**b7C** Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 4/3/64 at New Orleans.

Bulet to New Orleans dated 4/15/64.

Bulet to New Orleans dated 4/21/64.

Memphis airtel to San Francisco dated 5/6/64 (IO).

-P-

ENCLOSURE TO KNOXVILLE:

**b7C** [REDACTED] Enclosed for Knoxville is one copy of report of SA [REDACTED] dated 4/3/64 at New Orleans. *M*

LEADS:KNOXVILLE DIVISIONAT DUNLAP, TENN.

**b7C** 1. Will locate and interview [REDACTED]

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW																					
COPIES MADE:  1-Bureau (9-42096) 1-USA, Oxford, Miss. 2-Knoxville (Enc 1) 2-San Francisco 2-Memphis (9-1244)		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 7-42096-5  1 MAY 25 1964 </div>																					
<u>* DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT</u> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>AGENCY</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>REQUEST RECD.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DATE FWD.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HOW FWD.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>BY</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		AGENCY				REQUEST RECD.				DATE FWD.				HOW FWD.				BY				NOTATIONS <i>[Handwritten notes]</i>	
AGENCY																							
REQUEST RECD.																							
DATE FWD.																							
HOW FWD.																							
BY																							

53 JUN 1 1964

ME 9-1244

b7C [REDACTED] It is noted that [REDACTED] is considered a suspect in this matter only because of the fact that he is the only [REDACTED] who was registered at Mississippi State University and the Clarion Ledger and Jackson Daily News, daily newspapers at Jackson, Miss., have received several letters to the editor from a person whose last name is [REDACTED] and whose first name is unknown, and these letters were mailed from State College, Mississippi. These letters generally concern topics of current interest.

b7C 2) In the event that [REDACTED] owns a typewriter, typewriter specimens should be obtained from him. Also, [REDACTED] fingerprints should be obtained, and these should be forwarded to the FBI Identification Division, Latent Fingerprint Section, to have them compared with the one latent fingerprint of value which was developed on the outside of the envelope which contained the letter in question.

SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

Will contact Mr. MELVIN M. BELLI to determine who handled the letter in question and forward to the FBI Identification Division, Latent Fingerprint Section, elimination prints relative to the individuals who handled the letter in question so that they may be compared with the one latent fingerprint of value which was developed on the outside of the envelope which contained the letter on which this case is based.

MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT STARKVILLE AND STATE COLLEGE, MISS.

Will continue investigation to identify unsub in this matter.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - U. S. ATTORNEY, OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI

Report of:  
Date:

b7C

SA [REDACTED]  
MAY 20, 1964

Office: MEMPHIS

Field Office File No.: 9-1244

Bureau File No.: 9-42096

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, also known as  
R. A. Wagner;  
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM

Character: EXTORTION

## Synopsis:

USA, NDM, Oxford, Miss., is of opinion that a violation of the extortion statutes exists and would consider prosecution in event subject identified. One latent fingerprint of value developed by FBI Identification Division from outside envelope. No R. A. WAGNER located Oktibbeha County, Miss. No R. A. WAGNER located Mississippi State University, State College, Miss. [REDACTED] has graduated Mississippi State University, home address listed as [REDACTED]

b7C {

-P-

DETAILS:

b7C On April 10, 1964, SA [REDACTED] telephonically contacted U. S. Attorney H. M. RAY, Aberdeen, Mississippi. The facts of this case were discussed with him and the letter in question read to him. Mr. RAY advised that he was of the opinion that a violation of the extortion statutes exists and stated he would consider prosecution in the event the subject is identified.

ME 9-1244

By communication dated April 15, 1964, the FBI Laboratory advised as follows:

- "Q1 Envelope postmarked 'STARKVILLE, MISS. MAR 24 PM 1964' bearing typewritten address 'Mr. Melvin Belli, Attorney At Law, San Francisco, California'
- Q2 Accompanying one-page typewritten letter beginning 'Old Dago Belli says...' and ending '...is no sanctuary.'

Result of examination:

Specimens Q1 and Q2 were searched through the appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letter File but were not identified with other specimens in the file."

By communication dated April 21, 1964, the FBI Identification Division, Latent Fingerprint Section, advised as follows:

"One latent fingerprint of value was developed on the outside of the envelope, Q1. No other latent impressions of value were developed.

b7C The latent fingerprint is not identical with the fingerprints of SA [REDACTED] or MELVIN MOURON BELLI, born in California, July 29, 1907.

The latent fingerprint was compared the the fingerprints of a number of persons named R. A. WAGNER, but no identification was effected."

b7C  
b7D On May 1, 1964, [REDACTED] advised that the records of that [REDACTED] failed to indicate that an R. A. WAGNER was a resident of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. She explained that her [REDACTED] covered most of the small towns in the surrounding counties as well as all of Oktibbeha County.

On May 1, 1964, [REDACTED] Starkville, Mississippi, and [REDACTED]



ME 9-1244

Starkville, Mississippi, were contacted regarding their knowledge of an individual by the name of R. A. WAGNER. Both, who advised that they were life-time residents of Oktibbeha County, advised that R. A. WAGNER was entirely unknown to them and that they could state positively that there was no individual in Oktibbeha County known as R. A. WAGNER.

b7C  
b7D

On May 1, 1964, [REDACTED] Assistant Registrar, Mississippi State University, State College, Mississippi, advised that there was no student or member of the faculty or any individual in the employment at Mississippi State University by the name of R. A. WAGNER. Regarding [REDACTED] advised that he had formerly resided at [REDACTED] at Mississippi State University and that he had taken graduate work during the last semester. However, he had graduated from Mississippi State University and had listed [REDACTED] his home address as [REDACTED]. Further information indicated that [REDACTED] graduated from [REDACTED] and that he was born on [REDACTED]

b7C  
b7D

On May 12, 1964, [REDACTED] Starkville, Mississippi, advised that he had made a thorough inquiry of the authorities at City Hall relative to any individual by the name of R. A. WAGNER being a resident of Starkville, Mississippi. He said that there was no R. A. WAGNER or any WAGNER with any initials receiving city water or light power in Starkville, Mississippi, and that there was no WAGNER listed in any of the tax rolls of Starkville, Mississippi.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (9 1244)

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (9 1803)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; <sup>①</sup>R. A. WAGNER;  
MELVIN BELLI-VICTIM  
EXTORTION

DATE: 5/28/64

OO: MEMPHIS

67C Re report of SA [REDACTED] at Memphis,  
dated 4/3/64; and Memphis air tel to Bureau, dated 5/6/64.

For the information of Knoxville and San Diego, both offices of which have not previously received correspondence in this case, on the afternoon of 4/1/64, the Jackson, Mississippi RA... was in receipt of a letter postmarked 3/3/64, at San Francisco, California; marked AMSD; from Attorney MELVIN BELLI, 722 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California. BELLI enclosed to the Jackson RA the original of a letter he had received on 3/31/64 which bore the return address "R. A. WAGNER, 1302 East Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi."

The letter states as follows: "Old Dago Belli says of Dallas, 'This city stinks!' We have news for you jelly belli-that's your upper lip you smell. Furthermore, if you're not careful, somebody's going to put a slug of hot lead between those beady eyes of yours." A typed signature "The Committee" appears on the letter, followed by "Remember, San Francisco is no sanctuary."

- 3 - Memphis (9-1244)
- 3 - Bureau
  - (1 - Attention: FBI Laboratory)
- 2 - Knoxville
- 2 - San Diego
- 2 - San Francisco (9-1803)

PJH:cjt #2  
(12)

MCT-45

2- RECORDED  
9 JUN 5 1964

SEVEN  
L.P.

SF 9-1803  
PJH:cjt

BELLI advised that his receptionist, PAT NAGLE, is currently on a three-week vacation and will not return to work until sometime after the first week of June, 1964. Inquiries are being made at the San Francisco Post Office to determine the identity of the postal carrier on BELLI's route in order that his fingerprints may be obtained.

LEADS

SAN DIEGO

AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA: Will contact the San Diego PD, and under the name LOUIE BACHIGALUPI, attempt to obtain a fingerprint card and forward same to the Bureau for fingerprint analysis in line with the latent fingerprint found on the extortion letter.

KNOXVILLE

AT CHATANOOGA, TENNESSEE: Will, at the Chatanooga PD, obtain the fingerprint card for EILEEN PURSLEY, DOB 1/16/23, and forward same to the Bureau Laboratory for analysis in line with latent fingerprint found on the extortion letter.

SAN FRANCISCO

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA: Will contact PAT NAGLE, receptionist for Attorney BELLI, when she returns to her employment sometime after the first week in June, and make inquiry at the San Francisco Post Office concerning the identity of the postal carrier who handles BELLI's mail route at 722 Montgomery Street, San Francisco. Will then question this individual to determine if he has been fingerprinted and furnish same to the Bureau Laboratory.

SF 9 - 1803  
PJH:cjt

For further information of Knoxville and San Diego Offices referenced air tel reflects that USA, NDM, Oxford, Mississippi, has advised that in his opinion the violation of the extortion statute exists and he stated that he would consider prosecution in the event that the Subject becomes identified. In view of the fact that the FBI Laboratory has advised that there was one latent fingerprint of value developed on the outside of the envelope which was addressed to BELLI, San Francisco Office contacted Attorney BELLI on 5/14/64, and advised him that in the event he received any future communications threatening his life that he should immediately contact the San Francisco Office of the FBI, and that such communication should be immediately obtained from him and forwarded to our laboratory for analysis. He stated that he would comply with this request and that in connection with the letter which he forwarded to the Jackson RA, he recalls that both he and his personal secretary, EILEEN WALLETT, handled same.

BELLI advised that he was fingerprinted on one occasion by the San Diego PD and he was arrested there on 7/21/33 on a vagrancy charge under the name of LOUIE BACHIGALUPI. BELLI advised that this arrest was in connection with his work at that time since he had recently completed law school and was working with the U.S. Government. BELLI was not queried in detail regarding this arrest, however. He advised that his fingerprint classification according to the above arrest was as follows:

3	1	R	110	17
17	T	10	15	

Mrs. EILEEN WALLETT, personal secretary for BELLI, stated that she recalled having handled the letter and that she had been fingerprinted by the Chatanooga PD in a project that the PD was conducting involving high school students in Chatanooga during 1939. Mrs. WALLETT advised that she was fingerprinted under the name EILEEN PURSLEY, and that her date of birth was 1/16/23 by the Chatanooga PD.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

SPECIMEN  
DETACHED  
FROM  
L.F.P. 3

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

DATE: 6/6/64

FROM : SAC, SAN DIEGO (9-550)(RUC).

SUBJECT: UNSUB; R. A. WAGNER;  
MELVIN BELLI - VICTIM  
EXTORTION  
(OO:ME)

Re San Francisco letter to Memphis dated 5/28/64.

Enclosed herewith for the FBI Laboratory is a photostatic copy of a fingerprint card for LOUIE BACHIGALUPI, as received from the San Diego, California, Police Department.

The FBI Laboratory is requested to compare the latent fingerprint found on extortion letter with the fingerprints of MELVIN BELLI, aka. Louie Bachigalupi.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc 1)
- 1 - Memphis (9-1244)
- 1 - San Diego

WSF:jmh  
(4)

31

MCT-45

REC-39

JUN 8 1964

EX-103

ENCLOSURE

L.F.P. 3



0-63)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20537

## REPORT

of the

## IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

### LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

YOUR FILE NO. 9-350  
FBI FILE NO. 9-42096 REG-39  
LATENT CASE NO. 49706

June 11, 1964

TO: SAC, San Diego EX-103

RE: MURKIN; R. A. WAGNER;  
HELVIN BALLE - VICTIM  
EXTORTION

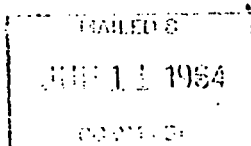
REFERENCE: San Diego letter dated 6-6-64, and San Francisco  
letter dated 5-23-64  
EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: San Diego and San Francisco  
SPECIMENS: Elimination fingerprints of Louis Bachigalupi,  
aka Helvin Balli

Latent fingerprint this case identified as  
left thumb impression of Eileen Elizabeth Fursley, aka  
Eileen Walleit, white female, born 1-16-23, Chattanooga,  
Tennessee.

Submitted fingerprints Bachigalupi enclosed.

Inc.

- 2 - Memphis (9-1244)
- 1 - Knoxville
- 2 - San Francisco (9-1823)



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

WIM:hln

(9)

JUN 22 1964

John Edgar Hoover, Director

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION WORK SHEET

Recorded: 6-9-64/11:00AM

Reference No: 9-550

Received: 6-9-64/dab

FBI File No: 9-42096-6

Latent Case No: 49706

Answer to: SAC, SAN DIEGO

Examination requested by: Addressee

Copy to: DME-(9-1244); 1KX; 2SF 9-1803

RE: UNSUB; R.A. WAGNER;  
MELVIN BELLI - VICTIM  
EXTORTION

Date of reference communication:

Letter 6-6-64 (SD)

Specimens:

" 5/28/64 (SF)

1 photostatic copy of the fingerprints of  
LOUIE BACHIGALUPI. (MELVIN BELLI).

NAILED FOR ELIM. FILES IN WHITE, SEE ENCL.

my 1/14/72 [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
1984

Result of examination:

Examination by: [redacted] *b7C*

Evidence noted by: [redacted]

Examination completed

9:50 AM  
Time

6/11/64  
Date

Dictated

6/11/64

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>JACKSON</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>JACKSON</b>	DATE <b>8/3/64</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>5/14 - 7/27/64</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>UNSUB, aka R. A. Wagner; MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA [REDACTED] b7C</b>	TYPED BY <b>MJH</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>EXTORTION</b>	

## REFERENCES

**b7C** Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 5/20/64 at Memphis.  
 San Francisco letter to Memphis dated 5/28/64. (IO)  
 San Diego letter to Bureau dated 6/6/64.  
 Bulet to San Diego dated 6/11/64.  
 Knoxville air-tel to Memphis dated 6/26/64. (IO)

- P -

## LEADS

KNOXVILLE DIVISION

AT DUNLAP, TENN.

**b7C** Will locate and interview [REDACTED] who is reported  
 to be visiting relatives in [REDACTED], address - [REDACTED]  
 It is noted that [REDACTED] is considered a suspect in this  
 matter only because of the fact that he is the only [REDACTED] who was  
 registered at Mississippi State University and "The Clarion Ledger" and

APPROVED *[Signature]* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:  
 1 - Bureau (9-42096)  
 1 - USA, Oxford, Miss.  
 2 - Knoxville  
 2 - Jackson (9-10)

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
 FBI

AUG 10 1 33 PM '64

## DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY	DATE FORW.	BY
REQUEST RECD.		
DATE FWD.		
HOW FWD.		
BY		

56 AUG 12 1964

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

9-42096-7	REC-40
5	100
NOTATIONS	

*[Handwritten: STAT. SECT.]*



JX 9-10

b7C "Jackson Daily News," daily newspaper of Jackson, Miss., have received several letters to the editor from a person whose last name is [REDACTED] and whose first name is unknown and that these letters were mailed from State College, Miss. These letters generally concern topics of current interest.

b7C In the event that [REDACTED] owns a typewriter, typewriter specimens should be obtained from him. Also, if [REDACTED] cannot furnish any information relative to this matter, appropriate names of suspects should be determined from him.

#### JACKSON DIVISION

AT STARKVILLE AND STATE COLLEGE, MISS.

Will continue investigation to identify UNSUB in this matter.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

It is noted that the investigative period of this matter extends from 5/14 to 7/27/64. This is due to the fact that information was received by the Memphis Office subsequent to the referenced report in this matter.

All communications in this case should be routed to the Memphis Office until advised to the contrary.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: U. S. Attorney, Oxford, Mississippi

Report of: SA [REDACTED] b7C Office: JACKSON  
Date: August 3, 1964

Field Office File No.: Jackson 9-10 Bureau File No.: 9-42096

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, aka  
R. A. Wagner;  
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM

Character: EXTORTION

## Synopsis:

b7C One latent fingerprint of value which was found on the outside of the envelope identified as the thumbprint (left) of EILEEN ELIZABETH PURSLEY, aka EILEEN WALLETT, personal secretary of MELVIN M. BELLI. [REDACTED] reported to be in [REDACTED]. No additional information relative to the identity of the UNSUB developed in Starkville, Miss., area.

- P -

## DETAILS:

By communication dated May 28, 1964, the San Francisco Office advised that Attorney MELVIN BELLI was contacted on May 14, 1964, and at that time he was advised that in the event he received any further communications threatening his life, he should immediately contact the San Francisco Office of the FBI and that such communications would be immediately obtained from him and forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for analysis. BELLI advised that he would comply with this request and that in connection with the letters which he had forwarded to the Jackson Office of the FBI, he recalls that both he and his personal secretary, EILEEN WALLETT, handled this one letter.

JX 9-10

BELLI advised that he was fingerprinted on one occasion by the San Diego Police Department and he was arrested there on July 21, 1933, on a vagrancy charge under the name of LOUIE BACHIGALUPI. BELLI advised that this arrest was in connection with his work at the time since he had recently completed law school and was working with the United States Government. BELLI was not queried in detail regarding his arrest, however. He advised that his fingerprint classification according to the above arrest was as follows:

3 1 R IIO 17  
17 T IO 15.

Mrs. EILEEN WALLETT, personal secretary for BELLI, stated she recalled having handled the letter in question and that she had been fingerprinted by the Chattanooga Police Department in a project that the Police Department was conducting involving high school students in Chattanooga, Tennessee, during 1939. Mrs. WALLETT advised that she was fingerprinted under the name of EILEEN PURSLEY and that her date of birth was January 16, 1923, at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

BELLI further advised that his receptionist, PAT NAGLE, is currently on a three-weeks' vacation and will not return to work until sometime after the first week of June, 1964.

By communication dated June 6, 1964, the San Diego Division advised that it was forwarding to the FBI Laboratory a Photostat of a fingerprint card of LOUIE BACHIGALUPI, as it was received from the San Diego Police Department, San Diego, California.

By communication dated June 11, 1964, the Identification Division, Latent Fingerprint Section, of the FBI, Washington, D. C., advised as follows:

"Specimens: Elimination fingerprints of Louie Bachigalupi,  
aka Melvin Belli

"Latent fingerprint this case identified as left thumb impression of Eileen Elizabeth Pursley, aka Eileen Wallett, white female, born 1-16-23, Chattanooga, Tennessee."

JX 9-10

b7C By communication dated June 26, 1964, the Knoxville Office advised that efforts to locate [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] were conducted on May 26, 1964, with negative results.

b7C b7D On May 22, 1964, [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] and that he [REDACTED] is presently in Jacksonville, Florida. She furnished the residence address of [REDACTED] and stated that [REDACTED] indicated that he was possibly going to be employed by the U. S. Department of the Army in a civilian capacity in the Jacksonville, Florida, area. She stated that both parents of [REDACTED] were deceased and he used the address in [REDACTED] for his main mailing address for convenience purposes. She stated that he did graduate work at Mississippi State University prior to going to Jacksonville, Florida.

b7C b7D On June 5, 1964, and on July 27, 1964, this matter was thoroughly discussed with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] They both advised that no one in the area whom they knew would write such a letter and they knew of no cranks who had written similar types of communications in the past. Both advised that they would be alert to develop any information which would assist in identifying the unknown subject in this matter and would immediately advise the FBI should they develop any information.

b7C b7D By communication dated July 27, 1964, the Jacksonville Division advised that on July 21, 1964, [REDACTED]

Optional Form No. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: <sup>8 106 4</sup> 7-24-64

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS

SUBJECT: UNSUB: aka R. A. WAGNER  
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM  
EXTORTION

BUFILE NO.: 9-42096

MEMPHIS FILE NO.: 9-1244

JACKSON FILE NO.: 9-10

Due to the opening of the Jackson Office, the following changes in the above case have been made:

A. LOCATION OF FILE

1. (X) Entire file sent to Jackson Office herewith.
2. ( ) File sent to Jackson, except one copy of following serials retained Memphis:
3. ( ) File retained Memphis, but one copy of following serials sent to Jackson:

B. OFFICE OF ORIGIN

( ) MEMPHIS  
(X) JACKSON  
( ) \_\_\_\_\_

- (1) - Bureau  
1 - San Francisco (9-1803)  
1 - New Orleans (9-1975)  
1 - Jackson  
1 - Memphis  
1 - Knoxville (9-857)  
1 - San Diego

MLE/bjj

C. STATUS

( ) PENDING  
(X) R U C  
( ) ~~CLOSED~~

NOT RECORDED

1 AUG 14 1964

F B I

Date: 9/3/64

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (9-42096)  
 FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (9-1244) (RUC)  
 SUBJECT: UNSUB, Aka. R. A. Wagner;  
 MELVIN M. BELL - VICTIM  
 EXTORTION

OC: JACKSON

458005

Re Knoxville airtel to Jackson dated 8/13/64.

Enclosed for the Bureau are three letters written by [REDACTED] two of which bear the return address [REDACTED] State College, Mississippi, dated 2/26/64 and 3/6/64 and the third letter which bears the return address [REDACTED] dated 7/11/64.

Enclosed for Jackson are one Xerox copy each of the above three letters and nine copies of FD 302 reflecting interview of [REDACTED] by SA [REDACTED] on 8/31/64 at Memphis, Tennessee.

REQUESTS OF BUREAU:

The Lab is requested to compare enclosed typewritten pages with Q1 and Q2 in instant case.

Leads to secure additional samples of typewriters mentioned in enclosed FD 302 are left to the discretion of the office of origin.

(3) Bureau (Enc. 3) (RM)  
 Airtel 2 - Jackson (9-10) (Enc. 12)  
 1 - Memphis  
 Teletype DSD:PC

REC-1

17 SEP 5 1964

A. M. S. D.  
 Spec. Del.  
 Reg. Mail

Approved: [Signature]  
 Registered

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

FOR LAB ACTION &amp; REPORT

Recorded  
9/11/64  
gfm

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

No Lab File

Re: Unsub, aka R. A. WAGNER;  
MELVIN M. BELLI  
VIKEX  
00: Jackson

File #  
Lab. #

9-42096-8  
D-458005 JC

Examination requested by: Memphis (9-1244)

9/3/64

Examination requested: Document

Date received: 9/8/64

Result of Examination:

b7C Examination by: [REDACTED]

*Returned*

Specimens submitted for examination

b7C K1 - K3

Three typewritten letters prepared by [REDACTED]

SEP 15 1964

1-Mr. Hegvold



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Memphis (9-1244)

Date: September 22, 1964

Re: Unsub, aka R.A. WAGNER;  
MELVIN M. BELLI  
VIKEX  
OO: Jackson

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director  
REC-125

FBI File No. 9-42096 - 8  
Lab. No. D-458005 JB

Examination requested by: Memphis

Reference: Airtel 9/3/64

Examination requested: Document

Remarks:

EX-108

Enclosures (5) (K1 through K3, 2 Lab report)

2 - Jackson (9-10) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FBI

SEP 29 1964

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

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

*Handwritten signatures and initials*  
5714  
7607



REPORT  
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: **FBI, Memphis (9-1244)**

Re: **Unsub, aka R.A. WAGNER;  
MELVIN M. BELLI  
VIKEX**

Date: **September 22, 1964**  
FBI File No. **9-42096**  
Lab. No. **D-458005 JB**

Specimens received **9/8/64**

**67C K1 - K3** Three typewritten letters prepared by [REDACTED]

**Result of examination:**

It was concluded that the questioned typewriting appearing on Q1 and Q2 was not prepared with the typewriters used in preparing K1 through K3.

Specimens K1 through K3 have been photographed and are returned herewith.

AEN:SF (6)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingram \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded  
9/11/64  
gfm

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

No Lab File

Re: Unsub, aka R. A. WAGNER;  
MELVIN M. BELLI  
VIKEX  
00: Jackson

File #  
Lab. #

9-42096  
D-458005

JB  
S

Examination requested by: Memphis (9-1244)

A  
9/3/64

Examination requested: Document

Date received: 9/8/64

Result of Examination:

b7C Examination by: [REDACTED]  
9/21/64

*No ident. for Q1 & Q2 = K1 → K3 true.*

Specimens submitted for examination

b7C K1 - K3 Three typewritten letters prepared by [REDACTED]

*Return to [REDACTED]*

2cc Jackson (9-15)

*for [REDACTED]  
9/22/64*

9/22/64

1- Mr. McInerney

Airtel

To: SAC, Memphis (9-1244)

From: Director, FBI (9-42096) - 9

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;

AKA,

R. A. WAGNER

HELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM  
EXTORTION

Buded 9/30/64

Enclosed herewith for the information of Memphis and Jackson Offices are two copies of a letter received from one [REDACTED]

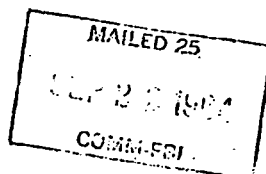
[REDACTED], dated 9/15/64, wherein he indicates that he has been under investigation concerning an alleged extortion violation. A review of Bureau files indicate that [REDACTED] was considered as a possible suspect in captioned case in which Memphis was originally Office of Origin, and Jackson was designated Office of Origin on 8/10/64. File reflects that attempts were being made to locate [REDACTED] for interview as a possible suspect concerning a threatening-type letter which had been sent to Mr. Helvin Belli, Attorney, at San Francisco, California, as of 8-3-64.

From a review of Bureau files it is also noted that [REDACTED]

In [REDACTED] letter to the Bureau dated 9/15/64, he appears indignant and perturbed concerning the extortion investigation he alleges the FBI has been conducting concerning him and states he wants this matter cleared up since he claims to have been "erroneously and maliciously involved."

Enclosures (4)  
2- Jackson (9-10)

SPM:mas  
(6)



11-1  
1-1  
JLN XEROX  
OCT 8 1964

Airtel to SAC, Memphis  
RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
AKA,  
R. A. WAGNER

Memphis Office should immediately contact [REDACTED] and personally acknowledge his letter to the Bureau and ascertain what he actually has reference to in this letter wherein he states he has been "erroneously and maliciously involved." He should also be straightened out concerning any questions he may have in this matter as set out in his letter to the Bureau dated 9/15/64.

Results of investigation should be submitted to the Bureau by 9/30/64.

NOTE:

b7C [REDACTED] Captioned individual was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He wrote a long rambling letter to the Director dated 9/15/64 stating he was concerned since he was under investigation by the FBI for extortion. He stated, apparently an unknown individual wrote a threatening letter to Melvin Belli using his name. The Bureau files indicate [REDACTED] was considered a possible suspect concerning a threatening-type letter sent to Belli from Jackson, Mississippi, signed "The Committee." Letter of [REDACTED] b7C to the Bureau being acknowledged personally rather than in writing since he appears to be confused concerning the investigation being conducted in the extortion case in which he was considered a possible suspect. Bureau file indicates that a lead was sent out to interview him re instant matter b7C at [REDACTED] on 8/3/64.

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

September 1

Office of the Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear sirs:

Forthwith, allow me to apologize for the erratic typewriter used to type this letter.

To say, in hindsight, that I feel foolish now for having written directly to Director J. Edgar Hoover earlier this year in regard to [REDACTED] would be an understatement. However, gracious man that he is, Mr. Hoover on May 1, 1964, replied to my correspondence and tactfully told me [REDACTED]

Not only was it foolish--in itself--to trouble Mr. Hoover on such a matter but much worse--once again in hindsight--I now realize he must have known (as I then did not) that I was under investigation by the Bureau for alleged extortion.

As I wrote to Mr. Hoover, I am not now of Liberal "mind"...thought as a youth I was. I came to see in 1963 the futility of continuing my graduate education and the hope of one day teaching university social "sciences." Idealistic--and consequently unrealistic--Leftist philosophies have commandeered the vast majority of our universities' social "science" departments and faculties; he who conscientiously and objectively cannot with integrity of intellect accept such as ~~the~~ worldism or social-racial cerebral equalitarianism has increasingly little place in "responsible and respectable" educational circles.

Thus, not being able to teach, I found as an outlet for my alarm at what was occurring to the sensibilities, values, traditions, and morals of this land the writing of letters to the editor.

My letters (overall constructive and intellectually defensible) were all too effective it would seem...certainly those published in Mississippi journals. In possible revenge against my remarks and as an attempt to silence and smear me, a person or persons evidently wrote noted (or notorious) lawyer Melvin Belli a threatening letter either over my signature or else negatively involving my name. The F. B. I. was brought into the case; I take it, upon Belli's complaint.

One purpose of this present letter is to inquire about a few, to me, puzzling things on this despicable matter. Why, for one thing, did it take so long for the Bureau to locate me? I learned through a relative in East Tennessee that the F. B. I. had contacted her seeking my location...on 2 occasions. After the first occasion and my learning of it, I went to the Washington office of the F. B. I. and inquired if it wanted to see me. An Agent [REDACTED] (sheepishly as I recall) told me "no"...as well as repeating that the Bureau did not have [REDACTED]

Why was I not queried on the extortion matter then by the Washington Bureau? It was seemingly only after I--with growing suspicion--later wrote the Memphis F. B. I. office a "warmish" letter demanding to know what was "going on" that I was interviewed...I might say here that the Memphis office has been quite pleasant and cooperative on this matter of extortion and my supposed connection thereto.

How long this investigation would have gone on--behind my back--before I demanded to be informed as to what was a miss is another question. How many friends or acquaintances of mine have been contacted on this charge--against me now makes for interesting speculation for me. One couple, connected with the U. S. Government, may well have been reached and questioned; quite strangely, I have not heard from them in a lengthy time. If they were contacted, what in God's name did the Special Agent

infer--or openly say--about me? I need not tell you that cries of "police state" are rampant in this disquieted land (Mr. Lester Maddox, for example, of Atlanta, Georgia, restaurant fame (or infamy depending upon your philosophy) is quite acquainted with the "police state" concept, I would imagine, as are a host of other businessmen and sundry people who have been "persuaded" to do the "right thing" in the name of equality-or-else). Masses of individuals in this nation are frightened for the sake of their jobs, families, and reputations from speaking up...or, as I suspect with my government friends, are fearful of being thought "guilty through association."

Well, I spoke up and have suffered the consequences. Quite possibly the same sick crowd which has launched the "freedom now" campaign in Mississippi--where the extortion letter originated--is responsible for "smearing" me. Such pollyanna or subversive types will not be content until they have elicited Federal occupation of Mississippi, and, in the inevitably tragic days ahead in that state, such may come about. The "freedom" types can be expected to resort to many devious techniques in expanding their equalitarian society efforts; in time extortion may be the lesser of their devices.

My "crime" is not extortion but--to a very small degree--pointingly an accusing finger at those who would (and may) bring social disaster to this nation...out of hypocritical financial and political opportunism as well as out of a warped equalitarian philosophy which has no basis in fact to the philosophical foundations of this country.

Too, I admittedly have left myself "wide-open" on occasion for "fascistic" and "anti-semitism" charges by honestly questioning the involvement of one-world-minded Jewry and its wealth connected with much of the propagandizing in the national communication and education systems. In this respect, I would question how many such one-world-Jewry-controlled publishers have criticized, as much as they dare, Director Hoover...one of the few remaining high individuals in government whom loyal and politically-informed Americans have any respect and confidence. No one is exempt from Leftist smear. One either keeps silent on what is happening to his country or else risks being branded an "extremist" or worse. Such accusations surely do not aid one--such as myself--in getting Federal employment.

Finally, 2 things if I may: 1) I want to see formal legal charges brought against the person or persons attempting (effectively till now) to damn me in the eyes of the government; and 2) I want any possibly dubious insinuations or out-and-out <sup>NEGATIVE</sup> comment made by Special Agents to friends and acquaintances clarified to the same. This is of course predicated on the "smearer" being apprehended. I certainly want this matter cleared up in so far as I have been erroneously and maliciously involved; I do not want such a dastard charge as extortion in any government or police record of mine so as to hinder my being employed by the Federal Government.

For the record, I do not belong to any political group--"extremist" or otherwise. For the record, I would have it known that I have had anonymous individuals send me unsolicited Right-Wing literature most of which appeared innocuous. And, lastly, I would have it known that I still have the highest respect for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and will do all that I can to assist it on this extortion charge pending against me.

Sincerely,

b7C

P. S. I apologize again for the type of this letter.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>JACKSON</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>JACKSON</b>	DATE <b>9/29/64</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>8/12/64 - 9/21/64</b>
TITLE OF CASE  <b>UNSUB; aka R. A. Wagner; Melvin M. Belli - VICTIMS</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA [REDACTED] b7C</b>	TYPED BY <b>SC</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>EXTORTION</b>	

REFERENCES: Rep of SA [REDACTED] dated 8/3/64;  
 KXlet to JN dated 8/13/64, marked Interoffice;  
 MElet to Bureau dated 9/3/64.

- P -

LEADSJACKSON OFFICEAT COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI

Will report the results of FBI Laboratory examination relative to the three letters submitted by the Memphis Office.

STARKVILLE AND STATE COLLEGE, MISSISSIPPI

Will continue investigation to identify Unsub in this matter.

APPROVED  <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:  ①- Bureau (9-42096) 1- USA, Oxford 2- Jackson (9-10)		7-1-76-10	REC-44
		3 OCT 2 1964	
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT		NOTATIONS	
AGENCY.....		STAT. SECT.	
REQUEST RECD. ....			
DATE FWD. ....			
HOW FWD. ....			
BY.....			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1- USA, Oxford

Report of: SA [REDACTED] b7C  
Date: 9/29/64

Office: Jackson

Field Office File No.: 9-10

Bureau File No.: 9-42096

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECT; also known as  
R. A. Wagner;  
Melvin M. Belli - VICTIMS

Character: EXTORTION

Synopsis:

b7C [REDACTED] located and interviewed Memphis, Tennessee. [REDACTED] denies writing extortion letter in question and voluntarily furnished three letters written by him two of which were dated immediately prior to and one just following the date of the extortion letter in question. The three letters submitted FBI Laboratory for comparison with extortion letter in question. No additional information relative to the identity of the Unsub developed in Starkville, Mississippi, area.

- P -

DETAILS

b7C By communication dated August 13, 1964, the Knoxville Office advised that on August 12, 1964, [REDACTED] b7D [REDACTED] advised that the present address of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] When she last heard from [REDACTED] he not in Florida and was seeking employment.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date September 3, 19641

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent, that he did not have to make any statement, that any statement he did make could be used against him, and that he had the right to consult with an attorney prior to making any statement.

b7C  
b7D  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
He stated that although he has written letters to various newspapers and periodicals, he has never written to Mr. MELVIN M. BELLI. He could furnish no suspects and said that he has no known "enemies".

[REDACTED] displayed a collection of letters to the editor which he has written over the past several years and voluntarily offered three letters, two of which were dated immediately prior to and one just following the date of the alleged extortion letter to MELVIN BELLI, further stating that if necessary to clear his name, he would be quite willing to take a polygraph examination.

[REDACTED] that the letters dated February 26, 1964, and April 6, 1964, were typed on his typewriter which is now located at the residence of [REDACTED] and that the letter dated July 11, 1964, was typed on a portable typewriter belonging to [REDACTED] and is located at the [REDACTED]

On 8/31/64 at Memphis, Tennessee File # Memphis 9-1214

by [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/3/64

JN 9-10

b7C By communication dated September 3, 1964, the Memphis Office forwarded to the Bureau three typewritten letters voluntarily furnished by [REDACTED] and requested that the FBI Laboratory examine these letters to determine if they compared favorably with the typewritten extortion letter in question.

b7C  
b2D On September 16, 1964, and on September 21, 1964, inquiry was made of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to determine if they had developed any additional information relative to the unknown subject in this matter. Both advised that they had been unable to develop any information relative to the identity of the unknown subject and that should they develop any information they would immediately advise the FBI.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (9-12096)

DATE: 9/29/64

FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (9-1244) (RUC)

SUBJECT: UNSUB, aka,  
R. A. Wagner;  
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM;  
EXTORTION  
(OO: Jackson)  
Buded: 9/30/64

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

Re Wairtel to Memphis dated 9/22/64.

On 9/25/64 [redacted] who resides at [redacted] was interviewed by SA [redacted] and [redacted]. The receipt of [redacted] letter of 9/15/64 by the Bureau was acknowledged.

[redacted] attention was called to the remark made in the letter that he had been "erroneously and maliciously involved" in a matter being investigated by the Bureau. [redacted] immediately stated that he did not intend that remark to be interpreted that the Bureau had in any way wronged him in the investigation of this matter. He stated that in retrospect he feels that he was unwise and unfair in making the remark and did not desire that to be in any way construed as a criticism of the way the investigation of this matter was handled by the Bureau.

[redacted] went on to state that subsequent to being interviewed he lost contact with some friends and not knowing the scope of the investigation of this matter felt that the possibility existed that his friends had been contacted by the FBI and for this reason had become suspicious of him. He stated that he realizes now that the loss of contact was probably a coincidence and temporary and was not a result of the investigation.

OCT 1 1964 2-24 Bureau 3 10 64

2-Jackson (9-10)

1-Memphis

JJC:bab  
(5)

REC-66

EX-103

67 OCT 12 1964

ME 9-1244

b7C The Bureau's responsibilities in extortion matters were fully explained to [REDACTED]. He stated that upon hearing this he is fully aware of the necessity in interviewing him under the circumstances and due to the fact that he has moved several times recently realizes that it was necessary to contact certain relatives to determine his whereabouts.

b7C [REDACTED] apologized for any remarks made in his letter to the Director of 9/15/64 which would indicate a criticism of the Bureau. He stated that quite to the contrary he has long admired the Bureau and the Director.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>JACKSON</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>JACKSON</b>	DATE <b>10/14/64</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>10/8/64</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>UNSUB; aka R. A. WAGNER; MELVIN M. BELLI-VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY SA <b>[REDACTED]</b> <b>67C</b>	TYPED BY <b>ih</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>EXTORTION</b>	

REFERENCE: Report of SA **[REDACTED]** dated 9/29/64 at Jackson.

**67C**  
-C-

(COVER PAGE)

A\*

APPROVED <b>RKM/cwb</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:  (1-Bureau (9-42096) 1-USA, Oxford 1-Jackson (9-10)		<b>9-42096-12</b>	REC-15
		<b>14 OCT 16 1964</b>	
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT		NOTATIONS	
AGENCY		<b>STAT. SECT.</b>	
REQUEST RECD.			
DATE FWD.			
HOW FWD.			
BY			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1-USA, Oxford

Report of: SA [REDACTED] b7C Office: Jackson  
Date: 10/14/64

Field Office File No.: 9-10

Bureau File No.: 9-42096

Title: UNSUB; aka R. A. WAGNER;  
MELVIN M. BELLI-VICTIM

Character: EXTORTION

Synopsis:

b7C FBI Laboratory concluded that the questioned typewriting appearing on the letters voluntarily furnished by [REDACTED] did not compare favorably with the typewriting appearing on the extortion material. USA, NDM, Oxford, Miss., by communication dated 10/7/64, advised that after reviewing investigative reports in this matter that he desired no further investigation conducted and that he would not authorize prosecution in the event the UNSUB were to be identified.

- C -

DETAILS:

b7C By communication dated September 3, 1964, the Memphis, Tennessee, office forwarded to the Bureau three typewritten letters voluntarily furnished by [REDACTED] and requested that the FBI Laboratory examine these letters to determine if they compared favorably with the typewritten extortion letter in question.

Result of examination: It was concluded that the

JN 9-10

questioned typewriting appearing on Q1 and Q2 was not prepared with the typewriters used in preparing K1 through K3.

By communication dated October 7, 1964, Mr. H. M. RAY, United States Attorney, Northern District of Mississippi, advised that after reviewing the investigative reports in this matter it was his opinion that no further investigation is necessary and that the matter should be closed. Mr. RAY advised that he would not authorize prosecution of the unknown subject even though his identity would be determined.

&#39;

92

&#39;

J- &#39;

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Wirtz  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

CONFIDENTIAL

6/29/56

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: SAC, WFO (105-New)

MEMPHIS (ph) BELLE

(CO: SAN FRANCISCO)

WFO indices contain no additional information.

SF Div should conduct appropriate investigation in an attempt to further identify the subjs, handling per Section 1 of Manual of Instructions. Upon possibly identifying the subjs, blank memos should be furnished to the Bu suitable for dissemination. WFO should be furnished copies of any investigative effort for info. RUC

LAUGHLIN

3-Bureau  
2-San Francisco  
2-WFO

CBT:lcr

(7)

AIRTEL

Mr. Belmont

5w8  
%\$@

\$1

&#39;



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mason  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

Airtel

Transmit the following ~~TELETYPE~~ message to:

July 5, 1956

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM : SAC, San Francisco (105-4626)  
SUBJECT: CHANGED  
MELVIN M. BELLI; [REDACTED] b7C

RE WFO airtel to Bureau, 6/29/56, entitled "MELVIN (PH) BELLI; [REDACTED] b7C

MELVIN M. BELLI, well known San Francisco attorney with offices at 240 Stockton Street, member of bar since 1933. Married third wife, JOEY TURNER, at San Francisco, 5/3/56.

On 3/9/51, name appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar.

"Daily People's World" (DPW) newspaper, 9/22/49, contains names of number of persons and name MERVIN BELLI, protesting prosecution of 12 Communist leaders.

DPW newspaper, 11/6/41, contains names of number of persons and name MELVIN M. BELLI sending greetings to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7th, the Russians' Independence Day. Blank memo will be submitted.

WHELAN

3 Bureau (AM REG.)  
1 WFO (Info.) (AM REG.)  
1 San Francisco  
SJE:fdl  
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-17-80 BY SP4 JH/ECM

RECORDED - 88

SE 4

105-4986-5

JUL 7 1956

EX-109

ESP. SEC.

Sent M Per

Special Agent in Charge

Mr. Belmont

JUL 16 1956

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 7/17/56

FROM SAC, WFO (105-18134)

SUBJECT: MELVIN E. BELL

(00:SF)

Above is being furnished for information of Bureau and San Francisco.

2-Bureau  
1-San Francisco (105-4626) (info) (RM)  
1-WFO  
JON:WJM  
(4)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TAP/ESM  
REASON FOR EXT. II, I, 2.4.2 2,3  
DATE OF REVIEW 7-17-90

RECORDED - 14

INDEXED - 14

24 JUL 13 1956

EX-120

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: July 10, 1956

FROM : SAC, San Francisco (105-4626)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI

Re WFO airtel to Bureau, 6/29/56 and San Francisco airtel to Bureau, 7/5/56.

Enclosed herewith is a blank memorandum as requested by referenced airtel.

No recommendation is being made to interview MELVIN M. BELLI or his wife when they return from their trip to the USSR.

Encls. 4

2 Bureau (REG.)

1 WFO (Encl. 1) (REG.)

1 San Francisco

SJE:fdh

RECORDED - 47

INDEXED - 47

DATE FORW. 7-10-56

HOW FORW. FILE

SE 47

JUL 17 1956

71 JUL 26 1956

6-17-80

BY SP2TAP/ETM



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
San Francisco, California



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO.

July 10, 1956

MELVIN M. BELLI

The September, 1955 San Francisco Telephone Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELLI, Attorney, with offices at 240 Stockton Street, telephone CA 1-0316, residing at 1228 Montgomery Street, telephone YU 2-2146.

The 1955-1956 San Francisco City Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELLI, occupation lawyer, with offices on the Tenth Floor of 240 Stockton Street, and with a home address of 1228 Montgomery Street, Apartment 8.

The 1956 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELLI, born 1907, admitted to the bar in 1933. The directory lists that he is a member of the American Bar Association, attended the University of California, receiving a BA and LL.M. Degree, and having offices at 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper issue of July 3, 1956

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TAP/EMW  
REASON FOR EXT. 1.2 2,3  
DATE OF REVIEW 7-10-90

ENCLOSURE

105-49865-4

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Section II, page 1, column 1, reveals Attorney MELVIN BELLI, counsel for Japan Air Lines and recently married, would leave during the week of July 3, 1956, for Europe via Scandinavian Air Lines.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper issue of May 4, 1956, revealed MELVIN BELLI, attorney and writer, married on May 3, 1956, a former air line hostess, JOEY TURNER, in San Francisco. MELVIN BELLI, according to the article, formerly was married to BETTY ~~BALLANTINE~~ and divorced in 1951, having four children. He married TONY NICHOLS, a former stenographer, and they were divorced in March, 1955.

On March 9, 1951, the name of MELVIN BELLI, San Francisco, appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P.O. Box 2225, San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argyle, Los Angeles 28, which appealed to members of the bar to oppose California Senate Bill SB1666, which would impose upon every member of the California Bar and every candidate for admission the requirement that a test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing law.

The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of September 22, 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist trial."

"San Francisco, Sept. 21

"A group of prominent Bay Area residents, headed by Attorney VINCENT HALLINAN, protested the prosecution of the 12 Communist leaders to ALBEN BARKLEY during the vice president's visit here.....

"The group wrote BARKLEY that they wanted to see him for the purpose of protesting the actions of the United States government in prosecuting persons for the expressions of opinions."

"We refer particularly to the prosecution of the Communist leaders in New York; and consider the action against them the sad reflection upon the level to which our American concepts of free speech have declined.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"We desire to solicit your aid to combat procedures under which an existing system can employ the coercive forces of the government to preserve itself from criticism or change."

"Members of the group which also sent a strongly worded protest against the trial to Attorney General J. HOWARD MC GRATH, included in addition to HALLINAN: MERVIN BELLI, attorney;....."

The "Daily People's World" is a West Coast Communist newspaper.

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of November 6, 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4, contained an article entitled: "Bay Area Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7."

"San Francisco, Nov. 5

"Prominent Northern Californians are sending greeting to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7, the Russians' Independence Day, in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany, today announced the Russian-American Society to Aid USSR and Great Britain to Defeat Hitler Fascism.

"Religious leaders, city officials, educators, liberals and progressives were circulated with the following message:

"We Americans admire your courage and determination in your fight against Hitlerism.

"On November 7, your Independence Day, we wish to convey to you our message of greetings and deep conviction that your heroic struggle will end in final victory over the dark forces of fascism."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



Signing the message of greetings, with modifications in some instances, were: ".....MELVIN M. BELLI, attorney....."

The Russian American Society, Inc., has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

CONFIDENTIAL

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: December 14, 1956

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: **CONFIDENTIAL**

MELVIN BELLI  
ATTORNEY, SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

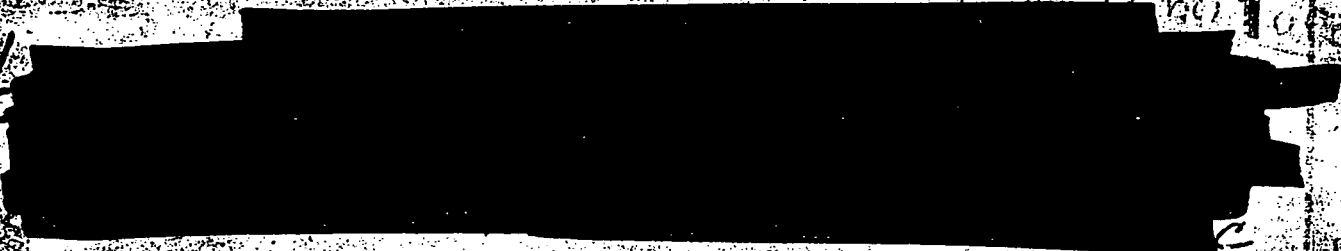
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

**PURPOSE:**

To set forth derogatory information concerning captioned individuals in response to your request.

CLASS. & EXT. BY: SP2TAP/SGM  
REASON: FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW: 12-14-90

**DETAILS**



There are frequent references in Bufiles to Belli, in his capacity as an attorney for various clients. Belli was the attorney in 1947 for complainants against the Government in connection with injuries arising out of the great explosion on July 17, 1944, at the United States Naval Ammunition Depot, Port Chicago, California. When Special Agents interviewed one of his clients, this client voluntarily mentioned that Belli had asked that he be allowed to file this suit for her and that she had signed a contract that Belli would receive about 30 per cent of any money paid by the Government to her. Later Belli wrote the Department and the Special Agent in Charge, San Francisco, accusing Special Agents of harassing his clients and making insulting and unethical interrogations concerning his practices. SAC Kimball personally contacted Belli and resolved this matter. Belli admitted he was concerned that the FBI might be investigating him since he was at that time being investigated by a private investigator employed by the Maryland Casualty Insurance Company in connection with

ENCLOSURE

cc - Mr. Nichols, with copy of enclosure

Enclosure - Detailed

INDEXED

17 DEC 21 1956

61 JAN 11 1957

CONFIDENTIAL-106



~~SECRET~~

Jones to Nichols memorandum

December 14, 1956

3 a \$100,000 suit which a client of his had filed against that company. The insurance company refused to settle and reported to the California Bar Association that Belli was unethical in soliciting his clients and further that he had been unethical in obtaining signatures to a fee contract. (62-82613-24)

17 AG  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206  
207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213  
214  
215  
216  
217  
218  
219  
220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260  
261  
262  
263  
264  
265  
266  
267  
268  
269  
270  
271  
272  
273  
274  
275  
276  
277  
278  
279  
280  
281  
282  
283  
284  
285  
286  
287  
288  
289  
290  
291  
292  
293  
294  
295  
296  
297  
298  
299  
300  
301  
302  
303  
304  
305  
306  
307  
308  
309  
310  
311  
312  
313  
314  
315  
316  
317  
318  
319  
320  
321  
322  
323  
324  
325  
326  
327  
328  
329  
330  
331  
332  
333  
334  
335  
336  
337  
338  
339  
340  
341  
342  
343  
344  
345  
346  
347  
348  
349  
350  
351  
352  
353  
354  
355  
356  
357  
358  
359  
360  
361  
362  
363  
364  
365  
366  
367  
368  
369  
370  
371  
372  
373  
374  
375  
376  
377  
378  
379  
380  
381  
382  
383  
384  
385  
386  
387  
388  
389  
390  
391  
392  
393  
394  
395  
396  
397  
398  
399  
400  
401  
402  
403  
404  
405  
406  
407  
408  
409  
410  
411  
412  
413  
414  
415  
416  
417  
418  
419  
420  
421  
422  
423  
424  
425  
426  
427  
428  
429  
430  
431  
432  
433  
434  
435  
436  
437  
438  
439  
440  
441  
442  
443  
444  
445  
446  
447  
448  
449  
450  
451  
452  
453  
454  
455  
456  
457  
458  
459  
460  
461  
462  
463  
464  
465  
466  
467  
468  
469  
470  
471  
472  
473  
474  
475  
476  
477  
478  
479  
480  
481  
482  
483  
484  
485  
486  
487  
488  
489  
490  
491  
492  
493  
494  
495  
496  
497  
498  
499  
500  
501  
502  
503  
504  
505  
506  
507  
508  
509  
510  
511  
512  
513  
514  
515  
516  
517  
518  
519  
520  
521  
522  
523  
524  
525  
526  
527  
528  
529  
530  
531  
532  
533  
534  
535  
536  
537  
538  
539  
540  
541  
542  
543  
544  
545  
546  
547  
548  
549  
550  
551  
552  
553  
554  
555  
556  
557  
558  
559  
560  
561  
562  
563  
564  
565  
566  
567  
568  
569  
570  
571  
572  
573  
574  
575  
576  
577  
578  
579  
580  
581  
582  
583  
584  
585  
586  
587  
588  
589  
590  
591  
592  
593  
594  
595  
596  
597  
598  
599  
600  
601  
602  
603  
604  
605  
606  
607  
608  
609  
610  
611  
612  
613  
614  
615  
616  
617  
618  
619  
620  
621  
622  
623  
624  
625  
626  
627  
628  
629  
630  
631  
632  
633  
634  
635  
636  
637  
638  
639  
640  
641  
642  
643  
644  
645  
646  
647  
648  
649  
650  
651  
652  
653  
654  
655  
656  
657  
658  
659  
660  
661  
662  
663  
664  
665  
666  
667  
668  
669  
670  
671  
672  
673  
674  
675  
676  
677  
678  
679  
680  
681  
682  
683  
684  
685  
686  
687  
688  
689  
690  
691  
692  
693  
694  
695  
696  
697  
698  
699  
700  
701  
702  
703  
704  
705  
706  
707  
708  
709  
710  
711  
712  
713  
714  
715  
716  
717  
718  
719  
720  
721  
722  
723  
724  
725  
726  
727  
728  
729  
730  
731  
732  
733  
734  
735  
736  
737  
738  
739  
740  
741  
742  
743  
744  
745  
746  
747  
748  
749  
750  
751  
752  
753  
754  
755  
756  
757  
758  
759  
760  
761  
762  
763  
764  
765  
766  
767  
768  
769  
770  
771  
772  
773  
774  
775  
776  
777  
778  
779  
780  
781  
782  
783  
784  
785  
786  
787  
788  
789  
790  
791  
792  
793  
794  
795  
796  
797  
798  
799  
800  
801  
802  
803  
804  
805  
806  
807  
808  
809  
810  
811  
812  
813  
814  
815  
816  
817  
818  
819  
820  
821  
822  
823  
824  
825  
826  
827  
828  
829  
830  
831  
832  
833  
834  
835  
836  
837  
838  
839  
840  
841  
842  
843  
844  
845  
846  
847  
848  
849  
850  
851  
852  
853  
854  
855  
856  
857  
858  
859  
860  
861  
862  
863  
864  
865  
866  
867  
868  
869  
870  
871  
872  
873  
874  
875  
876  
877  
878  
879  
880  
881  
882  
883  
884  
885  
886  
887  
888  
889  
890  
891  
892  
893  
894  
895  
896  
897  
898  
899  
900  
901  
902  
903  
904  
905  
906  
907  
908  
909  
910  
911  
912  
913  
914  
915  
916  
917  
918  
919  
920  
921  
922  
923  
924  
925  
926  
927  
928  
929  
930  
931  
932  
933  
934  
935  
936  
937  
938  
939  
940  
941  
942  
943  
944  
945  
946  
947  
948  
949  
950  
951  
952  
953  
954  
955  
956  
957  
958  
959  
960  
961  
962  
963  
964  
965  
966  
967  
968  
969  
970  
971  
972  
973  
974  
975  
976  
977  
978  
979  
980  
981  
982  
983  
984  
985  
986  
987  
988  
989  
990  
991  
992  
993  
994  
995  
996  
997  
998  
999  
1000

61 The "San Francisco Examiner" of October 9, 1956, reflects that Belli was the attorney for the children of an individual who had deeded a ranch worth \$200,000 to an attorney. The children were alleging that this gift was a hidden donation to the Communist Party and that undue influence had been brought to bear upon their father. (100-388561-A)

67 D  
68 Attached is a blank memorandum containing public source material regarding Belli.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

~~SECRET~~

December 14, 1956

Re: Melvin Belli  
Attorney  
San Francisco, California

The September, 1956, San Francisco telephone directory listed Melvin M. Belli, attorney, with offices at 240 Stockton Street, telephone GA-1-0316, and residence at 1228 Montgomery Street, telephone YU-2-2146.

The 1955-1956 San Francisco city directory lists a Melvin M. Belli, occupation lawyer, with offices on the Tenth Floor of 240 Stockton Street, and with a home address of 1228 Montgomery Street, Apartment 10.

The 1956 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a Melvin M. Belli, born 1907, with admission to the bar in 1938. Belli is a member of the American Bar Association and attended the University of California receiving the E.A. and LL.B. degrees.

The "Daily People's World" newspaper, issue of November 3, 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4, contained an article entitled "Bay Area Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7."

"San Francisco, Nov. 5

"Prominent Northern Californians are sending greetings to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7, the Russians' Independence Day, in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany, today announced the Russian-American Society to Aid USSR and Great Britain to Defeat Hitler Fascism.

"Religious leaders, city officials, educators, liberals and progressives were circulated with the following message:

"We Americans admire your courage and determination in your fight against Hitlerism.

HEH:jh

ENCLOSURE

(6)

DATE 6-7-58 BY SPITAP/EM

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mason \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206  
207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213  
214  
215  
216  
217  
218  
219  
220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260  
261  
262  
263  
264  
265  
266  
267  
268  
269  
270  
271  
272  
273  
274  
275  
276  
277  
278  
279  
280  
281  
282  
283  
284  
285  
286  
287  
288  
289  
290  
291  
292  
293  
294  
295  
296  
297  
298  
299  
300  
301  
302  
303  
304  
305  
306  
307  
308  
309  
310  
311  
312  
313  
314  
315  
316  
317  
318  
319  
320  
321  
322  
323  
324  
325  
326  
327  
328  
329  
330  
331  
332  
333  
334  
335  
336  
337  
338  
339  
340  
341  
342  
343  
344  
345  
346  
347  
348  
349  
350  
351  
352  
353  
354  
355  
356  
357  
358  
359  
360  
361  
362  
363  
364  
365  
366  
367  
368  
369  
370  
371  
372  
373  
374  
375  
376  
377  
378  
379  
380  
381  
382  
383  
384  
385  
386  
387  
388  
389  
390  
391  
392  
393  
394  
395  
396  
397  
398  
399  
400  
401  
402  
403  
404  
405  
406  
407  
408  
409  
410  
411  
412  
413  
414  
415  
416  
417  
418  
419  
420  
421  
422  
423  
424  
425  
426  
427  
428  
429  
430  
431  
432  
433  
434  
435  
436  
437  
438  
439  
440  
441  
442  
443  
444  
445  
446  
447  
448  
449  
450  
451  
452  
453  
454  
455  
456  
457  
458  
459  
460  
461  
462  
463  
464  
465  
466  
467  
468  
469  
470  
471  
472  
473  
474  
475  
476  
477  
478  
479  
480  
481  
482  
483  
484  
485  
486  
487  
488  
489  
490  
491  
492  
493  
494  
495  
496  
497  
498  
499  
500  
501  
502  
503  
504  
505  
506  
507  
508  
509  
510  
511  
512  
513  
514  
515  
516  
517  
518  
519  
520  
521  
522  
523  
524  
525  
526  
527  
528  
529  
530  
531  
532  
533  
534  
535  
536  
537  
538  
539  
540  
541  
542  
543  
544  
545  
546  
547  
548  
549  
550  
551  
552  
553  
554  
555  
556  
557  
558  
559  
560  
561  
562  
563  
564  
565  
566  
567  
568  
569  
570  
571  
572  
573  
574  
575  
576  
577  
578  
579  
580  
581  
582  
583  
584  
585  
586  
587  
588  
589  
590  
591  
592  
593  
594  
595  
596  
597  
598  
599  
600  
601  
602  
603  
604  
605  
606  
607  
608  
609  
610  
611  
612  
613  
614  
615  
616  
617  
618  
619  
620  
621  
622  
623  
624  
625  
626  
627  
628  
629  
630  
631  
632  
633  
634  
635  
636  
637  
638  
639  
640  
641  
642  
643  
644  
645  
646  
647  
648  
649  
650  
651  
652  
653  
654  
655  
656  
657  
658  
659  
660  
661  
662  
663  
664  
665  
666  
667  
668  
669  
670  
671  
672  
673  
674  
675  
676  
677  
678  
679  
680  
681  
682  
683  
684  
685  
686  
687  
688  
689  
690  
691  
692  
693  
694  
695  
696  
697  
698  
699  
700  
701  
702  
703  
704  
705  
706  
707  
708  
709  
710  
711  
712  
713  
714  
715  
716  
717  
718  
719  
720  
721  
722  
723  
724  
725  
726  
727  
728  
729  
730  
731  
732  
733  
734  
735  
736  
737  
738  
739  
740  
741  
742  
743  
744  
745  
746  
747  
748  
749  
750  
751  
752  
753  
754  
755  
756  
757  
758  
759  
760  
761  
762  
763  
764  
765  
766  
767  
768  
769  
770  
771  
772  
773  
774  
775  
776  
777  
778  
779  
780  
781  
782  
783  
784  
785  
786  
787  
788  
789  
790  
791  
792  
793  
794  
795  
796  
797  
798  
799  
800  
801  
802  
803  
804  
805  
806  
807  
808  
809  
810  
811  
812  
813  
814  
815  
816  
817  
818  
819  
820  
821  
822  
823  
824  
825  
826  
827  
828  
829  
830  
831  
832  
833  
834  
835  
836  
837  
838  
839  
840  
841  
842  
843  
844  
845  
846  
847  
848  
849  
850  
851  
852  
853  
854  
855  
856  
857  
858  
859  
860  
861  
862  
863  
864  
865  
866  
867  
868  
869  
870  
871  
872  
873  
874  
875  
876  
877  
878  
879  
880  
881  
882  
883  
884  
885  
886  
887  
888  
889  
890  
891  
892  
893  
894  
895  
896  
897  
898  
899  
900  
901  
902  
903  
904  
905  
906  
907  
908  
909  
910  
911  
912  
913  
914  
915  
916  
917  
918  
919  
920  
921  
922  
923  
924  
925  
926  
927  
928  
929  
930  
931  
932  
933  
934  
935  
936  
937  
938  
939  
940  
941  
942  
943  
944  
945  
946  
947  
948  
949  
950  
951  
952  
953  
954  
955  
956  
957  
958  
959  
960  
961  
962  
963  
964  
965  
966  
967  
968  
969  
970  
971  
972  
973  
974  
975  
976  
977  
978  
979  
980  
981  
982  
983  
984  
985  
986  
987  
988  
989  
990  
991  
992  
993  
994  
995  
996  
997  
998  
999  
1000

"On November 7, your Independence Day, we wish to convey to you our message of greetings and deep conviction that your heroic struggle will end in final victory over the dark forces of fascism."

Signing the message of greetings, with modifications in instances, were: ".....MELVIN M. BELLI, attorney....."

The Russian American Society, Inc., has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (105-49865-4)

The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of March 19, 1947 under the caption "Defendants Linked In Night Club Suit" reports the following information:

"Attorney Melvin Belli and his wife were joined as defendants yesterday in a suit for rescission of a contract for the purchase of Fong's Iroquois Village, Redwood City night spot."

"The action was filed in San Mateo County Superior Court by S. J. De Sanders and Robert Dupret, owners of a Redwood City cigar store. Their complaint asserted they entered into the agreement last December and attempted to withdraw several days later but that Belli refused to return a \$2,000 down payment." (62-82613-18)

The "Daily People's World" newspaper, issue of September 22, 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist trial."

"San Francisco, Sept. 21

"A group of prominent Bay Area residents, headed by Attorney VINCENT HALLINAN, protested the prosecution of the 12 Communist leaders to ALBEN BARKLEY during the vice president's visit here....."

"The group wrote BARKLEY that they wanted to see him 'for the purpose of protesting the actions of the United States government in prosecuting persons for the expressions of opinions."

"We refer particularly to the prosecution of

0 Communist leaders in New York, and consider the  
1 action against them the sad reflection upon the level to  
2 which our American concepts of free speech have  
3 declined.

4 "We desire to solicit your aid to combat  
5 procedures under which an existing system can employ  
6 the coercive forces of the government to preserve itself  
7 from criticism or change."

8 "Members of the group which also sent a strongly  
9 worded protest against the trial to Attorney General  
10 J. HOWARD MC GRATH, included in addition to HALLER N:  
11 MERVIN BELLI, attorney;.....

12 The "Daily People's World" is a West Coast communist  
13 newspaper.

14 The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the  
15 Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450

16 On March 9, 1951, the name of Melvin Belli, San Francisco, Ca,  
17 appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against  
18 Test Oaths for the Bar, P. O. Box 2225, San Francisco 26, and 1614 North  
19 Argyle, Los Angeles 28, which appealed to members of the bar to oppose  
20 California Senate Bill SB1888, which would impose upon every member of the  
21 California Bar and every candidate for admission the requirement that a  
22 test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing law.

23 The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper, issue of May 4,  
24 1956, revealed Melvin Belli, attorney and writer, married on May 3, 1956,  
25 a former airline hostess, Joey Turner, in San Francisco. Melvin Belli,  
26 according to the article, formerly was married to Betty Ballantine and  
27 divorced in 1951, having four children. He married Toni Nichols, a former  
28 stenographer, and they were divorced in March, 1955.

29 The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper, issue of July 3,  
30 1956, Section II, page 1, column 1, reveals Attorney Melvin Belli, counsel  
31 for Japan Air Lines and recently married, would leave during the week of  
32 July 3, 1956, for Europe via Scandinavian Air Lines. (105-49865-4)

33 The Grievance Committee of the California Bar Association  
34 may have additional information concerning Belli.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson *Von*

DATE: December 17, 1956

FROM : L. B. Nichols *Nichols*

SUBJECT:

Last winter, Fulton Lewis, Jr., confused Pearl Wanamaker, State-Director of Education, with a communist. He made a prompt correction and thought that the matter was all over. On Friday he told me that suit had been filed against him in Yakima, Washington, by an attorney named Peter Tonkoff and that suits will also be filed in 50 other cities through a Melvin Belli, who is connected with the National Association of Compensation Attorneys.

Lewis stated that Belli had written a book "Ready for Plaintiff" published by Henry Holt & Company; that the suit has no merit and it looks like this is a sharp trick on the part of lawyers to really ruin him as the expense and harrassment of defending 50 suits will be considerable. He is naturally trying to find out something about the attorneys. I told him that I didn't know whether we had anything, but would check. A summary is enclosed.

LBN:hpf

(4) *per file*

Enclosure

cc - Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-17-80 BY SP2TAP/Em

RECORDED-20

105-49865-6  
12 DEC 31 19561473  
61 JAN 4 1957

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

~~SECRET~~

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: September 1, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
ATTORNEY  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Re my memo dated 8-28-59.

The Director has instructed that our San Francisco Office keep alert for any violation of law by Belli in view of his questionable record. Attached is a brief letter to San Francisco with appropriate instructions.

CONSULTING WITH CIA

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter of instructions be sent to the San Francisco Office.

Enclosure sent 9-1-59

1 - Mr. Belmont

HEH:sfc  
(6)

6-17-80  
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2 TAP/EPm  
REASON-FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 9-1-90

REC-111

23 SEP 3 1959

EX-111

CRIME

~~SECRET~~



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

~~SECRET~~

DATE: August 28, 1959

FROM : M. M. Jones

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
ATTORNEY  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

BACKGROUND: The attached newspaper clipping from "The New York Times" of August 25, 1959, reflects that Attorney Melvin M. Belli, a San Francisco trial lawyer, introduced West Coast mobster Mickey Cohen at a seminar on legal tactics during the current American Bar Association convention. Cohen was introduced as "Professor O'Brien" expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases. The Director noted "What do we know re Belli?"

The current Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a Melvin M. Belli born 1907, admitted to the Bar 1933. He is associated with the law firm of Belli, Ashe and Gerry, 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California.

## SYNOPSIS

## RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-1780  
REASON FOR EXT. 1-3.1.2-2-3  
DATE OF REVIEW 8-28-96

ENCLOSURE

~~SECRET~~

DETAILS: The "Daily People's World," communist newspaper, of November 5, 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4 contained an article entitled "Bay Area

Enclosure

RWK:dj.d/mbb

CRIME

~~SECRET~~

Jones to DeLoach Memo

Re: Melvin M. Belli

Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7." This article reflects that a group of prominent Californians, including Belli, sent greetings to the Soviet Union in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany. This message was sent by the Russian-American Society, Inc., which has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (105-49865-4)

In 1947, Belli was the attorney for complainants against the Government in connection with injuries arising out of the great explosions on July 17, 1946. In connection with these suits, Belli accused Special Agents of the FBI of harassing his clients and making insulting and unethical interrogations concerning his practices. He later admitted that he was concerned that the FBI might be investigating him since he was being investigated by an insurance company in connection with a \$100,000 suit which a client of his had filed against that company. The insurance company reported him to the California Bar Association for his alleged unethical practices. (62-82613-24)

The "Daily People's World" newspaper, issue of September 22, 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist trial," which reflects that a group of San Franciscans protested the prosecution of twelve communist leaders to Alben Barkley. The group included Belli.

*consulting with CIA*

[REDACTED]

*Why wasn't this checked out?*

[REDACTED]

On March 9, 1951, the name of Melvin Belli, San Francisco, appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P. O. Box 2225, San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argyle, Los Angeles 28, which appealed to members of the bar to oppose California Senate Bill SB1666, which would impose upon every member of the

~~SECRET~~



0.  
1 Jones to DeLoach Memo

2 Re: Melvin M. Belli

3  
4  
5 California Bar and every candidate for admission the requirement that a  
6 test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing law.

7  
8 The "San Francisco Examiner" of October 9, 1956, reflects  
9 that Belli was the attorney for the children of an individual who had  
10 deeded a ranch worth \$200,000 to an attorney. The children were alleging  
11 that this gift was a hidden donation to the Communist Party and that undue  
12 influence had been brought to bear upon their father. (100-388561-A)

13  
14  
15 Belli was reported to be leaving his wife on July 3, 1956, for  
16 Europe [REDACTED] (105-49865-4)

17  
18 The Los Angeles Office advised in April, 1959, that Mickey Cohen  
19 was believed to have hired Belli as attorney for stripteaser Candy Barr.  
20 (63-4296-26-361)

21  
22 [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]  
26 [REDACTED] advised that he was associated with Belli. ( [REDACTED] )

27  
28 In August, 1949, Belli, described by a Los Angeles newspaper  
29 as "King of Torts," was described as the attorney for Mickey Cohen in a suit  
30 charging Cohen with assault upon Chief Federal Narcotic Agent Howard  
31 Chappell. (92-3156-A)

101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206  
207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213  
214  
215  
216  
217  
218  
219  
220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260  
261  
262  
263  
264  
265  
266  
267  
268  
269  
270  
271  
272  
273  
274  
275  
276  
277  
278  
279  
280  
281  
282  
283  
284  
285  
286  
287  
288  
289  
290  
291  
292  
293  
294  
295  
296  
297  
298  
299  
300  
301  
302  
303  
304  
305  
306  
307  
308  
309  
310  
311  
312  
313  
314  
315  
316  
317  
318  
319  
320  
321  
322  
323  
324  
325  
326  
327  
328  
329  
330  
331  
332  
333  
334  
335  
336  
337  
338  
339  
340  
341  
342  
343  
344  
345  
346  
347  
348  
349  
350  
351  
352  
353  
354  
355  
356  
357  
358  
359  
360  
361  
362  
363  
364  
365  
366  
367  
368  
369  
370  
371  
372  
373  
374  
375  
376  
377  
378  
379  
380  
381  
382  
383  
384  
385  
386  
387  
388  
389  
390  
391  
392  
393  
394  
395  
396  
397  
398  
399  
400  
401  
402  
403  
404  
405  
406  
407  
408  
409  
410  
411  
412  
413  
414  
415  
416  
417  
418  
419  
420  
421  
422  
423  
424  
425  
426  
427  
428  
429  
430  
431  
432  
433  
434  
435  
436  
437  
438  
439  
440  
441  
442  
443  
444  
445  
446  
447  
448  
449  
450  
451  
452  
453  
454  
455  
456  
457  
458  
459  
460  
461  
462  
463  
464  
465  
466  
467  
468  
469  
470  
471  
472  
473  
474  
475  
476  
477  
478  
479  
480  
481  
482  
483  
484  
485  
486  
487  
488  
489  
490  
491  
492  
493  
494  
495  
496  
497  
498  
499  
500  
501  
502  
503  
504  
505  
506  
507  
508  
509  
510  
511  
512  
513  
514  
515  
516  
517  
518  
519  
520  
521  
522  
523  
524  
525  
526  
527  
528  
529  
530  
531  
532  
533  
534  
535  
536  
537  
538  
539  
540  
541  
542  
543  
544  
545  
546  
547  
548  
549  
550  
551  
552  
553  
554  
555  
556  
557  
558  
559  
560  
561  
562  
563  
564  
565  
566  
567  
568  
569  
570  
571  
572  
573  
574  
575  
576  
577  
578  
579  
580  
581  
582  
583  
584  
585  
586  
587  
588  
589  
590  
591  
592  
593  
594  
595  
596  
597  
598  
599  
600  
601  
602  
603  
604  
605  
606  
607  
608  
609  
610  
611  
612  
613  
614  
615  
616  
617  
618  
619  
620  
621  
622  
623  
624  
625  
626  
627  
628  
629  
630  
631  
632  
633  
634  
635  
636  
637  
638  
639  
640  
641  
642  
643  
644  
645  
646  
647  
648  
649  
650  
651  
652  
653  
654  
655  
656  
657  
658  
659  
660  
661  
662  
663  
664  
665  
666  
667  
668  
669  
670  
671  
672  
673  
674  
675  
676  
677  
678  
679  
680  
681  
682  
683  
684  
685  
686  
687  
688  
689  
690  
691  
692  
693  
694  
695  
696  
697  
698  
699  
700  
701  
702  
703  
704  
705  
706  
707  
708  
709  
710  
711  
712  
713  
714  
715  
716  
717  
718  
719  
720  
721  
722  
723  
724  
725  
726  
727  
728  
729  
730  
731  
732  
733  
734  
735  
736  
737  
738  
739  
740  
741  
742  
743  
744  
745  
746  
747  
748  
749  
750  
751  
752  
753  
754  
755  
756  
757  
758  
759  
760  
761  
762  
763  
764  
765  
766  
767  
768  
769  
770  
771  
772  
773  
774  
775  
776  
777  
778  
779  
780  
781  
782  
783  
784  
785  
786  
787  
788  
789  
790  
791  
792  
793  
794  
795  
796  
797  
798  
799  
800  
801  
802  
803  
804  
805  
806  
807  
808  
809  
810  
811  
812  
813  
814  
815  
816  
817  
818  
819  
820  
821  
822  
823  
824  
825  
826  
827  
828  
829  
830  
831  
832  
833  
834  
835  
836  
837  
838  
839  
840  
841  
842  
843  
844  
845  
846  
847  
848  
849  
850  
851  
852  
853  
854  
855  
856  
857  
858  
859  
860  
861  
862  
863  
864  
865  
866  
867  
868  
869  
870  
871  
872  
873  
874  
875  
876  
877  
878  
879  
880  
881  
882  
883  
884  
885  
886  
887  
888  
889  
890  
891  
892  
893  
894  
895  
896  
897  
898  
899  
900  
901  
902  
903  
904  
905  
906  
907  
908  
909  
910  
911  
912  
913  
914  
915  
916  
917  
918  
919  
920  
921  
922  
923  
924  
925  
926  
927  
928  
929  
930  
931  
932  
933  
934  
935  
936  
937  
938  
939  
940  
941  
942  
943  
944  
945  
946  
947  
948  
949  
950  
951  
952  
953  
954  
955  
956  
957  
958  
959  
960  
961  
962  
963  
964  
965  
966  
967  
968  
969  
970  
971  
972  
973  
974  
975  
976  
977  
978  
979  
980  
981  
982  
983  
984  
985  
986  
987  
988  
989  
990  
991  
992  
993  
994  
995  
996  
997  
998  
999  
1000  
1001  
1002  
1003  
1004  
1005  
1006  
1007  
1008  
1009  
1010  
1011  
1012  
1013  
1014  
1015  
1016  
1017  
1018  
1019  
1020  
1021  
1022  
1023  
1024  
1025  
1026  
1027  
1028  
1029  
1030  
1031  
1032  
1033  
1034  
1035  
1036  
1037  
1038  
1039  
1040  
1041  
1042  
1043  
1044  
1045  
1046  
1047  
1048  
1049  
1050  
1051  
1052  
1053  
1054  
1055  
1056  
1057  
1058  
1059  
1060  
1061  
1062  
1063  
1064  
1065  
1066  
1067  
1068  
1069  
1070  
1071  
1072  
1073  
1074  
1075  
1076  
1077  
1078  
1079  
1080  
1081  
1082  
1083  
1084  
1085  
1086  
1087  
1088  
1089  
1090  
1091  
1092  
1093  
1094  
1095  
1096  
1097  
1098  
1099  
1100  
1101  
1102  
1103  
1104  
1105  
1106  
1107  
1108  
1109  
1110  
1111  
1112  
1113  
1114  
1115  
1116  
1117  
1118  
1119  
1120  
1121  
1122  
1123  
1124  
1125  
1126  
1127  
1128  
1129  
1130  
1131  
1132  
1133  
1134  
1135  
1136  
1137  
1138  
1139  
1140  
1141  
1142  
1143  
1144  
1145  
1146  
1147  
1148  
1149  
1150  
1151  
1152  
1153  
1154  
1155  
1156  
1157  
1158  
1159  
1160  
1161  
1162  
1163  
1164  
1165  
1166  
1167  
1168  
1169  
1170  
1171  
1172  
1173  
1174  
1175  
1176  
1177  
1178  
1179  
1180  
1181  
1182  
1183  
1184  
1185  
1186  
1187  
1188  
1189  
1190  
1191  
1192  
1193  
1194  
1195  
1196  
1197  
1198  
1199  
1200  
1201  
1202  
1203  
1204  
1205  
1206  
1207  
1208  
1209  
1210  
1211  
1212  
1213  
1214  
1215  
1216  
1217  
1218  
1219  
1220  
1221  
1222  
1223  
1224  
1225  
1226  
1227  
1228  
1229  
1230  
1231  
1232  
1233  
1234  
1235  
1236  
1237  
1238  
1239  
1240  
1241  
1242  
1243  
1244  
1245  
1246  
1247  
1248  
1249  
1250  
1251  
1252  
1253  
1254  
1255  
1256  
1257  
1258  
1259  
1260  
1261  
1262  
1263  
1264  
1265  
1266  
1267  
1268  
1269  
1270  
1271  
1272  
1273  
1274  
1275  
1276  
1277  
1278  
1279  
1280  
1281  
1282  
1283  
1284  
1285  
1286  
1287  
1288  
1289  
1290  
1291  
1292  
1293  
1294  
1295  
1296  
1297  
1298  
1299  
1300  
1301  
1302  
1303  
1304  
1305  
1306  
1307  
1308  
1309  
1310  
1311  
1312  
1313  
1314  
1315  
1316  
1317  
1318  
1319  
1320  
1321  
1322  
1323  
1324  
1325  
1326  
1327  
1328  
1329  
1330  
1331  
1332  
1333  
1334  
1335  
1336  
1337  
1338  
1339  
1340  
1341  
1342  
1343  
1344  
1345  
1346  
1347  
1348  
1349  
1350  
1351  
1352  
1353  
1354  
1355  
1356  
1357  
1358  
1359  
1360  
1361  
1362  
1363  
1364  
1365  
1366  
1367  
1368  
1369  
1370  
1371  
1372  
1373  
1374  
1375  
1376  
1377  
1378  
1379  
1380  
1381  
1382  
1383  
1384  
1385  
1386  
1387  
1388  
1389  
1390  
1391  
1392  
1393  
1394  
1395  
1396  
1397  
1398  
1399  
1400  
1401  
1402  
1403  
1404  
1405  
1406  
1407  
1408  
1409  
1410  
1411  
1412  
1413  
1414  
1415  
1416  
1417  
1418  
1419  
1420  
1421  
1422  
1423  
1424  
1425  
1426  
1427  
1428  
1429  
1430  
1431  
1432  
1433  
1434  
1435  
1436  
1437  
1438  
1439  
1440  
1441  
1442  
1443  
1444  
1445  
1446  
1447  
1448  
1449  
1450  
1451  
1452  
1453  
1454  
1455  
1456  
1457  
1458  
1459  
1460  
1461  
1462  
1463  
1464  
1465  
1466  
1467  
1468  
1469  
1470  
1471  
1472  
1473  
1474  
1475  
1476  
1477  
1478  
1479  
1480  
1481  
1482  
1483  
1484  
1485  
1486  
1487  
1488  
1489  
1490  
1491  
1492  
1493  
1494  
1495  
1496  
1497  
1498  
1499  
1500  
1501  
1502  
1503  
1504  
1505  
1506  
1507  
1508  
1509  
1510  
1511  
1512  
1513  
1514  
1515  
1516  
1517  
1518  
1519  
1520  
1521  
1522  
1523  
1524  
1525  
1526  
1527  
1528  
1529  
1530  
1531  
1532  
1533  
1534  
1535  
1536  
1537  
1538  
1539  
1540  
1541  
1542  
1543  
1544  
1545  
1546  
1547  
1548  
1549  
1550  
1551  
1552  
1553  
1554  
1555  
1556  
1557  
1558  
1559  
1560  
1561  
1562  
1563  
1564  
1565  
1566  
1567  
1568  
1569  
1570  
1571  
1572  
1573  
1574  
1575  
1576  
1577  
1578  
1579  
1580  
1581  
1582  
1583  
1584  
1585  
1586  
1587  
1588  
1589  
1590  
1591  
1592  
1593  
1594  
1595  
1596  
1597  
1598  
1599  
1600  
1601  
1602  
1603  
1604  
1605  
1606  
1607  
1608  
1609  
1610  
1611  
1612  
1613  
1614  
1615  
1616  
1617  
1618  
1619  
1620  
1621  
1622  
1623  
1624  
1625  
1626  
1627  
1628  
1629  
1630  
1631  
1632  
1633  
1634  
1635  
1636  
1637  
1638  
1639  
1640  
1641  
1642  
1643  
1644  
1645  
1646  
1647  
1648  
1649  
1650  
1651  
1652  
1653  
1654  
1655  
1656  
1657  
1658  
1659  
1660  
1661  
1662  
1663  
1664  
1665  
1666  
1667  
1668  
1669  
1670  
1671  
1672  
1673  
1674  
1675  
1676  
1677  
1678  
1679  
1680  
1681  
1682  
1683  
1684  
1685  
1686  
1687  
1688  
1689  
1690  
1691  
1692  
1693  
1694  
1695  
1696  
1697  
1698  
1699  
1700  
1701  
1702  
1703  
1704  
1705  
1706  
1707  
1708  
1709  
1710  
1711  
1712  
1713  
1714  
1715  
1716  
1717  
1718  
1719  
1720  
1721  
1722  
1723  
1724  
1725  
1726  
1727  
1728  
1729  
1730  
1731  
1732  
1733  
1734  
1735  
1736  
1737  
1738  
1739  
1740  
1741  
1742  
1743  
1744  
1745  
1746  
1747  
1748  
1749  
1750  
1751  
1752  
1753  
1754  
1755  
1756  
1757  
1758  
1759  
1760  
1761  
1762  
1763  
1764  
1765  
1766  
1767  
1768  
1769  
1770  
1771  
1772  
1773  
1774  
1775  
1776  
1777  
1778  
1779  
1780  
1781  
1782  
1783  
1784  
1785  
1786  
1787  
1788  
1789  
1790  
1791  
1792  
1793  
1794  
1795  
1796  
1797  
1798  
1799  
1800  
1801  
1802  
1803  
1804  
1805  
1806  
1807  
1808  
1809  
1810  
1811  
1812  
1813  
1814  
1815  
1816  
1817  
1818  
1819  
1820  
1821  
1822  
1823  
1824  
1825  
1826  
1827  
1828  
1829  
1830  
1831  
1832  
1833  
1834  
1835  
1836  
1837  
1838  
1839  
1840  
1841  
1842  
1843  
1844  
1845  
1846  
1847  
1848  
1849  
1850  
1851  
1852  
1853  
1854  
1855  
1856  
1857  
1858  
1859  
1860  
1861  
1862  
1863  
1864  
1865  
1866  
1867  
1868  
1869  
1870  
1871  
1872  
1873  
1874  
1875  
1876  
1877  
1878  
1879  
1880  
1881  
1882  
1883  
1884  
1885  
1886  
1887  
1888  
1889  
1890  
1891  
1892  
1893  
1894  
1895  
1896  
1897  
1898  
1899  
1900  
1901  
1902  
1903  
1904  
1905  
1906  
1907  
1908  
1909  
1910  
1911  
1912  
1913  
1914  
1915  
1916  
1917  
1918  
1919  
1920  
1921  
1922  
1923  
1924  
1925  
1926  
1927  
1928  
1929  
1930  
1931  
1932  
1933  
1934  
1935  
1936  
1937  
1938  
1939  
1940  
1941  
1942  
1943  
1944  
1945  
1946  
1947  
1948  
1949  
1950  
1951  
1952  
1953  
1954  
1955  
1956  
1957  
1958  
1959  
1960  
1961  
1962  
1963  
1964  
1965  
1966  
1967  
1968  
1969  
1970  
1971  
1972  
1973  
1974  
1975  
1976  
1977  
1978  
1979  
1980  
1981  
1982  
1983  
1984  
1985  
1986  
1987  
1988  
1989  
1990  
1991  
1992  
1993  
1994  
1995  
1996  
1997  
1998  
1999  
2000  
2001  
2002  
2003  
2004  
2005  
2006  
2007  
2008  
2009  
2010  
2011  
2012  
2013  
2014  
2015  
2016  
2017  
2018  
2019  
2020  
2021  
2022  
2023  
2024  
2025  
2026  
2027  
2028  
2029  
2030  
2031  
2032  
2033  
2034  
2035  
2036  
2037  
2038  
2039  
2040  
2041  
2042  
2043  
2044  
2045  
2046  
2047  
2048  
2049  
2050  
2051  
2052  
2053  
2054  
2055  
2056  
2057  
2058  
2059  
2060  
2061  
2062  
2063  
2064  
2065  
2066  
2067  
2068  
2069  
2070  
2071  
2072  
2073  
2074  
2075  
2076  
2077  
2078  
2079  
2080  
2081  
2082  
2083  
2084  
2085  
2086  
2087  
2088  
2089  
2090  
2091  
2092  
2093  
2094  
2095  
2096  
2097  
2098  
2099  
2100  
2101  
2102  
2103  
2104  
2105  
2106  
2107  
2108  
2109  
2110  
2111  
2112  
2113  
2114  
2115  
2116  
2117  
2118  
2119  
2120  
2121  
2122  
2123  
2124  
2125  
2126  
2127  
2128  
2129  
2130  
2131  
2132  
2133  
2134  
2135  
2136  
2137  
2138  
2139  
2140  
2141  
2142  
2143  
21

50994

SAC, San Francisco

September 1, 1959

Director, FBI

MELVIN M. BELLI

ATTORNEY

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

As you may be aware, Melvin M. Belli, a San Francisco trial attorney, introduced west coast mobster Mickey Cohen at a seminar on legal tactics during the American Bar Association convention recently concluded in Miami Beach, Florida. Cohen was introduced as "Professor O'Brien," an expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases. Belli and Cohen have regarded this incident as humorous, but, of course, this type of humor is in extremely poor taste.

Belli has an extremely questionable record, and your office should be alert for any violation of law by Belli coming to your attention.

1 - Mr. Belmont

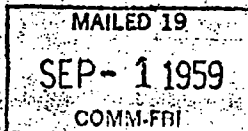
NOTE: See Jones to DeLoach memo dated 9-1-59 captioned as above.

HEH:sc

(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-17-80 BY SP2AP/EPm



53 SEP 11 1959

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

UNRECORDED COPY FILED

## 50995

18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206  
207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213  
214  
215  
216  
217  
218  
219  
220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260  
261  
262  
263  
264  
265  
266  
267  
268  
269  
270  
271  
272  
273  
274  
275  
276  
277  
278  
279  
280  
281  
282  
283  
284  
285  
286  
287  
288  
289  
290  
291  
292  
293  
294  
295  
296  
297  
298  
299  
300  
301  
302  
303  
304  
305  
306  
307  
308  
309  
310  
311  
312  
313  
314  
315  
316  
317  
318  
319  
320  
321  
322  
323  
324  
325  
326  
327  
328  
329  
330  
331  
332  
333  
334  
335  
336  
337  
338  
339  
340  
341  
342  
343  
344  
345  
346  
347  
348  
349  
350  
351  
352  
353  
354  
355  
356  
357  
358  
359  
360  
361  
362  
363  
364  
365  
366  
367  
368  
369  
370  
371  
372  
373  
374  
375  
376  
377  
378  
379  
380  
381  
382  
383  
384  
385  
386  
387  
388  
389  
390  
391  
392  
393  
394  
395  
396  
397  
398  
399  
400  
401  
402  
403  
404  
405  
406  
407  
408  
409  
410  
411  
412  
413  
414  
415  
416  
417  
418  
419  
420  
421  
422  
423  
424  
425  
426  
427  
428  
429  
430  
431  
432  
433  
434  
435  
436  
437  
438  
439  
440  
441  
442  
443  
444  
445  
446  
447  
448  
449  
450  
451  
452  
453  
454  
455  
456  
457  
458  
459  
460  
461  
462  
463  
464  
465  
466  
467  
468  
469  
470  
471  
472  
473  
474  
475  
476  
477  
478  
479  
480  
481  
482  
483  
484  
485  
486  
487  
488  
489  
490  
491  
492  
493  
494  
495  
496  
497  
498  
499  
500  
501  
502  
503  
504  
505  
506  
507  
508  
509  
510  
511  
512  
513  
514  
515  
516  
517  
518  
519  
520  
521  
522  
523  
524  
525  
526  
527  
528  
529  
530  
531  
532  
533  
534  
535  
536  
537  
538  
539  
540  
541  
542  
543  
544  
545  
546  
547  
548  
549  
550  
551  
552  
553  
554  
555  
556  
557  
558  
559  
560  
561  
562  
563  
564  
565  
566  
567  
568  
569  
570  
571  
572  
573  
574  
575  
576  
577  
578  
579  
580  
581  
582  
583  
584  
585  
586  
587  
588  
589  
590  
591  
592  
593  
594  
595  
596  
597  
598  
599  
600  
601  
602  
603  
604  
605  
606  
607  
608  
609  
610  
611  
612  
613  
614  
615  
616  
617  
618  
619  
620  
621  
622  
623  
624  
625  
626  
627  
628  
629  
630  
631  
632  
633  
634  
635  
636  
637  
638  
639  
640  
641  
642  
643  
644  
645  
646  
647  
648  
649  
650  
651  
652  
653  
654  
655  
656  
657  
658  
659  
660  
661  
662  
663  
664  
665  
666  
667  
668  
669  
670  
671  
672  
673  
674  
675  
676  
677  
678  
679  
680  
681  
682  
683  
684  
685  
686  
687  
688  
689  
690  
691  
692  
693  
694  
695  
696  
697  
698  
699  
700  
701  
702  
703  
704  
705  
706  
707  
708  
709  
710  
711  
712  
713  
714  
715  
716  
717  
718  
719  
720  
721  
722  
723  
724  
725  
726  
727  
728  
729  
730  
731  
732  
733  
734  
735  
736  
737  
738  
739  
740  
741  
742  
743  
744  
745  
746  
747  
748  
749  
750  
751  
752  
753  
754  
755  
756  
757  
758  
759  
760  
761  
762  
763  
764  
765  
766  
767  
768  
769  
770  
771  
772  
773  
774  
775  
776  
777  
778  
779  
780  
781  
782  
783  
784  
785  
786  
787  
788  
789  
790  
791  
792  
793  
794  
795  
796  
797  
798  
799  
800  
801  
802  
803  
804  
805  
806  
807  
808  
809  
810  
811  
812  
813  
814  
815  
816  
817  
818  
819  
820  
821  
822  
823  
824  
825  
826  
827  
828  
829  
830  
831  
832  
833  
834  
835  
836  
837  
838  
839  
840  
841  
842  
843  
844  
845  
846  
847  
848  
849  
850  
851  
852  
8

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

alone. I was a  
"If this Mr. B.  
no sense of  
Coke beca  
about the  
was in fact  
who had be  
summit  
He no  
barlor  
identical  
not from  
can't app  
declared  
of human  
became a  
year was  
in 1904  
home was  
criminal  
parab  
or an  
-4-  
G. Saver

MLA: HE  
TIPPIE: His  
saver his joke today.  
"Yeah, I gave him a  
pert advice. That man  
who force served a  
prison term for  
evason.  
He said he had  
because "and then  
vice I gave out last  
"This obviously  
to use the A-B  
promotion," a  
the bar association

I wish now to  
never even there  
quote me on that  
and "Never again  
Introduced by  
seminar at "Profs  
Cohen climbed  
stood behind the  
tern. He was  
winkle- of s  
"I prob  
room ear  
you guy  
introduce

The twenty-five  
law suits were  
settled.

said nothing, not even travel expenses. He said Cohen had made the trip as a favor in return for Mr. Bell's handling the picture.

Some 600 lawyers paid \$10 to attend the seminar. Mr. Belli told a reporter today. When he gets

[illegible]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Malone

DATE: 3/9/60

FROM : H. L. Edwards

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
ATTORNEY  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

By memorandum dated 3/9/60 Edwards to Mr. Malone, I set forth information re the American Bar Association's (ABA) plans to oust Belli from the ABA because of his many cheap unethical practices. A review of Bufiles was made as a result of an article in "The New York Times" of 8-25-59 which indicated that Attorney Melvin M. Belli, a San Francisco trial lawyer, introduced West Coast mobster Mickey Cohen at a seminar on legal tactics during the annual ABA meeting at Miami Beach. Cohen was introduced as "Professor O'Brien," expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases. Of course, Belli's seminar had no connection with the ABA and the ABA protested his cheap trick which led the public to think otherwise. The Director noted, "What do we know re Belli?"

The current Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a Melvin M. Belli, born 1907, admitted to the Bar 1933. He is associated with the law firm of Belli, Ashe and Gerry, 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California.

Enclosure

1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent direct)  
1 - Mr. Belmont (sent direct)

105-49865

KWW:jss (5)

SECRET

Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED COPY FILED

REC-8

105-49865-9

12 MAR 13 1960

Memorandum to Mr. Mohr  
Re: Melvin M. Belli  
105-49865

~~SECRET~~

The San Francisco Office was alerted by letter dated 9-1-59 in accordance with the Director's instructions but to date they have not reported any additional information. In view of the contemplated action of the ABA is felt that the San Francisco Office should review its files and public source material for any additional information re Belli. Upon receipt of same, further consideration will be given and appropriate recommendations will be made.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the attached letter of instructions be sent to the San Francisco Office.

HLE

SPM

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*[Handwritten initials]*

~~SECRET~~



SAC, San Francisco

3/14/60

REC-8

EX-130

Director, FBI

105-49865-9

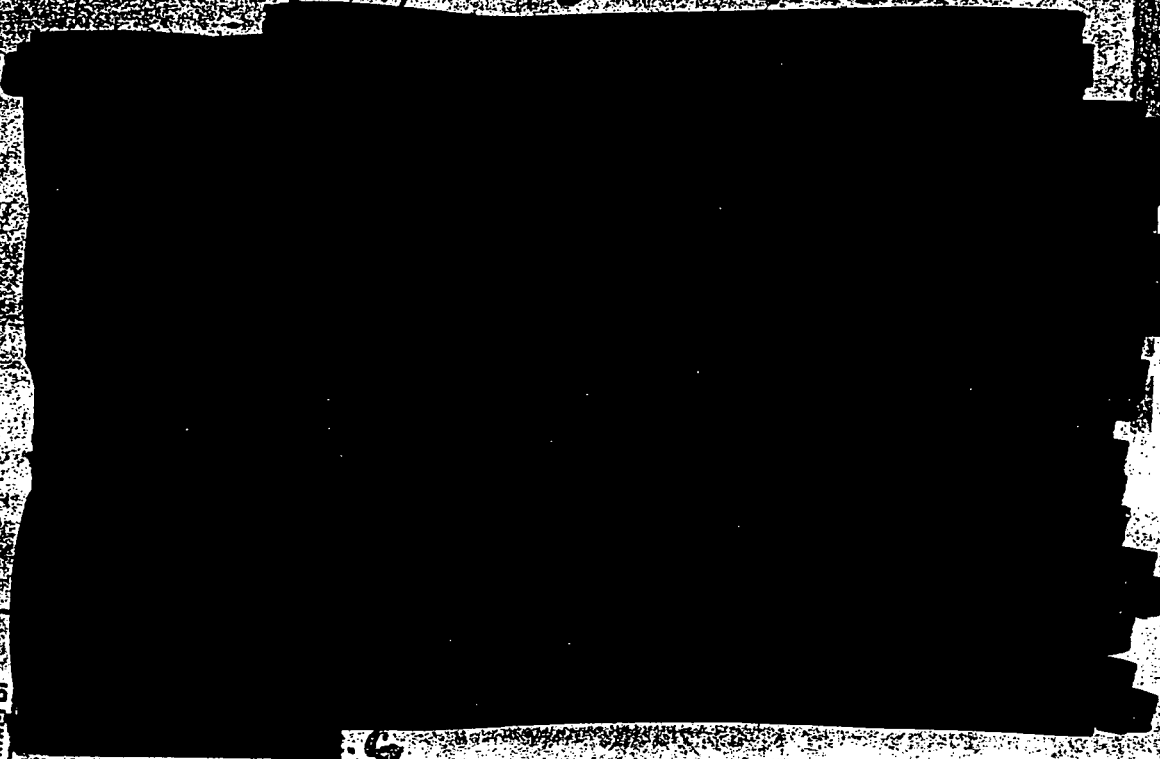
MELVIN M. BELLI

ATTORNEY

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Rebulet 9/1/59.

was sitting with CUB



MAILED  
MAR 14 1960  
COMM-FBI

You are instructed to review your files and other pertinent public source material re above-captioned individual and submit any available data to Bureau by 3/21/60. Insure that any information furnished is precisely identified as public source or otherwise, and where it is public source, furnish complete citation.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent direct)
- 1 - Mr. Belmont (sent direct)

CLASS 6-17-80  
REASON FOR BY SP2TAP/C  
DATE OF REVIEW 3-14-70

Based on Malone to Mr. Mohr memo, 3/7/60 Re: Melvin M. Belli, Attorney, San Francisco, California. KWW:jss.

KWW:jss

HLER

7M  
SX

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 3/18/60

FROM : SAC, San Francisco (105-4626)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
ATTORNEY  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

ReBulet 3/14/60.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Malone	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

Enclosed, herewith, are the original and three copies of blind memorandum re BELLI.

As set forth in letter to the Bureau from San Francisco Office dated 3/21/47 captioned "SS E. A. BRYAN, SS QUINAULT VICTOR PORT CHICAGO CASES, ADMIRALTY MATTER," with reference to BELLI charging Bureau Agents with harrassing his clients, it will be noted in that regard, after being interviewed in this matter by Agents of this office and learning that Agents were not investigating him, he stated that he, BELLI, would withdraw his objections. It was during that interview of BELLI as set forth in that letter dated 3/21/47 that BELLI mentioned that he had received information that he was being investigated by a private investigator who was in the employ of the Maryland Casualty Insurance Company in connection with BELLI's ethics in handling a suit for a client against the Maryland Casualty Insurance Company. As file information does not reflect that it was substantiated, this matter is not being set forth in blind memo.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(2) Bureau (Encl.-4)  
1 San Francisco  
JBD:ekk  
(3)

REC-53

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TAP/CEW  
REASON - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 6-17-90

50 APR 5 1960

ENCLOSURE

105-49865-10

*CONSULTING with CIA*

0  
1  
2  
3  
4 The newspaper items mentioned in the memorandum were obtained  
5 through the library of the "San Francisco Examiner," a newspaper  
6 published at San Francisco. The items were clippings filed in  
7 envelopes; where the clipping was from the "San Francisco Examiner,"  
8 it only bore a date stamp of the date of issue from which clipped.  
9 where the item had been clipped from another newspaper, it had been  
10 stamped with the name of the newspaper and the date of issue only.

11  
12 Information with reference to the articles from "Life,"  
13 "Time" and the "Saturday Evening Post," national magazines, were  
14 secured from the San Francisco City Library.  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62



March 18, 1960

MRS Melvin M. Belli  
Attorney  
San Francisco, California

Joey Belli (NEC) TURNER

Joy Belli

The 1959 San Francisco City Directory reflects that Melvin M. (Joy T.) Belli resides at 1228 Montgomery, Apartment 8.

The 1953 San Francisco City Directory listed Belli as a lawyer with office at 240 Stockton Street and his wife was listed as Joy T. Belli and his residence was given as 1228 Montgomery, Apartment 8. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

The current (September, 1959) San Francisco Telephone Directory lists Melvin M. Belli of the law firm of Belli, Ashe and Gerry as having offices at 722 Montgomery Street, San Francisco.

The 1960 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists Melvin M. Belli, attorney, San Francisco, California, born 1907, admitted to Bar 1933, member of the American Bar Association and having graduated from the University of California with B.A. and LL.B. degrees.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper, a newspaper published daily at San Francisco, issue of May 4, 1956, revealed Melvin Belli, attorney and writer, married on May 3, 1956, a former air-line hostess, Joey Turner, in San Francisco. Melvin Belli, according to the article, formerly was married to Betty Ballantine and divorced in 1951, having four children. He married Toni Nichols, a former stenographer, and they were divorced in March, 1955. Belli

The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of May 1, 1959, had an item with reference to separate maintenance suits filed by Joy Belli against Melvin Belli and Melvin Belli against his wife, Joy Belli.

The "San Francisco Examiner" had a copy of a press release in its files dated January 9, 1959, at San Francisco issued by "Belli Seminar Foundation, 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California," for release January 12, 1959. According to the release, as part of a nation-wide series that has been widely acclaimed, the San Francisco Lawyers Club would sponsor a Belli Seminar Foundation lecture by internationally famed

CC TO: Chicago Division

REC 4-13-62

AMS

EX 105-49865-10

ENCLOSURE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

San Francisco attorney Melvin M. Belli on January 17th at the St. Francis Hotel (San Francisco). The release stated Mr. Belli would discuss trial and substantive law, criminal and civil law, trial and tort trends, procedures, voir dire, and opening statements through final argument and appeal. According to the release, Belli would also discuss modern damages, medical problems and would show autopsy film. The release described "The Belli Seminar Foundation" as a charitable organization for the perpetuity of postgraduate legal education lectures and that Belli lectures were free to law students and medical students, doctors, judges, and professors. The release states further as follows:

"Belli, called 'The King of Torts,' was recently elected chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Academy of Trial lawyers at a meeting held at Coronado. He is past Dean of that organization and past President of the National Association of Claimants Compensation Attorneys.

"Particularly noted for being a pioneer in the use of demonstrative evidence, Belli is equally regarded as an author of numerous books, which includes 'Modern Trials,' 'Ready for the Plaintiff,' 'Modern Damages,' 'The Adequate Award' and 'Trial and Tort Trends.' His latest book, 'Life and Law in Japan,' deals with the Girard case which developed international legal and political interests."

"Time" magazine (published by Time, Inc., 540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois) issue of January 26, 1959, page 23, has an article about Melvin M. Belli under the caption "The Law" and subtitled "Plaintiff's Counsel." The article described Belli as a recognized, if not the revered, leader in the phenomenal field of U. S. law - personal injury. It is set forth that Belli's most noteworthy contribution to tort trials is the use of "demonstrative evidence." It set forth that Belli would take his skeleton named "Elmer" into the court room and show the jury by expert's testimony exactly where the plaintiff broke a bone. A photograph of Belli with the skeleton appeared with the article.

The "Time" article mentioned some of Belli's cases. Among those included were one for victims of the defective polio vaccine distributed by California Cutter Laboratories in 1955 and one for relatives of victims of the nation's worst air crash - the collision of two airplanes over Grand Canyon on June 30, 1956. It also mentioned that Belli had pending in Louisiana a case against two cigarette manufacturers and that it had been filed on behalf of a woman whose husband died of lung cancer. The last subheading of the article is captioned

1 "Shyster or Savant." The article mentioned under this heading,  
2 that most legal observers agree that for many years personal  
3 injuries were not adequately compensated in the courts. Many  
4 of these same observers now believe that Belli has led the  
5 trend too far in the opposite direction and, moreover, they  
6 shrink from Belli's techniques. The article quoted Belli as  
7 stating, "I am regarded as either shyster or savant. There  
8 is no middle road for me."

9 Belli was described in the "Time" article as fifty-one years  
10 of age, thrice married, twice divorced.

11 The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of April 1, 1959, had  
12 an item listing Melvin Belli as representing Mae West in a  
13 \$50,000 suit against a local night club (San Francisco) performer  
14 who billed herself as "the one and only 'Diamond Lil'."

15 The "Saturday Evening Post" (published by the Curtis Publishing  
16 Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) issue of April 11,  
17 1959, contains an article captioned "Medicine's Legal Nightmare"  
18 by Milton Silverman, beginning on Page 13. In the first part of  
19 that article is set forth information about Melvin M. Belli,  
20 year-old San Francisco attorney, nationally known for his suit  
21 against doctors for medical malpractice.

22 b7C [REDACTED] Las Vegas, Nevada  
23 b7D stated on April 23, 1959, that Mickey Cohen and two other  
24 individuals arrived in Las Vegas on April 23, 1959, from Los  
25 Angeles, California, by automobile. He stated that they were  
26 accompanied by an individual giving the name of "Mel" Belli,  
27 an attorney from San Francisco. They appeared at the Clark  
28 County Sheriff's Office where Cohen was required to register  
29 as an ex-felon. Mr. Belli stated at that time Cohen was in Las  
30 Vegas transacting some legal business and also to discuss a  
31 golf tournament to be held at Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn hotel  
32 golf course.

33 The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of April 28, 1959, sets  
34 forth, under the caption "Belli Plans Plea for Stripper in  
35 Dope Case," information that San Francisco attorney Melvin  
36 Belli announced yesterday he would champion the cause of Las  
37 Vegas stripper Candy Barr, a comely girl friend of gambler  
38 Mickey Cohen, convicted of possession of marijuana. The item  
39 stated that Belli, reached by telephone in Las Vegas, said,  
40 "This is a gross miscarriage of justice. I have definitely  
41 taken up her case and we're going to the U. S. Supreme Court  
42 with it."

1 The article stated that Cohen said he made the arrangements  
2 for Belli to defend Miss Barr. Cohen was quoted, "I made con-  
3 nections for Candy. I am not paying the bill. But I okayed  
4 the credit on it. She'll pay him when she's able."

5 According to the article, Belli insisted, "This has nothing  
6 to do with Cohen. I agreed to take her case after talking  
7 with her Friday and Saturday." The news item further set forth  
8 that Belli said, "She is caught right in the middle of a  
9 political deal. She doesn't use narcotics or sell it and she  
10 was deliberately framed by narcotics agents." According to  
11 a news article, a jury in Dallas, Texas, convicted Miss Barr  
12 of possession of marijuana last-year. Her fifteen-year prison  
13 sentence was upheld in January by the Texas Court of Criminal  
14 Appeals.

15 The "San Francisco Chronicle," a daily newspaper published  
16 at San Francisco, issue of July 6, 1959, captioned "Belli  
17 Asked Limit for Lawyers Fees." It stated that Melvin Belli,  
18 San Francisco attorney, had recommended to Governor Edmund  
19 G. Brown (Governor of California) for regulation of lawyers'  
20 fees in personal injury cases rather than creation of a  
21 California Automobile Accident Commission. Belli, a specialist  
22 in personal injury cases, was quoted, "Lawyers charge too much.  
23 Fees in personal injury cases such as automobile accidents  
24 should not go over forty per cent. I charge one-third. Some  
25 charge as much as fifty per cent."

26 "San Francisco Examiner" issue of August 24, 1959, contained  
27 an article captioned "Mickey Slated for Belli Seminar." The  
28 article is dated Miami, August 23rd, and stated that Mickey  
29 Cohen arrived in Miami on August 23rd and, after questioning by  
30 Miami detectives, he was permitted to go to a Miami Beach hotel  
31 where he was scheduled to address a trial seminar. The seminar  
32 was to be put on by attorney Melvin Belli, San Francisco trial  
33 lawyer, who defended Cohen last week on a charge of assaulting  
34 the chief of the Federal Narcotics Bureau in Los Angeles. The  
35 news item stated the seminar held in conjunction with the  
36 University of Miami Law School attracted attorneys  
37 across the nation. A seminar spokesman said the meeting was  
38 not connected with the giant American Bar Association convention  
39 starting there on Monday.

40 In the "San Francisco Examiner" issue of August 25, 1959,  
41 it was set forth in an article that Melvin Belli, top trial  
42 lawyer from San Francisco, had introduced Mickey Cohen as  
43 Professor O'Brien at the American Bar Association convention  
44 in Miami Beach. The article stated that Cohen, as Profes-  
45 sor O'Brien, lectured to the unsuspecting lawyers as a  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62

0  
1 "professor" on income tax. The article stated the Association  
2 did not think it was funny and an Association spokesman said  
3 that it was obviously an attempt to use the American Bar Association  
4 for a private promotion, according to the news item. The  
5 news article quoted Belli as follows: "If they can't appreciate  
6 that part of the program, then the whole Bar Association has  
7 lost its sense of humor." Belli was further quoted that he  
8 was sorry Cohen had appeared before the convention.

9 The "San Francisco Examiner" on August 25, 1957, had an  
10 article captioned "Belli Sees Fair Trial for Girard." The item  
11 had a dateline of Tokyo, August 24th, and by-line of "By Melv  
12 Belli, Special to the Examiner." The article was about the  
13 trial of the people of Japan against Specialist, Third Class,  
14 William S. Girard.

15 The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of August 26, 1957, had  
16 an article by Belli with reference to the Girard trial. This  
17 item has a dateline of Maebashi, Japan, August 26th.

18 Also, the "San Francisco Examiner" of September 10, 1957,  
19 had an article by Belli datelined Tokyo, September 9th, with  
20 reference to Japan's civil suit customs.

21 The "San Francisco Examiner" issues of October 20, 21, 22,  
22 27, 23 and 29, 1959, contained items mentioning Melvin Belli  
23 as attorney for Beverly Adland, teen-aged protege of the late  
24 Errol Flynn, movie actor who died at Vancouver, British Columbia,  
25 in October, 1959.

26 The "San Francisco Examiner" of November 17, 1957, had an  
27 article that a Yuba City (California) peach farmer bequeathed  
28 a \$300,000 estate to three San Francisco lawyers with a provision  
29 that it be used to "educate people in the process of democracy."  
30 The article set forth that the estate was bequeathed to attorneys  
31 George Andersen, Norman Leonard and Richard Gladstein who had  
32 often defended members of the Communist Party. According to the  
33 article, attorney Melvin Belli declared he would contest the will  
34 on behalf of the dead man's widow, son and daughter.

35 The "San Francisco Examiner" of December 8, 1957, datelined  
36 Marysville (California) contained an article that attorney  
37 Melvin Belli had filed action for the son and daughter of a  
38 person by the name of Long. The news item set forth that according  
39 to the action Andersen induced the father "through fraud and  
40 under influence" to will all but \$13,500 of the estate to Andersen  
41 and his law partners, Norman Leonard and Richard Gladstein.

1 The "San Francisco Chronicle" issue of October 9, 1956,  
2 had an item that attorney Melvin M. Belli was charged in the  
3 Municipal Court (San Francisco) with failing to pay \$176.00  
4 in overtime wages to two secretaries. The "San Francisco  
5 Chronicle" of October 20, 1956, had an article on the same  
6 matter. This article stated that a couple of former secretaries  
7 had hauled Melvin Belli into court on charges he failed to  
8 pay their overtime for the last two weeks they worked for him.  
9 The charge was described as a misdemeanor.

10 San Francisco, California, Police Department arrest records  
11 cards Nos. A28055 and A28056 reflect that Melvin Belli of  
12 1228 Montgomery Street was arrested on the morning of September  
13 19, 1956, on warrants issued on complaints of two individuals  
14 charging violation of 216(a) of the Labor Code. He was re-  
15 leased immediately on \$100.00 bond in each of the two cases.  
16 The records of Municipal Court, Department No. 11, San Francisco,  
17 reflects that Belli was acquitted of these charges in each case  
18 for violation of 216(a) of the Labor Code on December 12, 1956.  
19 The action numbers in the Municipal Court are 9327 and 9329.

20 The "San Francisco Chronicle" issue of March 15, 1955, has  
21 an item captioned "Belli Joins Battle to Save Chessman's New  
22 Manuscript." The article read that attorney Melvin Belli  
23 catapulted himself into the Caryl Chessman case yesterday with  
24 charges that confiscation of the condemned convict-author's  
25 latest book is an attempt at thought control worse than the  
26 treatment of prisoners in the Dark Ages. The article stated  
27 that Belli, well-known trial lawyer had offered his services  
28 without fee to Chessman's Sacramento (California) counsel,  
29 Rosalie Asher, who accepted his association in the case. It  
30 was further set forth that attorney Asher was scheduled to  
31 appear before Judge Michael J. Roche of the Federal District  
32 Court at San Francisco to argue an injunction to prevent the  
33 destruction of Chessman's newest manuscript. It further  
34 mentioned that this was another phase of Chessman's six-year  
35 battle to escape San Quentin's gas chamber.

36 "San Francisco Examiner" of May 10, 1955, in an item  
37 captioned "Chessman's Book Suit" set forth that attorney  
38 Melvin Belli, on behalf of Miss Asher, had filed suit in  
39 Marin County (California) Superior Court, asking the court  
40 to order Warden Harley O. Teets, Director of Correction  
41 (California) Richard McGee and others to release Chessman's  
42 latest book, "Trial and Ordeal," to attorney Asher.

1 "Life" magazine (published by Time, Inc., 540 North Michigan  
2 Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois) in an issue of October 18, 1954  
3 beginning on Page 71, contains an article by Robert Wallace  
4 captioned "The King of Torts." The subheading reads "Melvin  
5 Belli's court room props and his pyrotechnical oratory have  
6 reaped big awards for his clients and himself while revolutionizing  
7 the practice of personal injury law."

8 On March 9, 1951, the name of Melvin Belli, San  
9 Francisco, appeared along with other names on the letterhead  
10 of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P.O. Box 2225,  
11 San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argyle, Los Angeles 28, which  
12 appealed to members of the Bar to oppose California Senate  
13 Bill SB 1666, which would impose upon every member of the Cal  
14 fornia Bar and every candidate for admission the Requirement  
15 that a test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing  
16 law.

17 The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of September 2,  
18 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist  
19 trial."

20 "San Francisco, Sept. 21

21 *CANE*  
22 "A group of prominent Bay Area residents, headed  
23 by Attorney Vincent Mallinan, protested the prosecution  
24 of the 12 Communist leaders to Alben Barkley during  
25 the vice president's visit here.....

26 "The group wrote Barkley that they wanted to see  
27 him 'for the purpose of protesting the actions of the  
28 United States government in prosecuting persons for the  
29 expressions of opinions.

30 "'We refer particularly to the prosecution of the  
31 Communist leaders in New York, and consider the action  
32 against them the sad reflection upon the level to which  
33 our American concepts of free speech have declined.

34 "'We desire to solicit your aid to combat procedures  
35 under which an existing system can employ the coercive  
36 forces of the government to preserve itself from criticism  
37 or change.'

38 "Members of the group which also sent a strongly  
39 worded protest against the trial to Attorney General J.  
40 Howard McGrath, included in addition to Mallinan:  
41 Mervin Belli, attorney;.....

42 The "Peoples World, formerly the "Daily People's World",  
43 is a West Coast Communist newspaper.



0  
1 The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the  
2 Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order  
3 10450.

4 The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of November 6,  
5 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4, contained an article entitled:  
6 "Bay Area Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7."

7 "San Francisco, Nov. 5

8  
9 "Prominent Northern Californians are sending greet-  
10 ings to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7, the  
11 Russians' Independence Day, in support of the Red Army's  
12 struggle against Nazi Germany, today announced the Russian  
13 American Society to Aid USSR and Great Britain to Defeat  
14 Hitler Fascism.

15  
16 "Religious leaders, city officials, educators,  
17 liberals and progressives were circulated with the follow-  
18 ing message:

19  
20 "'We Americans admire your courage and determination  
21 in your fight against Hitlerism.

22  
23 "'On November 7, your Independence Day, we wish to  
24 convey to you our message of greetings and deep conviction  
25 that your heroic struggle will end in final victory over  
26 the dark forces of fascism."

27  
28 Signing the message of greetings, with modifications in  
29 some instances, were: ".....Melvin M. Belli, attorney...."

30  
31 The Russian American Society, Inc., has been designated by  
32 the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive  
33 Order 10450.

34  
35 The "San Francisco Chronicle" issue of October 9, 1939,  
36 contained an article captioned "Belli named to U. S. Bar Rights  
37 Committee." In this article it is set forth that Melvin Belli,  
38 San Francisco attorney, had been appointed to the Committee on  
39 the Bill of Rights of the Junior Bar Conference of the American  
40 Bar Association. The Committee, according to the article,  
41 would concern itself with a comparative survey of the Bill  
42 of Rights as appears in the basic law of the states.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Malone

DATE: 8/9/60

FROM : H. L. Edwards

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
SAN FRANCISCO

[REDACTED] of the Training Section received in the mail a circular indicating that Melvin M. Belli of San Francisco is scheduling the 10th Annual Belli Seminar at Washington, D. C., Sunday, August 28, 1960, from 8:30 a. m. to 11:00 p. m. at the Presidential Arms. This is the day before the opening of the American Bar Association's 83rd Annual Meeting. A copy of this circular is attached and indicates that this seminar will emphasize medical specialties not heretofore discussed at prior forensic medicine and medico-legal seminars. On the law side, the seminar will consider the various agencies and courts and specialized practices that every lawyer should know about.

[REDACTED] Belli is, of course, well known as being a notorious publicity seeker. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It will be recalled that at the Annual ABA Meeting, 1959, at Miami Beach, Belli embarrassed the ABA by bringing Mickey Cohen and setting up a seminar to run concurrently with the ABA Meeting and some of the newspapers erroneously reported that Belli was a part of the ABA Convention. Of course the ABA promptly indicated he had no connection whatsoever.

[REDACTED] has told me in the past that he has been trying in every way possible to "make a case" which would justify ousting Belli from the ABA for unethical practices although Belli is apparently smart enough to stay within the ethical rules.

On 8/4/60 while spending some time in Washington with [REDACTED] I informed him of the proposed Belli Seminar. This was complete news to [REDACTED] but he was very anxious to get it because he said he will now alert the Public Relations Staff at the ABA Center so that when they have their preliminary briefing of the press prior to the forthcoming Annual Meeting, they will be able to clarify in advance the fact that Belli has no connection in his seminar with the ABA Meeting.

ACTION:

EX 109

REC-68

Information.

15 AUG 11 1960

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

HLE:ejw

62 AUG 23 1960

DATE 6-17-80

FBI - San Francisco

TWO

PERFECT

LAW OFFICES

# Belli, Ashe and Gerry

SAN FRANCISCO 11 - YUKON 1-1849  
The Belli Building - 722 MONTGOMERY STREET

MELVIN M. BELLI  
LOU ASHE  
RICHARD F. GERRY

ROME, ITALY, TOKYO, JAPAN

CABLE "BELEA"

LOS ANGELES (BEVERLY HILLS) BRADSHAW 2-9924  
CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK BUILDING  
CRESCENT DRIVE AND WILSHIRE BLVD  
BELLI, STRONG, ASHE AND GERRY

MELVIN M. BELLI  
WILLIAM STRONG  
LOU ASHE  
RICHARD F. GERRY  
JOHN W. OLSON  
DANNY R. JONES  
OF COUNSEL  
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK  
WILLIAM STRONG  
290 MADISON AVENUE

San Francisco, May 15, 1960

## TENTH ANNUAL BELLI SEMINAR "A Decade of Trial and Tort Trends"

San Francisco, Friday, July 22, 1960  
Washington, D.C., Sunday, August 28, 1960

8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Dear Friends:

I am writing this letter to the NACCA members in and around the District of Columbia where the second part of the Belli Seminar will be held, Sunday, August 28, 1960, 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Presidential Arms.

We want your cooperation to put on a particularly good Seminar. It's the day before the American Bar Convention.

The San Francisco Seminar will emphasize ten years of trends in the Common Law with emphasis on the leading cases over the ten year period. The speakers will attempt to prognose future trends.

On the other hand, the Washington, D.C. Seminar will emphasize medical specialties not heretofore discussed at prior forensic medicine and "medico-legal" Seminars. On the law side at Washington we shall consider the various federal agencies and courts and specialized practices that the lawyer should know about, but few do.

Of course, I hope you will attend and we hope you will submit a paper or question both for the San Francisco as well as the Washington Seminar.

Dr. Paul Cantor is the Medical Chairman of the Washington Seminar, and J. Kelly Farris of Portland, Oregon with James L. O'Dea of my office, the Legal Chairmen.

All good wishes

MELVIN M. BELLI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-17-80 BY SP-7AG/ESM

MMB:15

OSURE

FBI

Date: 9/2/60

Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Malone  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. W.C. Sullivan  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Ingram  
Miss Gandy

(Type in plain text or code)

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO (105-18134)

MELVIN M. BELLI

SF BU  
(OO-SF)

105-49865

Bravely

ReSFlet 7/10/56, instant caption, enclosing a letter head memo setting forth background information pertaining to captioned subject.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Above for info.

EX 109 REC-31

105-49865-12

③ - Bureau

1 - San Francisco (105-4626) (Info) (RM)

1 - WFO

13 SEP 7 1960

IDL:maf

(5)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TAP/Em  
REASON FOR EXT. 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 9-2-80

AIRTEL

G.C. Wick

51

Approved

Sent

M

Per

Chief Clerk

9/19/60

SAC, San Francisco (105-4626)

9/7/60

Director, FBI (105-49865) - 12

EX 109 REC-31  
MELVIN M. BELLI  
IS - BU

(Room 524)

ReWFOairtel 9/2/60.

SE should submit a letterhead memo suitable for dissemination, classified Confidential, setting forth pertinent information contained in reairtel, together with sufficient background information identifying subject.

Both SF and WFO should be on the alert for additional information from established sources indicating subject has actually left the US for Bulgaria. If such information is obtained, it should be furnished in a form suitable for dissemination also.

2 - WFO (105-18134)

JJM:prg  
(2)

Note: Subject is a member of the American Bar Association (ABA) and a notorious publicity seeker. During the Annual ABA Meeting in 1959 at Miami Beach, subject embarrassed the APA by bringing Mickey Cohen and setting up a seminar to run concurrently with the ABA Meeting. During recent ABA Meetings in WDC, we received a circular indicating subject had scheduled the 10th Annual Belli Seminar at WDC for Sunday, 8/28/60 at the Presidential Arms. This was reported in a memo from Mr. H. L. Edwards to Mr. Malone dated 8/9/60.

MAILED 27

SEP 7 1960

COMM-FBI

52 SEP 9 1960



&#39;

&#39;

92

&#39;

FBI

Date: 9/29/60

PLAIN TEXT @WA 38-51

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Transmit the following in

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL - REGISTERED

(Type in plain text or code)

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-49865)

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (105-4626)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI

Re BU 0-1 9/26/60, ReBulet to San Francisco 9/7/60  
and WFO Airbel to Bureau 9/2/60.

SFO by letter to Bureau 3/18/60 submitted a letterhead memo containing background information of MELVIN M. BELLI. Enclosed letterhead memo is a supplemental letterhead memo containing information since that date.

Source mentioned in letterhead memo is WF 1193-S\*, who furnished information on 9/1/60.

LEADS THE SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE  
At San Francisco, California

3 - Bureau (Encls. 5) (AM REG)

2 - SF  
SFE/ls  
(6)

Sent

M-Per Per

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
422 Federal Office Building  
Civic Center  
San Francisco, California

September 29, 1960

RE: MELVIN M. BELLI

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

The September 1960 San Francisco Telephone Directory reflects MELVIN M. BELLI, BELLI, ASHE and GERRY, 722 Montgomery Street, telephone YUKON 1-1849, residence 1228 Montgomery Street, telephone YUKON 2-2146.

CAC/F  
The 1959 San Francisco City Directory reflects MELVIN M. (JOY T. BELLI, ASHE, MC BRIDE and GERRY) resides at 1228 Montgomery Apartment 8, San Francisco. Lists BELLI, ASHE, MC BRIDE and GERRY (MELVIN M. BELLI, JACK G. MC BRIDE, RICHARD F. GERRY) lawyers with offices at 240 Stockton Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco. CAC/F

The 1960 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists MELVIN M. BELLI, attorney, San Francisco, California, born 1907, admitted to the Bar 1933, member of the American Bar Association and having graduated from the University of California with a B.A. and LL.B. Degree. The directory also lists BELLI, ASHE and GERRY, Federal Building, San Francisco.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COPIES DESTROYED

9 25 AUG 9 1972

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP ON 6-26-88 gub

b7D

6-17-83

10/10/60

29-28

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The September 25, 1960 issue of the "San Francisco Examiner," Page 2, Highlight Section, Column 3, reveals that a new book published by Bobbs-Merrill is called "Belli Looks at Life and Law in Japan." The article continued: "Characteristically, it has a preface by Toshio Irie, Justice of the Supreme Court of Japan, and a foreward by the late Errol Flynn."

The August 4, 1960 issue of the "San Francisco Examiner," Page 1, Section III, Column 1, reveals that Barrister MEL BELLI will travel to Russia in December 1960 to gather background for his upcoming "Life and Law in Russia."

The July 23, 1960 issue of the "San Francisco Examiner," Page 6, Column 1, reflected that several hundred of the Nation's leading tort lawyers, mainly in the field of personal injury, attended attorney MELVIN M. BELLI's 12 hour 10th Annual Torts Seminar at the Fairmont Hotel on July 22, 1960. The article continued "BELLI's surprise guest at his last seminar was gangland figure MICKEY COHEN, who was billed as a tax problems professor. This time it was the school teacher stripper, PATTI WHITE, who is appearing in a North Beach bistro."

The July 20, 1960 issue of the "San Francisco Chronicle," Page 32, Column 1, reveals that the Tenth Annual Belli Seminar on Law, medicine and trial tactics will be held at the Fairmont Hotel Friday preceding the National Association of Claimants' Compensation Attorneys Convention.

The May 5, 1960 issue of the "San Francisco Examiner," Page 2, Column 8, reflected that BEVERLY AADLAND, 17 year old playmate of the late Errol Flynn requested the court to continue as her counsel MELVIN BELLI.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-49865)

DATE: 11/9/60

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (105-4626)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
IS-BU

Re San Francisco airtel to Bureau dated 9/29/60.

The translation of the article from "Novaya Zarya" Russian language newspaper published in San Francisco was performed by Translator [REDACTED] San Francisco Office.

LEADTHE SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE:AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA:

2 - Bureau (Encls. 5) (REG)  
1 - San Francisco (Encls. 1) (REG)  
SJE:mw  
(3)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TAP/ELM  
REASON FOR EXT. 1.2.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 11-9-80

REC-91

10 NOV 15 1960

5 ENCLOSURE

AGENCY State, Civ  
REQ. REC'D  
DATE FORW. 11-21-60  
HOW FORW. 11-14-60  
BY GJ/KJH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

62 NOV 22 1960

UNRECORDED COPY AND COPIES ENCL. FILED IN 1





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No.

November 9, 1960

RE: MELVIN M. BELLI

61  
b7C [REDACTED]

61  
b7C [REDACTED]

61  
b7C [REDACTED]

The April 18, 1958, issue of the San Francisco News, page 1, columns 3, 4, 5, and 6, contains an article entitled "BUFANO 'Peace' Out in Cold Again", in which BENIAMINO BUFANO attempted to dedicate his 37 foot statue, called "Peace" at the San Francisco Airport. Article stated: "Among those invited: Secy. of State DULLES, Governor KNIGHT, Mayor CHRISTOPHER, *BENIAMINO BUFANO*." "But, it turned out, the governor would not show for the unveiling at the airport tomorrow if the mayor did."

"DULLES, who is running the State Dept., would not show if BUFANO did; for BUFANO is identified with peace movements unfriendly to the department."

The December 21, 1957, issue of the San Francisco Examiner, page 2, column 6, 7, 8, contains an article entitled "BUFANO Reports Bulganin Full of Red Tinted Peace Dreams" in which Sculptor BENNY BUFANO describes his adventures in Soviet Russia, including a two hour session with Premier NIKOLAI BULGANIN in which they discussed, "from Sputnik I and II, nuclear science, art, guided missiles, disarmament and world economy to Hungary, Red China, and the United Nations."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
ENCLOSURE

CLASS.

6-12-80

REASON

DATE

7-11-75

11-20-75

COPIES DESTROYED  
9 25 AUG 28 1972

100-49115-14

CONFIDENTIAL

The December 24, 25, 1957 issue of "Novaya Zarya", Russian language newspaper published in San Francisco, page 3, columns 1-4, and page 22, column 6 reveals that a prominent local sculptor BENJAMINO BUFANO returned to San Francisco having flown to Moscow for the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the revolution. BUFANO had a two hour conversation with Soviet Prime Minister NIKOLAI BULGANIN concerning "Sputniks", nuclear science, art, disarmament, economics, Hungary, China and the U. N.

BUFANO pointed out that BULGANIN told him that he and KHRUSCHEV were against the Soviet intervention in Hungary; that they wished to let the Hungarian people themselves decide the question, but they had the minority voices in the Presidium, and as a result the Soviet forces crushed the uprising. BUFANO noted that this showed real democracy in action and that KHRUSCHEV does not have any power.

"These people are entirely different," BUFANO stated. "They desire peace more than we, for the simple reason that they wish to help people."

BUFANO pointed out that Russia made such an impression on him that he offered to make a statue of "Peace" 400 feet in height. Such statue would be out of stainless steel and mosaics and would be the greatest statue in the world. BUFANO noted that BULGANIN took his offer into consideration.

On the letterhead of the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, Abraham Lincoln Battalion, George Washington Battalion, 715 Ashbury Street, San Francisco, California, dated August 18, 1937, appears the name BENIAMINO BUFFANO as a State Sponsor.

The Abraham Lincoln Brigade is an organization designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to E. O. 10450.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (105-49865)

DATE: 12/23/60

FROM *RDA* SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (105-4626)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
IS-BU

Re San Francisco letter to Bureau, 11/9/60.

-C-  
2 - Bureau  
1 - San Francisco  
SJE:ca.  
(3)  
#12

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICE  
ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP ON 6-26-80

CLASS. & EXT. BY *SP4TAP/EM*  
REASON-FOIA b7, b2, b7C  
DATE OF REVIEW 12-23-80

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

EX-105

REC-8

DEC 28 1960

62 JAN 5 1961

11/2/61

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES  
RE: LYNN W. JOHNSTON  
MUNICIPAL JUDGE  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

Enclosed for the Bureau are clippings appearing in Los Angeles newspapers November 1 and 2, 1961, which are self-explanatory.

For the Bureau's information, Judge LYNN W. JOHNSTON, Municipal Judge of Downey, California, a Los Angeles suburb, has been charged with offering leniency for love to four women defendants. He is under trial charged with bribery.

His defense attorney MELVIN BELLI, a prominent San Francisco lawyer, as a defense attorney, apparently intends to show that there was friction between Chief IVAN ROBINSON (WA) of the Downey Police Department and Judge JOHNSTON; that this emanated from ROBINSON's attempting to tell JOHNSTON what sentences he should impose and JOHNSTON's opinion that the Downey Police Department was not properly handling narcotics violations. BELLI appears to be preparing to show that in view of the lack of cooperation between ROBINSON and JOHNSTON that JOHNSTON thereupon set out to conduct his own investigation into narcotics matters and that this was the reason he was in contact with defendants who appeared before him in court. BELLI apparently intends to show that because of the conflict between JOHNSTON and ROBINSON and JOHNSTON's investigation into narcotics at Downey that ROBINSON and the Downey Police Department thereupon set out to frame JOHNSTON and that the entire case in this matter is a frame-up of JOHNSTON by ROBINSON and the Downey Police Department.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 5)  
1 - Los Angeles  
CWP:elc  
(4)

66 NOV 27 1961

NOV 21 1961  
NOV 21 1961

105-4786  
NOT RECORDED  
140 NOV 1961

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

6-17-80

SP27P/C



b7c



100

- 2 -

0  
1 [REDACTED] stated he did not know Judge  
2 JOHNSTON very well at all but knew of his extremely bad  
3 reputation for chasing after women before he was appointed  
4 to the Downey Municipal Bench. [REDACTED] stated for that  
5 reason he had stayed at arms length from JOHNSTON. [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED] he recalls only one brief two-minute  
8 conversation with JOHNSTON over these years. [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
0 [REDACTED]  
1 [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED] stated the unfounded allegations  
5 of BELLI were being printed in many newspapers and made  
6 reference to an article which had appeared in the November 1  
7 issue of the "Huntington Park Signal," an afternoon paper  
8 published in the small suburb of Huntington Park. A copy  
9 of this article is enclosed herewith. The article in effect  
0 states that the feud between Judge JOHNSTON and Chief  
1 ROBINSON worsened after JOHNSTON had written a letter to  
2 the FBI ~~AND~~ Chief ROBINSON had destroyed an arrest record  
3 in a heroin case. [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED] stated that questions in his mind  
8 were whether JOHNSTON had made such a complaint to the FBI  
9 and whether the FBI had investigated any such complaint. He  
0 went on to state that he felt this data put out by BELLI was  
1 completely false and that he recognized he would have been  
2 aware of any investigation. [REDACTED] stated that his  
3 knowledge of FBI jurisdiction is such that FBI does not  
4 handle narcotics matters, nor would they be interested in  
5 any alleged destruction of a record of a drug addict.  
6 [REDACTED]

7 A complete review of all possible references in  
8 the Los Angeles Office was made and a review of all  
9 correspondence in the 12-0 file (narcotics matters) going  
0 back to 1955 has been made with negative results.  
1 [REDACTED]

2 I talked to [REDACTED] and he fully realizes  
3 the confidential nature of our files and stated that he  
4 would do everything he could to avoid any interjection of  
5 FBI in this matter.  
6 [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
0 [REDACTED]  
1 [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]

It is noted that the clipping from the "Daily Signal," enclosed herewith, reflects that JOHNSTON and ROBINSON also had words over an alleged wire tap made by the Chief of Police in a meeting room where the City of Commerce incorporation was being discussed.

[REDACTED] was informed that based on facts furnished by him, there appeared to be no violation within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI.

This matter will be followed closely and the Bureau will be kept advised of pertinent developments. Every care will be taken to avoid our being interjected into this matter.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO: Mr. DeLoach

DATE: November 13, 1961

FROM: M. A. Jones

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: LYNN W. JOHNSTON  
 MUNICIPAL JUDGE  
 DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA

By airtel, the Los Angeles Office advised that Judge Lynn W. Johnston has been charged with offering leniency for love to four women defendants. In effect, the charges are that Johnston would take care of a probation violation or similar matter if the woman would pay the judge "little visits." Melvin Belli, a prominent San Francisco and Los Angeles lawyer, as a defense apparently intends to show that there was friction between Chief Ivan Robinson (NA) of the Downey Police Department and Judge Johnston; that this emanated from Robinson's attempting to tell Johnston what sentences he should impose and Johnston's opinion that the Downey Police Department was not properly handling narcotics violations. Johnston claims this whole thing is a frame-up by Robinson. Robinson claims that he does not know Judge Johnston very well but he did know of his extremely bad reputation for cheating after women before he was appointed to the Bench. According to Robinson, Belli has turned the Johnston trial into a trial of Robinson and attempting to make Robinson the defendant. [REDACTED] described Belli as one of the most vicious and unscrupulous individuals he has ever encountered. The Director noted on the airtel that Belli is "a shyster."

In connection with the trial, a representative of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics contacted the Los Angeles Office on 11-1-61 advising that he had received information from the local District Attorney's Office that as part of Johnston's defense he would claim that Johnston wrote a letter to the FBI complaining of narcotics conditions in Downey. The Federal Bureau of Narcotics in Los Angeles apparently has no record that such a letter was written to them and there is no record that Johnston wrote to the Los Angeles Office of this Bureau in this regard. It is also noted that an item in the 11-1-61 issue of the "Daily Signal" Belli charged in his opening statement in the trial that the feud between Johnston and Robinson's men worsened after Johnston complained to the FBI and Robinson destroyed an arrest report in a heroine case. [REDACTED]

Bufiles have been checked and no record could be located of a letter from Johnston. The possibility exists, however, that if such a letter had been sent here to FBI Headquarters and it solely concerned narcotics, it is not under our jurisdiction, it would have been referred to the Federal Bureau of Narcotics.

58 NOV 23 1961  
 ELC:joc  
 (3)

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

6-17-80 SP-1AP/ECM



Jones to DeLoach (continued)

by form and we would have no record of it. This is an approved procedure where it is a matter in another agency's jurisdiction. With regard to Belli, we had difficulty with him in the past. In 1947, he charged that FBI Agents were harassing his clients and he was accused by an insurance company of unethical practices in soliciting clients. In 1941, he sent greetings to the Soviet Union in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany. In 1949, he protested the prosecution of 12 communist leaders to Alben Barkley.

In June, 1950, he entertained the Yugoslav Counsel General at San Francisco in his home. In 1951, his name appeared on the letterhead of the "Loyalties Against Perjury Oaths for the Bar" which group opposed the requirement that candidates for admission to the Bar and members of the California Bar take a loyalty oath. In 1957, Herbert Resner, an admitted former member of the Communist Party and former attorney for the Party, was associated with Belli. In 1959, Belli received notoriety for defending racketeer Mickey Cohen and Cohen claimed that Belli was going to defend stripteaser Candy Barr, a girlfriend of Cohen's. In addition to this, Belli has pulled such unethical tricks as in August, 1959, when he introduced west coast mobster Mickey Cohen at a seminar on legal tactics during the American Bar Association Convention. Cohen was introduced as "Professor C'Brien," an expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases. The Director has stated that our San Francisco Office should keep alert for any violations of law by Belli as his record is questionable.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-49865)

DATE: 11-30-62

FROM : SAC, WFO (105-18134) (P)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
IS-BU

ReSFlet 11-9-60.

On 10-11-62, [REDACTED] Chief Counsel, Passport Office, USDS, advised that a passport application was being processed for MELVIN M. BELLI and a recommendation had been made by his office that passport facilities be granted to him.

On 10-19-62, a request was submitted to USDS for a search of Passport Office records under this name. On 11-27-62, it was necessary to resubmit this request since the Passport Office was unable to locate the original request.

Pertinent information from this file will be submitted to the Bureau immediately upon receipt of same. USDS is being closely followed in this matter.

REC-6

105-49865-12

25 DEC 4 1962

2 - Bureau  
1 - WFO

DMB:ctw  
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

DATE 6-17-80

60 DEC 10 1962

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-49865)

DATE: 12/17/62

FROM : SAC, WFO (105-18134) (RUC)

SUBJECT: CHANGED  
MELVIN MOURON BELLI  
IS-CUBA

The title of this communication has been changed to show the full name of the subject as obtained from files of the Passport Office, USDS.

ReSFlet 11/9/60 captioned "MELVIN M. BELLI; IS-B".

Enclosed are nine copies for the Bureau and one copy for SF for information of a LHM dated and captioned as above.

Subject's passport file was reviewed by IC [REDACTED]. No additional pertinent information WFO files.

2-Bureau (Enc 9)  
1-San Francisco (105-4626) (Info) (Enc 1) (RM)  
1-WFO

DMB:kjm  
(4)

Copy to: CIA/State/RAO  
ONI/CSI/ACSI

by routing slip for info.

Date: 12/20/62 by [REDACTED]

MCT - 18

REC-71

DEC 13 1962

DATE 6-17-80

SP2TAP/12



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
December 11, 1962

MELVIN MOURON BELLI  
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

On November 30, 1962, Mrs. Verde L. Crenshaw, Passport Office, United States Department of State, made available a file which contained the following information:

On July 8, 1958, <sup>MRS</sup> Passport Number 1141530 was issued at San Francisco, California, to Melvin Mouron Belli based on an application filed by him at San Francisco, California, on the same date. The passport was restricted against travel to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and those portions of China, Korea and Viet-Nam under communist control. According to the application Belli was born on July 29, 1907, at Sonora, California. His permanent residence was 1228 Montgomery Street, and his mailing address 240 Stockton Street, both San Francisco, California. He intended to depart from San Francisco by air on July 12, 1958, for a trip of three weeks' duration to England, Germany, France, Italy and Spain for the purpose of attending a Bar Association meeting in Cologne (country not stated). His parents were identified as Caesar A. Belli, who was born in 1885 at Eureka, Nevada, and Leonie Mouron, who was born in 1887 at Sonora, California. Both were deceased. Belli showed that he was last married in April, 1956, to Joy Belli, who was born in 1928 at Los Angeles, California, and was presently residing with him. Belli's occupation was shown as that of lawyer. On September 1, 1960, this passport was renewed at Washington, D. C., for a trip to Bulgaria, Turkey, Italy and France, the purpose of this travel being set forth as "lawyer-author".

On August 24, 1962, Passport Number C-529868 was issued at Los Angeles, California, to the above individual, based on his application filed at Los Angeles on August 20, 1962. According to the application his permanent residence was Belli Building, San Francisco, California, and his mailing address Continental Bank Building, 873 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, California.

The application showed that Belli was last married on March 22, 1954, to Joy Turner Belli, who was born at Los Angeles, California, in December, 1930. The

COPIES DESTROYED

9 20 AUG 9 1972

ENCLOSURE

01 MR2  
02 RE: MELVIN MOURON BELLI

03 application further showed that Belli had been married  
04 to one Betty Ballantine, who was born in California in  
05 1910, but that this marriage had been terminated by divorce.  
06

07 He intended to depart from Los Angeles by air  
08 on September 1, 1962, to travel as a tourist for one month  
09 to Italy, France, England, Albania, Yugoslavia, Greece,  
10 Hungary and Bulgaria. This passport was restricted  
11 against travel to Albania, Cuba and those portions of  
12 China, Korea and Viet-Nam under communist control. By  
13 letter dated November 15, 1962, the Passport Office in  
14 Washington, D. C., validated this passport for one round  
15 trip to Cuba not to extend beyond January 30, 1963, for  
16 the purpose of writing articles for a law review.  
17

18 The file showed that passports had previously  
19 been issued to Belli in 1929, 1947, 1949, 1954 and 1956  
20 for travel to various European countries and, in 1954,  
21 to Japan.  
22

23 This document contains neither  
24 recommendations nor conclusions of  
25 the FBI. It is the property of  
26 the FBI and is loaned to your agency;  
27 it and its contents are not to be  
28 distributed outside your agency.  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62

LAW OFFICES

# Belli, Ashe and Gerry

SAN FRANCISCO 11 - YVASH 1-1849  
The Belli Building - 722 MONTGOMERY STREET

MELVIN M. BELLI  
LOU ASHE  
RICHARD F. GERRY  
SEYMOUR L. ELLISON  
ROBERT H. MILLER  
JACK G. MCBRIDE  
VASILIOS S. CHOULOS  
DAVID W. MCGANEY

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
WILLIAM F. REED  
NORMAN G. CARLIN  
630 SAN DIEGO TRUST & SAVINGS BUILDING  
BELMONT 8-2178

ROME, ITALY TOKYO, JAPAN

CABLE "BELEA"

LOS ANGELES 55 - HOLLYWOOD 5-4430  
CONTINENTAL JANA BUILDING  
8730 SUNSET BOU E. RD  
BELLI, ASHE AND GERRY

MELVIN M. BELLI  
LOU ASHE  
RICHARD F. GERRY  
DONALD E. LEE  
DANNY P. JOHNSON  
SAMUEL L. BROWN  
SAUL GRANT  
S. M. DAI  
SEYMOUR L. ELLISON  
OF COUNSEL

San Francisco - March 8, 1963

Air Mail

Dr. Fred Miller  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
3700 Washington Avenue  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor Miller:

It was very nice meeting you recently and I am looking forward to seeing you on my next visit to Washington. It is my hope that we can possibly get together on some FBI pictures that I might use for a new book I am doing on criminal law.

\* MODERN TRIALS (Abridged Edition) is the one-volume abridgment for the layman as well as the law student of the famed six-volume MODERN TRIALS, which was the first and is the best-selling law book of its kind in the last ten years.

This current abridged edition is particularly slanted for general reader as well as law student and lawyer interest. We expect a large sale to the lay public. It will be followed by my demonstrative evidence criminal law book, a new venture in publishing, since it, too, has been written for laymen as well as lawyers.

The book is being accepted for teaching use in many of the major law schools of the United States, but we are particularly interested now that the layman see what is the law, of what it is made, and how it is practiced. We hope that this is the book which tells him, as well as the law student.

We have asked our publishers, Bobbs-Merrill, to send you a copy of this book and are hoping that you might be able to do a review for us.

All good wishes,

MELVIN M. BELLI

MMB:eg

CC: Leo Gobin

EX-102

DEC 72

6-17-90 SP2TAP/ESM

March 13, 1963

REC-72  
105-4986-18  
EX-102  
Mr. Melvin M. Belli  
Belli, Ashe and Gerry  
The Belli Building  
722 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco 11, California

Dear Mr. Belli:

Your letter of March 8, 1963, addressed to Special Agent Fred M. Miller, was noted by Mr. Hoover as he was leaving the city. He wanted me to inform you that as a matter of policy, it will not be possible for Dr. Miller to comment concerning your book, and the heavy pressure of our official responsibilities precludes our furnishing the other assistance you requested.

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy  
Secretary

NOTE: See Mr. Jones to DeLoach memo, 3/13/63, captioned: "Mr. Melvin M. Belli, Belli, Ashe and Gerry, The Belli Building, 722 Montgomery Street, San Francisco 11, California."

CJH:dgs

REC'D

APR 1 1963

59 MAR 31 1963

TELETYPE UNIT

DATE 6-17-80

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

DATE: 3/13/63

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: ~~MR. MELVIN M. BELLI~~  
~~BELLI ASHE AND GERRY~~  
~~THE BELLI BUILDING~~  
722 MONTGOMERY STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO 11, CALIFORNIA

Captioned individual has sent a letter dated 3/8/63 to Special Agent Fred M. Miller of the Laboratory. Belli refers to a recent meeting with SA Miller, that he looks forward to seeing him on his next visit to Washington, and he expresses the hope that he can receive some assistance on FBI pictures which he might use in a new book he is writing on criminal law. Belli also refers to a book he has authored, "Modern Trials," and notes he has requested the publisher to send a copy to SA Miller in the hopes that the latter may be able to review it.

**BACKGROUND:**

On 2/15/63, SA Miller delivered a paper, "The Forensic Scientist in Court," before the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Chicago. Belli approached SA Miller afterwards and complimented him on the paper. This was the only contact SA Miller had with Belli.

**INFORMATION IN BUFILES:**

Consulting with CIA

Enclosure sent 3-13-  
2-9-44 Conrad Enclosures (2)

23 1-41



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100

M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo

Re: Mr. Melvin M. Belli

San Francisco, California

*Consultations with CIA*

[REDACTED]

In an airtel dated 11/2/61, Los Angeles furnished details concerning Belli's defense of a local judge who had been charged with offering leniency for love to four women defendants [REDACTED] Downey, California, at that time described Belli as one of the most vicious and unscrupulous individuals he had ever encountered. The Director noted on the airtel that Belli is "a shyster."

In November, 1962, we received information from the State Department that Belli was intending to visit several foreign countries including Cuba.

OBSERVATIONS:

In view of Belli's unsavory reputation, we certainly do not want to offer him any kind of cooperation nor do any thing to encourage further contact of Bureau personnel by him.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached in-absence letter be sent to Belli advising of our inability to be of assistance, and that no further acknowledgement be afforded him.

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 3-26-63

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: MR. MELVIN M. BELLI  
 BELLI, ASHE AND GERRY,  
 THE BELLI BUILDING  
 722 MONTGOMERY STREET  
 SAN FRANCISCO 11, CALIFORNIA

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

BACKGROUND:

My memo of 3-13-63 noted receipt of a letter from captioned individual by SA Fred M. Miller of the Laboratory in which Belli expressed the hope he might receive assistance on FBI pictures he desired to use in a new book he was writing. Belli referred to another book he authored, "Modern Trials," and said he had asked the publisher to send SA Miller a copy in the hope the latter might be able to review it. SA Miller's only contact with Belli had been at a recent scientific convention in Chicago when Belli had congratulated Miller on a paper he had delivered.

In view of Belli's unsavory reputation, he was afforded an in-absence response on 3-13-63 advising of our inability to be of assistance to him and of the fact that SA Miller would not be able to review his book.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENT:

A copy of Belli's book, "Modern Trials," has now been received by SA Miller. It has not been reviewed; however, it appears to be a text devoted to the handling, preparation and trial of cases, with the emphasis on negligence matters.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) Since Belli was informed that it would not be possible for a Bureau representative to review this book, it is recommended that no further acknowledgement be sent to him.

(2) That the attached copy of "Modern Trials" be retained in the Bureau Library.

Enclosure

2 - Mr. Conrad

56 APR 1 1963

CJH:par (5)

REC-57

105-49865-20

MAR 28 1963

INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-17-99 BY SP2TAP/STW

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

## Ruby's Plea To Be Based On Insanity

DALLAS, Dec. 10 (UPI) — Melvin Belli, spectacularly successful San Francisco lawyer, took over the defense for self-appointed executioner Jack Ruby today and said Ruby will plead innocent by reason of insanity to the slaying of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. Belli said he has no objections to live television coverage of the trial.

"We will be ready by the scheduled trial date of Feb. 3," he said. "We will plead him not guilty by reason of insanity."

Belli said he may ask for a change of venue to move the trial from Dallas. Belli said he will be Ruby's chief counsel.

Belli visited Ruby in his Dallas County jail cell along with attorneys Tom Howard of Dallas, Sam S. Brody of Los Angeles and J. H. Tonaill of Jasper, Tex.

Howard took the Ruby case hours after Ruby shot and killed Oswald in the basement of the Dallas city jail Nov. 24, before a Nation-wide television audience.

*See me here  
memo on Ruby*

The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

22 DEC 27 1963

59 JAN 2 1964

59 MAR 31 1964

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

DATE 1-17-80 BY SP2Apl/ELM

12/11/63

memo

W.F. WINES

REC 19

22 DEC 27 1963

59 JAN 2 1964

59 MAR 31 1964

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

DATE 1-17-80 BY SP2Apl/ELM

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: December 11, 1963

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI, ATTORNEY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

The Director has asked for a memorandum on Melvin Belli, who, according to newspaper releases of this date, will represent Jack Ruby who will soon be tried for the slaying of accused Presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. Belli, according to the news releases, will be ready by the scheduled trial date of 2/3/63 and has indicated that defense counsel will plead Ruby not guilty by reason of insanity.

There is attached a memorandum dated 3/13/63 which contains pertinent information in Bureau files concerning Belli. *see 105-49865-19*

The only pertinent additional information subsequent to the 3/13/63 memorandum is contained in the file of Jean Kidwell Pestana, a Los Angeles attorney who is active in the Communist Party in Los Angeles, California. Pestana was subpoenaed before a House Committee on Un-American Activities public hearing in Los Angeles on 7/2/63 and immediately requested continuance, stating that she was not represented by counsel as her attorney, Melvin Belli, was unable to attend the hearings at that time. In an appearance before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in Washington, D. C., on 8/5/63 Pestana invoked the Fifth Amendment in answer to Cuba travel and Communist Party membership.

## ACTION:

For the Director's information.

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

WFW:ncb  
 (9)

REC-19

XEROX

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-17-80 BY SP1TAP/EM

UNRECORDED COPY

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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

**COLORFUL**

## Belli Says He's Not Flamboyant

Melvin Belli insists he is not flamboyant.

Inside the cover of a book he mailed to a Dallas News reporter, Belli, lawyer for Jack Ruby, penned these words:

"To Carl Freund with all good wishes: Melvin Belli. Not a flamboyant lawyer—colorful, yes!"

The book was Belli's own "Ready for the Plaintiff."

After Ruby's bond hearing Monday, Belli again told reporters that he does not like to be called flamboyant.

United Press International went right ahead, however.

Belli is as much a performer as a lawyer, and he is probably the best courtroom performer anyone could book. His silver hair, his flamboyant manner, his flair for the dramatic—all are part of the image that has contributed to the 55-year-old Belli's reputation as one of San Francisco's most effective lawyers.

Belli, the actor, was once summed up this way by Dean William Prosser of the University of California Law School:

"Every good trial lawyer is, to some extent, an actor, be he artist or ham; and he is also a playwright and a director, who prepares the script, sets the scene and stage-manages the evidence. Mr. Belli is all of that, and more."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

6  
"The Dallas  
Morning News"  
Dallas, Texas

Date: 12-24-63  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title: Jack B. Kuege

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Dallas

105-47865 -A  
NOT REC  
47 JAN 10 1964

64 JAN 15 1964

6-17-86  
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

# Ruby's Lawyer Has Reputation As Courtroom 'Barrymore'

By William Flynn

Special to The Washington Post

SAN FRANCISCO — Melvin Mouron Belli is a genius with a split personality.

He is a lawyer. He is an actor. He will display both these personalities when he strides into the spotlight of world attention as the trial of slick-haired Jack Ruby, the pistol

killer of Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy, begins in Texas. Veteran court watchers in California and a number of other states are ready to give

eight to three that jurisprudence in Texas never will be the same again when the Belli-Ruby trial concludes. The system seldom is after

the white-haired lawyer from the rugged Mother Lode county of California concludes and departs.

Melvin Mouron Belli does more than "practice law."

He makes it; and while blazing new trails in the evolution of the ancient and honorable English Common Law, he combines the best of John Drew, John Barrymore, Maurice Evans and Richard Burton to provide the audience with a theatrical performance that seldom is equaled in the history of the modern theater.

## 'King of Torts'

During a 3-decade career, Belli's genius for the law has made him wealthy — and famous from the plaintiff's point of view; and infamous as far as insurance companies and the American Medical Association are concerned.

Winning the proud title of "King of Torts," Belli has eased the pain and suffering of hundreds of clients by giving them two-thirds of the net he won from the insurance companies in prosecuting their claims for damages. They have received several millions of dollars, which is the reason the San Francisco attorney is a "dirty name" to the liability carriers for individuals and members of the medical profession.

He also has practiced criminal law, defending everyone from killers to forgers. Some of his capital-crime clients have sent him Christmas greetings from life imprisonment cells or from homes established after acquittal. Others haven't. They died in San Quentin Prison's apple green, 8-sided gas chamber.

Each of his cases is presented with a flair. His submission of evidence is dramatic, flamboyant. The secret of his success is meticulous preparation and attention-compelling presentation and argument.

## Studies at Johns Hopkins

He knows more medicine than many a specialist. He should. He studies annually at Johns Hopkins to keep abreast of the latest in medical science. He knows the law.

Once he sought damages for a woman whose shapely limb had been severed above the knee by the flanged wheels of a San Francisco municipal railway street car. As the trial progressed, he kept touching, turning, shifting a long butcher-paper-wrapped package at his table.

Not once did he refer to it. But its almost constant movement fascinated the men and women of the jury. Finally he asked his client to stand. She did — on one leg.

Then, and only then, did Belli raise the package, slowly unwrap it — to display an artificial limb. He carried it to the one-legged woman, asked her to fit it to the thigh stump. She did. She then stood wan but brave before the jury, supporting herself on one silken clad leg and one mechanical device.

The jury awarded her \$100,000 settlement, a record in those days. Since then the sum for Belli verdicts has reached \$675,000, given one plaintiff in an action against Cutter Laboratories in the

The Washington Post and Times Herald

The Washington Daily News

The Evening Star

New York Herald Tribune

New York Journal-American

New York Mirror

New York Daily News

New York Post

The New York Times

The Worker

The New Leader

The Wall Street Journal

The National Observer

Date

JAN 29 1964

105-4-21-A

NOT RECORDED

128 JAN 28

68 JAN 29 1964

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 6-17-88 BY SP2 RAE/CLM

Salk vaccine case that in several cases affected individuals with polio.

Another case he tried was on behalf of a 600-pound defendant. There was a technical medical problem involved. To emphasize to the jurors that his client had difficulty in getting around because of his weight, Belli arranged to have him swung into the third floor window of the court room by a crane.

Even before he was a professional lawyer, Belli was aware of the power of the courts. He was refused his high school diploma because, as he explains, "I was taken with drink the night of graduation." He sued as a citizen and won, forcing the school board to give him the document.

He was graduated from the University of California law school in the midst of the Depression. He passed the California Bar examination but there was no job in law offices for the future "King of Torts." He became a relief investigator.

In that role he was "vagged," mugged, fingerprinted, jailed, and "floated" out of town with a warning from the police court judge to never let his shadow touch ground in San Diego again.

But he did return — years later. Then he appeared as counsel for the plaintiff before the same judge and qualified himself by presenting his San Diego rap sheet, complete with front and profile photos, and fingerprints. The judge could do nothing but commend him for his rehabilitation.

It's Always the Star

His voice is soft, mellow, or rages with righteous indignation at the cupidity of his opponents. His suits are dark, the best from Saville row. His shirts are handmade with ruffled fronts from which wink diamond studs, sometimes hidden by a flowing, Byron tie. His shirt cuffs are starched to board stiffness. His black boots are high-heeled, and highly polished.

When he sums up in a damage suit, he uses a blackboard. He lists so many thousands of dollars for this loss and that pain and strikes a grand total. Once there was method in his misadmission.

#### Juror Corrects Addition

A San Francisco Superior Court judge became so transfixed with the itemized list of damages that when Belli struck the total with a flurry of chalk dust, the jurist exclaimed:

"You don't mean \$200,000. Mr. Belli, your client should have \$300,000."

Belli scanned the figures, added, again, the jury fascinated. He struck out the \$200,000 total, wrote \$300,000.

The jurors took five minutes to award the client \$300,000.

This use of demonstrative evidence, including skeletons and models of vital organs, has caused Dean Roscoe Pound of Harvard Law School to describe the Ruby defense counsel as "a master of this mode of presenting cases," and as a "contribution to the administration of justice."

Belli modestly says Dean Pound is a fine judge of lawyers.

He also would agree with the estimate that he is a genius — and he lives the role to the hilt.

Every morning his secretary gives him 10, brand new \$10 bills.

"A man has to have walking around money," he explains, slipping them into a solid silver money clip.

He confounds wine waiters with his knowledge of vintages.

He drives a Rolls Royce but frequently has it repainted — beige, purple, silver, black, rose.

"The Rolls is the best car," he says, "but, after all, even a Rolls shouldn't be boring."

#### Free Flight to Fancy

For night time and nippy San Francisco daytime wear he prefers a crimson lined cape rather than a Chesterfield, velvet-collared topcoat to set off his black Homburg.

But it is in his office and his home that he has really given free flight to his fancy for the spectacular.

Raising his second family with his third wife at 57, he lives on the top floor of a three floor flat building, he owns on Telegraph Hill in San Francisco. On the roof, providing a breath-taking view of San Francisco Bay, he has a gigantic barbecue in

The interior of the home is done in the velvets — crimson to black — of the Gold Rush days of California. One built-in

bookshelf is of special interest. It holds the volumes he has written, more than a score, ranging from frothy bits such as "Life and Law in Russia" to the three volume "Lochner Trials," that is a textbook for members of his profession.

"I've made more than \$1,000 out of that one," he recalls.

#### Office Near Home

His office, just a few blocks away down Telegraph Hill along Montgomery street, is a renovated 100-year-old building. The exterior is done in the used brick, black iron, and work fashion of the Quarter in New Orleans.

A Philadelphia trained lawyer, William Sweeney, now of New York, once visited the Belli building. After surveying the garish interior of Belli's office complete with 100-year-old bar, Mother Lode antiques, a steam room in the basement reached by sliding down a man's brass pole, Sweeney wandered into the street, obviously suffering from shock.

"If this was in Philadelphia," he muttered, "the man would be disbarred."

That has occurred to the ethics committee of the California State Bar Association at times, too, but nothing has been done about it.

As for the American Bar Association, Belli says:

"I hang that certificate over the bowl in the wash room."

#### No Ordinary Counsel

Thus, it may be said, Jack Ruby has no ordinary defense counsel to try to win freedom on the grounds he was insane when he fired the fatal shot that killed the alleged killer of President Kennedy.

And it is also certain beyond a reasonable doubt that Melvin Mournon Belli will provide Ruby with more than a competent defense.

He always gives his client that defense. They have hundreds of thousands of dollars to prove it.

And those who lost cases that resulted in judgments may not know Melvin Mournon Belli but they seek him; and fear him.

He accepts gratitude, respect, and fear as his due but is not overawed by it.

After all, "genius" is a reward.





Melvin M. Belli, Jack Ruby's lawyer, has earned a reputation for being a garish genius.



# Texas Bar Asks Ban On Practice by Belli

AUSTIN, Tex., March 30 (UPI)—The State Bar today asked permission from the Texas Supreme Court to file for a permanent injunction to bar San Francisco attorney Melvin Belli from practicing law in the State of Texas.

The suit was filed for the State Bar of Texas by Davis Grant, general counsel, and his assistant, L. Money Adams Jr.

The Bar accused Belli of "violent outbursts and outrageous conduct" following the death penalty sentence given his former client, Jack Ruby, in a Dallas County courtroom two weeks ago.

The motion quoted Belli as saying after the verdict, "May I thank this jury for a victory for bigotry. You can rest assured we will appeal this to a court where there is justice. We will take it to a court outside Dallas."

The State Bar's motion said, "Such flagrant violations of the canons of ethics have shocked the consciences of not only the lawyers of Texas and the Nation, but the public as well."

The Bar filed a 10-page petition accompanied by 40 pages of newspaper article reproductions. All the articles involved Belli's criticism of Dallas District Judge Joe Brown and the Ruby trial jury.

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

The Washington Post and Times Herald ☒  
The Washington Daily News ☒  
The Evening Star ☒  
New York Herald Tribune ☒  
New York Journal-American ☒  
New York Mirror ☒  
New York Daily News ☒  
New York Post ☒  
The New York Times ☒  
The Worker ☒  
The New Leader ☒  
The Wall Street Journal ☒  
The National Observer ☒  
People's World ☒  
Date ☒

NOT RECORDED  
46 APR 7 1964

72 APR 8 1964

6-17-50

SP2TAP/EA

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: February 25, 1964

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

[REDACTED] called for the Director at 12:07 p.m., 2/25/64. Upon being informed of the Director's absence from the office, he asked to speak to me. I was at the Bethesda Naval Hospital at the time for a physical examination. I called [REDACTED] back at 3:30 p.m.

[REDACTED] advised that one of their good young reporters, who is considered to be very reliable, has learned from sources in Dallas, also from members of Congress and from one recently released FBI Agent, that both Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald were informants of the FBI prior to the time President Kennedy was assassinated. [REDACTED] stated that his reporter had pledged not to reveal the name of this former Agent. He also indicated that Melvin Belli, the attorney for the defense in the Ruby case, had told his reporter that Oswald was an FBI informant.

The alleged sources in Congress who told the [REDACTED] reporter about this matter additionally advised him that it was entirely possible that J. Edgar Hoover at FBI Headquarters in Washington would never be consulted about local informants. The reporter stated that this appeared to be sufficient proof that Ruby and Oswald could have been informants without the Director or FBI Headquarters knowing about it. Belli told the reporter that he wouldn't care to comment so much regarding Ruby's connections with the FBI but that he knew from reliable sources that Ruby had been an informant for 8 weeks and Oswald an informant for 13 weeks. Belli additionally told the reporter that Ruby informed gamblers and people of low character, and that Oswald was a security-type informant.

[REDACTED] said he wanted to let the Director know about this matter at once. I told him that the Director already knew of this rumor that that this was an old, old story without a scintilla of truth to it. I went into some detail with [REDACTED] explaining that these careless rumors came from 3 different sources: (1) I explained the matter of Senator Eastland, Chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, and Jay Sourwine, Counsel of that Committee, having picked up this information from a [REDACTED] who is employed by Senator Strom Thurmond. I told [REDACTED] we had confronted [REDACTED] and he had backed down. [REDACTED] claimed that he merely deduced such facts on the basis of his prior experience in military intelligence. I told [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had used faulty logic and was a "dreamer"; (2) I mentioned the drive by the Communists to

Mr. Belmont

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Sullivan

Mr. A. Jones

Mr. DeLoach

Mr. Mohr

Mr. Casper

Mr. Callahan

Mr. Conrad

Mr. Felt

Mr. Gale

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Sullivan

Mr. Tavel

Mr. Trotter

Mr. Tele. Room

Mr. Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

Miss Gandy

Miss Holmes

$b(7)$   $b(0)$

1. [redacted] agreed that the allegations were undoubtedly false and stated  
2. that he was satisfied and that no action would be taken by the [redacted] papers. He asked,  
3. however, that I call [redacted], publisher of the [redacted] and tell him  
4. the same facts. He stated [redacted] could be reached at [redacted], his  
5. number at the [redacted] offices:

3 Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were completely satisfied concerning our  
4 refutation of these allegations.

It is suggested this memorandum be forwarded to the Domestic Intelligence Division and that consideration be given to immediately interviewing Belli concerning the above-mentioned allegations which he allegedly gave to [redacted] reporter [redacted]. Neither [redacted] desired to reveal the name or their reporter. I did not push them in this regard in view of their close friendship to the Director and the Bureau. I do feel, however, that if it is necessary [redacted] they claim the reporter has obtained from Belli.

57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62

to Dallas  
for

M - 2 -

2. Under  
- 1 part -  
- 1 part -

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE:

1-Mr. Belmont  
1-Mr. Mohr  
1-Mr. Callahan  
1-Mr. DeLoach  
2-28-64

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

1-Mr. Rosen  
1-Mr. Sullivan  
1-Mr. Malley  
1-Mr. Branigan  
1-Mr. Lenihan  
1-Mr. Decker  
1-Mr. Gheesling

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
INTERNAL SECURITY - R - CUBA

Memorandum Mr. DeLoach to Mr. Mohr, 2-25-64, reported

information from [redacted] and [redacted] respectively, [redacted] that unnamed [redacted] reporter, described by [redacted] as very reliable, had been advised by Melvin Belli, attorney for Jack Ruby, that Oswald was an FBI informant; that Belli knew from reliable sources that Ruby had been an informant for 8 weeks and Oswald an informant for 13 weeks. [redacted] stated this [redacted] reporter recommended consideration be given to immediately interviewing Belli and the Director noted: "Yes. Make him either put up or shut up."

At 9:20 p.m., 2-28-64, SAC Gordon Shanklin, Dallas, telephonically advised Night Supervisor A. J. Decker as follows. SAC Shanklin and SA Vincent E. Drain interviewed Belli the evening of 2-28-64 in a hotel room secured for that purpose. Belli insisted that his fellow lawyer, Joe Tonahill, be present. Belli was advised that we had received information from a reliable source that he had stated Lee Harvey Oswald was a security-type informant of the FBI for a period of 13 weeks. He was informed that there was absolutely no truth in this and that we desired to secure from him any and all information which he had in this regard.

Belli stated that around the first of the year he had seen an article in the "Houston Post" by Lonnie Hudkins, which article was a rumor to the effect that Oswald might have been an informant of the FBI or CIA, and subsequent to that article Belli subpoenaed Hudkins to appear as a witness at the change of venue hearing before Judge Joe D. Brown. Sometime during that period he heard another rumor around the courthouse to the effect that Oswald might have been an informant of the FBI. Belli related that he questioned Hudkins during the change of venue hearing as he felt that the prosecution might try to use him at a later date. Judge Brown in the change of venue hearing refused to permit Hudkins to answer his question after objections of the prosecution.

Belli stated that he thought at that time and still does think that these rumors originated with William Alexander, Assistant I District Attorney, who had tried to plant other rumors on him and that it was Belli's feeling that Alexander thought Belli might fall for this trap. He stated he placed no credence whatsoever in the rumor that Oswald was an informant and that if there was any credence to such he didn't think

105-82555

AJD: [redacted] 15 1964

(10)

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-82555-3087

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan  
Re: Lee Harvey Oswald  
105-82555

that such information had any place in the Jack Ruby trial. He pointed out that if he brought this up in the trial he would certainly have to prove it and he would never think of doing so without seeing if it were true from the FBI.

Belli stated that he had talked to numerous reporters and news media during the past several weeks and he could not recall with whom he had talked. However, he did recall, to the best of his memory, that approximately 3 weeks ago someone asked him if he had heard the rumor that Oswald had been an informant of the FBI and he believed that the person asking this question was a reporter. To the best of his memory Belli stated he told this person that he had heard this rumor around the courthouse. He does not recall exactly what he said but he is certain he never said anything to the effect that Oswald had been an informant for 13 weeks or that he had been a security informant. Belli was again emphatically advised that Lee Harvey Oswald has never been an informant of the FBI. He again reiterated that he does not think so and never would place any credence in this rumor.

Belli was also advised that we received information that he had also stated that Jack Leon Ruby had been an informant of the FBI for a period of 8 weeks. Both he and Tonahill stated that they had at no time ever heard anyone state that Ruby was an informant or infer that he was an informant. Belli insisted that he be permitted to call his other co-counsel to the room, Phillip Burleson, and ask him if he had ever heard this rumor. Burleson upon being asked the same question as to whether or not he had ever heard of Ruby being an informant or a rumor to that effect, advised that he had never heard a rumor from anyone to that effect.

Belli, Tonahill and Burleson all stated that they had never told anyone or inferred to anyone that Ruby was an informant of the FBI. Belli stated that he believed he and his co-counsels would have known if Ruby had been an informant of the FBI since they had questioned him in detail about his entire life and he is certain Ruby would have told him if he had been an informant. He stated Ruby had never mentioned in any manner whatsoever cooperating with the FBI.

Upon conclusion Belli stated that he was getting "damned tired" of Assistant District Attorney William Alexander planting rumors which Alexander thought Belli might fall for and it was his opinion that Alexander was probably the source concerning the rumor that Oswald was an informant of the FBI. Belli then specifically asked SAC Shanklin if Ruby had ever been an informant as this was the first that he had ever heard of it and he was advised that Ruby had never been an informant of the FBI. Belli asked no further questions.

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan  
Re: Lee Harvey Oswald  
105-82555

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) Although [REDACTED] has categorically denied being the source of rumors that Oswald was an FBI informant, our inquiries strongly point to [REDACTED] as the source of those scurrilous rumors and [REDACTED] may be the source of the alleged rumors concerning Ruby. In view of our experience with [REDACTED] no worthwhile purpose would be served in reinterviewing him and the Director has instructed that no further contacts be had with [REDACTED]

(2) While Belli also categorically denied making any statement as alleged by Hearst officials, it is believed that in order to conclusively pin this matter down Mr. DeLoach's office should contact [REDACTED] and ask that he make the [REDACTED] Belli's statements available [REDACTED]

(3) Immediately following [REDACTED], if it is made available, we will furnish the above details to the President's Commission.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

MR. SULLIVAN

MR. BRANIGAN

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. Callahan  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen 3-4-64

1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. Lenihan  
1 - Mr. Decker  
1 - Mr. Gheesling  
1 - Mr. Anderson  
1 - Mr. Branigan

Memorandum Branigan to Sullivan 2-28-64, set forth results of interview by SAC Shanklin, Dallas, and SA Vincent E. Drain with Melvin Belli, attorney for Jack Ruby, concerning allegation that Belli had stated Oswald and Jack Ruby were FBI informants. Belli stated he had heard rumors to that effect, however, placed no credence whatsoever in these rumors and that in his opinion these rumors originated with William Alexander, Assistant District Attorney, who had tried to plant other rumors on him. It was Belli's feeling that Alexander thought Belli might fall for this trap. It was recommended that no worth-while purpose would be served

On 3-3-64, SAC Shanklin advised that [redacted] was contacted by him, and it was pointed-out to [redacted] that we keep getting indications that [redacted] is the source of the rumors that Oswald was an FBI informant. It was pointed out to him that [redacted] denied having any information in this regard. It was also pointed out that [redacted] we want him to put it on the line or stop talking. [redacted] said he felt that any information along this line was the old rumor, as he has told [redacted] to stop talking and that he [redacted] is at present the only one on his staff supposed to talk to the press. He volunteered that he had heard nothing regarding this rumor around the courthouse in recent weeks. He stated that this rumor of Oswald being an informant of the FBI or CIA had no place in the trial of Ruby, and that it would not be brought up by him. He stated he would [redacted] quiet and make no further remarks in this regard.

The memorandum of 2-28-64 referred to above also recommended that in order to conclusively pin down whether Belli

WAB:hrt  
(13)  
105-82555

105-49865-  
NOT RECORDED  
199 APR 13 4 06 PM '64

79 APR 15 1964

ORIGINAL FILED IN

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SULLIVAN  
RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
105-82555

b7(c) b7(d)

made statements that Oswald was an FBI informant as was Jack Ruby, contact should be made with [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] Publications, to request that he make the [REDACTED] Belli's statements available for [REDACTED] was contacted 3-3-64 by Assistant Director DeLoach at which time he stated he would [REDACTED]

ACTION:

When [REDACTED] alleged Belli interview [REDACTED] and you will be advised of the results. At that time, too, we will furnish the above details to the President's Commission so they can be aware as to how we pin down this latest allegation.

DEH

WEL  
one - the Dallas [REDACTED]  
should have no contact  
whatsoever with [REDACTED]  
about anything. etc is to  
be placed on file at  
"no contact".



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# THE MAN WHO HOPES

Mour \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

By DONOVAN BESS and WORTH GATEWOOD

**O**NLY a lawyer with the unshakeable ego of Melvin Belli would expect to win acquittal for a man who committed murder before 50 million witnesses. But in Belli's serene view, the prosecution has anything but an airtight case against his client, Jack Ruby, who starred in TV's only live killing.

Belli has already won a pre-trial psychiatric examination for Ruby, self-appointed executioner of President Kennedy's presumed assassin, thus setting the stage for a temporary-insanity defense. This in itself is a victory, since there was no precedent in Texas law for court-appointed psychiatrists.

The lawyer's confidence in his ability to save Ruby from the electric chair is genuine enough—and it is also a carefully polished and theatrically exploited facet of the Belli image that has swayed jurors for 30-odd years.

"You must believe in your talents," he says blandly, "because when you face a jury you are completely alone. If you are nervous and afraid, the jury will sense it."

## 'In Court I Must Feel I'm Better Than My Opponent'

"Call it ego if you wish," he concedes. "All I know is that when I am in court I must feel that I am better than my opponent. There may be better lawyers than I, but so far I haven't come upon any of them in court."

The author of this refreshingly outspoken appraisal of himself is, on the record, perhaps the most successful personal injury lawyer in the long history of torts, which is legalese for a

suit for damages based on a wrongful or negligent act.

Belli estimates that he wins at least \$1 million a year for his clients, most of whom come to him after getting run over by streetcars, mangled in factory machinery or victimized in some fashion by allegedly careless or inept doctors.

Just two weeks ago, his habit of thinking big paid off in a \$924,396 judgment for the widow and children of 31-year-old pianist William Kapell, who was killed in an air crash in 1953. Belli had asked a cool million, basing his demands on Kapell's high earning potential.

Though million-dollar awards are rare even for him, a hundred or so of his clients have been the grateful recipients of \$100,000 judgments in negligence suits. He takes a third if he wins and nothing if he loses, which isn't often.

Belli's impressive batting average against insurance companies hasn't exactly endeared him to the losing underwriters, who

The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_

The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_

New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_

New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_

New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_

New York Daily News 94

New York Post \_\_\_\_\_

The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_

The Worker \_\_\_\_\_

The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_

The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_

The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_

People's World \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-17-90 BY SP-10/15/90

60 MAR 3 1960

NOT RECORDED

128 MAR 6 1960

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

gramore that his use of "demonstrative evidence" has once insisted that the jurors handle an artificial leg he brought into court—leads to a highly emotional assessment of damages.

### Doctors Consider Him an Arch-enemy

Doctors take an even dimmer view of Belli, ranking him second only to medicare as a threat to their peace of mind and financial security. Those he has cornered in the witness box loathe him for his cutting cross-examinations, and the profession as a whole damns him for almost doubling the cost of malpractice insurance.

Not in his own profession altogether happy with him. Elements in the American Bar Association, upset over his methods, have tried unsuccessfully to oust him, and only a week ago a leading Dallas lawyer rebuked him for his public comments on the Ruby case.

If this sort of criticism bothers him, Belli doesn't show it. If anything, he seems to relish a scolding, since it gives him an opportunity to reply with his specialty, the finely-honed retort.

On insurance firms: "They could speedily put all personal injury lawyers out of business if they would simply make full, honest and prompt payments on all damage claims."

On doctors: "Some doctors I've examined on the stand should be sent back to medical school. Generally, they seem to present that part of their anatomy to me that makes it easy for me to twist their tails."

On lawyers: "Too many of them are ledger-jockeys for tax-dodging corporations... dull, dry and gutless... with no concern for the little guy."

AS BELLI tells it, he determined on being a lawyer back in 1912, just five years after he was born in the old gold-rush town of Sonora, Calif., the son of a banker named Caesar Belli.

"That's right," he said, "I inclined to the law when I was just 5 years old. Got the yen from looking at the Book of Knowledge... looking at pictures of the moon, things like that."

He breezed through the University of California and its School of Law and hung out his shingle in San Francisco, which is still home base for his coast-to-coast practice.

Through his own insistence in negligence cases, Belli (pronounced it bell-eye) knows his way around in criminal court. He spent his legal internship handling stragglers dreamed up by convicts hopeful of springing themselves from San Quentin. He also has defended quite a roster of accused killers against big league prosecutors—Chief Justice Warren of the U.S. Supreme Court among them.

"Earl Warren was the district attorney in my first big case," Belli recalls, "that of a man charged with buying strychnine to poison his wife. Warren was dead-bang wrong on the case. He's not a good lawyer, but he's a good justice, a good administrative judge."

Today, Belli, with a couple of partners, operates out of a plush, rococo suite of offices on San Francisco's Montgomery St., in the heart of the nightclub district and only a bar's length away from the city's historically sinful Barbary Coast.

### Offices Carpeted, Draped in Scarlet

The offices are carpeted and draped in scarlet, in the tradition of the elegant bawdy houses of a bygone San Francisco era. The suite is cluttered with an assortment of antiques that range from a 1910-model Copenhagen telephone to an array of rural mailboxes lining a corridor.

Each morning, Belli seats himself behind a massive desk that faces a picture window. There he works, in full view of passers-by who often stop and press their noses to the glass. Occasionally, he'll stand at his long, mahogany office bar, a relic of the mining camps, and exchange grave nods with the audience.

The show is over promptly at

12:30. In Belli makes his way down a narrow spiral staircase to the basement. There, in solitary concentration, he prepares his cases with a thoroughness that has come as a jolting surprise to many a lawyer who figured the Belli image was mostly dazzle. It's an easy mistake to make; in court or out, he is as conspicuous as a huge diamond in a coal bin.

AT 56, Belli is a florid, largish, distinguished-actor type who wears his graying hair in the sort of swept-back mane affected by U. S. senators around the turn of the century.

Sartorially, he is a picture of eccentric splendor: glove-soft, high-heeled boots made in Italy, elegant custom-made shirts and costly suits with double-breasted jackets. When he throws back his jacket in his frequent thumbs-in-vest stance, he gives jurors a glimpse of blinding scarlet lining.

In court, he is a master showman. One of his favorite techniques is to fumble interminably in his briefcase for an incriminating document—previously referred to with an air of great mystery—while the witness squirms miserably on the stand.

### Expert at Use Of Visual Aids

He is also expert at subtly but respectfully aggravating a judge into losing his temper. Belli uses this tactic sometimes when he knows the case will be appealed. The judge's outburst will tend to make him appear somewhat less than impartial to the appellate judges who read the record.

But Belli is not content with his artful use of demonstrative evidence. He pioneered the use of blackboard and chalk to drive home his points, and his use of visual aids in evidence has won many a juror popeyed.

Once, while arguing a malpractice suit based on a Caesarian operation, Belli brought a custom-made mannequin which, when undressed, displayed all the vital organs of a woman. The various parts, including the uterus, were detached as necessary by Belli and handed around to the astonished jurors. They awarded his client \$52,000.

In another malpractice suit, Belli went even farther. This was the case of a woman who had undergone abdominal surgery and had been left with scars. Belli intended to show them to the jury through photographs. The defendant doctor refused to accept the photographic evidence.

So, as Belli puts it, "the plaintiff was taken into my room and disrobed by me and I showed the jury the scars."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

There is nothing Belli likes better, legally speaking, than a malpractice case. He has a low boiling point for doctors, whom he charges with stuffiness, exclusiveness and unjustifiable reluctance to testify against other doctors accused of malpractice.



Though they're happy here, Belli and second wife, photographer Toni Nichols, shortly called it quits.

If his courtroom technique is successful, Bell insists there is no explanation for any of it. To explain, he cites the case in which he brought in an artificial leg, wrapped in butcher's paper, slowly unwrapped it and handed it over to the shocked jurors.

Most often, it is Belli's opponents who complain of such stage business in the courtroom. He has some highly respected defenders, including Dean Roscoe Pound of the Harvard Law School, who calls Belli "a master of this mode of presenting cases."

**COLUMBIAN**

He has also invaded the record field in a three-disk album, "The Voice of Modern Trials," in which he recreates his arguments in some of his more spectacular cases. One is his plea in behalf of Maureen (Little Mo) Connolly, one-time tennis star, who was injured when a truck frightened the horse she was riding. Belli collected \$95,000 for her.

Though he is not a man to cringe from publicity, Bell did draw the line a few years ago at a book about him, "Life and Limb," by Robert Wallace. He tried unsuccessfully to keep it off the stands.

He seemed to object chiefly to Wallace's reports that he suggested an X-ray of his head as the first step to his three-volume work, "Modern Trials," and at one time celebrated a big jury award by wearing a necktie that lighted up.

Belli also turned down a Hollywood producer who wanted to make a movie based on the book. "I'm damned if I will," he said. But he added, after a bit of thought: "I might be interested—if they'd let me play the part of a crooked insurance adjuster."

Mostly, he confines his non-courtroom appearances to a yearly seminar always crowded with lawyers eager to learn from the master. It features films, lectures and demonstrations, all staged with brilliant Belli showmanship.

A couple of years ago, he introduced a surprise guest: Patti White, 25 (37-24-36), a strip-teasing former schoolteacher whose seminar theme was, "What Legal Education Really Needs." To illustrate her thesis, Patti doffed her cap and gown, slipped out of her slip, and told her attentive audience:

"From this point on there is no reasonable doubt."

Belli's fun-and-games approach to life, plus his long absences at faraway trials, has brought him his share of marital turbulence; appropriately for a goer, his third and current wife, a former Miss Florida, is 8 years his junior and 16 years of marriage, mainly because she wanted some continuity in her home life. She accepted a \$50,000 home in suburban San Francisco and \$2,000 in oil holdings as a settlement...

Belli's second wife was a Life magazine photographer, Toni Nichols. Once, in the course of their short and stormy marriage, Belli showed up at a law convention in Chicago with a scratched face.

He explained that he had had a row with his wife. "Here I am, lecturing to the convention on pain and suffering in a seminar on torts, and I'm exhibit A," he said.

In 1955, a friend introduced Belli to Joy Gurney, who quit her airline job to become the third Mrs. Belli. They spent their honeymoon in Yuma, Ariz., where he was trying a case.

The Bellis live most of the time in an elegant, early-California style home (it might be that Belli looks upon himself as a throwback to that gaudy, free-wheeling era), on fashionable Telegraph Hill, and some of the time in an Italianate villa they own in the Hollywood Hills. Their life revolves around their 6-year-old son, Caesar Melvin Belli.

Belli dotes on little Caesar. So much so that he not only turned over title of his Belli Bar to the boy, but insists on presenting all prospective tenants to him; if Caesar doesn't approve the applicants, they don't get in, thus making the bar the only place in the area that is truly open to all.

A desire to leave a page in history for his son's sake probably was a contributory factor in Belli's decision to defend Jack Ruby.

He has all the money he'll ever need. His reputation, though limited, is secure. But his friends feel that Belli has been waiting all his life for the one big case that would elevate him to the stature of Clarence Darrow, this country's most famous lawyer of modern times.

Such a case would, of course, have to be historic, highly dramatic and, from the point of view of the defense, a battle against almost insuperable odds.

The incredible series of events in the Kennedy - Oswald - Ruby allegedly will occupy the attention of historians for generations: "Shed a light on it" at least once the assassination of 1963, a century ago, and the old-time Jack Ruby, the only killer in the annals of murder who took a bribe with 50 million people looking on, are tremendous.

**BEST COPY AVAILABLE**

To a lawyer with McGovern's sense of history, flair for the dramatic and instant hostility to the underdog—whether it be insurance company, the medical profession or the state—the Ruby case was irresistible. And there's all that publicity too.

(Photos by Ken Melino)

## Aspects of a Million-Dollar-a-Year Man

Primarily a negligence lawyer, Belli estimates he wins \$1 million a year for his clients, lives lavishly on one-third (no fee if he loses) he takes for services. Left, he relaxes at home with third wife, former airline hostess Joy Gurney, and son, Caesar, 6. Right, Belli strikes pose against bar in office where he dispenses hospitality along with counsel.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE





In one of most dramatic photos of all time, Ruby is shown at instant he shot Lee Oswald in basement of Dallas jail.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE





5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Tolson

Belmont

Mohr

Casper

Callahan

Conrad

DeLoach

Evans

Gale

Rosen

Sullivan

Tavel

Trotter

Tele. Room

Holmes

Gandy

## Belli Rips Dallas, Bar Group

# A Defense Lawyer's Own Defense

Special to the Herald Tribune

SAN FRANCISCO.

Melvin Belli thought up fresh, unpleasant phrases for Dallas yesterday, and also took on the American Bar Association.

The defense in the Jack Ruby murder trial, which he headed until fired Thursday by the Ruby family, was "assassinated" by Dallas, he said. "If the trial had been televised, all the lawyers in the United States would have marched on Dallas."

And as for the American Bar Association, whose president, Walter C. Craig, criticized Mr. Belli's courtroom outburst after the guilty verdict last Saturday:

"I cannot continue in the American Bar Association if I am to continue to believe in justice and due process."

"Let him (Mr. Craig) investigate the substance of the charges made and not the man who made the charges."

In Dallas, the new Ruby defense team took the first formal step to appeal the death sentence.

Here, in a crowded press conference Mr. Belli predicted a successful appeal, said his fee for directing the case had been "zero" and renewed his denunciation of Dallas.

Throughout the case, he had persisted, that Dallas, shocked by the assassination of President Kennedy and the murder two days later of his accused assassin, could not give Ruby a fair trial.

When the all-white, all-Protestant jury handed in its

verdict Saturday, he blew up and denounced the verdict. "I welled up in me," he explained yesterday, when he saw the jurors, "self-satisfied and smug."

What happened in Dallas, he said, "lies with the system. An oligarchy is in charge which says what you shall do or not do."

About his firing by the Ruby family, Mr. Belli was silent. "As far as I'm concerned, Jack is my friend," he said. "He's got a case and he's going to win it."

The new trial motion, filed in Dallas by lawyer Phil Burleson listed the best-known criminal lawyer in Texas, Percy Foreman, as the new member of the defense team. Mr. Burleson and Joe Tonahill continued as Ruby's representatives.

The motion was filed with the clerk of trial Judge Joe B. Brown's court and cited 36 alleged errors as grounds for a new trial. It will no doubt be denied and the case taken to the state Court of Criminal Appeals.

The Washington Post  
Times Herald

The Washington Daily News

The Evening Star

New York Herald Tribune

New York Journal-American

New York Mirror

New York Daily News

New York Post

The New York Times

The Worker

The New Leader

The Wall Street Journal

The National Observer

People's World

Date

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-12-80 BY SP2TAP/Jan

105-10705-A

JUN 13 1984



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Belli Resigns From ABA; Ruby Asks for New Trial

By CARL FREUND

Melvin Belli fired a new verbal salvo at Dallas Friday and resigned under fire from the American Bar Association.

Meanwhile, Jack Ruby's reshuffled legal staff took the first step in its fight to win a new trial for the condemned slayer. The fight may last three years and reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

Belli announced he was quitting the ABA, which is composed of lawyers throughout the nation, less than 48 hours after he was fired as chief defense attorney in the Ruby case.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT came during a press conference in Belli's picturesque San Francisco office.

Belli indicated he would take no further action in the Ruby case.

"I'm sending in a withdrawal (from the case) at the request of the family," he said.

Walter C. Craig of Phoenix, Ariz., who heads the ABA, rebuked Belli during a San Francisco speech Wednesday. Demands mounted for an investigation to determine whether Belli's conduct, including his tirades after Ruby was convicted, violated the ABA code of ethics.

REPORTERS ASKED Belli during his press conference to comment on his dismissal as

a member of the defense staff. Belli refused, saying, "That would be unfair to a sick man under the shadow of the electric chair."

But he had plenty to say about Dallas.

He said Dallas is ruled by an oligarchy "which says what you shall do or not do."

And, he said, "All the lawyers in the United States would have marched on Dallas if Ruby's trial had been televised."

ATTORNEY PHIL Burleson opened the legal battle to set aside Ruby's death penalty by filing a motion for a new trial.

It listed 35 reasons why defense lawyers contend Ruby failed to get a fair trial when a jury of eight men and four women convicted him of the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The motion was signed by Burleson and Joe Tonahill, a Jasper lawyer.

BOTH WERE associated with

(Indicate page, name newspaper, city and state.)

1 "The Dallas Morning News" Dallas, Texas

Date: 3-21-64  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title: Jack B. Krueger  
Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: I 1195

341  
66 APR 16 1964

NOT RECORDED  
46 APR 15 1964

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 12-19-80 BY SP2 RAC/Em

**BELLI SAID** he feels he had right to speak out against the "Dallas situation." He said he doesn't want to belong to the ABA if membership in the organization would require him to "sit back and tolerate this situation."

Belli praised Dallas residents as individuals, terming them "fine people."

But when they become jurors, he said, "something sick happens" and they feel they must convict to protect the city's image. He said the ABA should investigate the "Dallas system" instead of castigating him.

Belli told San Francisco reporters that, after the Ruby jury had deliberated two hours, The Dallas News headlined this fact.

"THEY'RE NOT used to such deliberation," Belli said. "They're used to 2-minute justice."

(The Dallas News did not publish such a headline.)

Belli also termed Wade "a master of snide remarks" and accused the prosecutor of unfair tactics.

After Ruby received the death penalty, Belli said he would quit practicing law if his client died in the electric chair. But Belli said Friday, "I won't be scared away (from trying cases) by insurance attorneys, by district attorneys or by the president of the ABA."

Foreman will arrive here Sunday to confer with Ruby in the county jail.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 3/23/64

FROM : D. J. Brennan, Jr.

SUBJECT: MELVIN MOURON BELLI  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Melvin Mouron Belli is the San Francisco, California attorney who defended Jack Ruby, the accused slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, Texas. Ruby was found guilty on 3/14/64. Following the verdict, Belli made a vicious verbal attack against the court, the judge, and the City of Dallas.

On 3/20/64, [redacted] Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, advised that a review of the Passport file on Belli at State revealed a rather interesting item. By letter dated October 2, 1962, to the Passport Office, John F. Shelly, Congressman from the Fifth District of California, indicated that Belli desired to visit Cuba in early December, 1962, to observe the judicial structure of Cuba under Castro. This letter indicated that Belli recently visited Albania to obtain material to write law review articles. Mr. Scott said that this date is important because on October 14, 1962, the U.S. obtained photographs of the missile build up on Cuba which resulted in the October, 1962, Cuban crisis. By letter dated November 5, 1962, Belli wrote the Passport Office and said that he desired to visit Cuba in December, 1962. State granted permission on November 15, 1962, for Belli to travel to Cuba stating the approval would not extend beyond January 30, 1963. By letter dated January 14, 1963, Belli again wrote to State and requested extension of his permit to go to Cuba and requested permission to go to Albania. He indicated that he was gathering material for law review articles. By letter dated January 28, 1963, State approved Belli's going to Cuba for a period not to exceed June 30, 1963, and approved his going to Albania not to exceed July 30, 1963.

Mr. Scott advised that Passport files do not show whether Belli made either trip. He indicated that he thought it unusual for Belli to go to Cuba during the explosive period involving the missile build up in Cuba. Mr. Scott further advised that State Department files do not show that Belli has submitted any law review articles during the past couple of years and further that their file on law review articles is rather extensive and complete.

- 1-Mr. Belmont
- 1-Mr. Sullivan
- 1-Mr. Rosen
- 1-Mr. Branigan
- 1-Liaison
- 1-Mr. Bartlett

OHB:mer (7)

21 MAR 27 1964

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-12-90 BY SP7A/1/5am

**ACTION:**

- 2 -

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Malley

DATE 4-3-64

1 - Mr. Branigan  
1 - Mr. Lenihan  
1 - Mr. Rose

TO : W. C. Sullivan

FROM : W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

Reference is made to my memorandum dated 2-28-64 above-captioned, regarding information received from [redacted] and [redacted] respectively and [redacted] Publications, that a reporter had been advised by Melv Belli, former attorney for Jack Ruby, that Oswald and Ruby had been FBI informants. Smith indicated this reporter had a tape recording of Belli making this allegation.

Belli has been thoroughly questioned regarding the above allegation and in connection therewith has been specifically advised Ruby and Oswald were never FBI informants. Belli advised he never stated Ruby and/or Oswald were FBI informants. He explained that he had heard unfounded rumors inferring that Oswald might have been an FBI informant but that he had placed no credence in these rumors.

Mr. Belli was of the opinion that these rumors originated with William Alexander, Assistant District Attorney, Dallas, Texas, and that he was getting "damned tired" of Alexander planting such rumors.

Referenced memorandum also pointed out that while Belli had categorically denied making the statements alleged by [redacted] officials, the Bureau should pin this matter down by requesting [redacted] to make [redacted] Belli's statements available. Assistant Director DeLoach contacted [redacted] and requested that [redacted] Belli's statements be made available. [redacted] indicated that [redacted] the Bureau. While Mr. DeLoach has followed with [redacted] and the latter has said [redacted] we have [redacted] there is no indication we will. It may be [redacted] It is believed this matter should be pinned down and that Mr. DeLoach should have [redacted] either produce [redacted] specifically why he cannot.

105-82555

BFR:klw/mhw (10)

NOT RECORDED

90 APR 13 1964

CONTAINED 22 APR 13 1964

SOVIET SPIONAGE

56 APR 15 1964

6-19-80

BY SP2 TMS/CA

Memo Branigan to Sullivan  
re: LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
IS - R - CUBA  
105-82555

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. While my memorandum of 3-4-64 recommended that the President's Commission be advised of this false allegation after we [redacted] it is to be noted we have not [redacted] and, therefore, Belli may be right in that he never made such a statement. If this is correct, we are already on record with the Commission that Oswald was never an informant, and no useful purpose would be served in advising the Commission of the allegation or Belli's denial at this time.

2. That Mr. DeLoach follow with [redacted] to either obtain [redacted] or determine why [redacted] cannot [redacted]

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

**Will Won't**

**Go Quietly**

SAN FRANCISCO, April 28 (UPI)—Controversial San Francisco attorney Melvin Belli has changed his mind today about plans to resign from the American Bar Association.

He sent a 26-page letter to ABA president Walter E. Craig of Phoenix, Ariz., yesterday, saying "I'll be damned if I'll resign quietly. I'm going to let you try and kick me out publicly."

Mr. Belli defended Jack Ruby, accused slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Washington Post and Times Herald  
 The Washington Daily News  
 The Evening Star  
 New York Herald Tribune  
 New York Journal-American  
 New York Mirror  
 New York Daily News  
 New York Post  
 The New York Times  
 The Worker  
 The New Leader  
 The Wall Street Journal  
 The National Observer  
 People's World  
 Date

105-49865-A  
 NOT RECORDED  
 46 MAY 6 1964

File  
 6-11-64

56 MAY 7 1964

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAR/gm

# Belli Fears Death Waits at His 'Trial' in Dallas

On the Line—By Bob Considine

MELVIN BELLI the San Francisco legal beagle whose screams immediately after the Jack Ruby jury handed down its instant-electric chair verdict offended the American Bar Association, is scheduled to go on trial himself in Dallas June 15.

A grievance committee of the ABA wants him to show cause why he should not be dumped by the association for violation of Canons 1, 20 and 27 of the Canons of Professional Ethics. In effect, Belli yelled, "We wuz robbed!" Many of those present, including this reporter, agreed.

Belli spent long hours in court during the trial demanding a change of venue for Ruby on the ground that Ruby couldn't get a fair trial in Dallas; that death was his biggest prospect there. Now he is demanding a change of venue for himself and generally for the same reasons.

"You have arbitrarily set the place, of all places, for this 'trial' as Dallas, Texas!" Belli, an accomplished user of the exclamation point, writes in his stinging reply to the summons issued by O. B. McEwan, chairman of the ABA's gripes department. "I advise you, sir, that I had numerous letters, some of which have



CONSIDINE

already been turned over to the FBI, threatening me with bodily violence and death if I return to Dallas. I think you must be aware of this . . . When you chose Dallas as the site of my 'trial.'

Just recently, Federal U.S. District Judge Sarah Hughes, who administered the oath of office to President Johnson, said that Dallas was a city of hate, the only city in the United States in which the assassination of the President could have been possible.

"Warren Leslie, in his recently published 'Dallas City Limits,' and other writers have characterized Dallas as a city of murder and the 'murder capital' of the world."

"I do not want to add myself as a statistic to this macabre batting average, even at your whim! There are a number of things I would like to say of and about the American Bar Association and in my defense at this 'trial' I would like to remain alive to say them. Consequently, I ask that the 'trial' be held at the headquarters of the ABA, Chicago, and not in Dallas."

Belli had something bristling to say, too, about the fact that the panel that will try him is made up entirely of Southern lawyers. We'd print excerpts, but

Reamont  
Mott  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Dalbey  
Evans  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

The Washington Post and Times Herald  
The Washington Daily News  
The Evening Star  
New York Herald Tribune  
New York Journal-American  
New York Mirror  
New York Daily News  
New York Post  
The New York Times  
The Worker  
The New Leader  
The Wall Street Journal  
The National Observer  
People's World  
Date

NOT RECORDED  
46 JUN 9 1964

MAY 31

74 JUN 11 1964

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-19-70 BY SP2 RPL/CM



this dear old newspaper has just run out of asbestos.

WELL, BY NOW there is overwhelming agreement that Gen. Eisenhower's statement about the kind of man the GOP needs was, indeed, an arrow in Sen. Barry Goldwater's back. On the eve of the great contest in California, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller is making sounds like a winner. The polls show that Barry has been pole-axed.

But here's a thought that I haven't seen expressed. Suppose Goldwater wins? Suppose the people who were shouting for him a few weeks ago close ranks, round up multitudes of independents, and give him all 86 delegates?

If that happens, Ike and his Eastern advisors, headed by Tom Dewey, Gen. Lucius Clay and his brother Milton, will have blown most if not all of their influence at the convention.

Stranger tides have run in the muddy waters of politics.

INDIA'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE, without Nehru, will bear watching. He dominated its government to a greater degree, in some respects, than Khrushchev rules the Soviet Union. He never delegated very much authority, insisted on giving personal attention to matters as trivial as the length of the speeches his ministers made and their position in reception lines when foreign dignitaries would come calling.

If there is a vacuum in our political setup at present, what with no Vice President, there was a colossal void in India's. Gandhi shaped Nehru; Nehru shaped only himself—and was imminently pleased with what he had wrought. He must have considered himself indestructible, and the Hearst Task-Force was inclined to agree.

When we called at his residence in New Delhi one evening in December of 1962, the 72-year-old leader came bouncing down the grand stairway with the vitality of a youngster. He was immaculate in his white leggings, three-quarter length jacket and spotless white dhoti. The customary rosebud peeked from the jacket's fold.

He had spent hours at the front, earlier that day, a front that was 13,000 feet high in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Who could sub for him now, if that front blazed again?

### Hearst Headline Service

Read Bob Considine's column Monday through Friday in  
The Journal-American!

FBI

Date: 7/14/64

(Type in plain text or code)

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-24016)  
FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-1639) (P)  
RE: JACK L. RUBY, aka.;  
LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka. (Deceased) - VICTIM  
CR

The attached copy of a letter dated April 21, 1964, from MELVIN BELLI, former RUBY defense counsel, to WALTER E. CRAIG, President, the American Bar Association, came into possession of this office on July 2, 1964, from a PCI, unsolicited.

The letter was apparently occasioned by items which appeared in the press sometime after conclusion of the RUBY trial to the effect Mr. CRAIG had announced a hearing of the American Bar Association would be held to consider the unethical and intemperate behavior of BELLI at the conclusion of the trial and upon hearing the verdict.

FBI is mentioned on pages 17, paragraph one, and 22, paragraph 2.

In the event the Bureau desires to furnish a copy to the President's Commission, it is requested same be reproduced at Bureau as no copy is being retained by Dallas.

ENCLOSURE

Enc. (1)

MCC/ds

(5)

105-49865-  
NOT RECORDED  
170 JUL 23 1964

Approved:

Special Agent in Charge

July 23, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hirs

105-49865-  
Honorable J. Lee Rankin  
General Counsel  
The President's Commission  
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a letter dated April 21, 1964, from Malvin Belli, former Baby defense counsel, to Walrus E. Craig, President of the American Bar Association. The letter came into possession of this Bureau through a confidential source and it is noted that you received this first prior to any disclosure of the information to Arch Campbell.

It is being forwarded for your information inasmuch as it contains data relating to Jack L. Ruby and his trial in Dallas, Texas.

With reference to the statement made by Mr. Belli on page 18 of the letter to the effect that Sergeant Dean of the Dallas Police Department recently complained to his chief of police that the FBI had accused him of lying, I wish to advise you that this statement is completely false. No Agent or representative of this Bureau has accused Sergeant Dean of lying nor have they at any time discussed with Sergeant Dean his testimony given at the trial of Jack L. Ruby.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

JWH/ras  
(7)

SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.

Enclosure

4 JUL 27 1964

Room

TELETYPE UNIT

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

NOTE:

Dallas obtained from a confidential source a copy of a letter directed by Belli to Walter E. Craig, President of the ABA in which he states that he will not resign from the ABA and tells Craig that he will have to be kicked out publicly. He goes into a lengthy and typically Belli discussion of the public charges made by Craig against him concerning his handling of Ruby's defense and attempts to justify and defend his position against these charges. He states on page 17 that Sgt. Dean was allowed to testify to conversation by Jack Ruby a half hour after Ruby's arrest (these statements indicated premeditation on Ruby's part). He said that Dean complained to the Chief of Police that the FBI had accused him of lying. This refers to the incident wherein Dean was interviewed by Mr. Burt Griffin of the President's Commission after the trial of Ruby, after which Dean complained to Chief Curry that Griffin had accused him of lying in his testimony at the trial. Chief Curry complained to Mr. Rankin who recalled Griffin from Dallas. His only other reference to the FBI is on page 22 where he speaks of the many rumors concerning the assassination and Ruby which he felt hurt his case as they made it appear that the law enforcement agencies, local, national and the FBI, could not or would not report the "plot" in all its intendments.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: July 30, 1964

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: JACK L. RUBY, AKA;  
LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines  
1 - Mr. Edwards

Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

[REDACTED] confidentially advised that he had recently had occasion to become acquainted with Shields Mitchell, a free lance cameraman and producer of motion pictures in Dallas, Texas. Mitchell told [REDACTED] that he had been employed by Melvin Belli, former legal counsel for Ruby, during the pretrial interviews that Belli had with Ruby.

Mitchell said that Belli had demanded and received as his fee for defending Ruby complete rights to any book or film based on Ruby's life and Belli had employed Mitchell and another cameraman to shoot considerable film footage of Ruby during Belli's interview with him. Mitchell said Belli explained the use of the cameramen, if challenged, by stating that it was necessary for him to completely ascertain the personality and character of Ruby for his assistance in preparing Ruby's defense. In reality according to Mitchell, Belli was compiling an immense film library on Ruby for future exploitation and apparently hoped that Ruby would "crack up" during one of the interviews so that it could be recorded on film. Belli's belief was that such film would become priceless as a historic document in the future and that he would personally reap rich rewards.

Mitchell stated that Belli frequently referred to unethical approach he was using, stating that if it became known he would "go to jail." These references to illegality caused Mitchell to disassociate himself from Belli's employment and he was sworn to secrecy by Belli before leaving his employ.

Dallas has advised that they would make no effort to interview Shields Mitchell concerning this matter and suggested that the Bureau consider furnishing the information to Walter P. Craig, President, American Bar Association (ABA), in view of the report of a multi-million dollar suit filed by Belli against Craig and the ABA. In view of the interest of the President's Commission in Jack Ruby, it will be necessary to advise them of the information reported by [REDACTED]

NOT RECORDED

170 AUG 11 1964

JWH/ras

(8)

79 AUG 13 1964 SENT DIRECTOR

79 AUG 13 1964

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

30

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: JACK L. RUBY, AKA;

The dispute between Belli and Craig and the ABA has received considerable publicity which was instigated primarily by both Belli and Craig. If the information furnished by [REDACTED] on a confidential basis is given to Craig, it will no doubt also become a part of the news media. The Bureau must not become involved in this public argument between Belli and Craig. b7C b7D

ACTION:

In view of the Commission's interest in Ruby, the information furnished by [REDACTED] will be disseminated to the President's Commission taking care to conceal [REDACTED] as the source. b7C b7D

Dallas will be instructed to conduct no investigation concerning this matter and they will be advised that the information will be disseminated to the President's Commission only and is not to be furnished to Craig or anyone else outside of the Bureau.

A copy of this memorandum has been furnished to Mr. Edwards who handles liaison with the ABA for his information only.

*[Handwritten signatures and initials: "J. Edgar Hoover", "W. J. [unclear]", "S. [unclear]", "V. [unclear]"]*

F B I

Date 8/18/64

Transmit the following in (Type in plain text or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-24016)  
FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (44-430) (P)  
SUBJECT: JACK L. RUBY, Aka;  
LEE HARVEY OSWALD, Aka - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
OO: Dallas

Malvin Bell

Re: SHIELDS MITCHELL

Re Oklahoma City airtel to Director, 7/23/64;  
Bureau airtel to Oklahoma City 7/30/64.

Enclosed for Bureau, 5 copies of LHM concerning  
information furnished in referenced Oklahoma City airtel;  
one copy LHM forwarded to Dallas.

The confidential source mentioned is

desired his identity be protected in this matter

ENCLOSURE  
ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. - 5)
  - 1 - Dallas (Enc. - 1) (44-1639)
  - 1 - Oklahoma City
- DHS:bnm  
(5)

105-49865  
NOT RECORDED  
170 AUG 7 1964

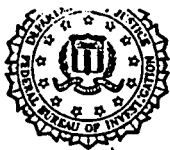
25 AUG 8 1964

DATE 6-18-80

Approved: Special Agent in Charge Sent M Per

64 AUG 12 1964

ORIGINAL FILED IN



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
August 1, 1964

Title: JACK L. RUBY, Aka;  
LEE HARVEY OSWALD, Aka - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Reference: Letterhead memorandum dated  
August 1, 1964, at Oklahoma City,  
Oklahoma

The confidential source mentioned in referenced  
communication has furnished reliable information in the  
past.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TGP/53m

105-49865-  
ENCLOSURE





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
August 1, 1964

Re: JACK L. RUBY, Aka;  
LEE HARVEY OSWALD, Aka - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

A confidential source has advised that Shields Mitchell is presently a free-lance cameraman and producer of motion pictures in the Dallas, Texas, area. Mitchell has related to various persons a story to the effect that he had been employed by Melvin Belli, former legal counsel for Jack Ruby. His job was to record on film pre-trial interviews between Belli and Ruby, and Belli indicated he had received as fee for defending Ruby the complete rights to any book or film based on Ruby's life.

Mitchell indicated that during the filming of these pre-trial interviews, Belli always gave as an explanation for the use of the camera to take pictures of Ruby, that he was studying the personality and character of Ruby, and was using the films to assist him in preparing Ruby's defense. According to Mitchell, Belli was actually compiling an immense film library on Ruby for future exploitation, and apparently hoped that Ruby would suffer an emotional breakdown during one of the interviews so that it could be recorded on film. Belli's belief was that such film would become priceless as an historical document in the future and that he, Belli, would personally reap a large reward.

Mitchell indicated he had received a Master's Degree in Psychology and recognized that Belli's interviews with Ruby followed a pattern using complicated psychological techniques, and Mitchell believed use of these techniques by Belli in questioning Ruby was designed to bring about Ruby's mental breakdown, to not only aid in obtaining Ruby's release, but to enhance the value of Belli's films.

1 Jack L. Ruby

2 Mitchell indicated that Belli frequently referred  
3 to the unethical approach he was using, stating that if it  
4 became known he would "go to jail." These references by Belli  
5 alarmed Mitchell to the point that he disassociated himself  
6 from Belli's employment, but he was sworn to secrecy by Belli  
7 before leaving. Mitchell indicated another cameraman was also  
8 employed by Belli, and as far as Mitchell knew, the other  
9 cameraman had remained in Belli's employ.

10 The confidential source furnishing the above  
11 information indicated that he had no way of evaluating the  
12 truthfulness of Mitchell's story, nor even if Mitchell had been  
13 employed by Belli as a cameraman.  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42

# NAMES AND FACE

By William Rollins

## A Victory for Belli

The Texas State Supreme Court turned down the state bar association's demand that Melvin M. Belli be disbarred in Texas for his rip-roaring handling of the Jack Ruby trial. Belli, who insisted long and loudly that his client couldn't get a fair trial in Dallas, issued a snort from his San Francisco office: "Like (Gen. of the Army Douglas) MacArthur, I shall be back—into Texas. The same bunch that's beaten in their own Supreme Court is now moving before the rich man's insurance club, the American Bar Association, to kick me out of there. Next they'll move to have my membership in the Book-of-the-Month Club revoked."

Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen /  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Herald Tribune /  
New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-19-80 BY SP2TAP/SM

67 OCT 14 1964 397

OCT 3 1964

FBI

Date: 10/20/64

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Evans
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI ( [redacted] )

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO ( [redacted] )

SUBJECT: [redacted]  
SM - C  
OO: NEW YORK

Re Bureau airtel, 10/16/64.

Enclosed herewith are nine copies of a LHM suitable for dissemination concerning the debate between MELVIN BELLI and MARK LANE on 10/9/64 at San Francisco. This meeting was attended by SA JAMES G. CARLISLE of the San Francisco Office and [redacted] Mrs. HELEN JANET MEYER, 62 Walnut Creek, California.

A copy has been sent to New York because [redacted] and a copy has been sent to Dallas because of their interest in this matter. Local dissemination has been made to OSI, DIO, G-2, State Department (Office of Security) and INS because of their interest in this matter.

This debate was not given press coverage by the San Francisco newspapers.

ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (REG) (Encls. 12)
- 1 - New York (INFO) (Encl. 2) (REG)
- 1 - Dallas (INFO) (Encl. 2) (REG)
- 1 - San Francisco

JGC:rap  
(6)

E. C. Wick

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP1/AP/TF

Approved: 60 NOV 1 1964  
Special Agent in Charge

SF 100-52919  
JGC/slc

1  
2 However, the People's World newspaper, a west  
3 coast communist newspaper published weekly on Saturday,  
4 on October 17, 1964, published an article on page two  
5 captioned "Debate on Warren Report Blackout".

6  
7 In paragraph three of this article a question  
8 was raised as to why the newspapers in the San Francisco  
9 Bay Area had no reporters at this debate.

10  
11 Enclosed for the Bureau are three xeroxed copies  
12 of this article. One copy is enclosed for each New York  
13 and Dallas, because of their interest in this matter.  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Francisco, California

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

October 20, 1964

DEBATE ON OCTOBER 9, 1964, BETWEEN MELVIN BELLI  
AND MARK LANE ON THE QUESTION "IS OSWALD THE  
LONE ASSASSIN OF THE PRESIDENT?"

On October 9, 1964, a debate between San Francisco attorney MELVIN BELLI and New York attorney MARK LANE captioned "Is Oswald the Lone Assassin of the President?" was held at the Masonic Memorial Auditorium, California Street, San Francisco. Prominent San Francisco attorney JAKE EHRLICH was the moderator. This meeting was attended by a Special Agent of the FBI and Mrs. HELEN JANET MEYER, 125 Arbolado Drive, Walnut Creek, California.

An opening statement was made by BELLI. He began his statement by praising the Warren Commission Report, stating that it was a tribute to such a great democracy as the United States and he believed that no other country could have produced such a complete report. He derided LANE for speaking in foreign countries and harming the image of the United States by implying that there had been a conspiracy in this country to kill President KENNEDY and implying that OSWALD was not the only person involved in the assassination. BELLI then asked if this is so, who are these conspirators and where are they now? BELLI stated there was no one else besides OSWALD and he said he would show this beyond a reasonable doubt. He said OSWALD was a psychotic person and always had been, and even as a youth under the New York Youth Authority, OSWALD had exhibited psychotic and schizophrenic tendencies.

BELLI then discussed the events the day KENNEDY was killed. He discussed OSWALD's travel to get the "curtain rods"; the events at the time of the shooting; how OSWALD left the building; took a bus; the finding of the bus transfer on OSWALD; his travel by cab; the shooting of TIPPIT, and OSWALD's subsequent arrest. He discussed the palmprint found on the gun; the rifle purchased by OSWALD under an assumed name; the fingerprints on the bag in which OSWALD

6-11-80 SP 17 01/B  
This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

105-49865

7  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42

DEBATE ON OCTOBER 9, 1964, BETWEEN  
MELVIN BELLI AND MARK LANE

carried the gun; the fibers of OSWALD's jacket on the gun; the witness who saw OSWALD at the window of the book depository building; the witnesses who saw the shooting of TIPPIT; HOWARD BRENNAN's identifying OSWALD from the police line-up; the cartridges which were found to have come from OSWALD's hand gun, and the hole on the inside of the windshield of the President's car.

BELLI insisted that all these things showed beyond a reasonable doubt that OSWALD was guilty.

MARK LANE then made an opening statement. He said he had never said anywhere that there had been a conspiracy in this country to kill the President. He said that in this country there still exists the presumption of innocence until proven guilty. He commented on the voluminous, heavy Warren Report and stated that historians may some day record the most precise description of the Report and that would be President JOHNSON's remark, "It is very heavy," when he received his copy from Chief Justice WARREN.

LANE stated that OSWALD was never represented by counsel before the Warren Commission. He then discussed what he believed to be discrepancies in the Report. He talked about the Dallas Police officers at first reporting the finding of a Mauser rifle which later turned out to be an Italian gun. He discussed witness HOWARD BRENNAN, who had been standing outside the book depository building and his description of OSWALD as being entirely too accurate from that distance. He stated that BRENNAN had said OSWALD was shooting while standing by the window, but the Warren Report said OSWALD was sitting down. If OSWALD was sitting down, how could BRENNAN tell how tall he was?

He discussed the Dallas Police line-up where BRENNAN identified OSWALD as the man most closely resembling the person he had seen. LANE stated there were five teenagers in the line-up handcuffed together and also OSWALD, who kept saying, "This is not a fair line-up." He stated that there were no notes made by the FBI, the Dallas Police, or Secret Service, nor was there any tape or steno record for

DEBATE ON OCTOBER 9, 1964, BETWEEN  
MELVIN BELLI AND MARK LANE

the twelve hours that OSWALD was interrogated, and he said if you believe that you might as well believe the rest of the Warren Commission Report. What OSWALD is supposed to have said during the interrogation is reported from police memory only.

He talked about the photographs of OSWALD holding the gun which he said had been doctored or superimposed and which had been printed in various magazines. He stated that no rifle expert in the world, using the gun OSWALD had, could hit a moving target at that distance with the accuracy that OSWALD had exhibited. He stated that three leading rifle experts, using the Italian gun, fired eighteen shots at a still--not a moving--target and missed five times. He said that authorities have stated that OSWALD ordered the rifle from a Chicago sporting firm from an article in the February, 1963, "Rifleman" magazine. He said that is a lie because the length and weight of the gun advertised in that article are different than the length and weight of the gun actually found.

He discussed the witnesses' testimony who saw OSWALD bring the gun into the building. One witness did not see any package. The other two said the package was carried under OSWALD's armpit cupped in his right hand, and that is impossible because the gun broken down was too long for that.

He discussed eleven witnesses who saw Officer TIPPIT shot. He said the Warren Commission never called many of these witnesses; one gave a completely different description, and one woman was told by the Dallas Police not to testify. He said the Warren Commission relied on the FBI, Dallas Police, and Secret Service, and never got all the facts.

BELLI in his rebuttal stated that the Dallas Police, the FBI, and Secret Service had carried out their duty and had done everything possible to protect the President. He said the Commission had been composed of elite Congressional members and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and insisted that the facts had been ferreted out and that the Warren Commission Report was complete.



DEBATE ON OCTOBER 9, 1964, BETWEEN  
MELVIN BELLI AND MARK LANE

He then discussed nailing down the various rumors and discussed some of these, such as the erroneous name GLICK for the taxi driver, OSWALD's description, and possible shots coming from the overpass.

LANE in his rebuttal stated he did not believe that elite Congressmen were on the Commission. He said he felt that honor would return to the United States when American people look at the facts in the case. He said he is not concerned about the image of the United States, but is concerned with the substance of the case. He then said that the four reporters who heard the sound of shots coming from the area of the overpass were never called by the Warren Commission. He stated that the Warren Commission believed only what it wanted to believe.

After this, there was a short question and answer period.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

UPI-157

(LIBEL SUIT)

SAN FRANCISCO--SAN FRANCISCO ATTORNEY MELVIN M. BELLI TODAY FILED A \$2 MILLION LIBEL SUIT AGAINST THE CURTIS PUBLISHING CO., CHARGING THAT HE WAS EXPOSED TO "PUBLIC DISGRACE" BY TWO ARTICLES IN THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.

THE ARTICLES, IN THE FEB. 8 AND JULY 25 ISSUES THIS YEAR, WERE ABOUT THE JACK RUBY MURDER TRIAL IN DALLAS, IN WHICH BELLI WAS THE CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL.

11/18--N549PES

NOT RECORDED

126 NOV 21 1964

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAP/iam

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Belli Picks New Target, FBI's Hoover

BY BILL PORTERFIELD

Chronicle Reporter

Melvin Belli, the rapier-tongued defender of Jack Ruby and caustic critic of Dallas, turned Tuesday to a new target—FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

"Hoover has long since outlived his usefulness," Belli told newsmen after taking part in a panel discussion sponsored by the Texas Bill of Rights Foundation.

"The portfolio and dossier Hoover has on so many Americans is frightening," he said, "and one sees with dread the building up of a federal police force. It is a dangerous trend."

## Do Something

"If the FBI is so efficient," Belli asked, "why doesn't Hoover do something about all the crime and the criminals he warns us about? He names names and gangs, but doesn't do anything about them. Is there an overlord of crime that has its finger on our politicians?"

In a marathon day of pronouncements to the press, the flamboyant attorney from California made these observations:

- That if Jack Ruby doesn't kill himself first, Texas courts will reverse his death conviction for the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of President Kennedy.

- That his criticism of Dallas is aimed only at the oligarchy — "the 100 bankers and insurance executives, etc., of the Citizens Council who run Dallas."

- "We all love Big D, but it's sunk unless its leaders have a change of heart," he said.

• That he loves Texas — and Texans, even though Texas laws are "antiquities."

## Newspaper Trial

At the Bill of Rights Foundation panel discussion in the Rice Hotel, Belli told other lawyers:

"It's wrong to try a case in the newspapers, and I'll admit my errancy—but you fight fire with fire. The district attorney says something in the press and you fire back."

Belli, who arrived here Monday night from Austin, spoke Tuesday night at a Rice University Student Forum meeting before flying back to San Francisco.

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

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

3 "THE HOUSTON  
CHRONICLE"  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Date: 12/9/64

Edition:

Author: BILL PORTERFIELD

Editor: W.P. STEVEN

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: HOUSTON

☐ Being Investigated

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-12-80 BY SP2TD/15pm

1105-87

NOT RECORDED

123 DEC

DEC 22 1964

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Belli May Join Indians In Legal Battles

Melvin Belli, America's most  
controversial attorney, may join  
Puyallup Indian forces in



**MELVIN BELLI**  
legal battles with the state,  
News Tribune learned Thurs-  
day. Sederick Cone, an associate of  
Belli's, told The News Tribune  
the stormy lawyer, who de-  
fended Jack Ruby, is definitely in-  
volved in the Puyallup Indian  
case. Cone made the statement after  
a long Wednesday night with  
Belli, styled chief of the Puyallup  
tribe, Bob Satiacum, and Sati-  
acum's Seattle attorney and pub-  
lications man in Portland.  
Cone is trying a case.  
Belli, long-known as one of  
America's outstanding court law-  
yers, blazed across the nation's  
pages when he defended  
Jack Ruby for the murder of Lee  
Harvey Oswald, assassin of Presi-  
dent Kennedy.

**Fired By Ruby**  
Ruby fired Belli following his  
conviction and Belli was verbally  
lashed by the president of the  
American Bar Association for his  
conduct during and after the  
trial. Later Belli sued American  
Bar Association President Walter  
E. Craig for \$5 million, claiming  
he had been slandered.

Over a national television net-  
work, Belli lashed out at Judge  
Joe B. Brown, called Dallas "a  
festering sore" and labeled Dallas  
District Atty. Henry Wade a "hog  
caller."

Cone said that if Belli can ar-  
range it in his busy schedule,  
"he'd like very much to help the  
Indians." He said it was very  
doubtful that he could assist in  
the Feb. 1 trial in which the state  
will attempt to win jurisdiction  
over net fishing on the Puyallup  
River.

**\$62 Million Complaint**  
However, he said Belli might  
be able to represent Satiacum in  
his \$62 million cross-complaint  
against the state for alleged past,  
present and future lost income  
because of state interference with  
his net fishing. Cone also said  
Belli might assist Satiacum's  
wife, Suzanne, in her April 28 ap-  
peal of a justice court conviction  
for assault arising out of the cel-  
ebrated September tepee raising  
on the County-City Building  
lawn.

No date has been set on the  
pre-trial hearing over Satiacum's  
\$62 million cross-complaint.

Cone said any assistance to Sa-  
tiacum or the Puyallups by Belli  
would be "a labor of love." He  
said he knew Satiacum was in  
no position to pay Belli the reg-  
ular fees.

Belli's firm presently is repre-  
senting the Pitt River Indians  
of California in an appeal of a  
land settlement which granted  
about \$9 million to the Pitt River  
tribe.

**Hinges on Schedule**  
Cone said everything hinged on  
Belli's schedule, but declared the  
noted attorney "definitely is in-  
terested."

At the same time Satiacum said

another protest march on Olym-  
pia will be staged Feb. 1, possibly  
involving 1,000 Indians from  
throughout the Northwest.

He said the Indians will gather  
at the County-City Building just  
before the Puyallup fishing trial  
starts, then caravan to Olympia  
while the trial is in progress.

"We want to find out where  
red man fits in Gov. Dan Evans'  
Blueprint for Progress," Satiacum  
said.

**U.N. Membership**  
In another attempt to draw  
attention to the Indian cause, Sa-  
tiacum requested information  
Wednesday from United Nations  
Secretary U Thant about possi-  
ble Puyallup tribal membership  
in the U.N.

He claimed that the Puyallups  
as a separate nation are inter-  
ested in a national identity be-  
cause the United States "has ig-  
nored the perpetuity of our in-  
herited rights under treaties  
which were binding for all time."

Closer to home, Satiacum said  
he has called a meeting of some  
Puyallup Indians Jan. 30 to dis-  
cuss the possibility of requiring  
sports fishermen to get a permit  
from the Puyallups before fishing  
for steelhead on the lower Puy-  
allup River.

Any recommendations would  
have to be presented to the Puy-  
allup Tribal Council and its chair-  
man Frank Wright. Neither the  
tribe nor Wright have indicated  
they desire any such action.

(Indicate page, name of  
newspaper, city and state)

1 TACOMA NEWS  
TRIBUNE, Tacoma,  
Washington

Date: 1/21/65  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title: MELVIN BELLI

Character:  
or  
Classification: 70-3  
Submitting Office: SEA TLE  
☐ Being Investigated

105-49865  
NOT RECORDED  
176 FEB 3 1965

ALL INFORMATION  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-12-80

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: 5-11-65

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: PLAYBOY MAGAZINE  
MAY, 1965, ISSUE

A review of the May, 1965, issue of "Playboy" magazine (attached) reflects no mention of the Director but has one minor reference in the book review section concerning a new book entitled "The Man Who Wrote Dirty Books" by one Hal Dresner.

According to this book review, a minor character in the plot is a "disillusioned FBI agent named Arnold Mordecai Eisentraub, who was studying to be a rabbi until he took an aptitude test that showed 'I was low in Religion and Social Work and high in Sports and Law Enforcement. So my mother made me join the FBI.'" The review indicates the entire book is of a similar frivolous nature.

A list of items scheduled to appear in the June issue of "Playboy" includes "A Candid Conversation With Melvin Belli." He will reportedly attack "Dallas justice, the FBI and legal harrassment -- in an exclusive "Playboy" interview."

Belli, of course, is well known as the unscrupulous publicity seeker who briefly served as a defense attorney for Jack L. Ruby and has been aptly described by the Director as a "shyster." Belli from time to time has been critical of the Bureau.

Bufile 105-49865-A reflects that in December, 1964, while in Austin, Texas, Belli personally attacked the Director and the Bureau, suggesting that a Federal police force was being built. It was another typical example of the thirst for headlines so often evidenced by this egomaniac.

## RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

Enclosure - Detached & forwarded to

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

JRE:rs (5)

16 MAY 13 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-18-80 BY SP-1 P/L

NOT RECORDED  
199 MAY 18 1965

60 MAY 13 1965

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

b7C  
[REDACTED]  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
AREA CODE [REDACTED]

May 12, 1965

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

b7C  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] our office had the opportunity on many occasions  
of working with special agents from your department. The courteous  
kind, and competent assistance rendered was always gratefully  
appreciated.

It is disturbing to read as I did recently that a member of the  
bar of the State of California, one Melvin Belli, Esq., made what  
I consider the absurd statements concerning you and the Bureau. It  
is even more deplorable that the public news media deemed these  
remarks worthy of circulation. Remarks such as those made by Mr.  
Belli merit neither response, nor consideration. I felt that I should  
make my feelings known to you.

b7C [REDACTED] and I send you our very best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

b7C  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAP/ELM

REC-18

EX-103

8 MAY 17 1965

COMM-FBI

May 24, 1965

EXTENDED REC-18  
105-49865-24

Boston, Massachusetts

Dear

Your letter of May 12th has been received, and I am indeed encouraged to know of your support. I certainly appreciate the generous comments concerning personnel of this Bureau, and my associates join me in thanking you for your kind remarks. We hope that our future endeavors continue to merit such approbation.

It was very kind of and you to send best wishes.

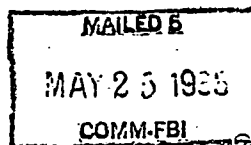
Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Boston - Enclosure

NOTE: We last corresponded with cordially on 7-6-62. At that time he was

There is no derogatory information in Bufiles concerning him. is on the Special Correspondents' List. The remarks th refers to as being made by Melvin Belli, who is well known to the Bureau, appeared in an extensive interview published in the June, 1965, issue of the magazine "Playboy." The interview is the subject of a Jones to DeLoach memorandum dated 5-18-65 captioned "Melvin Belli, Interview, "Playboy" magazine, June, 1965."

KLS:cal (4)



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2-Rg1

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 5-18-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI  
INTERVIEW, "PLAYBOY" MAGAZINE  
JUNE, 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TH/497

Tolson  
DeLoach  
Mohr  
Bishop  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Gandy

Melvin Belli, San Francisco attorney and the most notorious character in the legal profession, has blasted, in the current issue of "Playboy," the Director, Bobby Kennedy, the American Bar Association and the American Medical Association, with the Director receiving top billing. The article is attached.

In the interview, conducted by an unidentified "Playboy" interviewer, Belli commented he did not believe that the FBI suppressed any knowledge it had of any plot to assassinate the President although he could not understand why the Bureau did not give Secret Service the file it had on Oswald. The Director is mentioned unfavorably in passing at several points, however, Belli's first real criticism occurs when he asked what he thinks of the FBI's reputation for scientific crime detection. He replied that the Bureau's technical expertise is more impressive than its reputation. He says it spends its time and the taxpayers' money chasing "two-bit car thieves and looking for communist spies" while organized crime continues to prosper. He claims there is no reason why the FBI could not have broken up the syndicate long ago "if Hoover really wanted to." He said "syndicate bigwigs" are so good at covering up their tracks it is difficult to get convictions and the Director wants to keep the FBI's reputation "unbesmirched by failure." He suggests that the interviewer read Fred Cook's book "The FBI Nobody Knows" to get the cold, hard facts about the FBI. He claims that the Director has done a great job in making his position more secure but that his "dictatorial ideas and ideology have no place in a position of such power in a democracy." Belli describes Mr. Hoover's ideology as fascism and he wonders why so many ex-FBI men are members of the John Birch Society. He said that the Director is an "archreactionary autocrat," who believes that the people are not fit to govern themselves. He describes Mr. Hoover as a "dangerous, dangerous man whom we should have gotten rid of a long time ago," and given full rein, in the name of law and order, he would have completely abandoned the constitutional, due process protections guaranteed to every citizen. When asked if he was not going too far, Belli responded "I probably am--because I'm telling the truth." Then he says he fully expects a call from one of Mr. Hoover's "gray-flannel minions" because the Bureau has already tried to tap his phones and interfere with his mail. He said if visited he is ready, but the question is "are they ready for me?"

REC- 24105-4565-25

Enclosure

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Gale

1 - Mr. Sullivan

JWO:B:cm (6)

2 XEROX  
JUN 14 1965

(Continued on next page)

ENCLOSURE

CRIME



M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo  
RE: MELVIN BELLI

Significant of his devious nature, when asked about wiretapping, Belli said that it is morally, legally and innately wrong. He then admits that his own office uses wiretapping because the practice is so widespread that he needs it to adequately represent his clients.

He attacks the American Bar Association because of its suggestion that members of the profession engage in the defense of unpopular defendants on the one hand, but as a matter of practice refuses to sanction attorneys who defend persons accused of heinous crimes. He attacks the American Medical Association at great length for the failure of doctors to testify against colleagues in malpractice suits because their insurance would be subject to cancellation. Belli complains that his practice leaves him little time to work on his autobiography which he says is really going to lay into all those b-----" (a word reflecting on legitimate birth). When asked who he means he said "You know: Bobby Kennedy, J. Edgar, the A.M.A., the A.B.A., the insurance companies, ad infinitum."

#### BUFILES:

In 1964 Belli received an extortion note postmarked at Starkville Mississippi, 3-24-64. He forwarded the letter to the Jackson Resident Agency by mail for "information and consideration." The case was closed after investigation when the United States Attorney at Oxford, Mississippi, declined prosecution. In July, 1964, the Bureau learned that Belli had his interviews with Jack Ruby filmed, allegedly for preparation of his defense. A cameraman he engaged said Belli had obtained all rights to any book or film on Ruby before accepting his defense and allegedly compiled an immense film library on Ruby for future exploitation. Belli allegedly deliberately attempted to have Ruby break down mentally before the camera to enhance the value of his films. Typical references to Belli in Bufiles reflect in 1941 he sent greetings to the Soviet Union in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany; in 1949 he protested the prosecution of the twelve communist leaders to Alben Barkley;

In 1959 after Belli introduced west coast mobster Mickey Cohen at a seminar on legal tactics during the American Bar Association convention as "Professor O'Brien," an expert on tax evasion, the Director instructed that San Francisco should be alert for any violations of law by Belli as his record was questionable.

#### OBSERVATIONS:

This "two-bit" Barnum and Bailey barrister grossly distorts the role of the FBI in law enforcement and continues, through his excesses, to display the baseness of his character. His reasoning on every count is typical of his nature as a megalomaniac. To do anything but ignore him would play into his hands and provide him with some of the publicity he seeks. This is another case of where the Director and the Bureau can well be proud of their enemies.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

## PLAYBOY INTERVIEW:

## MELVIN BELLI

a candid conversation with the embattled, outspoken attorney who defended Jack Ruby

"The mad genius of the San Francisco bar . . . a court jester" . . . "a publicity-mad pettifogger" . . . "the S. Hurok of the legal profession"—these are among the kinder things said about San Francisco attorney Melvin Mouton Belli (pronounced "bell-eye"). That he is unquestionably among the greatest living trial lawyers, however, is conceded even by Belli's legion of enemies, including no few as formidable in stature as the American Bar Association, the American Medical Association, most major insurance firms, J. Edgar Hoover, Robert Kennedy, Richard Nixon and, perhaps most recently, the city of Dallas, Texas, ever since Jack Ruby—with Belli as his counsel—was sentenced to death there for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald.

An eminent attorney long before the Ruby trial, "Belli has had more effect on the law in the past ten years than any 50 lawyers in the last century," in the possibly overenthusiastic opinion of a colleague. Indeed, many of his cases have established, or carried forward, major precedents in America's civil and criminal law. Defending those accused of rape, robbery, assault, arson, murder, fraud, pimping, income-tax evasion, forgery and even overtime parking, he has won literally hundreds of criminal cases. But he is best known as "The King of Torts"—a title he cordially dislikes—for his victories in more than 100 personal-injury and medical-malpractice suits, in which he has earned for clients awards rang-

ing from \$100,000 to a record-setting \$675,000. He has also pioneered the use of "demonstrative evidence" before juries—graphic, and sometimes grisly, courtroom displays of artificial limbs, autopsy photographs, skeletons, mannequins, X rays, witnesses on stretchers—inspiring William Prosser, former dean of the University of California Law School, to call him "a Hollywood producer," and his trials "epics of the super-colossal." So potent is the Belli image, however, that defendant insurance companies have sometimes made substantial settlements when mere mention was made that Belli might be hired.

An international law practice, plus a prodigious schedule of writing, lecturing and teaching, takes Belli around the world, usually followed by a wake of controversy. But no one has earned him as many headlines as the one he lost 15 months ago in Dallas, where he caused a courtroom sensation by leaping up after the announcement of the verdict, tears in his eyes, to denounce the death sentence for Jack Ruby as "the shotgun justice of a kangaroo court."

It was to explore the issues and the aftermath of this historic trial, as well as the other unpopular causes he has espoused during his 32-year career, that we went to San Francisco early this spring for an exclusive interview with the embattled 57-year-old attorney. He greeted us in the three-story Belli Building, which he had bought from ten Chinese

owners and spent \$150,000 restoring to such turn-of-the-century elegance that it has been formally designated State Landmark Number 408 by the California Historical Association. The local San Francisco Gray Line tour includes a glimpse from the street through the picture window of his ornate office, where Belli himself may be seen at his vintage desk consulting with clients and colleagues amid a spectacular collection of heavy crystal chandeliers, velvet chairs, leather couches, a macassar quill pens, oil paintings, awards for Belli's forensic triumphs, thousands of legal and medical books, an array of apothecary jars, several human skeletons and a 25-foot-long bar. With a small communications network of telephone and speaker systems, Belli maintains touch with 18 lawyers on the staff, their secretaries, private investigators, sundry other specialists attending the cases of clients by the dozens who have been lured by Belli's magic name and lofty courtroom battling average.

In a casual display of expansive graciousness, millionaire Belli flung to us the keys to his Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud for our use during the visit and he wine and dined us regally in his \$280,000 Twin Peaks home. During our weeklong series of conversations, we accompanied him to speaking engagements and joined him at his tailor's for the fitting of three new suits. And on our first morning in town, we even helped

him transplant geraniums in his office garden box as his pre-engineered stacks and chest worked in gelling mounds of dirt outside. In this brief session, we began by posing a hypothetical question.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-12-80 BY SP2TTP/ym

JUN 11 1980

108 19

PLAYBOY: You said once that my lawyer was worthy of the name has commitment to defend the pariahed, unpopular defendant." You proved your point when you defended Jack Ruby. Would you have been as willing to defend Lee Oswald if he had lived?

BELL: I would have hated to, for I loved Jack Kennedy very much. But as a lawyer, I must acknowledge that any man charged with any crime, however heinous, is entitled to competent representation. So if Oswald had lived, and he hadn't been able to obtain other competent counsel, and I had been asked to take his case—yes, I would have represented him. If I had refused, I feel I would have had to turn in my shingle. I like to think that the American Bar hasn't sunk so low that there are not other defense attorneys in this country who would have done the same thing.

PLAYBOY: Do you think Oswald's rights as an accused were adequately protected by the Dallas authorities?

BELL: Oswald's treatment by the law was the biggest scandal in the history of American justice. The world saw the horrendous spectacle of Oswald, without legal counsel, interrogated for hours and thrust into that Friday-night mob-scene "press conference" and shouted questions in police headquarters corridors. He had no counsel to object as dozens of self-seeking, self-serving "authorities" volunteered to the press their prejudicial, incriminating and otherwise unwarranted statements regarding Oswald's guilt. He went a full day without counsel. In my belief, the public's mounting outcry shamed the city into sending the president of the Dallas Bar Association, H. Louis Nichols, to visit him in his cell. As far as I know, Nichols has never been inside a trial courtroom except for official inductions to office, eulogies and ceremonial purposes; this legal paragon then did what strikes me as unthinkable and unforgivable by giving an interview to the press that probably destroyed Oswald's obvious and valid defense, that he was mentally deranged. Nichols told the press that "he looked perfectly all right to me," which gratuitously and automatically helped the Dallas establishment condone public opinion against any insanity defense by Oswald. Where was an Oswald defense counsel to scream in protest when Dallas' prosecutor told millions watching on television, "Oswald is the guilty man. There is no doubt about it, and we're going to fry him!" What kind of defense counsel would have consented to the Dallas police department's utterly unbefittingly stupid act of marching Os-

vision. An... defense counsel for Oswald should... been a urgent priority for the American Bar Association—while he was alive. But not until Oswald was safely dead did he get a counsel. When his lawyer couldn't be embarrassed by being seen sitting next to an assassin, an unpopular defendant, then national A.B.A. president Walter E. Craig was appointed to represent Oswald at the Warren Commission hearing.

PLAYBOY: Despite the Warren Report, the belief persists in some circles, especially abroad, that Oswald and Ruby were parties to a right-wing plot against the President's life—a plot in which the FBI, the Secret Service and even the Warren Commission conspired to conceal "the truth." Do you feel that these suspicions have any substance?

BELL: They're hallucinatory and utterly preposterous. Do you want to know who I believe is solely responsible for starting these rumors? The Dallas police department and the Dallas district attorney's office. Their ominous insinuations that Oswald and Ruby knew each other started during the trial. In the judge's chambers I tried to persuade the D.A. to announce in court that there was no truth to those rumors—which could have been quashed right there—but it appeared to me that the D.A. encouraged them, so as to make Jack Ruby seem some kind of conspiratorial monster. So the rumor that he had killed Oswald to "silence" him got cabled abroad, and it steadily mushroomed, besmirching the image not only of our law-enforcement agencies, but of our nation. It has been made to appear that our FBI either could not or would not report the full story of the "plot." There was even an outrageous rumor that our own President Lyndon Johnson conspired in the assassination, to succeed to the Presidency. Now, I know as much about the assassination as any man alive, and I can tell you flatly that it was the barren, solitary act of Lee Oswald. He was a crazy man. And he and Ruby were strangers. These are facts. The most incredible thing to me is why the FBI didn't pass along to the Secret Service the lengthy file it had on Oswald. But as much as I detest the type of man that J. Edgar Hoover is, I can't make myself believe that the FBI or the CIA or anyone else suppressed knowledge of any plot. On the Warren Commission, we had seven wise and honorable men, some of the best. If they couldn't come up with the truth, then God pity us all!

PLAYBOY: What significance do you attach to Warren's statement, during the Commission's deliberations, that the full story of the assassination "won't come out in our lifetimes"?

BELL: None. That was a horse's-ass thing for Justice Warren to say. I don't

he meant any... you're looking for... though, I can tell you something most people never knew. The night before Oswald was shot, I learned, a Dallas policeman and his girlfriend talked with Jack Ruby, trying to get him to approve of the idea of having Oswald lynched. Their reason was that they knew what a weak-minded guy Jack Ruby was. At the trial, I never mentioned the cop and his girl, because I never could locate them again; they just disappeared.

**PLAYBOY:** Why did you take on the Ruby case? Some say it was for the publicity.

**BELLI:** Look, I'm for hire. I will defend anyone who comes to me—even the president of the Bar Association suing a guy for defamation, for accusing him of being a liberal, in favor of civil rights, due process of law, and against wire tapping. My service to the community as a trial lawyer is that I am for hire by either side. As far as publicity is concerned, I'd had my fill of that long before that travesty of a trial ever came along. My motive in taking the case was that I hoped I might be able to do something for that sick man, Jack Ruby, for psychiatry, for law, and for tolerance. But I didn't volunteer for the job. Jack's brother Earl asked me if I would take the case, and he offered me a defense fee of \$100,000.

**PLAYBOY:** Did that sum play any part in your decision?

**BELLI:** I agreed to take the case for the reasons I've just stated. But since you've brought up the money, it might interest you to know that I never got anything like \$100,000 for the case. What I got was debts—bills, expenses for our defense team, for the medical experts who flew to Dallas to testify for Ruby, and other costs. I did get about \$12,000 from the Rubys, but I paid for every other cent of the costs out of my own pocket—about \$15,000. It might also interest you to know that I was offered \$100,000 from another source not to defend Jack Ruby. I'm not saying what source.

**PLAYBOY:** There has been some speculation that the offer came from a well-known right-wing Dallas oil millionaire.

**BELLI:** If that's what you heard, that's what you heard.

**PLAYBOY:** That's all you want to say about it?

**BELLI:** No more—now.

**PLAYBOY:** All right. Once you accepted the case, what made you decide on a plea of temporary insanity?

**BELLI:** The incontrovertible evidence of psychiatric examinations. Jack Ruby was and is a very sick man who belongs in a mental hospital. We owed to our national image a dramatic example of how the American legal system pursues

the incongruity in our law's understanding of mental illness. Indeed, for the world to see and appreciate the modern medical specialty of psychotherapy at work was one of the great promises of that trial. And those brilliant clinical experts—psychologists and neurologists—who examined Jack Ruby put together an unmistakably clear picture of a mentally unstable man whom the assassination had stunned and shocked and impelled into frantic, attention-seeking compulsions beyond his power to control. Nothing I've ever sensed in advance about the line of defense for a client has ever been more graphically justified by the evidence—or more ignored by a jury.

I never dreamed what a kangaroo court of mockery and errors and prejudice in law and decency we were going to face in that city. There isn't one fair-minded lawyer who won't appreciate what I'm saying when the transcript can be read. I've disagreed with jury verdicts before; every lawyer has. But I've never felt that the jurors weren't honestly trying to do their very best—except on that black day there in Dallas.

**PLAYBOY:** Bitter criticism and even American Bar Association censure have been leveled at you for shouting after the verdict, "May I thank the jury for a victory of bigotry and injustice!" How do you feel about it now?

**BELLI:** As outraged as I did then. It was a spontaneous outburst of horror at the callous death sentence from a jury that had taken actually less than one hour to consider all of the complex scientific testimony about that pitiful, afflicted little man. I shouted long, vituperatively, and in tears, that a kangaroo court and a bigoted jury had railroaded Jack Ruby to purge their collective conscience in a rape of American justice that made Dallas a city of shame forevermore. Too often have our courts of law shown us that vindictive streak, that drive to heap society's sins upon an individual, that hypocritical refusal to face facts inherent in which are unpleasant truths about ourselves. The watching, listening world needed to hear a voice from among those Americans who recognized what had happened, and who were sickened by Dallas' cruelty, the smugness, the community defensiveness and the blind determination to crucify one man for everyone's sins.

**PLAYBOY:** Do you think that's any more true of Dallas than it would have been of any other city where the president might have been murdered?

**BELLI:** It's uniquely true of Dallas. Dallas is unlike any other city in the state, even the rest of Texas, thank God, is different from Dallas. Federal Judge John Hughes called Dallas "the only American city in which the President

have been shot. I was a veteran writer who was praised and rewarded for my work in such terms as "murder capital of the world," "a sick city," "a festering sore," "a city of shame and hate." Here is a city where a minister told his flock, "If any of you vote for this Catholic Kennedy, don't you ever come to my church again." Here is a city where I took my wife and son to a beautiful Baptist church and on the Sunday program an usher gave me, the Lord's message was squeezed down in a corner under the church's impressive balance sheet full of dollar signs. Here is a city where I entered a barbershop, unrecognized, and someone discussing the trial said, "I hear they got those Jew psychiatrists out from Maryland," and someone replied, "Yeah, with their slick Jew lawyers." I swept the towel from around my neck, stood straight up, gave the Nazi salute, yelled "Achtung! Heil Hitler!" and goose-stepped outside. Here is a city whose prosecutor said of a St. Patrick's Day parade, "Maybe we're pressing our luck too far to allow another parade so soon for another Irishman!" And the same prosecutor said, "Well, if they want to look inside of Jack Ruby's brain, we'll give it to them after we fry him!"

Dallas is where Adlai Stevenson was spat upon and hit upon the head with a picket sign, and where the American flag was hung upside down by General Edwin Walker, an ardent advocate of the philosophy of the John Birch Society. In Dallas in 1960 even Lyndon Johnson and his lady had been insulted. Dallas is a city where the "Minutewomen" get on telephones and call all over with such messages as "Mental health is Communistic" and "Fluoridation of water is Communistic."

PLAYBOY: Aren't you describing the activities of a lunatic fringe?

BELLI: Look, I'm not talking about all the citizens of Dallas. I'm talking about the oligarchy that rules and runs the city. I'd be the first to admit that some of America's truly fine people live there. In Dallas I met two of the greatest stand-up guys I ever knew: Stanley Marcus of Neiman-Marcus—it took visceral courage to speak out as he did; and Rabbi Silverman—he was one of the bravest men there. No, my contempt is reserved solely for the city's archreactionary oligarchy. You know what made them madder at me than anything else? It was when I said what symbolized Dallas for me: a gold-plated bidet I'd seen with a philodendron growing out of it. They were enraged at the implication that they hadn't known what to do with it. Well, I take that back. They do know what they can do with it.

I'll never forget how Sheriff Bill Decker said he was going to see to the "safe-ty" of Joe Tonahill, my trial assistant.

can't walk down Main Street because there's so much rough feeling around here." I told him, "Look, I appreciate your concern, but we're going to walk down goddamn Main Street to the courthouse. Whenever it gets to the point here in America, in my own country, that I can't walk down any main street as a trial lawyer, then I'll have to take down my shingle." And I would. I'd go to Congress and walk outside wearing a sandwich board. I'd howl to the heavens. I might have to do some flamboyant things to get my story heard, but you know I know just how to do it. In any case, we did walk down that Main Street in Dallas to the trial, but I'm going to tell you the truth, I was scared shitless. I used to say, despite all my enemies, that no one would ever actually want to shoot me. But now, after walking down that street and seeing the hate in the eyes of everyone who watched, I never would say that again.

PLAYBOY: Was your outburst in court the reason for your being dismissed as Ruby's lawyer after the trial?

BELLI: I was not fired. I bowed out of my own accord. I lost my objectivity that day in Dallas. Once I lose my objectivity, I've lost my value in our adversary system of justice. So I got out of the case. It's as simple as that.

PLAYBOY: What do you think will result from the appeal of Ruby's conviction which is now pending?

BELLI: I think that everyone in law knows what will almost automatically happen when an appellate court reviews that trial transcript away from that emotionally charged Dallas courtroom. I pray to God that the terrible miscarriages of American justice that trial transcript contains will cause the case to be reversed. And I pray, for the sake of that sick, pathetic little man, Jack Ruby—whose already paraneid-schizophrenic condition has deteriorated shockingly during his long imprisonment without psychiatric care, and who has tried several times to commit suicide in his cell, once by butting his head against the wall—that his cruel death sentence will be commuted to life imprisonment in a mental hospital, where he has belonged since the day they put him in Dallas' city jail a year and a half ago.

PLAYBOY: Do you favor capital punishment in murder cases where the assailant is adjudged mentally sound?

BELLI: I don't favor institutional vengeance under any circumstances. Who in God's name has the right to pass judgment on the life of another man being? Who's to usurp this divine prerogative? Only a primitive mind sanctions this kind of barbarity. Just look at the creeps who are in favor of it. I get the feeling they want to be the ones to pull the switch. Dick Nixon is

fact, I think we're slowly getting it wrong. More likely it's because of the increasing rate of population growth among the poor, the uneducated and the underprivileged in our squalid, sprawling city slums; because of the struggle to retain our individual identities in an increasingly anonymous mass society; because of our liberation from Victorian sexual strictures, which has set many young people morally adrift; because we find ourselves burdened with more leisure time than ever before, and the Devil is finding work for idle hands; and maybe partly because we have too many laws telling us what not to do—some of them damned silly laws. Instead of trying to legislate morality for adults, why don't we try teaching it to children? The better, the more tolerantly, the more sympathetically we educate our children, the less crime we'll have when they grow up.

PLAYBOY: Another "legal technicality" decried, and occasionally defied, by law-enforcement officials is the Constitutional amendment that safeguards the public from "unreasonable searches and seizures," thus prohibiting police, say on a gambling or vice raid, from entering a private residence without knocking, or from searching a premises without a warrant. Do they have a valid complaint?

BELL: In a word, no. I'm still Victorian enough to feel that my home is my castle. Damn it, if I were growing marijuana in my back yard, I'd still insist that J. Edgar get a search warrant before I'd let him wipe his feet on my door mat. Once the uninvited have the carte blanche right to prowl my home and search my person, next they'll be trespassing in my mind, as they're already trying to do with truth serum and lie detectors. Such Gestapo information procedures are not only unnecessary but unendurable in a democracy.

Except perhaps to our God, we all have a façade, even to our closest friends; some of us even to ourselves, and to our spouses—our spouses in particular, for that matter. It may not be good that we have it, but I don't believe the state or anyone else has a right to pierce that façade without the individual's consent—even though it might be good therapy for us to have the veil drawn aside. But that's the psychotherapists' realm, not the cops'.

PLAYBOY: How do you feel about legalized wire tapping? Is it morally or legally defensible?

BELL: Wire tapping, like lie detectors and truth serum, isn't only impolite, it's morally, legally, innately wrong; it stinks of spying. We can't let Big Brother get away with it. He's already got his long arm up to the elbow into our pocket-books, our offices and our daily life.

PLAYBOY: Doesn't your own firm employ wire tapping in its investigative work?

BELL: Yes, I'm afraid we do. I don't

have to lie to my clients to apply the fact of its widespread use, which makes its continued use unavoidable. If I'm a layman, I can turn away from an ugly wound, but not if I'm a surgeon—and as a lawyer, I am a surgeon of sorts: I have to use every means at my command to represent my client, just as a surgeon has to use every instrument or drug at his command to save his patient. It's simply that bugging is now so commonplace that no conscientious and realistic lawyer, however much he deprecates it, has any choice but to use it.

PLAYBOY: Among the staunchest supporters of legalized electronic surveillance is the FBI. What do you think of its vaunted reputation for scientific crime detection?

BELL: Their technical expertise is more impressive than their reputation. Sure, it's a patriotic institution, as sacrosanct as motherhood—but both can get a bit sickening when overportrayed, which they are. While it spends its time and the taxpayers' money chasing two-bit car thieves and looking for Communist spies in Greyhound bus stations, organized crime continues to get fat off of prostitution, dope, gambling, "juice" and murder for hire; it's the nation's biggest business. With its resources and its power, there's no reason in God's world why the FBI couldn't have broken up the syndicate long ago if Hoover really wanted to. The reason he hasn't is simply that syndicate bigwigs are so good at covering up their tracks that it's hellishly difficult to get a conviction, and he wants to keep his precious FBI's gleaming escutcheon unbesmirched by failure.

PLAYBOY: We take it you're not one of his greatest admirers.

BELL: You might say that. If you want a good scare, get a copy of Fred Cook's book, *The FBI Nobody Knows*, and read it some dark night. It tells the cold, hard facts about Hoover. As the FBI's revered director, he's done a great job—of making his position more secure than that of most crowned heads in this troubled world. Hoover's dictatorial ideas and ideology have no place in a position of such power in a democracy.

PLAYBOY: What is his ideology?

BELL: The ideology of fascism, of rightism. Look at how many ex-FBI men are members of the John Birch Society; I wonder where they picked it up. Hoover is an archreactionary autocrat who deprecates the concept that "we the people" are fit to govern ourselves. He's a dangerous, dangerous man whom we should have gotten rid of a long time ago. Given full rein, he'd legalize not only wire tapping but search-warrant and no-knock-and-enter; he'd completely abandon due process and constitutional protection; guarantee every citizen.

PLAYBOY: Aren't you going a bit



BELL: I probably am--I'm telling the truth. When it appears in print, I fully expect a knock at the door from Mr. Hoover's gray-flannel minions. They've already tried to tap my phones and monkey with my mail. But I've had uninvited nocturnal visitors before. I'm ready for them. The question is: Are they ready for me?

PLAYBOY: Speaking of violating individual rights, do you feel, as some have charged, that Robert Kennedy, as Attorney General, unduly and extralegally harassed Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa?

BELL: God pity Hoffa. Any individual is in trouble today if he gets the eagle after him. One vicious man, Bobby Kennedy, subverting the powers of government, made it a mission to "get" Hoffa. Now, Hoffa's done a lot I don't like—but I think some of his convictions will be reversed. If Hoffa has done wrong—and maybe he has—the law will take care of him. He should be prosecuted, not persecuted.

PLAYBOY: *Fact* magazine recently attributed to you the following remarks about Robert Kennedy: "He's the most vicious, evil son of a bitch in American politics today. . . . Sure, he wants to be President, but what he really wants is to become head of the universe. . . . The Pope isn't safe with that little bastard around. . . . He's arrogant, rude, and even ignorant of the law. . . . He's the monied Little Lord Fauntleroy of government. . . . Every newspaperman knows what he is, and even Johnson can't stand him, but everybody is too scared of the son of a bitch." Are these accurate quotes?

BELL: That's what I said. But I certainly didn't expect to see it on the cover of a magazine; indeed, I didn't expect to be directly quoted. But I've since had hundreds of both lawyers and laymen write and telephone me to say, "I wish to hell I'd had the guts to say the same thing." Kennedy as Attorney General had absolutely no experience for the job as top lawyer of the United States. Who is this man, who has never been in a courtroom, to tell me how to act, or to tell my colleague trial lawyers how to act? Which he did. But quite apart from that, and his vendetta against Hoffa, I know of nothing Bobby Kennedy as Attorney General did that he could point to with pride.

PLAYBOY: How about his department's dedication to the enforcement of civil rights legislation?

BELL: His office did a tremendous and good job on civil rights; but in Jack Kennedy's Administration, could any Attorney General's office have done less?

PLAYBOY: What do you feel can be done to rectify the mockery of justice in Southern courts, which perennially exonerate whites charged with murdering Negroes?

BELL: These segregationist barbarians

--the ones who trigger and incite the law of man, the law of God; they disgrace themselves and our country before the world. But this conspiracy of hate and bigotry won't last; its days are numbered. In practical terms, however, we can't change the state laws or the inbred prejudices that keep them in force. I'm afraid we must resign ourselves to the fact that these atrocities, and these travesties of justice, will continue until the white South learns to understand and respect the spirit as well as the letter of due process and equality before the law. It just takes time. Pretty soon all the subterfuges, tricks and deceptions designed to circumvent the civil rights laws will have been tried by the die-hards and eliminated by the Supreme Court. Then, and only then, will Negroes in the South begin to enjoy the fruits of true freedom.

PLAYBOY: Do you share the conservative view that the present Supreme Court, because of its trail-blazing decisions in civil rights, censorship, school prayer and the like, is "too liberal"? And do you agree with those who feel that it has begun to unrightfully usurp legislative authority?

BELL: What do you mean by "liberal" and "conservative"? If you mean that "liberals" are more concerned with human rights, and "conservatives" with property rights, I think that's as good a definition as any. According to that definition, the present Supreme Court is the most liberal we've ever had. But too liberal? No. As for assuming legislative authority, of course it has. But unrightfully? No. For good or for bad, our Supreme Court has without question become the second legislature in Washington. I say that not in criticism, only as something in the nature of things. I happen to think we have a great Supreme Court, the greatest decision-making Court we've ever had, the most humanitarian in our history. Earl Warren is a great administrator; he has integrity, ability. The individual justices are sincere and hard working; they try hard to be objective, to put country above personality; they're the best we've ever had. The Court has done the American people great justice in rendering the law consonant with the changing needs and increasing complexities of the contemporary world.

PLAYBOY: Since the turn of the century, many attempts at censorship of sexually explicit books and films have been made by the U.S. Post Office, the U.S. Customs Bureau, various state governments and scores of religious and citizens' censor boards. Almost all of these bans have been judicially overruled, some of them in historic decisions by the Supreme Court. With whom do you feel should ultimate authority rest for pas-

allegedly obscene creation.

BELL: With the public through the courts. If I were defending a so-called "dirty" book, I'd feel a jury of my peers fully qualified to judge its redeeming merits. Juries do a damned good soul-searching job that speaks for their community's collective morality. Let literary men, ministers, professors, the tolerant, the bigoted, the broad-minded and the narrow-minded all have at it in a jury room. The sparks of conflict will shed the light by which justice may be illuminated. Only a jury will arrive at a judgment that is the wish, the temper of the community—which I think should be the ultimate criterion of judgment.

PLAYBOY: How do you feel in general about the much-discussed revolution in sexual attitudes and practices that's taking place in America today?

BELL: I believe in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and sex, and not necessarily in that order. But sex has been here since the Garden of Eden and no overnight revolution in the sex relationship is going to accomplish anything good. Greater candor, yes; greater permissiveness, no. I can't believe that premarital and extramarital relations per se can lead to a fuller life or more enduring happiness. I'm certainly not Victorian, except in my office decor, and I've certainly seen enough of life as an able-bodied seaman, knocking around the world with Errol Flynn, and trying cases in every state; but I do not believe, in this particular area of human relationship, that lack of will power will achieve any greater degree of happiness. I will say, however, that I don't think we're more meretricious sexually than lecherous old grandpa. We've just brought sex a little more into the open. And that's all to the good.

PLAYBOY: You and Errol Flynn were close friends, weren't you?

BELL: Yes, we were. We met when I was retained to represent a sailor who had been accidentally harpooned in the foot by a guest on Errol's yacht, the Zaca. When I went down to Hollywood to question Errol and walked in wearing a white suit and a black Homburg, his eyes lit up. He had always been impressed with the histrionics of trial law, and I've always felt that I might have been an actor. After I'd taken his deposition, we had a most enjoyable legal tussle, and a friendship began. He was great company. He lived life to the fullest; he was up at all hours; he drank vodka before he got out of bed in the morning. And he had the Devil in him. He loved pixy tricks, and played more than his share of them. In a dresser drawer, I remember, Errol kept about 30 emerald-looking rings, which he'd give to girls, telling them with great feeling, "This belonged to my mother."

He and I also played great jokes on

each other one hot afternoon in Paris. Errol took all his clothes to be cool and lay down on his bed for a nap. I left him sleeping soundly and went downstairs to the hotel bar and sold tickets for five dollars apiece to about 20 women—Frenchwomen and tourists—whom I brought upstairs for a guided tour of Errol in the altogether. Well, we were all tiptoeing through the bedroom when some silly Frenchwoman began giggling and yelled "Fleen! Fleen!" and woke him up. Did he get sore!

This was in 1949. I had been in Rome on a business trip, and was about to leave for Tokyo when Errol called from Paris. He said, "Dear boy, you've got to come to Paris. They've got me over a barrel." I went, intending to stay two days, and stayed months. Errol was making a movie partially financed by the French government and there were plenty of complications on which he needed my help. We stayed about half the time on the Zaca, anchored off Nice. Errol would go down to the bilge, where he kept some gold ingots hidden, bring one back, row to shore with it, turn it in for currency—and we'd be off for a night at the casino.

In Paris, at the Belle Aurora, an exquisite little French restaurant, after we'd gotten up at noon, we'd sit from about one to four and have imaginary trials, drinking bottles of calvados. That's applejack made in Normandy country; it would chase white lightning out of business. We'd drink and invent legal cases, usually murders, which we tried on the spot. People would crowd outside in the street until they blocked it. I'd accuse Errol and examine him, then he would accuse me and examine me. We'd get almost to the point of blows.

In later years, back in this country, my family came to know Errol well. He sometimes stayed with us. But he wasn't well. My little son, Caesar, called him "a sick man"—the perception of children. My wife would plead with him to take it easier. He told her, "Look, I've done everything twice, why should I bother? If I had an attack, there wouldn't be anyone to give a damn." Right at the end, he was planning to play me in a film. It was about this time that he sent me galleys of *My Wicked, Wicked Ways*. I wasn't home when he telephoned, on his way to Vancouver to sell the Zaca; it was like selling his life. He told my wife, "Tell the guy I love him; just tell him that for me." Then, later—it was midnight—I was in bed at our Los Angeles home when Errol's valet telephoned and said, "He's gone."

PLAYBOY: You talk about him like brother.

BELL: I guess we were brothers, in a way—though I was an only child. Like I said, I'm wild, enthusiastic; I love people. I'm a Leo, you see, born July 29, 1907.



PLAYBOY: In Sonoma, California, growing up? ing to your biography. Is that where you grew up?

BELLI: Until I reached college age, when I went off to the University of California in Berkeley. But I almost didn't make it. I was the valedictorian of my high school graduating class, but I had to sue the principal to get my diploma.

PLAYBOY: How did that happen?

BELLI: Well, I was brutally attacked the evening before graduation—by a huge bottle of whiskey. I was so sick the next day that I couldn't get to school to make my speech, and when the principal found out why, he withheld my diploma. He was adamant, so my father took me to see an old family friend, a judge. When the judge heard the story, he said, "My boy, you've been wronged!" And he hauled out of his desk a couple of writs, a replevin, a bench warrant, a couple of *subpoena duces tecum*, a *habeas corpus*, a *habeas diploma*, a handful of old bail bonds, and he stuck all of them together with notary public seals and red ribbon and he marched over to the school and served all of it on the principal. I got my diploma on the spot. Up to that day I had been thinking about being a doctor, but right then I knew the law was for me.

My father lost his money in the crash, so I had to work my way through college as a soda jerk, a summer farm hand and things like that. I even wrote off for free samples of things like soap and shaving cream and sold them to my fraternity brothers. After I graduated, I spent a year traveling around the world on merchant ships as an able-bodied seaman. Then I entered the University of California Boalt Hall Law School. I stood a lucky 13th in a class of 150.

In 1933, when I got my degree, I was lucky enough to get a job as a Government investigator, posing as an itinerant bum, moving around with the Okies. My name was supposed to be "Joe Bacigalupi." I was supposed to submit reports on what the Okies were talking about and what they wanted. I had a card with a special Los Angeles telephone number to call if I ever got in really bad trouble—not for just getting arrested or beaten up; it had to be really important. I never had to use it. One of my first deep impressions was watching Los Angeles deputy cops standing on the city line clubbing back poor Okies trying desperately to get into the city to get on relief rolls; or at least to get a meal. Eventually, I wrote a report that was used as the basis for migratory-worker relief in that area.

Moving out and about then, riding in and on and underneath freight cars, "bumming," standing in soup lines, sleeping in skid-row "jungles," I don't know how many times I got thrown out of town. It was about the Southwest

but I know that when I developed my deep, strong sympathy for the underdog and the outcast, and it's where I learned about the kangaroo courts in this country. Well, after that migratory hobo investigation job ended—Say, I seem to be telling my life story. Do you really want to hear it?

PLAYBOY: Certainly.

BELLI: All right, you asked for it. Well, I got desk space in a small San Francisco law firm. But nothing happened. I just sat there. Finally, in 1934, a well-known defense lawyer took me on for the lordly wage of \$25 a month. But nothing happened there either, so I managed to save \$20 and went down to Los Angeles looking for a better job. One big lawyer there who turned me down I later opposed in a case; I won my client a \$187,500 settlement. The guy could have hired me in 1935 and sent me to Palm Springs for the rest of my life at \$100 a week and still saved his client money. Now he tells people, "I recognized Belli as a comer the first time I saw him." Sure he did! I know ever since then, I've never refused to see a guy fresh from law school. You never can tell.

I finally learned to quit waiting for business to find me. If I was going to get any clients, I decided people would have to know I was around. I got the idea of spreading it around that I'd take, free of charge, any cases of criminals in lots of trouble. One of the first clients I found was Avilez, "the Black-Gloved Rapist." He had been tried, convicted and sentenced to a total of 400 years. For whatever it was worth, I got 200 years knocked off his sentence. He wrote me a thank-you note. After that, I got a number of other hopeless cases—one of them a convicted counterfeiter who had resumed printing the stuff right in San Quentin's print shop.

Although I didn't realize it at the time, the case that first showed me the thing that would later get me on my way was that of a young Negro convict named Ernie Smith. He had been indicted for murder for killing another convict, in a fight in the San Quentin prison yard. Smith told me he had done it in self-defense, that the other man was about to throw a knife at him. I couldn't believe it, but the captain of the guard confirmed for me that most of the convicts carried knives. He showed me a desk drawer full of over a hundred lethal-looking pigstickers, explaining, "We take away the big ones." Before the trial, I served a subpoena on the captain of the guard, ordering him to come to court with his drawer full of knives. I admitted into the evidence. Walking past the jury box with it, I was struck by a hell of a thought. My whole case, my argument to determine if Ernie Smith would live or die, was in that drawer. So I "accidentally" stumbled and dropped it, a hundred wicked

But, Tell me: Who is the victim—the

Let me ask you something: Except an adequate award, what else can be offered to the personal-injury victim? We have nothing that will make the permanently injured victim whole again, nothing that will let him walk without a limp, nothing but drugs to let him sleep without pain. For many, one day not even morphine any longer. Cases their frightful suffering, and the only alternative left is a cordotomy—the severing of the spinal cord to halt the dreadful journey of the pain impulses to the brain. Think about that the next time you see one of these propaganda pieces about the “high awards” that are “ruining” the country’s insurance companies. Think about those pitiful personal-injury victims who tempt one to say “They’d be better off dead.” But the law forbids them to choose death; they have no legal choice but to go on living—and suffering. Think about the double amputees, the “basket cases,” the traumatic psychotics, the paraplegics, the spinal-injury invalids, the blinded, the grotesquely burned and scarred. Think about the permanently immobilized.

their lives to a wheel or a brake, or to the indignities of wet and bladder incontinence.

Let me give you an example of a typical case of mine and let you decide whether the award I won for my client was "too high" or not. He was a happy, redheaded kid, just back from the War. He had a wife, a child, a job, and then his life was ruined in an accident caused by the negligence of the San Francisco municipal railway. He suffered a crushed pelvis, and a rupture of the urethra at the juncture of the prostate gland. He will be impotent for the rest of his life. And every tenth day for the rest of his life he must endure a painful urethra catheterization, or his urethra will close, whereupon his bladder would burst. His hospital and doctor bills were over \$25,000 at the time of trial, and they will be at least \$2000 a year as long as he lives. Two years afterward, I saw that boy again, and what I had feared within myself had happened—his wife had divorced him, his home was gone; he had nothing left but the remainder of his award money. Would you swap places with that boy for the \$125,000 he was awarded? Or for a million dollars? Two million? Ten million? I think not.

Yet according to them, the noble, stalwart simon-pure insurance companies are being "victimized by fakers" for \$50,000 and \$100,000—just for having lost a lousy arm or leg! When I started winning this kind of award, they began sending out letters and buying expensive ads aimed at potential jurors in personal-injury cases: "Keep those awards low, or you'll force your automobile insurance to go up." Bushwa! Today, with personal-injury awards higher than ever before, insurance-company stocks are among the best market buys.

Anyway, when I won three verdicts for more than \$100,000 apiece in 1949 and 1950, I really began to draw fire from the insurance companies. "Belli is a Barnum!" they screamed. "The courtrooms are being turned into horror chambers!" But headway was being made everywhere. Asking not a cent of fee, I began lecturing all over the country—to law students, to bar associations, to groups of plaintiff lawyers. Sometimes my speaking in a state would start an immediate rise in personal-injury awards. An example of that is Mississippi, which was for many years one of this country's lowest-verdict states; soon after I addressed its State Bar Association in 1951, Mississippi awards rose sharply—to at least an equitable level.

Finally I decided that I would write a book of all that I thought was modern and just in trial procedures, in both criminal and civil law. It took me two years to write it; in those two years, I av-

ends, but finally I turned out the three volumes that were published in 1955, called *Modern Trials*. I'm happy to say that it's become something of a standard textbook in the field.

**PLAYBOY:** What about your Belli Seminars? Will you describe what they are and what they do?

**BELLI:** For the past 13 consecutive years, I and my associates have held these Belli Seminars in almost every state and major city in America, and they have been widely and enthusiastically attended and accepted by trial lawyers, law students and even some laymen. In them we teach in all phases of modern trial law, on civil and criminal, substantive and procedural law. These seminars have done a lot for the law, but not one has failed to draw criticism from some local member of the American Bar Association, some insurance lawyer, or some large law firm with a "business practice." They raise their old cry: My lectures are "illegal" or "unethical."

**PLAYBOY:** On what grounds?

**BELLI:** I'm teaching lawyers how to raise awards to injured people. I'm teaching them how to sue malpracticing doctors who refuse to testify and who condone the American Medical Association's conspiracy of silence. I'm teaching lawyers how to sue the reluctant insurance company and how to serve the process evader. Among the politicians and the fat cats of the A. B. A. hierarchy, needless to say, none of this law for the benefit of the little man is particularly popular—though social-circuiting A. B. A. presidents are constantly trumpeting on the majestic subject "The Defense of Unpopular Causes," and proclaiming that it's every lawyer's duty to give a courageous representation of his unfortunate brother, however unpopular he is, however heinous his crime. These are the same great vocal defenders who whimper, from behind their corporate desks, when some poor unfortunate's unpopular case has to be tried, "Sure, he's entitled to the best defense, but you defend him, I can't afford to!" Even worse, these preachers of lofty sentiments are the quickest to impose guilt by association on the lawyer of the heinous-crime client. And these same A. B. A. presidents are approving the abolition of law-school courses that would teach the student lawyer how to try an unpopular case! If we continue diminishing the hours devoted to criminal law in our law schools and increasing those devoted to taxation, accountancy and the like, we may as well move over into the business-administration schools. Then the few of us remaining criminal lawyers and general trial men may as well be displayed at the monk house where the public can stare at

old and nearly extinct species attracted to the zoo by the A. B. A. president's public barking against us.

**PLAYBOY:** For a member of a nearly extinct species, you seem to be making a pretty good living. It's been reported that you earn more than \$300,000 a year from the "adequate awards" you win for your clients.

**BELLI:** Every penny I get, I earn! Do you think all a lawyer has to do is pick up a phone and get an insurance company to settle for \$100,000 and then bite off a third of it? To start with, I'm gambling when I take a case. Especially when it's a large award to be sought, the layman has no dream of the amounts of time and talent and money that the plaintiff's lawyer must invest in preparing the best presentation possible. If we get to court and a jury votes against my client, I've lost all I advanced—in cash as well as effort. I don't just sit in my office and work my cases. Our firm here, we aren't just some fat-ass corporation of lawyers sitting around thinking about new ways to screw the Government out of taxes; we are a firm of concerned and committed people representing men and women who need help. We care. It's the most precious thing we've got here, our *feeling* for the people who come here wanting help. I'm working my cases in the shower, when I'm trying to sleep and can't, when I'm on the john, when I'm driving my car, when I'm sitting in those late-night planes. If I win the adequate award for my client, I feel I *deserve* the one-third I take for the work that got the award. Most personal-injury lawyers take a bigger cut than I do—many of them 40 and 50 percent.

**PLAYBOY:** Still, you've managed to amass a sizable fortune from the proceeds of such cases. How much would you say you're worth today?

**BELLI:** I could cash out today with—well, look, let's put it this way: I feel that after he makes a million dollars a guy should start counting his blessings instead of money. I'm counting my blessings.

**PLAYBOY:** Your remarkable success in winning six-figure awards, and earning five-figure fees, in medical-malpractice cases has made your name a red flag to the American Medical Association as well as to the nation's insurance companies. What's your brief against the medical profession?

**BELLI:** George Bernard Shaw wrote it better than I could say it, in *The Doctor's Dilemma*: "We're a conspiracy, not a profession. . . . Every doctor will allow a colleague to decimate a whole countryside sooner than violate the bond of professional etiquette by giving him away." The same as with chicken-hearted, fat-cat lawyers, my complaint isn't against the individual doctors. 99 per cent of

them are great. . . . s. doing their best and working hard. But here again, the individual doctor has a far higher code of ethics than when he acts in convention, through his association. With lawyers and doctors, it seems there's some sort of collective amorality, a callous mob psychology, that takes over the individual practitioner's ethics and honesty. Doctors as a group condone malpractice acts that individually they wouldn't dream of sanctioning. The individual doctor is so busy treating the sick and performing operations that he's forfeited the administration of his national organization to a bunch of dirty sons of bitches who try, because of their own shortcomings in their profession, to make him conform to what *they* think medicine should be. They tell him not to publicly criticize his fellow practitioners; they have usurped his conscience.

**PLAYBOY:** Do you think it's reasonable to expect a doctor to jeopardize his professional standing by testifying against a colleague?

**BELLI:** Look, every doctor is licensed by us, the public, to practice. His training, his talent, his title, is given to him in trust, by society. To whom, morally, does he owe more—to mankind, or to the A.M.A. and the insurance companies who underwrite his practice? Think of yourself as a victim of some doctor who was simply careless. Think of your being maimed, maybe irreparably, because of his bungling and of your being unable to get another doctor to testify against a wrong that he can plainly see.

My first malpractice case was my eye opener to this incredible conspiracy. I was retained to sue a doctor who had prescribed enemas and cathartics for a young man who was suffering classic *appendicitis* symptoms. The boy's cramping worsened, the doctor sent him to a hospital where he let him wait; the appendix burst and the boy died. Not only was the treatment patently wrong, but later I had good reason to believe that the doctor was intoxicated when he made the house call. Are you ready? I lost that case! Not one of this drunken doctor's colleagues would testify in court to what he had obviously done. Worse, five doctors testified in his *behalf*, including the head of one of our largest university hospitals. Five years later, that defendant doctor killed himself; he had become a dope addict and a habitual drunkard.

Twenty-five years have passed since then, but it's *still* next to impossible to get one doctor to testify against another, and it doesn't matter *how* flagrant the case is. Good old Doc Freblish may have come into the operating room dead drunk, carrying a rusty knife and wearing an old pair of overalls, but as long as he's a member in good standing or

I've told you how in my early days I began to acquire my bitterness against the guy with a billy, the entrenched powers. We see injustices all around us.

and we all want to ~~out~~—but how many of us dare? We see Big Brother's steady encroachment because we don't. I know we have to give up some freedom to have some safety, some order in society, but I simply cannot tolerate very much of Big Brother—those who claim to know what's better for you than you do.

I don't believe that the average person, informed people included, really realizes the swiftly increasing degree to which our country is being run and controlled by an *unseen* government—not only by the FBI and the CIA and the A. M. A. and the A. B. A.—but by foundations, banks, ad agencies, insurance companies, trust companies and their monolithic ilk. In insidious ways, they are prescribing our moral codes, limiting our freedoms. Their cold-blooded business ethics are becoming universally, and passively, accepted.

The A. B. A. is at war with me—like the A. M. A. and the insurance companies—because I'm at war with those who abet evil by keeping silent when they see wrongs being perpetrated and perpetuated by the greed, malice and deception of these self-seeking institutions. I'm under attack because I believe in *crying out* against injustice. God knows, I've endured more than my share of slings and arrows: "Belli's a nut, a charlatan, a publicity seeker, an egomaniac!" Sure I'm flamboyant. I can afford to be, because I'm a damn good lawyer. You've got to ring the bell to get the people into the temple. But my brand of nonconformism is so offbeat they don't know what to label it. About the only thing they haven't tagged me is "Communist." It's a wise thing they don't; I'd sue. This, mind you, after all I've done for the law. I've tried more cases, I've had more judgments affirmed on appeal, I've made more new law than probably any lawyer, group or firm in the past 15 or 20 years. After I'm gone, they'll be teaching courses about Belli. But the pack is out in full cry salivating over me. So be it. If I'm going to go down, I'm going to go down fighting.

PLAYBOY: Is your plight as serious as all that?

BELLI: You bet it is. And things have been coming to a head since the end of the Ruby trial. I was absolutely awed by the speed and the ruthless efficiency with which Dallas' multimillionaires retaliated against me for my uncharitable remarks to the press about their fair city. You've heard that money talks? Listen, money screams! By the time I got back to San Francisco I found that insurance policies of mine had been canceled without explanation; a book publisher had backed out on publishing *Black Date: Dallas*, the title I had planned for a book; mortgages had been foreclosed; my name had been with-rawn from

official lists; lawyers; my credit was frozen; some appearances and lectures were canceled. I'm not being paranoid when I say that those bastards in Texas were behind the whole thing. Why, you wouldn't believe some of the mail I got postmarked Texas. Imagine opening a letter addressed to you as "Dear Rec-tum." Heart-warming!

The best part of it, though, is their campaign—with the cooperation of the heads of the A. B. A., who have been waiting for an excuse—to have me kicked out of the American Bar Association. After the Ruby trial, I was notified that I'd be given a "trial," investigating my "conduct of the case"—though publicly I'd already been convicted by the A. B. A. "grievance committee." I was notified that my trial would be held in the Statler Hotel in Dallas. I replied that I wasn't about to come to Dallas. Out of curiosity I asked them if they intended for it to be held on the hotel's top floor with my seat next to the open window.

I was next peremptorily notified that my trial will be held in San Francisco instead. That suited me fine. Then they announced they had decided to take depositions against me. I asked that the depositions be delayed until a date when I could be present. Denied. I asked by what "rules of evidence" was I to be tried. No reply. I asked for the privilege of taking depositions on my own behalf. Denied. Next came an indefinite postponement of my trial. So I not only don't know *how* I'll be tried, or for *what* I'll be tried; I don't know *when* I'll be tried either.

PLAYBOY: Can you continue practicing if you're ejected from the A. B. A.?

BELLI: I don't have to belong to the American Bar Association to practice. I don't even have to belong to the A. B. A. to take books out of their library. To practice, I just have to belong to my own state bar. As Bob Considine said, "Being kicked out of the American Bar Association is like being drummed out of the Book-of-the-Month Club." I'd cry all the way to the bank.

PLAYBOY: Suppose you were disbarred also by the California state bar.

BELLI: Well, I've always got my solid-gold Honorary Life Membership card in the Bartenders' Union. Or maybe I could get the Coast Guard to renew my able-bodied-seaman papers. I think I might write, too. Back when I first started, I might as easily have gone into steel-working, or teaching, or exploring, or doctoring, instead of law—and I bet there are a lot of people who wish I had. But you know, it's hard for me even to think about having any other career than law. The law is my muse. She has been wooing been a jealous mistress, but in courting of her these 30 years has been an exhilarating time.





38 "Look at the creeps who favor capital  
39 punishment; you get the feeling they want  
40 to be the ones to pull the switch. Dick  
41 Nixon is all out for it; I can't think of  
42 a better argument for its abolition."



43 "I'm for hire. I'll defend anyone who  
44 comes to me—even the president of the  
45 Bar Association suing a guy for accusing  
46 him of being in favor of civil rights, due  
47 process of law and against wire tapping."



48 "I've endured my share of slings. 'Belli's  
49 a nut, a charlatan, an egomaniac.' Sure,  
50 I'm flamboyant; I can afford to be—I'm  
51 a damn good lawyer. You've got to ring  
52 the bell to get the people into the temple."

DUON H. MILLER  
4551 PONCE DE LEON BOULEVARD • CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

July 27, 1965

Mr. Melvin Belli  
Attorney at Law  
San Francisco, California

Mr. Belli:

Your article in today's MIAMI NEWS criticizing J. Edgar Hoover is one of the most disgusting articles I have ever read. I think you owe him an apology, but if I were Mr. Hoover, I wouldn't accept it from a man like you.

I happened to see the program on Television in which you appeared, and right then I knew you were a man I didn't care to know personally.

When my son was in high school, I told him that when he went to the university, I wanted him to study something that he would enjoy as a life's work, but I asked him one favor... not to study medicine or law! You see, I wanted him to be in something legitimate. He studied Chemistry and graduated with high honors.

I, and millions of people, respect and admire J. Edgar Hoover and consider him as one of the most respectable men this Government ever had and truly, truly a marvelous man.

To have some pseudo-monkey like you come along and criticize him is disgusting as Hell!

Duon H. Miller

8 AUG 4 1965

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

8/3/65  
c: ego/cmz

*Duon H. Miller*

XP. PROC.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-19-88 BY SP1AP/15m



August 3, 1965

REC 33

105-49865-26

Mr. Duon H. Miller  
4551 Ponce De Leon Boulevard  
Coral Gables, Florida

Dear Mr. Miller:

The copy of your letter of July 27th addressed to Melvin Belli was received during Mr. Hoover's absence. You may be certain it will be brought to his attention upon his return.

I know Mr. Hoover would want me to thank you for your complimentary remarks.

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy  
Secretary

MAILED 2  
AUG - 3 1965  
COMM-FBI

NOTE: Bufiles reflect limited cordial correspondence with Miller prior to 1955;

[REDACTED]

In view of the tenor of his current letter in which he speaks very deprecatorily of the legal and medicine professions, it is felt that the above letter over Miss Gandy's signature is warranted.

DFC:cms  
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

6-13-80

SP1000/1 E60

*Handwritten signatures and initials*

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Bishop
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

AUG 17 1965

TELETYPE UNIT

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,  
United States Dept. of Justice,  
Washington, D. C. 20535.

17111  
Miami, Fla. 3316  
Aug 1, 1965

Dear Mr. Hoover:-

Thanks for the requested copy, "F.B.I. Appropriation 1966".  
The Miami Herald of July 27<sup>th</sup> 1965 page 10A had an article  
about Attorney Melvin Belli's opinions, which I promptly answered  
with "A letter to the Editor". They printed ~~my points~~ some of it  
three days later. I phoned the Editor as soon as I had  
misprinted words, and their Mr. Dance said "No one will see  
it."  
MELVIN BELL

③ The Miami News of July 27, 1965 page 1B had a similar  
sneer article, which I answered, part of which was printed  
July 30, 1965 page 6A.

Personally I think Att. Belli is off his rocker, as he  
since gone on record as being in favor of transparently cla  
females, and went to the nearby town of Dania to <sup>⑤</sup>represent  
them, just in case the police there stopped the show.

Kindest regards to you and your very able staff.

Very truly  
yours

REC- 56

EX 105

05-4776

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-88 BY SPITAP/DM

2 AUG 3 1965

ENCLOSURE

CORRESPONDENCE

# Edgar Hoover Fascist, Says Criminal Lawyer Belli

By JOHN McDERMOTT  
Herald Staff Writer

Melvin M. Belli called J. Edgar Hoover "an ideological fascist" Monday during an address at Miami Beach. He also took a chop at U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"I don't like Edgar Hoover," declared the San Francisco attorney as he opened his remarks to the newly formed Criminal Law Section of the American Trial Lawyers in convention at the Fontainebleau Hotel.

Belli's observations came as he defended the American court system and particularly the U.S. Supreme Court against charges that the courts tend to "coddle" criminals.

He said one of the reasons he doesn't like Hoover is that he has designedly, through his high-powered public relations organization, created such an image of himself that even honest American politicians are un-American in their fear of him and afraid to criticize him even though they know he is an ideological fascist."

Belli went on to say, however, that the principal reason he dislikes Hoover "and his embittered far-rightwingers is because of their snide and surreptitious criticism of the U.S. Supreme Court."

What the courts are doing, said Belli, is protecting the rights of the accused regardless of who they are.

He said Hoover and his "adept public relations men" confuse U.S. common law with French civil law "where practically, an accused man is presumed to be guilty until proved otherwise."

As for a lawyer seeking loopholes to keep a man from jail, this is a duty which every attorney must assume in searching for whatever last ditch "technicalities."

Belli said that he has seen these same loopholes and technicalities save the innocent from the death chamber as well as, in some cases the guilty.

"I subscribe to the necessity of a legal system that can boast 'better let 99 guilty go free than convict one innocent person,'" said Belli.



Melvin Belli at Convention  
raps Bobby Kennedy

He said that a criminal lawyer has the duty to seek loopholes just as much as it is the job of a corporation attorney to seek technicalities by which his clients can avoid payments of taxes.

Belli hit at Kennedy, the junior senator from New York, and former U.S. attorney general for advocating the use of wire tapping in the apprehension of criminals.

"Bobby Kennedy and Mr. Hoover and their strange bedfellows in this incidence,

the forces of the far right want to tap my telephone," he said.

"They want to know what I am saying, therefore, what I am thinking. I'm not a criminal. I've got nothing to hide."

Belli said once his phone is tapped then "someone" will not be satisfied with the exposure of his innermost thoughts but will also want to "assist me in my thinking and tell me how I should think."

Belli said that the Supreme Court in recent years has been fulfilling its highest duty by protecting the individual personal rights of all.

He warned that paralleling the growth of federalism is a potential danger of a police state resulting from better communications and scientific crime prevention facilities.

ties such as laboratories and radios.

Belli quoted Hoover as saying at Chicago in 1963 that justice has nothing to do with expediency. "The FBI will continue to be objective regardless of pressure groups which try to use the FBI to attain their own selfish aims to the detriment of our people as a whole."

Belli concluded by saying that there is no need to change the so-called "criminal laws." He said that the crime laws should be preserved and the legal system should be maintained.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-11-88 BY SP4/AP/100

105-4916  
ENCLOSURE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# The Miami Herald

JOHN S. KNIGHT, Publisher

JAMES L. KNIGHT, President

LEE HILLS, Executive Editor

ALVAH H. CHAPMAN Jr., General Manager

DON SHOEMAKER Editor  
GEORGE BEEBE Managing Editor  
JOHN D. PENNEKAMP Associate Editor  
ARTHUR J. GUCKER Business Manager

Published Daily at 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Florida 33101

6-A

Friday, July 30, 1965

*right bottom*  
**Editorials**

(2) right bottom

## 99 Guilty Men Shouldn't Go Free

I was impressed with Attorney Belli's statement that he "subscribes to the necessity of a legal system that can boast 'better let 99 guilty go free than convict one innocent person.'"

I would subscribe to no such system. As humans we err, but we needn't be so proud of our errors as this.

I propose that Mr. Belli live in the neighborhood where the 99 released guilty men reside.

Rather, I will work toward a system that, although through some ghastly miscarriage of justice an occasional innocent person becomes a martyr to law enforcement; we do not become so permissive that the rights of the accused are more sacred than the rights of the injured.

At present I am willing to risk the chance of a conviction when innocent. Is Mr. Belli and family willing to risk residing in the neighborhood with the 99 released criminals?

JOHN MARTIN

## Use Strong Rope In The 'Loopholes'

Your staff writer, John McDermott, reports the likes and dislikes of Attorney Melvin Belli. If the implications and character assassination were not so serious, they'd be good for an old-fashioned "Belli laugh," but how a man with the intellect he is supposed to possess can brand J. Edgar Hoover as "an ideological fascist" and a "snide surreptitious citizen" of the U.S. Supreme Court, is beyond a loyal American's way of thinking.

If criminal lawyers were more concerned in placing the neck of those guilty in a "loophole," being sure it's a strong rope, instead of, as he puts it, "seeking loopholes to keep a man from jail," they'd do a far greater service. Wayward juveniles, hardened criminals, reporters and the like would have more respect for the law and the wordage, "Crime does not pay."

Anytime a volunteer is needed to replace an innocent convicted person, and let 99 criminals go free, just remind him that I'll be the first volunteer.

ED A. KRANZUSCH

1. I write criticizer.  
2. " " repeaters.

1. I wrote criticizer.  
2. " " repeaters.

105-11865  
ENCLOSURE 27

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

bottom of page (left.)  
answered 7/27/65  
my answer printed  
7/30/65 (3) left bottom

bottom 7 page (left.)  
answered 7-27-65  
Sports News  
brd Game  
classified  
my answer  
printed 7-30-65  
(3) left bottom

THE MIAMI NEWS

# Local Front Page

Miami, Fla., Tuesday, July 27, 1965

## FBI's Hoover A Fascist, Lawyer Belli Says

By MARTY SCHRAM

Reporter for The Miami News

"I don't like Edgar Hoover  
and I have no use for Dick  
Tracy either."

Speaking was a silver-haired,  
movie star-type with Goldwater  
glasses. Flamboyant trial law-  
yer Melvin Belli was getting his  
well-known dander up over  
charges that courts are coddling  
criminals.

Belli — former attorney for  
Jack Ruby, murderer of Lee  
Harvey Oswald — bristles at  
the slightest suggestion that  
criminals are coddled by the  
law.

"It's a slur on the American  
Constitution," he said here.  
"And J. Edgar Hoover is con-  
stantly mouthing that slander-  
ing 'coddling' charge and Dick  
Tracy does it too — at least once  
a week."

Belli lectured 2,500 colleagues  
yesterday at the American  
Trial Lawyers convention at  
the Fontainebleau Hotel.

The constitutional guarantees  
were written to protect the in-  
nocent — not convict the guilty,  
argued Belli.



MELVIN BELLI

"Over the years, I've seen  
some flagrantly guilty go free  
... but I've also seen these  
same 'loopholes' and 'technical-  
ities' of the law save the inno-  
cent who otherwise would have  
perished."

"Better to let 99 guilty go free  
than convict one innocent per-  
son."

Belli called FBI Chief Hoover  
an "ideological fascist" who has  
created a God-like image of him-  
self through his "high-powered  
public relations organization."

"The main reason I dislike  
Mr. Hoover and his embittered  
far-rightwingers is because of  
their snide and surreptitious

criticism of the United States  
Supreme Court," said Belli.

The attorney then pointed out  
that both Hoover and Sen. Rob-  
ert Kennedy (D-N.Y.) have ad-  
vocated allowing wire-tapping  
evidence in the courtroom.

"But I'm just Victorian —  
and legal — enough to believe  
that my home is still my cas-  
tle," countered Belli.

And he added:

"I've had my phone tapped  
since I first took on J. Edgar  
Hoover a year ago. And Los  
Angeles Police Chief (William)  
Parker is building a dossier on  
me. It's like something out of  
Hitler's storm troopers."

The 57-year-old attorney ("I'll  
be 58 Thursday") is co-counsel  
in a local case, where three  
Dania barmaids are charged  
with indecent exposure. The  
girls served drinks wearing  
nothing but pasties above the  
waistline. (Belli recently won  
a similar case in his home-  
town San Francisco.)

"It's just another point of  
law to me," said Belli. "It's  
all a matter of censorship. And  
I think it should be up to the  
individuals to decide what is  
bad taste in their own minds."

Section B

- Comics
- Star Gazer
- McMenken

705-4986 ENCLOSURE

27

# THE MIAMI NEWS

The Best Newspaper Under The Sun

- Pulitzer Prize For International Reporting In 1963
- Pulitzer Prize For National Reporting In 1959
- Pulitzer Prize For Public Service In 1939

James M. Cox, Jr.  
Publisher and President

Daniel J. Mahoney, Jr.  
Vice-President

William C. Baggs  
Editor

Luckett Yawn, Jr.  
General Manager

Clarke Ash  
Associate Editor

C. Edward Pierce  
Managing Editor

6A

Friday, July 30, 1965

70th Year, No. 42

## Belli Bugs Reader

To The Editor:

I read reporter Marty Schram's article on the interview of lawyer Marvin Belli. I'll never understand why your paper constantly uses sensational headlines, and why the added dig about Goldwater glasses. Letters from readers are so shortened as to lose original intent or meaning, but in this article mention is made three times to "criminal coddling charges."

J. Edgar Hoover and Senator Robert Kennedy's idea of wire-tapping or any other method to catch law violators is sound. An innocent person has nothing to fear from a "stop and frisk" law or finger print recording or wire tapping. Lawyer Belli's idea of "Victorian and legal belief in his home being his castle" may find out too late it's surrounded by an unbridged moat of fire.



BELLI

ED A. KRANZUSCH, Miami

105-49865

ENCLOSURE





—Herald Staff Photo by JOE LIPPINCOTT

Like Old Times in California—Almost  
... Belli chuckles as go-go girl gyrates

## Belli's a Witness At Peek-a-Go-Go

By MARTHA HALL  
Of Our Broward Bureau

DANIA — Melvin Belli came to town to show his friends the girl show. And the lawyers responded "Bravo."

As opposed, that is, to "Take it off," which once echoed through the Aloha Club, now the Go-Go Aloha Club.

anyhow since Belli and company were in town for the Florida premiere of the closest-thing-to-naked - but-not-really in a go-go dancing.



with Jules Gillette

have the most complete stock of men's suits in all Florida. You know, getting a floor on Ed Sullivan but not for Jules Gillette's never jug prices.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8-18-88 BY SP-127/SM

105-12986

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

August 6, 1965

105-49865-27  
b7C [REDACTED]  
Miami, Florida 33168

Dear [REDACTED]

I received your letter of August 1st, with enclosures, and want to thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing as well as your kind sentiments. I can assure you all of us in the FBI will strive to merit your continued approval.

It was certainly good of you to write as you did to "The Miami Herald" and "The Miami News." I deeply appreciate the support you expressed in those communications.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DFC:klm (3)  
*klm*

MAILED 7

AUG - 6 1965

COMM-FBI

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

51 AUG 18 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-18-80 BY SP-7

REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI

AUG 6 2 31 PM '65



Aug. 2, 1965

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Enclosed is a clipping from Miami Herald  
of July 27, 1965 regarding an attack on you by "lawyer-?"  
Bellis. Since Pres. Kennedy's death I have seen this name  
in print quite often and each time I have less and less  
respect ~~for~~ for him. But this is about the LOWEST  
level I have seen him reach. I would think any Bar Association  
of which he may be a member, would throw him out for this  
scurrilous attack.

I have not noticed any reply by you and am glad for  
that. There is an old saying--"Never get into a fight with  
a skunk because, even if you win, you will end up smelling  
of skunk"--I do not know whether he came from that family,  
and do not imply that he did, but the saying seems appropriate.

There is nothing you say publicly which I do not read.  
What we need right now is several thousand more J. Edgar Hoovers-  
or at least people with the same degree of Americanism.

To me our country seems to be heading into some  
rough going--with all the lawlessness that is going on and  
increasing day by day.

I am a retired graduate engineer with a very broad  
experience and in general good health. Have spent about half of  
some 25 years in South and Central America and speak and write  
Spanish fairly well. I will be 75 this coming December but  
feel I might do something more for the U.S.A. Am already  
active in what I call "Civic Policits" and am trying to help  
in that way.

Have you ever considered enrolling a group of  
retired "Senior Citizens" to do part time work for the FBI  
as special investigators, observers, or anything that might help  
carry out your ideas? I think I might volunteer to work  
4-5 days a week during 9-10 months a year for \$1 per month  
plus out of pocket expenses. Is this a crazy idea? If so  
in what other way might I help the rising disrespect for law  
and order?

Sincerely,

67C  
105-149-1057  
DATE: 6-18-80 BY: SP2TAP/CLM

EXP. PROC.  
35 AUG 6 1965

# FBI's Hoover a 'Fascist,' Says Criminal Lawyer Belli

By JOHN McDERMOTT  
Herald Staff Writer

Melvin M. Belli called J. Edgar Hoover "an ideological fascist" Monday during an address at Miami Beach. He also took a chop at U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"I don't like Edgar Hoover," declared the San Francisco attorney as he opened his remarks to the newly formed Criminal Law Section of the American Trial Lawyers in convention at the Fontainebleau Hotel.

Belli's observations came as he defended the American court system and particularly the U.S. Supreme Court against charges that the courts tend to "coddle" criminals.

He said one of the reasons he doesn't like Hoover is that "he has designedly, through his high-powered public relations organization, created such an image of himself that even honest American politicians are un-American in their fear of him and afraid to criticize him even though they know he is an ideological fascist."

Belli went on to say, however, that the principal reason he dislikes Hoover "and his embittered far-rightwingers is because of their snide and surreptitious criticism of the U.S. Supreme Court."

What the courts are doing, said Belli, is protecting the rights of the accused regardless of who they are.

He said Hoover and his "adept public relations men" confuse U.S. common law with French civil law "where practically, an accused man is presumed to be guilty until proved otherwise."

As for a lawyer seeking loopholes to keep a man from jail, this is a duty which every attorney must assume in searching for whatever last ditch "technicalities."

Belli said that he has seen these same loopholes and technicalities save the innocent from the death chamber as well as, in some cases, the guilty.

"I subscribe to the necessity of a legal system that can hold better let 99 guilty



Melvin Belli at Convention

... raps Bobby Kennedy, too

the forces of the far right, want to tap my telephone," he said.

"They want to know what I am saying, therefore, what I am thinking. I'm not a criminal. I've got nothing to hide."

Belli said once his phone is tapped then "someone" will not be satisfied with the exposure of his innermost thoughts but will also want to "assist me in my thinking and tell me how I should think."

Belli said that the Supreme Court in recent years has been fulfilling its highest duty by protecting the individual personal rights of all.

He warned that paralleling the growth of federalism is potential danger of a police state resulting from better communications and scientific crime prevention facilities

such as laboratories and radios.

Belli quoted Hoover as saying at Chicago in 1963 that justice has nothing to do with expediency... "the FBI will continue to be objective regardless of pressure groups which try to use the FBI to attain their own selfish aims to the detriment of our people as a whole."

Belli concluded by saying that there is no need to change the so-called "coddling laws". He said that the crime factor should be to preserve the freedom and the legal rights of the individual.

p18m

August 10, 1965

REC-39

105-41205-28

REC'D - READING ROOM  
F.B.I.  
AUG 10 3 34 PM '65

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of August 2nd, with enclosure, has been received, and I want you to know how much your support and comments mean to me.

Your offer of assistance is indeed appreciated; however, there is no way in which I can authorize you to act in any capacity for the FBI. All citizens can be of assistance by referring to proper authorities information they have of a criminal or subversive nature. If you receive such information, please feel free to contact representatives of our office located at 3801 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida 33137.

MAILED 2

AUG 10 1965

COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Miami - Enclosures (2)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2 TJP/CM

NOTE: Bureau files reflect limited cordial correspondence with [REDACTED]

SAW:cms  
(4)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

53 AUG 19 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

LAW OFFICES  
FRATES FAY & FLOYD  
TWELFTH FLOOR CONCORD BUILDING

MIAMI, FLORIDA 33130

July 28, 1965

WILLIAM B. FRATES

PETER FAY

ROBERT FLOYD

KERMIT G. KINDRED

LARRY S. STEWART

MALCOLM H. FROMBERG

TELEPHONE 7-0241

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Melvin Belli, Esquire  
Fontainebleau Hotel  
4441 Collins Avenue  
Miami Beach, Florida

Dear Mr. Belli:

As President-Elect of the Society of Former FBI Agents of this country, I read with interest the news articles appearing in the July 27, 1965 editions of THE MIAMI HERALD and THE MIAMI NEWS, wherein you are quoted in your remarks to the American Trial Lawyers Association as referring to J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI Director, as an "ideological fascist." The term "fascist" is obviously meant to connote a totalitarian, all-powerful approach in government and is often loosely used when a "shotgun" charge, without specific facts, is made.

As a high public official, Mr. Hoover is certainly not above criticism, and I do not in any way imply that you should be restrained in your right to criticize. However, it is abundantly apparent to me that you have not followed his public statements and the influence he has exerted throughout his long career as a law enforcement official when you term him a "fascist," regardless of the description. Although in a position to abuse the power vested in him and the FBI, he has steadfastly and adamantly refused and discouraged every attempt made to transpose the FBI into a national police force. A less courageous man imbued with seeking additional power would long ago have allowed the FBI to be an American Gestapo or OGPU. Each time he appears before the Congress he admonishes that body of the danger of creating a

ENCLOSURE

107

REC-70

105-49665

AUG 16 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-12-80 BY SP2/KP/1

0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52

Melvin Belli, Esquire

July 23, 1965

Page No. 2

state by the passage of ill-advised legislation which would deprive our citizens of their rights as free Americans. In his public statements he has thwarted each attempt over the years of those who believe it necessary for more effective law enforcement and the internal security of this country to add to the powers of the FBI by depriving citizens of their rights. He has long advocated and caused to be practiced by his Agents investigative techniques which have proven effective to combat the criminal element, without violating the rights of the innocent.

In short, Mr. Belli, for you to call J. Edgar Hoover a "fascist" reflects a sense of total irresponsibility at which I am, indeed, surprised. When you--like Mr. Hoover--have devoted a lifetime dedicated to raising the standards of the law enforcement profession, from the policeman on the beat to the highest official in the department, have established a pattern of conduct and example which can well serve as a beacon for the youth of this country, and have, in war and in peace, been confronted with daily problems of a most serious nature affecting the very security of our citizenry; then, Sir, I would be more prone to accept your subtle slander with more than a grain of salt.

Very truly yours,

*Robert L. Floyd*  
ROBERT L. FLOYD

RLF:et

cc: THE MIAMI HERALD  
THE MIAMI NEWS

C. D. DeLoach, Assistant Director

Francis X. Plant, Esquire

Miss Fran Keogh, Ex-FBI Agents Society

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

capital punishment. I only wish I could take the rest of them who believe in "gassing and frying" felons, through the agonizing ordeal of the last days of waiting in the death house to be hanged or electrocuted, through the gut-wrenching last meal, through the writing of the last heart-breaking letter to one's wife or daughter. Let me do just this, nothing more—and I'd be able to defeat capital punishment singlehandedly.

PLAYBOY: Do you disagree with the view that the death penalty deters crime?

BELL: Naturally, punishment does deter some crime. A lot of crime hasn't happened because whoever considered it simply feared he'd wind up in the clink. But you've got a different breed of motivation in murder—because of its irrationality. Most murderers just don't think in terms of consequences; they don't think at all, as a matter of fact. Thus, the death penalty does very little, if anything, to deter murder. I've seen prisoners join a jailbreak, going right past condemned row, doing exactly what they knew could put them in the death house, and it didn't deter them a bit.

PLAYBOY: Examining another aspect of American justice in a recent book called *Innocence*, author Edward D. Radin estimated that some 14,000 people each year are convicted, imprisoned and in some cases executed for crimes they didn't commit. Are those figures accurate, in your opinion?

BELL: We can't have any way of knowing for sure unless their convictions are reversed—and nothing like that number are. Circumstantial evidence can often be loaded or misleading, and eyewitnesses can be mistaken or untruthful, but I'm still not among those who feel that a great number of innocent people are convicted because of either. I have too much respect for our system of law to believe that justice could miscarry so often and on such a scale. Over and above that, I've had the practical experience to deny the allegation. But, of course, miscarriages do occur, and probably always will, for man-made law will always be fallible; but even if it happens only once in a million cases, we must rectify it and look for means to improve our system of justice so that the same mistake isn't made again. If by protecting the rights of an accused, providing him as we do with recourse to appeal for a reversed decision on the basis of irregularities in the conduct of his trial, we enable ten guilty men to go free because their lawyers get them off on a "legal technicality," it would still be better than for one innocent man to be convicted and imprisoned, or even executed, because he had no such recourse.

PLAYBOY: A moment ago you brought up the fallibility of eyewitness testimony. Would you regard policemen who are

with the average man in the street?

BELL: I'm glad you asked that question. It happens to be one of the axes I grind in my book *Dallas Justice*. In it, I said I was convinced that the testimonial credibility of policemen on the witness stand is often highly suspect, for it stems from the belief, deep in their law-abiding hearts, that they are serving a higher truth than justice when they testify for the prosecution. They often know a lot about the case in which they are testifying that might be helpful to the defendant—but they sometimes neither make it available to his attorney nor mention it in court. They are convinced—it's part of being a cop—that the reason the defendant is sitting there is that the law, their part of the law, has done its job and that the job of judge and jury is to provide a quick, questionless conviction and a stiff sentence. The presumption of innocence until guilt is proven is for lawyers, not for cops. The man *must* be guilty, they think, or else why has he been arrested, arraigned and brought to trial? So they sometimes convince themselves that a modicum of truth strengthening or truth omission on their part can achieve the desirable end that strict adherence to the rule of evidence cannot.

Perhaps, of all people, from what you've read of me, and because of what I've just said, you wouldn't expect me to say this, but I think the average American policeman not only is a good guy, but he's underpaid, overworked and a pretty damned good human being. He goes out of his way to help kids, and to help people in trouble. It's only the black sheep, the errant cop, who gets into the newspapers. And thank God there aren't many of them.

PLAYBOY: The U. S. crime rate is steadily rising, and many law-enforcement officers are convinced that part of the cause lies in the courts' insistence on strict rules of evidence that provide lawyers, as you mentioned a moment ago, with "legal loopholes" to spring their client. How do you feel about it?

BELL: What the police mentality seems unable to comprehend is that these "loopholes," these technicalities of the law, are among the inalienable protections against the violation and usurpation of human rights. I admit that I've seen a few flagrantly guilty men slip through legal loopholes and go scot-free in my time; but far more often I've seen these same loopholes used to let innocent men and women who would otherwise have perished or been sent to prison for the best years of their lives go free. That's not the reason for the rising crime rate. And it's certainly not because people are growing more lawless and more violent, as you have darkly hinted. A lot of



MIAMI NEWS 7-27-65

# FBI's Hoover A Fascist, Lawyer Belli Says

By MARTY SCHRAM  
Reporter of The Miami News

"I don't like Edgar Hoover  
and I have no use for Dick  
Tracy, either."

Speaking was a silver-haired,  
movie star-type with Goldwater  
glasses. Flamboyant trial law-  
yer Melvin Belli was getting his  
well-known dander up over  
charges that courts are coddling  
criminals.

Belli — former attorney for  
Jack Ruby, murderer of Lee  
Harvey Oswald — bristles at  
the slightest suggestion that  
criminals are coddled by the  
law.

"It's a slur on the American  
Constitution," he said here.  
"And J. Edgar Hoover is con-  
stantly mouthing that slander-  
ing 'coddling' charge and Dick  
Tracy does it too — at least once  
a week."

Belli lectured 2,500 colleagues  
yesterday at the American  
Trial Lawyers convention at  
the Fontainebleau Hotel.

The constitutional guarantees  
were written to protect the in-  
nocent — not convict the guilty,  
argued Belli.



MELVIN BELLI

"Over the years, I've seen  
some flagrantly guilty go free  
... but I've also seen these  
same 'loopholes' and 'technical-  
ities' of the law save the inno-  
cent who otherwise would have  
perished.

"Better to let 99 guilty go free  
than convict one innocent per-  
son."

Belli called FBI Chief Hoover  
an "ideological fascist" who has  
created a God-like image of him-  
self through his "high-powered  
public relations organization."

"The main reason I dislike  
Mr. Hoover and his embittered  
far-rightwingers is because of  
their snide and surreptitious

criticism of the United States  
Supreme Court," said Belli.

The attorney then pointed out  
that both Hoover and Sen. Rob-  
ert Kennedy (D-N.Y.) have ad-  
vocated allowing wire-tapping  
evidence in the courtroom.

"But I'm just Victorian —  
and legal — enough to believe  
that my home, is still my cas-  
tle," countered Belli.

And he added:

"I've had my phone tapped  
since I first took on J. Edgar  
Hoover a year ago. And Los  
Angeles Police Chief (William)  
Parker is building a dossier on  
me. It's like something out of  
Hitler's storm troopers.

The 57-year-old attorney ("I'll  
be 53 Thursday") is co-counsel  
in a local case, where three  
Danish barmaids are charged  
with indecent exposure. The  
girls served drinks wearing  
nothing but pasties above the  
waistline. (Belli recently won  
a similar case in his home-  
town San Francisco.)

"It's just another point of  
law to me," said Belli. "It's  
all a matter of censorship. And  
I think it should be up to the  
individuals to decide what is  
bad taste in their own minds."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-11-80 BY SP2TRP/CLM

Miami, Florida, New  
7-27-65

105-49865-29

ENCLOSURE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# FBI's Hoover a 'Fascist,'

## Says Criminal Lawyer Belli

By JOHN McDERMOTT  
Herald Staff Writer

Melvin M. Belli called J. Edgar Hoover "an ideological fascist" Monday during an address at Miami Beach. He also took a chop at U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"I don't like Edgar Hoover," declared the San Francisco attorney as he opened his remarks to the newly formed Criminal Law Section of the American Trial Lawyers in a convention at the Fontainebleau Hotel.

Belli's observations came as he defended the American court system and particularly the U.S. Supreme Court against charges that the courts tend to "coddle" criminals.

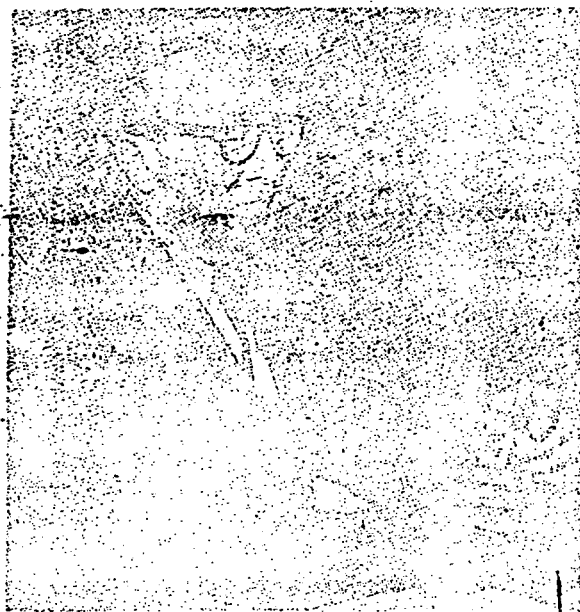
He said one of the reasons he doesn't like Hoover is that he has designed, through a high-powered public relations organization, created an image of himself that even honest Americans are un-American in their fear of him and afraid to criticize him even though they know he is an ideological fascist.

Belli went on to say, however, that the principal reason he dislikes Hoover "and all embittered far-rightwing is because of their snide and surreptitious criticism of the U.S. Supreme Court."

What the courts are doing, Belli, is protecting the rights of the accused regardless of who they are.

Belli said Hoover and his "public relations men" refuse U.S. common law and French civil law "where, practically, an accused man is presumed to be guilty until proved otherwise."

As for a lawyer seeking loopholes to keep a man out of jail, this is a duty which every attorney must assume in searching for what is the last ditch "technicalities."



Melvin Belli at Convention

...reps Bobby Kennedy, too

Belli said that he has seen these same loopholes and technicalities save the innocent from the death chamber as well as, in some cases, the guilty.

"I subscribe to the necessity of a legal system that can boast better let 99 guilty go free than convict one innocent person," he said.

He said that a criminal lawyer has the duty to seek loopholes just as much as it is the job of a corporation attorney to seek technicalities by which his clients can avoid payments of taxes.

Belli hit at Kennedy, the junior senator from New York, and former U.S. attorney general for advocating the use of wire tapping in the apprehension of criminals.

"Bobby Kennedy and Mr. Hoover and their strange bedfellows in this incidence,

the forces of the far right, want to tap my telephone," he said.

"They want to know what I am saying, therefore, what I am thinking. I'm not a criminal. I've got nothing to hide."

Belli said once his phone is tapped then "someone" will not be satisfied with the exposure of his innermost thoughts but will also want to "assist me in my thinking and tell me how I should think."

Belli said that the Supreme Court in recent years has been fulfilling its highest duty by protecting the individual personal rights of all.

He warned that paralleling the growth of federalism is potential danger of a police state resulting from better communications and scientific crime prevention facilities.

ties such as laboratories and radars.

Belli quoted Hoover as saying at Chicago in 1962 that justice has nothing to do with expediency. "The FBI will continue to be a positive force regardless of pressure groups which try to use the FBI to attain their own selfish aims to the detriment of our people as a whole."

Belli concluded by saying that there is no need to change the existing laws. He said that the crime factor should be preserved the freedom and legal rights of the individual.

The Miami Herald

Florida

Jul 27, 1965

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

105-496529  
ENCLOSURE



July 30, 1965

EX-107 REC-70

105 49365 29

Honorable Robert L. Floyd  
Frates, Fay and Floyd  
Twelfth Floor, Concord Building  
Miami, Florida 33130

My dear Judge:

Assistant Director C. D. DeLoach has shown me a copy of your letter of July 28, 1965, which was sent to Melvin Belli and the two Miami newspapers.

I am, of course, very grateful for your fine support and quick action in coming to the defense of the FBI and me. While I have never hesitated to speak out when scurrilous allegations of total irresponsibility have been made against the FBI or me, I will not dignify the comments in this instance because of the obvious character and background of the person making these statements. It was good of you, however, to show an interest in this matter, and I wanted you to know of my appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 7

AUG - 6 1965

COMM-FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAP/En

- 1 - Mr. Jones (sent with cover memo)
- 1 - Mr. Morrell (sent with cover memo)

NOTE: [REDACTED] (See DeLoach to Mohr memo, 7/29/65, captioned, "Melvin Belli, Attorney San Francisco, California." CDD:bpk) [REDACTED]

CDD:bpk/dgs

(5)

SENT DIRECTOR  
FOR APPROVAL

55 AUG 23 1965

AUG 6 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO :

Mr. Mohr

DATE: July 29, 1965

FROM :

C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT:

MELVIN BELLI

ATTORNEY - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Belli is the obviously mentally disturbed and intemperate attorney who served as defense counsel for Jack Ruby in Dallas, Texas. He attempted to gain as much notoriety as possible while serving as counsel. He was later discharged even by Ruby.

I have mentioned telephonically to Mr. Tolson on 7-28-65, Belli recently spoke before the Criminal Law Section of the American Trial Lawyers Convention in Miami, Florida. He later appeared on television.

The attached clipping from the "Miami News" dated 7-27-65 reflects that Belli referred to the Director as a "ideological fascist" who he created a God-like image of himself through his "high-powered public relations organization." We have already received letters from various individual citizens taking issue with Belli and referring to him in very uncomplimentary terms--which he deserves.

I discussed this matter telephonically with Judge Bob Floyd, President-Elect, Former Agents Society, on 7-27-65. There is attached a copy of a letter from Floyd to Belli, copies of which have been given to various newspapers in Miami in which reports of Belli's scurrilous allegations concerning the Director appeared.

## ACTION:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAF/CSM

There is attached a suggested letter to Judge Floyd from the Director.

## Enclosure

1 - Mr. Jones

1 - Mr. Morrell

CDD:bpk

(4)

55 AUG 23 1965

SENT DIRECTOR  
FOR APPROVAL  
8-2-65

8 AUG 16 1965

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 8-9-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: THE APPEARANCE OF MELVIN BELLI  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, ATTORNEY  
ON THE LES CRANE TELEVISION SHOW "NIGHTLIFE"  
ABC-TV, 7-20-65

The captioned program is an interview and discussion type show presented nationally over the American Broadcasting Company network.

The New York Office has provided a tape reflecting Melvin Belli's remarks while appearing on this program on 7-20-65. Belli is, of course, the attorney who acted as defense counsel for Jack Ruby in Dallas, Texas. He is an irresponsible individual who has made a number of scurrilous attacks on the Director and the FBI.

He was interviewed by Les Crane, a well-known TV personality who acts as master of ceremonies on "Nightlife." A transcript of this interview is attached.

To summarize the transcript briefly, Belli, as expected, made several nasty remarks concerning the Director and the FBI. He alleged that FBI Agents are inclined to shade their testimony in court in the interest of maintaining a "90 percent record of convictions." He compared the Director to Chief Parker of the Los Angeles Police Department claiming that Parker has "brochures" on most of the people in the West and that Mr. Hoover has "brochures" on most of the people in the United States. He states "that Chief Parker aspires to Mr. Hoover's position which, I think, Mr. Hoover has held much too long." Belli further states that Mr. Hoover "gives graduation addresses and tells where all the criminals are, what they're doing now, the amount of the take and everything else and says he is powerless to do anything."

ENCLOSURE

To document his allegations concerning the Director Belli referred to Fred Cook's book "The FBI Nobody Knows." He cited allegations made by former SA Jack Levine which were set forth in this book stating as follows: "the ideology of the man at graduation. The boys having to come to him with certain colored stockings, a certain necktie, not smoking a cigarette, having to bow when they meet him. All these sort of things remind me very much of the men they would go into the presence of Herman Goerring. These things don't belong in a democracy."

Enclosures

1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enc.

1 - Mr. Rosen - Enc.

1 - Mr. Sullivan - Enc.

Continued.

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-11-83 BY 1043

REC-22

SENT DIRECTOR

8-11-65

105-4786

AUG 23 1965

554703 254965

0 M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo

1 RE: THE APPEARANCE OF MELVIN BELLI

2 ON THE LES CRANE TELEVISION SHOW "NIGHTLIFE"

3  
4  
5 Crane refuted Belli's remarks at this point stating that he had  
6 spoken to "FBI men who have read the book " including a former Agent who is  
7 now an official in New York City and that they had all indicated that Levine's  
8 allegations had no basis in fact.  
9

10  
11 Belli, not to be deterred, alleged that Levine was denied membership  
12 in the Arizona Bar Association because he (Levine) had made critical remarks  
13 concerning Mr. Hoover.  
14

15 Crane's interview of Belli on this program lasted approximately  
16 ten minutes.  
17

18 RECOMMENDATION:

19 For information.  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52

TRANSCRIPTION OF EXCERPTS FROM  
THE LES CRANE TV SHOW, "NIGHTLIFE,"  
ABC-TV, 7-20-65, REFLECTING AN  
INTERVIEW OF MELVIN BELLI BY  
LES CRANE

CRANE: "Our next guest, who is called by some of his friendly critics, a mad genius, the court jester, meaning the courtroom jester, a publicity-mad pettifogger, the Sal Hurok of the legal profession and various other appellations like that."

BELLI: "You have a pretty good list so far."

CRANE: "Among his enemies are the American Bar Association, the American Medical Association, practically every insurance company in the United States, Robert F. Kennedy, J. Edgar Hoover, Richard Nixon, how much time do we have?"

BELLI: "You've made me out a pretty good guy so far though."

CRANE: "However, one thing that most of his critics have to admit, is that he is generally regarded to be the greatest trial lawyer in America today, Melvin Belli."

"Have you just come from San Francisco or from where?"

BELLI: "Yeah, we just came from San Francisco on one of those wild trips that they get you in on time letting the wheels down

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAV/GM

ENCLOSURE

105-49865

way up there and bringing you on in they gave you a great big meal over Philadelphia and then after they gave us this meal they brought us down 3,000 feet every second and then we had trouble including Caesar (sic) all the way down." (Dialogue concerning Belli's wearing apparel and the fog in San Francisco not transcribed.)

CRANE: "You've been getting a lot of attention lately, they had extensive interview with you in 'Playboy Magazine.' You made the cover of Ralph Ginzburg's\* 'Fact' magazine with some fantastic statements you made about..."

BELLI: "Yeah, when that came out we rang for breakfast and I said before you answer the door you'd better see if that's Bob Kennedy, Edgar Hoover or the waiter. We were a little concerned about that one."

CRANE: "For those who might not have read the magazine article would you like to repeat some of the things you said about Bobby Kennedy?"

BELLI: "Well, if I did what was on the cover you'd be out of a job and I'd be out of a profession. I don't know why he put that on there... you know sometimes when you give these interviews you do use a little language that I think is a little manly, a little rough and then it comes out just exactly as you said it. That's a new type of journalism. Like the University of California. I guess they all graduated from"

\*Ginzburg was formerly the publisher of "Eros." He was convicted of pornography for sending "Eros" and two other publications through the mail. He is appealing this conviction.

there. Those four letter words appear on the cover. The way they were strung out on the cover there and I saw them there, that here Belli says this about Kennedy I went back and stayed in the shower for the rest of the day."

CRANE: "What are some of the things you feel about our Senator from New York that you can say on television?"

BELLI: "Oh, I thought the Senator you had was a great man, I'm sorry that he was beaten. That's the one you're referring to?"

CRANE: "No, I'm referring to Robert F. Kennedy."

BELLI: "The present one? I don't know what he is doing down there now, but I was sorry to see the man you had beaten, I thought he was a great Senator and he was doing a great job."

CRANE: "Is he evading the issue? Is that what he is doing?"

BELLI: "Not exactly, I think I've said enough about the other one down there."

CRANE: "You don't want to talk about Bobby at all?"

BELLI: "Not too much, I'd rather wait and see, I think we all would, and see what he does do because here in the troubled years ahead, and certainly there are going to be troubled years ahead, this man avowedly wants to run for the Presidency. Either he or his brother, one of them now is a candidate. One or the other is going to

run this we know and he may turn out to be a good man. The brother was the greatest President we ever had, a magnificent man. I thought he was exquisite and by the same token, I can say, I think a lot of us will have to admit that he put more personal fortune into getting into the White House than any man in past history. Some people extrapolate that or not so semantically kind, they say that he bought the Presidency. He put a lot of money into getting it. Once he got in there he was a great President. Now, if we had what we lost the other day I think it would have been the greatest we ever had. A man that we can apply the appellation to of a real sweet guy in a masculine sort of way, Adlai Stevenson, a man that I think it makes you feel good that we love him so much and here was an egghead, here was a real intellectual and we thought that he stood about at the top of the list. We all loved him. He was a great man. Graciousness, generosity, kindness, old school sort of Chesterfieldian. The first man that would stand when a woman came into the room. All of these gracious things that we thought we've lost in this life I think were personified in this great Adlai Stevenson, and it's such a wonderful thing to see that we still love those qualities in an American and that's why I like this man so much. I was so happy in sadness to see so many other people liked him too."

CRANE: "When you undertook the defense of Jack Ruby, I imagine the question that leapt to the minds of lots of your friends and people who don't know you and don't know that much about

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62

(sic )  
the law in which I'll ask for a lot of people who might want to know/ Would  
you defend anybody?"

BELLI: "I think the greatest asset that I have as a trial lawyer is that  
I am for hire. I'll take either side--I hope with equal facility. As long as  
I'm for hire, as long as you can buy me, and once you've bought me, I'm  
completely honest to your side. I think that's the greatest attribute the  
trial lawyer has. Because then you know you have a champion in your corner.  
Yes, I would take any kind of a case and I think the guiltier a man the more  
he needs a better lawyer, and I don't mean in the sense that he is going to  
pick up the technicalities or the loopholes of the law. I mean it in this sense,  
that there is no man so black whose heart is so dark or soul so black that  
something can't be said for him. It's a soft touch to go in and represent a  
man that anyone can see he is innocent or represent in a personal injury case  
a child who has lost a leg, a drunken taxicab driver or a motorist. But  
the ones that are tough, the ones that are close, the ones you've got to  
explain--they're the ones that need a good lawyer and I think, I say  
again, that the thing the layman criticizes us for they say one time he  
is representing the corporation the other time he is representing the individual.  
He is crying for this side today or tomorrow he will be crying for the other  
side. I think that's our greatest attribute. And another thing too that you critic

0 the layman I say collectively criticizes us for... They say, 'Well, after the  
1 case is over with and he is yelling at that lawyer in court and he is how-  
2 beating or criticizing that lawyer he will be out over in the saloon across the  
3 street having a drink with him.' Yes, we will. We're professionals and we  
4 have got to know each other so that we can whittle these trials down and get  
5 in and out of court in a hurry. I think you would want us to be friendly. As  
6 long as... In court, we don't do anything or pull any punches."

24 CRANE:

25 "All the time that I grew up and, frankly, Fred Cook's book  
26 notwithstanding I haven't really read too much that has convinced me other-  
27 wise. I have always felt that one of the great, you know, strong, devoted  
28 Americans was J. Edgar Hoover. Now, of late, it has become the fashion  
29 for some reason to put the blast on J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI and you  
30 have been in the forefront of the blasters."

38 BELLI:

39 "I have always felt this way. I can start in by saying that I  
40 think the cops in this country are a dedicated class of people. I think  
41 the guy that goes down in the cellar with out without a gun and brings  
42 the fellow down there, brings him out without the tear gas. You'll find  
43 that 90 percent of the cops will do that. They are courageous, they're  
44 honest, they're not on the take, they're not in the business, they're not  
45 crooked. They're dedicated--without them we couldn't have a country.  
46 With Edgar Hoover, I think he has built up an elite corps. I think that  
47 when an FBI man gets on the stand he has a feeling this man is guilty or

0 or why would he be brought to trial? We are in here to prosecute.  
1  
2 Maybe the rules of evidence the Supreme Court has now is coddling  
3  
4 the criminals doesn't work out so well so I've got to shade the evidence  
5  
6 of the testimony a little bit and I've got to do justice. The spirit of the  
7  
8 esprit de corps is the worst thing about it. I think that we allowed a  
9  
10 system, a sort of police state within a country, a democracy to grow up.  
11  
12  
13 What Cook said frightened me. This inside the FBI, about Hoover. The  
14  
15 ideology of the man at graduation (sic). The boys having to come to  
16  
17 him with certain colored stockings, a certain necktie, not smoking  
18  
19 a cigarette, having to bow when they meet him. All these sort of things  
20  
21 remind me very much of the men as they would go into the presence of  
22  
23 Herman Goerring. These things don't belong in a democracy. He has  
24  
25 brochures on most of the people in the United States. His counterpart  
26  
27 on the West Coast is Chief Parker. Chief Parker has brochures on  
28  
29 most of the people in the West."  
30  
31  
32  
33

34 GRANE: "You mean the Chief of Police of Los Angeles?"  
35

36 BELLE: "In Los Angeles."  
37

38 GRANE: "Why the hell should he have a brochure on everybody?"  
39

40 BELLE: "I'd like to see the two of them at the corner of Hollywood  
41  
42 and Vine fighting each other with their brochures. I'd like to be the  
43  
44 -- arbiter--pull some of those out (sic)."  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52

0 "Les, I think that we're all aware that Chief Parker  
1 aspires to Mr. Hoover's position, which I think Mr. Hoover has held much,  
2 much too long. If we won't let a President stay in that long why should  
3 we allow this man who is head of this police organization to stay in there  
4 as long as he has. He has brochures on every prominent citizen of  
5 the United States."

6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11 "Why is Chief Parker gathering these brochures and  
12 portfolios on the prominent citizens of the West? We don't need those  
13 in a democracy. Why do the two of these need these overlapping brochures  
14 on all of our people. I think that's something that is completely foreign  
15 to a democracy. Something like that they did in Unter den Linden. That  
16 was the beginning of a police state. Over there they said it couldn't  
17 happen here and it did happen. I think that this is where something like  
18 that could happen here and I'd like to see them have a change down there.  
19 I thought Bobby Kennedy was going to change him. I thought his brother was  
20 going to change him."

21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
"This fellow, and I speak of Mr. Hoover, gives graduating  
addresses and tells where all the criminals are, what they're doing, names the  
amount of the take and everything else and says he is powerless to do  
anything and he says he is powerless to do anything because of the coddling  
criminal laws of the United States Supreme Court. He also says we ought

0 to impeach Warren and the Supreme Court is bad. He has the guts to say  
1 this sort of stuff. I think that if he knows who all of these people are  
2 then he ought to move out against them. Why don't the people in Congress  
3 say something? Does he have something on our Senators? Does he have  
4 something on our Congressmen that no one will ask him to give an  
5 accounting when he says I know who they all are but I'm not doing anything?  
6 I think that these are questions that can be answered only by the Senators  
7 and Congressmen."

8 CRANE:

9 "The question that I raise is, certainly a gentleman that has  
10 dealt with the law as long as you have would seem to base your evidence on  
11 certainly a much stronger case than the writings of one fellow who has been  
12 pretty generally discredited."

13 BELLI:

14 "I base it on my own experiences in court. Every time we  
15 have an FBI man in court we're headed for trouble because I think that the  
16 FBI men in the cases I have seen have shaded evidence and again there's  
17 this thing of the esprit de corps. If they've indicted somebody they've got  
18 to have a 90-percent record of convictions and if they're in there testifying  
19 against the defendant they are going to see that there is a conviction. I  
20 have that feeling and I think that every defense lawyer in this country and  
21 any part of this country will tell you the same sort of a thing. Whether the  
22 FBI man wants to shade his testimony or not once he's in that organization,

he's going to go for Mr. Hoover and that organization for a conviction regardless of whether the man is guilty or not. How, that is as strong as you can make it and I've seen that personally."

CRANE:

"But yet you said the thing about the, the (sic) I've talked to FBI men who have read the book by Cook. As a matter of fact, one of the officials of New York City, one of the license officials, is a former FBI chief. He said the business about the colored socks and the sweaty palms and buying the book is all rubbish."

BELLI:

"All right, I'll give you one right on the nose. The Supreme Court of Arizona. Arizona is that state where the what's his name, slips me all the time, the fellow that ran for President...?"

SOMEONE FROM  
THE AUDIENCE:

"Barry Goldwater!"

BELLI:

"Ed Levine was the one who gave a lot of the information in Cook's book and he quoted book and page and everything else about this, and you could say he was a crank but it so happens that he was a lawyer. He goes to Arizona. He passes the bar examination. He wants to practice in Arizona. The State Bar of Arizona says that he is not ethical, that he is of bad moral character and they won't certify him to practice law even though he has passed the bar examination. He asked why and they say because you criticized Mr. Hoover in that book. Well, he took a petition and here's where we come into the evidence. Ex Parte Levine in the Supreme Court of Arizona,

0 In the specific reports of the Arizona State Reports of January of this  
1 year, the Supreme Court of Arizona was amazed that the State Bar would pre-  
2 vent this man from being a lawyer and saying he was unethical. Because  
3 of this, they overruled the State Bar and allowed him to become a lawyer  
4 in Arizona. Now, I think when a State Bar in any state says the man is  
5 unethical because he criticizes a man in this country, I think that has  
6 gone pretty far.

7 A lawyer's job is to criticize. I think a lawyer's job is  
8 to be controversial. I think a lawyer's job is to be a leader, to stir up  
9 controversy so that there will be light on these controversial subjects.  
10 I don't think Mr. Hoover wants it that way."

11 "Aren't you in trouble yourself with the American Bar  
12 Association?"

13 "They're in trouble with me--that's the way I like to look  
14 at it. Everything is relative in this life."

15 "Hasn't there been a move, in fact, to oust you from the  
16 American Bar Association?"

17 "I don't know what they're doing presently. After the  
18 Ruby case they were going to try me in the top floor of the Statler Hotel.  
19 Now, I shouldn't have said--asking where I was going to be tried--whether  
20 I was going to be tried on the top floor near an open window or not and I  
21 didn't want to go down there. But I remember I wrote them a letter.

0 I said I'd be damned if I'd resign now. I was going to let them kick me  
1 out and see why I was unethical. If it was solely because of what I had  
2 said at the end of that trial that I tried down in Texas. It was the only  
3 reason that they assigned--and again this feeling that lawyers can't say  
4 anything, can't criticize. That we should bear the wounds of our client  
5 and file a formal petition to the Supreme Court. Heavens, by the time  
6 you file petitions to the Supreme Court the man might be hanging to  
7 the nearest limb of a tree and it could be like that too."  
8

9 CRANE: "If they toss you out of the American Bar Association, can  
10 you still practice law?"  
11

12 BELLI: "I don't have to belong to the American Bar Association.  
13 You can take books out of their law library. Bob Considine said it was  
14 like being drummed out of the book-of-the-month club.—He said that.  
15 Not I."  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27



FBI

Date: 8/2/65

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
ATTENTION: CRIME RECORDS

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Attached for the information of the Bureau is the audio portion of ABC's TV Show, Nightlife, which was seen and heard on Tuesday, 7/20/65. This tape consists of an interview between LES CRANE, TV personality and MELVIN BELLI, JACK RUBY Attorney. During the early part of the tape, which is marked, BELLI makes several uncomplimentary remarks about the Director and the FBI. Among other things, BELLI states that the Director has been in the FBI too long and that FBI Agents shade testimony because they must maintain 90% convictions. He goes on to compare the Director with Chief PARKER of LA by indicating that they both maintain folders on all prominent citizens which is not necessary in a democracy. BELLI further states that Mr. HOOVER claims to know all about the criminals in the country but then states that he is powerless to act.

The foregoing is merely a succinct resume and the attached tape is furnished for perusal by the Bureau.

ABC advised that the entire tape runs 40-60 minutes, but the portion pertaining to the FBI appears to be about 10 minutes.

- 2 - Bureau (Enclosure 1)
- 1 - New York

5 AUG 3 1965

Approved:

G. C. Wick Special Agent in Charge

CRIME RECORDS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP1/SP1/SP1

ENCLOSURE

Date: July 27, 1965

(Type in plain text or code)

**AIRTEL**

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MIAMI

**ATTENTION: CRIME RECORDS SECTION**

MELVIN M. BELLI

**MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING**

An article appeared in "The Miami Herald" on Tuesday, 7/27/65, written by JOHN McDERMOTT, Herald staff writer, concerning an attack made on the Director by MARVIN BELLI, San Francisco criminal attorney. His remarks were made to the newly formed Criminal Law Section of the America Trial Lawyers Convention at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida, 7/26/65.

Mr. BELLI also criticized former Attorney General, now U. S. Senator, ROBERT KENNEDY.

The article is self-explanatory and the newspaper item is attached.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 1) (AM)

1 - Miami

HJM:mjs

(4)

**D. C. Wick**

**SENT DIRECT**

7-28-65

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-12-80 BY SP2U

CRIME RESEARCH

REC 45

EX 105

2 JUL 28 1965

6 Approved: 1-2-1985

Sent

M

Per

Special Agent in Charge

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI's Hoover a 'Fascist,' Says Criminal Lawyer Belli

By JOHN McDERMOTT  
Herald Staff Writer

Melvin M. Belli called J. Edgar Hoover "an ideological fascist" Monday during an address at Miami Beach. He also took a chop at U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. "I don't like Edgar Hoover," declared the San Francisco attorney as he opened his remarks to the newly formed Criminal Law Section of the American Trial Lawyers in convention at the Fontainebleau Hotel.

Belli's observations came as he defended the American court system and particularly the U.S. Supreme Court against charges that the courts tend to "coddle" criminals.

He said one of the reasons he doesn't like Hoover is that he has designedly, through his high-powered public relations organization, created such an image of himself that even honest American politicians are un-American in their fear of him and afraid to criticize him even though they know he is an ideological fascist.

Belli went on to say, however, that the principal reason he dislikes Hoover "and his embittered far-rightwingers is because of their sly and surreptitious criticism of the U.S. Supreme Court."

What the courts are doing, said Belli, is protecting the rights of the accused regardless of who they are.

He said Hoover and his "deep public relations men" confuse U.S. common law with French civil law "where practically an accused man is presumed to be guilty until proved otherwise."

As for a lawyer seeking loopholes to keep a man out of jail, this is a duty which every attorney must assume in searching for what over last ditch technicalities.



Melvin Belli at Convention  
... raps Bobby Kennedy, too

Belli said that he has seen these same loopholes and technicalities save the innocent from the death chamber as well as, in some cases the guilty.

"I subscribe to the necessity of a legal system that can boast better let 99 guilty go free than convict one innocent person," he said.

He said that a criminal lawyer has the duty to seek loopholes just as much as it is the job of a corporation attorney to seek technicalities by which his clients can avoid payments of taxes.

Belli hit at Kennedy, the junior senator from New York, and former U.S. attorney general for advocating the use of wire tapping in the apprehension of criminals.

Bobby Kennedy and Mr. Hoover, and their strange

the forces of the far right, want to tap my telephone," he said.

"They want to know what I am saying, therefore, what I am thinking. I'm not a criminal. I've got nothing to hide."

Belli said once his phone is tapped then "someone" will not be satisfied with the exposure of his innermost thoughts but will also want to "assist me in my thinking and tell me how I should think."

Belli said that the Supreme Court in recent years has been fulfilling its highest duty by protecting the individual personal rights of all.

He warned that paralleling the growth of federalism is potential danger of a police state resulting from better communications, and scientific crime prevention facilities.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

10A

The MIAMI HERALD

Miami, Florida

Date: 7/27/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

MELVIN M. BELLI  
Info Concerning

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Miami

☐ Being Investigated

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

0  
1 lies such as laboratories and  
2 Belli quoted Hoover as  
3 saying at Chicago in 1963  
4 that justice has nothing to  
5 do with expediency. "The  
6 FBI will continue to be objec-  
7 tive regardless of pressure  
8 groups which try to use the  
9 FBI to attain their own sel-  
0 ish aims to the detriment of  
1 our people as a whole."  
2 Belli concluded by saying  
3 that there is no need to  
4 change the so-called "cod-  
5 ing laws." He said the  
6 prime factor should be to  
7 preserve the freedom and the  
8 legal rights of the individual

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

July 28, 1965

This is the matter which I mentioned to Mr. Tolson telephonically today, 7-28-65. Judge Jim Floyd, Miami, Florida, who is the President-elect of the Former Agents Society has written a strong letter

to the American Trial Lawyers Association literally taking Belli apart. Floyd strongly defends the Director and the FBI. He called this morning to quote me passages from his letter. The letter will be mailed to the same papers that carried Belli's scurrilous allegations. Floyd told me that Belli was the "laughing stock" of Miami following his remarks. Nevertheless, the former Agents desire to take Belli apart because of his stupid allegations.

C. D. DE LOACH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-13-88 BY SP1TAP/Edm



July 19, 1965

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I have been viewing  
the Les Crane Show - for  
the second time.

I hate to admit to his  
being from our area (al-  
though I hear San Francisco  
is referred to as Red City  
in some other areas, so  
this is just another bad  
point) but Mel Belli is  
spewing his venom on  
this program - against you  
this time. Last week I  
heard even worse remarks  
about S.F. Police Chief Cahill,  
so I guess Mr. Cahill is  
in good company.

My reason for writing is to say I applaud you and your organization. I hope you never retire - although I know that is being selfish, and that you must get very tired, both in body and spirit, at times.

There are many who are aware of at least some of the troubles arising with regards law (and lawlessness), our country in general, and Communism in one particular. Sometimes I wonder if there is any hope for the future of us all. I worry abou

my young children being responsible for the massive disaster incurred by our past and present governments. Our giant steps towards Socialism and, yes, Communism.

Our family and some friends are trying, too.

Writing Congressmen, reading and talking to others.

But we seem to reach so few - and none are too talented in any communication field.

I'm sorry, I'm off the beaten track.



I do thank you for the  
services you've performed  
for our Country. You  
are appreciated by the  
majority of Americans.

Respectfully,

b7C



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

*Scrap*

00-11-9

39 JUL 26 1965

EXP. PROC.

CORRESPONDENCE

*CH*

*b7C*



*17C  
9-27-65 log*

*auth of  
DFC  
mnc*

TRUE COPY

July 19, 1965

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I have been viewing the Les Crane Show - for the second time.

I hate to admit to his being from our area (although I hear San Francisco is referred to as Red City in some other areas, so this is just another bad point) but Mel Belli is spewing his venom on this program - against you this time. Last week I heard even worse remarks about S. F. Police Chief Cahill, so I guess Mr. Cahill is in good company.

My reason for writing is to say I applaud you and your organization. I hope you never retire - although I know that is being selfish, and that you must get very tired, both in body and spirit, at times.

There are many who are aware of at least some of the troubles arising - with regards law (and lawlessness), our country in general, and Communism in one particular. Sometimes I wonder if there is any hope for the future of us all. I worry about my young children being responsible for the massive debts incurred by our past and present governments. Our giant steps towards Socialism and, yes, Communism.

Our family and some friends are trying, too. Writing Congressmen, reading and talking to others. But we seem to reach so few - and none are too talented in any communication field.

I'm sorry, I'm off the beaten track.

REC-8

16 JUL 30 1965

CONTAINED

INDEXED

DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAP/CSM

I do thank you for the services you've performed  
for our Country. You are appreciated by the majority of  
Americans.

Respectfully,

b7C

Address per envelope:

23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100

Y'o  
11

REC 8

105 - 49865 - 34  
~~44-5-50520~~

July 29, 1965

FBI

JUL 29 3 01 PM '65

READING ROOM

Dear [REDACTED]

I received your letter of July 19th and want to thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing as well as your complimentary comments concerning our work. I can assure you the support you expressed in your communication means a great deal to all of us in the FBI, and we will strive to merit your continued approval.

It is indeed a pleasure to hear from individuals who are aware of the menace communism poses to our freedoms. You may wish to refer to my books, "Masters of Deceit" and "A Study of Communism." These were written to acquaint readers with the strategy and tactics of communists, both in this country and abroad. These books may be available at your local library.

Enclosed is some material which I trust you will find of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 25  
JUL 30 1965  
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (2)

Communism and the Knowledge to Combat It!  
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DFC/ufp

(3)

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

66 AUG 6 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAP

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. DeLoach  
FROM : M. A. Jones  
SUBJECT: "PLAYBOY" MAGAZINE  
SEPTEMBER, 1965, ISSUE

DATE: 8-27-65

The September, 1965, edition of "Playboy" magazine contains no references to the Director or the FBI with the exception of two letters to the editor dealing with "Playboy's," June, 1965, interview with San Francisco Attorney Melvin Belli.

My memorandum of May 18, 1965, set forth the egomaniacal ramblings of Belli, the unscrupulous publicity seeker who has been aptly characterized by the Director as a "shyster."

Two letters to the editor in the attached September, 1965, edition of "Playboy," (pages 7 and 10), one from Dr. Stephen D. Bourgeois, Evreux, France, and the other from Ralph P. Yates, Fresno, California, take issue with Belli's unjustified criticism of the Director and others. Both Yates and Dr. Bourgeois express confidence in the Director and the FBI.

05-49865 Bufiles reflect nothing identifiable with either Dr. Bourgeois or Mr. Yates.

## RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

JRH:smg  
(8)

NOT RECORDED

178 SEP 13 1965

6 SEP 12 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-19-80 BY SP-100/100

SEARCH

9-8-65

Airtel

To: SAC, Los Angeles

From: Director, FBI

Subject:

(RESEARCH) CRIME RECORDS

Buded 9-16-65.

Bureau desires to identify captioned individual. No additional information such as residence or employment is known by the Bureau and he is not identifiable in Bufiles.

1 - Mr. Tolson

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Follow-up 9-16-65

NOTE:

issue with unjustifiable criticism of Director by Attorney Melvin Belli. is not identifiable in Bureau files and Mr. Tolson has requested that he be identified.

JRH:lok

(7)

MAILED 25

SEP 9 1965

COMM-FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP-11p/100

57 SEP 21 1965

TELETYPE UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 9-17-65

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] b7C

Remymemo 8-27-65.

Referenced memorandum mentioned that one [REDACTED] vigorously disputing unjustified criticism of the Director made by notorious San Francisco Attorney Melvin Belli.

[REDACTED] not identifiable in Bufiles and Mr. Tolson requested that an attempt be made to identify this individual.

The Los Angeles Office was instructed to conduct a discreet inquiry in an attempt to identify [REDACTED] Los Angeles has replied by airtel of 9-14-65 advising that this person cannot be identified.

[REDACTED] They point out there are innumerable individuals names [REDACTED] telephone and city directories but no one [REDACTED] There is no information in Los Angeles files identifiable with [REDACTED]

## RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

105-49865-  
NOT RECORDED  
145 SEP 21 1965

- 1 - Mr. Tolson
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

JRH:smg  
(8)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-16-80 BY SP2TAP/EPm

6 SEP 21 1965

T. [ ]  
W. [ ]  
DeLoach [ ]  
Casper [ ]  
Callahan [ ]  
Conrad [ ]  
Felt [ ]  
Gale [ ]  
Rosen [ ]  
Sullivan [ ]  
Tavel [ ]  
Trotter [ ]  
Tele. Room [ ]  
Holloman [ ]  
Gandy [ ]

100-111965-100



FBI

Date: 2/9/67

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI -- ATTENTION CRIME RECORDS DIVISION

FROM: SAC, CINCINNATI (62-3020)

MELVIN BELLI

MISCELLANEOUS -- INFORMATION CONCERNING

Remytel 2/9/67.

Enclosed herewith is the newspaper article containing comments made by BELLI which appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer of 2/9/67, page 45.

3 - Bureau (Enclosure)  
1 - Cincinnati

WBS:LM  
(4)

C. C. Wick

105-49865  
FEB 14 1967 NOT RECORDED

11 FEB 25 1967

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-90 BY SP2TAP/Lom

CRIME RESEARCH

61 FEB 17 1967

Sent

M

Per

Special Agent in Charge

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Ruby Lawyer Aired His Gripes

Attorney Melvin Belli un-  
derlined a half dozen unor-  
thodox observations in  
Cincinnati Wednesday — in-  
cluding one to the effect  
that J. Edgar Hoover is an  
"American Franco" who  
could have been sent pack-  
ing years ago.

The flamboyant West  
Coast attorney, speaking for  
the record at all times, was  
preparing to go before the  
7th U. S. Sixth Circuit Court  
Appeals today to argue  
an oil-rights case for 5000  
Kentuckians.

He granted an interview  
in his room at the Hotel  
Marshall Hilton, where he  
met Jerry W. Nall, Owens-  
boro, Ky., lawyer, were put-  
ting finishing touches on  
what he called a "simple  
case" against the U. S.  
Government.

Mr. Belli was dressed in  
casual fashion — plaid  
sports jacket and blue turtle  
necked sweater. But he was  
not a casual man as he  
proceeded rapid-fire from  
the controversial subject to  
another, grabbing his large  
horn-rimmed glasses on and  
his nose to make points.

Mr. Hoover's name came  
up in discussion of U. S.  
Supreme Court decisions  
which have been blasted by  
FBI and local police alike  
as being tailored to coddle  
criminals.

First, he said, the U. S.  
Supreme Court has done ab-  
solutely nothing unusual "if  
you know your civics." "It  
is just making state courts  
out of what has been done all  
along in Federal Courts."

He made him think of  
Hoover, long-time direc-  
tor of the Federal Bureau of  
Investigation.

"Hoover is one of the most  
evil men in this country,"  
the attorney declared, add-  
ing, "and I'm satisfied that  
the Kennedys wanted to get  
rid of him."

He continued: "Hoover  
has tried to undermine the  
U. S. Supreme Court while  
talking about patriotism. I  
think if he had been in Ger-  
many he would have been  
favored more than any of  
the sub-leaders under Hit-  
ler."

"The very idea of him  
making people wash their  
hands before he'll shake  
with them ... making the  
men working under him  
wear certain ties or shirts  
for the chief won't like  
you."

Mr. Belli gesticulated with  
his eyeglasses. "It is so  
amusing that the  
American public has sent  
this American Franco pack-  
ing years ago."

The lawyer paused, but  
not for long.

Gov. Ronald Reagan of  
California, he said, couldn't  
do more if he tried to make  
himself unpopular.

"It's almost impossible to  
impeach a governor, but if  
any steps are taken in this  
country they will be taken  
against him (Gov. Reagan),"  
Mr. Belli predicted in a dark  
tone.

The City of Dallas, as has  
been reported before, is one  
of Mr. Belli's chief hates.  
Now he has a new one  
against the city he left in  
anger after Jack Ruby, his  
client, was convicted of  
killing Lee Harvey Oswald.

"I think Jack Ruby was  
treated very carelessly in  
that jail," he charged, add-  
ing that "Southern prisons"  
don't seem to understand  
the value of a life.



Melvin Belli

... has villains aplenty

"That poor little man was  
lying on that floor down  
there with a suicide watch  
on him around the clock,"  
he declared.

"They let him lie there  
and let him kill himself  
with cancer."

When Mr. Belli was asked  
if he had quit the American  
Bar Association as he had  
threatened to do following  
Dallas, he snorted.

"I would get out if they  
weren't trying so hard to  
get me out. I'm a member in  
good standing with the  
plaque on the wall upside  
down."

He explained the case he  
will argue before the Ap-  
peals Court today as one  
involving the 32,000 acres of  
land which make up the  
now-abandoned Camp  
Breckinridge in Western  
Kentucky.

The U. S. government took  
it from the 5000 Kentuck-  
ians in 1935 under the laws  
of eminent domain. Now  
\$500 million worth of oil has  
been found beneath these  
acres and the Kentuckians  
want it back. But the gov-  
ernment has already sold  
the rights to several big oil  
companies.

(Indicate page, name of  
newspaper, city and state)

45 Cincinnati Inquirer  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Cincinnati Post &  
Times Star  
Cincinnati, Ohio

The Citizen Journal  
Columbus, Ohio

Columbus Dispatch  
Columbus, Ohio

Dayton Daily News  
Dayton, Ohio

Journal Herald  
Dayton, Ohio

Date: 1/9/67  
Edition: Final  
Author: Margaret Josten  
Editor: Brady Black  
Title: MELVIN BELL

Character: Information  
or Concerning  
Classification: 62-3029  
Submitting Office: Cincinnati

☐ Being Investigated

INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-19-90 BY SP-6

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52

Mr. Belli says the question is purely legal. Kentucky law says land taken under eminent domain should revert to the original owners when the purpose for which it was taken is no longer valid.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: February 9, 1967

FROM : R. E. Wick

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI  
INTERVIEW BY REPORTER  
"CINCINNATI ENQUIRER"  
2/9/67  
COMMENTS CONCERNING MR. HOOVER

SAC Soyars of the Cincinnati Office telephoned at 9:35 this morning advising that Melvin Belli is arguing an eminent domain case before the Sixth Circuit U. S. Court of Appeals currently. He was interviewed by a reporter of the "Cincinnati Enquirer." This paper on page 45 this morning contains a picture of Belli who was the attorney for Jack Ruby in the Oswald case. Belli criticizes many people, including Governor Reagan of California, the Dallas police, the FBI and others. He specifically calls Mr. Hoover the most evil man in America, claiming the Director has tried to undermine the U. S. Supreme Court, that he makes FBI Agents wash their hands before he will shake hands with them, and he instructs Agents to wear certain types of neckties.

Soyars is sending in the newspaper clipping. I told him in the event he receives any inquiries, he should tell his newspaper friends this is all ridiculous but otherwise have absolutely no comment to make, since Belli is only after publicity and is attempting to use Mr. Hoover to get it.

## RECOMMENDATION:

For record purposes.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Jones

REW:dse

67 FEB 23 1967

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-88 BY SP1TAP/EFM

REC-9

105-49868-35

S FEB 13 1967

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Wick \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 9 1967

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

2MSG

FBI CINCINTI

100PM URGENT 2/9/67 EGB

TO DIRECTOR--ATTENTION CRIME RECORDS DIVISION

FROM CINCINNATI (62-3020) 2P

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP-10/10

MELVIN BELLI, MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING.

RE MY TELCALL INSTANT. ARTICLE APPEARING IN CINCINNATI ENQUIRER,  
INSTANT, SETS FORTH INTERVIEW HAD BY NEWSPAPER REPORTER WITH BELL  
WEST COAST ATTORNEY. BELLI IN CINCINNATI TO ARGUE CASE BEFORE  
UNITED STATES SIXTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS INVOLVING LANDS SEIZED  
BY GOVERNMENT UNDER RIGHT OF EMINENT DOMAIN.

DURING INTERVIEW BELLI MADE SCURRILOUS AND UNFOUNDED REMARKS  
CONCERNING DIRECTOR, WHICH APPEAR IN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE. HE COMMENTED  
THAT DIRECTOR REQUIRED PEOPLE TO QUOTE WASH THEIR HANDS BEFORE HE'LI  
SHAKE WITH THEM UNQUOTE. CLAIMS DIRECTOR IS ONE OF MOST EVIL MEN  
IN THE COUNTRY, AND TO BELLI, IT IS UTTERLY AMAZING THAT THE AMERICAN  
PUBLIC HASN'T SENT THIS AMERICAN FRANCO PACKING YEARS AGO, UNQUOTE.

END PAGE ONE

3 FEB 13 1967

66  
FEB 17 1967

EX 101

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
0  
1 PAGE TWO

2  
3 IN THE ARTICLE BELLI ALSO ATTACKS GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN OF  
4  
5 CALIFORNIA, AS WELL AS TREATMENT OF JACK RUBY WHILE INCARCERATED A  
6  
7 DALLAS.  
8

9 NO OUTSIDE INQUIRIES RECEIVED ON BELLI'S REMARKS. HOWEVER,  
0  
1 IN EVENT THEY ARE RECEIVED A QUOTE NO COMMENT UNQUOTE ANSWER WILL  
2  
3 BE FORTHCOMING BY SAC. IN THE EVENT TRUSTWORTHY CONTACTS OF  
4  
5 CINCINNATI DIVISION INQUIRE, THEY WILL BE ADVISED THAT BELLI'S  
6  
7 SCURRILOUS REMARKS CONCERNING DIRECTOR ARE OBVIOUSLY, ON THEIR FACE,  
8  
9 FALSE.  
0

1 ARTICLE BEING FORWARDED SOG BY COVER AIRTEL.

2  
3 END

4  
5  
6  
7 FBI WASH DC  
8  
9  
0

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 CC: MR. WICK  
9  
0



FBI

Date: 2/10/67

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Wick	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (62-0) (C)  
SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI  
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
CONCERNING

Re Cincinnati teletype to the Bureau dated 2/9/67.

Enclosed for the Bureau is the original and a xerox copy of an article appearing in the Cincinnati Enquirer, a daily newspaper, Kentucky Edition, on 2/9/67.

The Louisville Office has been advised that a resume of the newspaper article was furnished the Bureau by the Cincinnati Office.

No further action being taken by Louisville

3 - Bureau (Enc. 2)  
1 - Louisville  
ENCLOSURE

JMB:lm1

(4)

REC 18

EX-104

FEB 14 1967

12 FEB 18 1967

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-90 BY SP2 TAP/12m

Approved: 369 Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

56 FEB 21 1967

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Ruby Lawyer Airs

BY MARGARET JOSTEN  
Of The Enquirer Staff

Attorney Melvin Belli uncorked a half-dozen unorthodox observations in Cincinnati Wednesday, including one to the effect that J. Edgar Hoover is an "American Franco" who should have been sent packing years ago.

The flamboyant West Coast attorney, speaking for the record at all times, was preparing to go before the U. S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals today to argue an old rights case for 5000 Kentuckians.

He granted an interview in this room at the Hotel Terrace Hilton, where he and Jerry W. Nall, Owensboro, Ky., lawyer, were putting finishing touches on what he called a "simple case," against the U. S. Government.

Mr. Belli was dressed in casual fashion — plaid sports jacket and blue turtle

necked sweater. But he was not a casual man as he proceeded rapid-fire from one controversial subject to another, grabbing his large horn-rimmed glasses on and off his nose to make points.

Mr. Hoover's name came up in discussion of U. S. Supreme Court decisions which have been blasted by FBI and local police alike as being tailored to coddle criminals.

First, he said, the U. S. Supreme Court has done absolutely nothing unusual "if you know your civics." "It is just making state courts do what has been done all along in Federal Courts."

This made him think of Mr. Hoover, long-time director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"Hoover is one of the most evil men in the country," the attorney declared, adding, "and I'm satisfied that the Kennedys wanted to get rid of him."

He continued: "Hoover has tried to undermine the U. S. Supreme Court while



Melvin Belli  
... has villains aplenty

talking about patriotism. I think if he had been in Germany he would have been favored more than any of the sub-leaders under Hitler.

"The very idea of him making people wash their hands before he'll shake with them ... making the men working under him wear certain ties or shirts or the chief won't like you."

Mr. Belli gestured with the eyeglasses. "It is so utterly amazing that the American public hasn't sent this American Franco packing years ago."

The lawyer paused, but not for long.

Gov. Ronald Reagan of California, he said, couldn't do more if he tried to make himself unpopular.

"It's almost impossible to impeach a governor, but if any steps are taken in this

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

Page 1

Cincinnati Enquirer

Cincinnati, Ohio

Date: 2-9-67  
Edition: Kentucky  
Author:  
Editor:

Title:  
Melvin Belli  
Info. Concerning

Character:  
or  
Classification: 62-0  
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-19-80 BY SP2TAP/ELM

COPIES DESTROYED  
8 23 AUG 9 1972

ENCLOSURE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



country they will be taken against him (Gov. Reagan), Mr. Belli predicted in a dark tone.

The City of Dallas, as has been reported before, is one of Mr. Belli's chief hates. Now he has a new one against the city he left in anger after Jack Ruby, his client, was convicted of killing Lee Harvey Oswald.

"I think Jack Ruby was treated very carelessly in that jail," he charged, adding that "Southern prisons" don't seem to understand the value of a life.

"That poor little man was lying on that floor down there with a suicide watch on him around the clock," he declared.

"They let him lie there and let him kill himself with cancer."

When Mr. Belli was asked if he had quit the American Bar Association as he had threatened to do following Dallas, he snorted.

"I would get out if they weren't trying so hard to get me out. I'm a member in good standing with the plaque on the wall upside down."

He explained the case he will argue before the Appeals Court today as one involving the 32,000 acres of land which make up the now-abandoned Camp Breckinridge in Western Kentucky.

The U. S. government took it from the 5000 Kentuckians in 1948 under the laws of eminent domain. Now \$500 million worth of oil has been found beneath these acres and the Kentuckians want it back. But the government has already sold the rights to several big oil companies.

Mr. Belli says the question is purely legal. Kentucky law says land taken under eminent domain should revert to the original owners when the purpose for which it was taken is no longer valid.

Really a very simple

case," he claimed, waving the spectacles again.

"I hear Hoffa was over there too this week," he said. James Hoffa, president of the teamsters union.

"How do you think he'll do?"

March 19, 1967

b7C [REDACTED]  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
87107

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover  
Department of Justice, FBI  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

*Melvin Bell*  
The enclosed article appeared in The Albuquerque Tribune on March 13. Since that time I have watched for an article defending you. To date there have been none.

It is incredible that the public is influenced in this way and some steps should be taken to correct the record. The Albuquerque Tribune and The Albuquerque Journal newspapers both have a Letters to the Editor Column. My proposal to you is; you send me your views on this article and I will attempt to get it printed in The Letters to the Editor Columns, or maybe you would rather contact them directly. I am sure that most readers of these newspapers would appreciate having the record set straight.

b7C Very Respectfully Yours,  
[REDACTED]

*cu*  
ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-12-80 BY SP2TAP/TEAM

EX-103

REC-25

18 MAR 23 1967

CORRECTION  
FRANCE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Wick  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

# Melvin Belli Sees Link Between FBI Chief, Racketeers, Politicians

March 13, 1971  
BY MARY KAY TODESCO  
Tribune Staff Writer

Melvin Belli, San Francisco attorney most quickly identified as one-time defense lawyer for Jack Ruby, perched on a bench in the Alvarado Hotel lobby today long enough to take some pot shots at J. Edgar Hoover.

"Intimating there is a conspiracy between the FBI's Hoover and big-time racketeers," Belli said. "How is it that Hoover can tell who are the big gangsters and crooks and state statistics and yet so knowing doesn't go after them?"

"Hoover is a fraud," Belli declared in a quick interview between legal conferences here and a malpractice trial in Chicago.

Belli says there's link

Belli linked Hoover and the U.S. underworld through what he said are politicians who are supported by gangster money.

"Does he have a liaison with senators and representatives across the country?" Belli wondered. "It looks like to me if they leave him alone, he'll leave them alone."

Hoover perpetuates an "umbrella of protection" by not cracking down on the big-time racketeers known to him, Belli asserted.

**Law Suit**

Belli stopped off here to attend a conference over the District Court lawsuit against Albuquerque builder Dale Bellamah and Albuquerque National Bank.

Belli represents Thunder Mountain Construction Co. of Santa Fe and its officers who are suing for \$2.6 million con-



See BELLI, page A-2 Melvin Belli in Albuquerque

## BELLI

Continued from Page One

tending Bellamah pressured the bank to cut off financing for a Santa Fe subdivision development.

The dapper attorney whipped through 15 minutes by nailing Hoover on top of expressing his opinions on recent Supreme Court decisions, the degradation of creativity and imagination in contemporary society, references to his most recent book, "The Law Revolt: 100 Cases," and a prediction that the San Francisco Giants would bring home a pennant.

### Legal Profession

A constant stream of remarks poured from Belli on the subject of law and his relationship with the legal profession.

"I've been more or less a renegade from the law and bar associations. It's not arbitrary. I hate uniformity, mediocrity and normalcy... and there's too much of it in the legal profession today."

He criticized today's educational institutions for turning out people who are afraid to be different. "The thing they want you to do now is to conform," Belli said.

### Agrees With Court

On to the Supreme Court and the recent decisions the flamboyant Belli said that the highest U.S. court is "really concerned with the individual." "In taking care of the minority and the extremists, it makes it safe for the majority," Belli said.

The decisions are "not coddling crime," said Belli—they have served to make state courts operate more like federal courts.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP1/PT/EM

105-49865-38

ENCLOSURE

March 27, 1967

REC-25 EX-103

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

b7c Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 19th, with enclosure, and appreciate the interest which prompted you to write.

I would not consider making any public answer to the statements attributed to Melvin Belli in your enclosure, and regard them as being too ridiculous to warrant further comment.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 7

MAR 27 1967

COMM-FBI

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. Melvin Belli is a west coast attorney who is well known to the Bureau. Bufiles contain no record of Mary Kay Todesco, the author of the enclosure. We have maintained cordial relations with the Albuquerque Tribune and its [REDACTED]

JBT:FM (3) 07CH

REC.D

APR 5 1967

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-19-80 BY SP4TAP/BJM

59 APR 13 1967

TELETYPE UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson ☒  
DeLoach ☒  
Mohr ☒  
Wick ☒  
Casper ☒  
Callahan ☒  
Conrad ☒  
Felt ☒  
Gale ☒  
Rosen ☒  
Sullivan ☒  
Tavel ☒  
Trotter ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Holmes ☒  
Gandy ☒

DATE: June 9, 1967

TO: Mr. Wick *Wick*

FROM: M. A. Jones *M. A. Jones*

SUBJECT: THE "JOHNNY CARSON" TELEVISION SHOW,  
6/8/67

On 6/8/67, Melvin Belli, the well-known defense attorney, appeared on the "Johnny Carson" television show.

As you know, guests on this program carry on general conversations with Johnny Carson in an informal manner with respect to their particular professions. During the course of his appearance Belli commented on recent Supreme Court decisions. In this regard, it was pointed out that these decisions impose upon law enforcement agencies, in general, a strict respect of the legal rights of individuals. Belli complimented the FBI by saying, in effect, that's what the FBI has been doing for years -- that is, following what the Supreme Court recently laid down for all to follow.

Belli was also questioned as to his motives for accepting the type of clients he has customarily defended in the courts. His reply was to the effect that he was governed solely by his desire to acquire as full a financial return as possible for his efforts.

## RECOMMENDATION

For information.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Wick

DFC:ksf/mls  
(6) *ms*

REC-8

105-49865

3 JUN 12 1967

*file*  
*att*

242

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2 TAP EBM

62 JUN 19 1967

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI  
Attn.: CRIME RECORDS DIVISION

DATE: 6/8/67

FROM : SAC, NYC (62-9464)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
Attorney, San Francisco, Calif.  
Information Concerning

He has always been critical of anybody who attempted to  
criticise the FBI or J. EDGAR HOOVER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-88 BY SP2TAR/CM

REC-40

JFM:MT

- ② Bureau (Encl. 1)
- 1- San Francisco (Info)
- 1- NY 62-9464
- 1- NY 66-7398

SEC 102  
EX-102  
FBI

105-49865-40

19  
JUN 9 1967

ENCLOSURE

51 JUN 28 1967 TRP

674670 13-67

CR-8-10

REC-40

67C [REDACTED]

ARE OUR COURTS CODDLING CRIMINALS  
(No, They're Protecting the Accused)

By

MELVIN M. BELLI

*San Francisco & Los Angeles*

I don't like Edgar Hoover. One of the reasons I don't like him is that he has designedly through his high-powered public relations organization created such an image of himself that even honest American politicians are un-American in their fear of him and afraid to criticize him even though they know he is an ideological fascist!

But the main reason I dislike Mr. Hoover and his embittered far-right wingers is because of their snide and surreptitious criticism of the United States Supreme Court. They say our Courts, particularly our highest Court, the United States Supreme Court with its recent decisions is "coddling criminals".

What really our Courts are doing is coddling the accused, you and me. Anyone of us who today can quite easily be accused of one of the myriad legislative-created crimes. Hoover has his lobby, Chief Parker of Los Angeles has his lobby and his system of brochures on every prominent citizen in the West, but for us, you and me, there is no lobby unless it is our own "liberal" United States Supreme Court. It is you and me who so easily can become the accused that I'd like to lobby for.

Mr. Hoover and his adept public relations men have confused our common law with French civil law, where promiscuously

105-49165-4  
ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-88 BY SP-1/HPL/AM



an accused is presumed to be guilty until proved otherwise.

(Their system works for them, but it can't be taken out of context and country for us because the French have other safeguards which we don't have).

While my trial work over the last thirty years has principally been representing personal injury victims in damage suits, I've defended my share of us who have been accused murder, rape, robbery, burglary, assault, arson, sodomy, fraud, pimping, and income tax violation, forgery, real estate violations and overtime parking. Indeed, I started my practice in 1954 representing Father George O'Meara, the priest at San Quentin. He was looking for someone to represent the double damned on San Quentin's condemned row, a Protestant (so there wouldn't be any claim of bias or favoritism) and, one who'd work for free. It was my duty to look for those last ditch "technicalities of the law", "loopholes". It was a desperate game with death to the loser.

So, over the years, I've seen some flagrantly guilty go scott free, but I've never been able to bring myself to gloat over these miscarriages of justice (as have some trial lawyers in recent magazine articles) because I've also seen these same "loopholes" and "technicalities" of the law save the innocent who otherwise would have perished. I subscribe to the necessity of a legal system that can boast "better let 99 guilty go free than convict one innocent person".

I still look for the law's "loopholes" because it's my duty just as much as it's the job of a tax lawyer to help his



0 corporation legally avoid the payment of taxes. We try to keep  
1 our work as objective as surgeons. And we know that the next  
2 session of the legislature pretty well plugs up the loophole  
3 that should be plugged. Law is morality and morals change even  
4 the "immutable" constitution with its precisely written and stud-  
5 ied sentences changes -- though this is denied. Each succeeding  
6 generation of judges says what they think those words were meant  
7 to convey.)-

8 These "loopholes", these "technicalities of the law",  
9 which to some policemen are "coddling of accused" really are  
10 basic protections against invasions of human rights. They're  
11 much more essential to our modern society and well-being than  
12 the "technicalities" of the small print in insurance company con-  
13 tracts, which are so very legal -- and about which no one seems  
14 to be doing very much.

15 It's the trial lawyers who should be explaining, what  
16 are these "technicalities", what is their true purpose, that they  
17 are not making criminal convictions impossible, where they came  
18 from in the first place and why we still have them. But, too  
19 many of today's law schools know as little about and the reasons  
20 for constitutional safeguards as laymen.

21 Recently, at Purdue, Indiana, when high school students  
22 were questioned about the third degree, a third of them said  
23 that the third degree was "all right":

24 Along with the complaint that we're "coddling criminals",  
25 is the feeling that our common law is outmoded, technical and

dry as dust. It wasn't poured in the modern mould. Let's streamline and update it.

It's true that when a client comes to my office, run to the "big books" to see if his factual situation was decided before. If it has been, if I can find a case on "a fours" (identical) then I have "stare decisis" (to follow a prior decision). But, if our young law students and law professors weren't so busy oiling their IBM machines and computers, they might point out that with the necessity of the certainty of stare decisis as essential to protect our liberty as well as our property, there's modernity in our law.

They might study with the laymen such "loophole" cases as the recent Pierce case from California: Under our common law there must be two or more for a "conspiracy". Husband and wife are one in the law, therefore, no conspiracy and in the past co-conspiring husband and wife were "coddled" -- they walked off scott free.

But just recently, one of my old law professors who is now Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court (Traynor) said in the People v. Pierce, "Defendants finally contend that the long-established rule formulated by this Court that would afford them immunity (husband and wife being one) should not now be overruled except by the legislature. In effect, the contention is a request that the courts advocate their responsibility for the upkeep of the common law. That upkeep it needs continuously as this case demonstrates."

"In view of the fact that the fiction underlying the rule in question has long been dead " (the modern wife may make her own contract, and is often as actively engaged in business outside the home as is the husband)" we overrule Hambley. We hold that even when a husband and wife conspire only between themselves, they cannot claim immunity from prosecution for conspiracy on the basis of their marital status."

Particularly with the law, since it's what makes our life and present property possible, it's wise to look at history as a future guide. Perhaps we'll find that some of the reforms now being suggested are the exact abuses which our present criticized laws reformed against.

A number of other countries in this troubled world have made basic legal "reforms" either abruptly or through erosion. But their "reforms" have really been regressions to complete dissolution of human rights and liberties.

Let's examine why we first came to these shores and left that prosperous but arbitrary police state of England. We left partly for religious reasons, but principally because of the legal abuses of the "rights" of those accused of crime. And the "those" was anybody and everybody. It's some of these very abuses of the rights of an accused that we're asked to return to so that we aren't coddling criminals.

Criminal trial procedures in those "good old days", to which some governments have completely regressed, made the criminal trial a short and speedy race with no "law delays" no

0 "technicalities". And the prosecutor was spotted six laps ahead  
1 of the defendant at the starting line.

2 While today, at least in America, a person arrested  
3 must be brought immediately before a magistrate, warned of his  
4 right to remain silent, specifically informed of the charges  
5 against him, allowed to subpoena witnesses in his behalf, send for  
6 a lawyer, consult with him and prepare his defense and even be  
7 admitted to bail pending the trial, in England at about the  
8 time we thought we had had enough of these procedures and upstaked  
9 for the United States, a defendant could be and generally was  
10 secretly arrested, secretly confined and was not even informed  
11 of the charges against him until he was brought to trial. He  
12 could be convicted of something he didn't do, as well as some-  
13 thing that was quite innocent when he did it, but was made crimi-  
14 nal later on; (i. e. the Medley case). A statement was immedi-  
15 ately taken from the accused at his place of secret confinement  
16 and this was later read in court before the accused knew with  
17 what he had been charged.

18 The accused had no right to call witnesses in his behalf  
19 and it would have done him very little good, because he could not  
20 have consulted with them beforehand to know what would be their  
21 testimony. At the trial, there were no rules of evidence and  
22 the defendant might even be accused by complainants he had not  
23 the right to see (that's why we now have a rule against "hearsay"  
24 see infra).

There was no right of cross-examination at all and not until 1837 was the defendant allowed a lawyer as a matter of right. The trial judge instructed the jury, but then immediately proceeded to rule one way in a civil case, and the exact opposite in an identical fact case because of the same improperly placed comma -- which did not alter the meaning of the phrase at all.

But such Dickensian legal antiquities don't exist in most states on appeal any longer. For example, California has a Constitutional amendment that says that a "technicality" will be overlooked on appeal if the whole record fails to show a miscarriage of justice.

In medieval England from whence our common (customary) law came (or didn't you know that the study of medieval English history was that important to a lawyer?) there was a great deal of ritual and formality to supplement man's shabby life (even as do today's romantic television ads lift us out of the common place). Knighthood and chivalry were a good example, but the law was even a better one:

In civil law one had to come "through the right door" or he was promptly ushered out of Court. He had to call his case by the proper name, bring the proper "form of action" or no matter how good was his cause, he'd be tossed out of Court. Words like "detinue", "trover", "trespass on the case" were all "forms of action", and judge pity the man who should have pleaded in "trover" when his case was in "detinue". The distinction was hair-thin.

We don't have these "technicalities" of the law anymore.

and every law student has sweated (until the American Bar Association business machines courses took over the law schools) over these "forms of action".

Indeed, now we have in most constitutions (like California a "savings clause" that if there are "technicalities" in the trial that would otherwise warrant a reversal, none will be granted if "on the whole" justice has been done. This, to the formalistic Middle Ages lawyer, would have been complete anathema to his "game of the law".

There was for him the "trial by battle", started by a glove stitched with just so many stitches in just such a pattern, dropped at the foot of the adversary. There were the "merciful saving psalms", i.e., generally, only those in holy orders could read and write during the Middle Ages, and they were immune from punishment. So, if a criminal defendant could read, presto! He was discharged. So a criminal was asked "Legit?" ("read?") and if he answered, parroting a psalm, he was freed. He was assumed, "reading", to be "in Holy Orders".

But he only had one crack at this "coddling of criminals". He was burned in the palm of the hand with a "T". This showed he had "pleaded his clergy" once and didn't have a second technical murder for free. (The "T" stood for Tyburn Tree, the old hanging tree.)

Technicalities were the rule, not the exception. If a jury could argue past midnight, it was discharged. A "hung jury" (disagreeing) meant an acquittal for defendant, public jeopardy. (This is not the rule now). But trial juries could find themselves tried by a second jury for rendering "intended

of all of their lands.

At one time Englishmen refused to be tried by jury. They just refused to plead. The early "rule against self-incrimination" was conversely applied literally to force a plea on a defendant: He was laid on his back and stones put on his middle to a weight that forced him to plead or be crushed to death!

And this modern constitutional privilege, the Fifth Amendment, the right not to incriminate oneself, is another of the "coddling" critics' targets. It has affronted most of us to have seen those billed as gangsters and "hoods" refuse on television screens to cooperate with the forces of law and order by parroting: "I refuse to testify on the ground that my answer may tend to incriminate or degrade me!"

Of all the "coddling of the accused" complaints, probably the decisions against "unreasonable searches and seizures" (the discovery of contraband by officers without a search warrant, wire-tapping, etc.) are the most criticized by provoked law enforcement officers seeing their otherwise "ironclad" cases tossed out of court. These are the most controversial and least understood of the "protective rights" ("technicalities of the law" -- depending upon which side you're on) by the layman.

The Constitution of the United States provides "no right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated and no warrant shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, the person or things to be seized." Today,

that's prob. the most controversial place in any law book in any Court in America. Each word, each phrase, each comma has its share of traumatized controversy -- and bloody history.

Where did this Fourth Amendment in our Bill of Rights (the first nine amendments to our Federal Constitution and the Bill of Rights) come from, what were the abuses of arbitrary autocratic central power that it sought to prevent?

It was the practice of British courts in colonial times to issue the notorious "Writs of Assistance": Smuggling, during colonial days, cost the royal treasury considerable revenue and the ruthless writ of assistance was a catch-all device to meet it. It enabled the King's customs men to go ransacking at large through homes and warehouses on fishing expeditions for the contraband. Indeed, James Otis, of Massachusetts, said that this Writ of Assistance was, "the worst instrument of arbitrary power, the most destructive of English liberty, the fundamental principles of law, that ever was found in any English law book". The liberty of the citizens was placed in "the hands of every petty officer".

Because of their bitter experience with these general writs giving officers blanket authority, the framers of the Bill of Rights took care in the Fourth Amendment to prohibit such outrages by their national government. Not only were there to be no "unreasonable" searches and seizures but magistrates were forbidden even to issue search warrants except "upon probable cause" and the warrant must particularly describe "the place to be



searched, the person or things to be seized. There was to be no more random housebreaking.

But, the head of the FBI and law enforcement officers now say there's no more smuggling and no more King's officers about, furthermore, there wasn't wire tapping, fast automobiles and airplanes at the time the Constitution was framed -- "I don't have time now for these procedures".

The "king's officers" undoubtedly said -- "Let us in, we're your friends, you've got nothing to fear if you've got nothing to hide!" That's the argument still being made by law enforcement officers.

But I'm just Victorian (and legal) enough to believe that my home, despite television and Fuller-Brush men and Jehovah's Witnesses (who also have a legal right), is still my castle. I ardently subscribe to this philosophy more because of what can happen if the search and seizure rule is indiscriminately violated than in the actual violation of it:

Bobby Kennedy and Mr. Hoover and their strange bed-fellows in this instance, the forces to the Far Right, want to tap my telephone. They want to know what I am saying, therefore, what I am thinking. I'm not a criminal (I certainly hope). I've got nothing to hide. I've had everybody in my home from Archbishops, to Mae West, to Mickey Cohen, to law school Deans, Chief Justices, to Errol Flynn and Tony Curtis -- and they've all used my phone (for different reasons, I'm sure). But, once my phone is tapped and someone monitors what I am saying, i.e., what I am thinking, then "someone" will not be satisfied with this exposure of my innermost thoughts, "they" will

assist me in my thinking, tell me how I should think

If one says this is a non-sequitur, "it would never be done", we can always depend upon our "good police officers". How about those full files and dossiers collected by Mr. Hoover, on, he alone knows how many Americans, for whatever purpose he alone knows, should they ever fall into sinister political or ambitious hands? Or how about Mr. Hoover's collecting counterpart on the West Coast, Mr. Los Angeles Chief of Police Parker with his full files on all "prominent people of the West"? Are really these "Unter den Linden" and "Kremlin" information procedures necessary in a democracy?

For those who would join me in my Victorian and proprietary concept that my home is my castle, we must further agree that my bathroom is the inmost sanctuary of this castle. But it may come as a surprise to us that many public toilets are "bugged" and have two-way mirrors for spying -- to catch criminals!

Thus, until a recent order by Postmaster General John A. Gronouski, some 5,000 post offices in the United States had John peep-hole surveillance!

Recently, Gronouski said in an interview: "I don't consider that the lookout stations in the restrooms of the post office violate anyone's rights, but I think the washroom lookouts are an unfortunate invasion of privacy. We'll build no more lookout stations in the washrooms and cover up the one that exist." (Only the inspectors had keys to these washrooms where they could watch unobserved through oneway glass mirrors the

operation of the work area.)

Further, said Gronouski, "There's a lot of misunderstanding about this. For one thing, inspectors may use these stations for one purpose and for one purpose alone, to investigate stealing from the mails by postal workers. They may not report anything else they see, even loafing or drinking, which are management problems."

Gronouski said (with chivalry) that because of the low percentage of female employees -- "and other reasons" -- the peep-holes never had been used in women's washrooms.

Gronouski said 625 of the nation's 590,000 postal employees were convicted in the last fiscal year for stealing from the mails and that "lookouts were responsible for 73% of the arrests".

Gronouski, defending the peep-and-convict system said adamantly, "People don't seem to realize the tremendous value of what goes through the mails -- some fifty billion in treasury checks annually. We have a tremendous responsibility to uphold the integrity of the mail. This nation ranks far ahead of most in the trust that people place in the mail system." (He didn't state how far behind we must rank in the trust the mail system puts in its own employees).

Said Gronouski, "In one major nation, I won't name, they're having trouble instituting a tax system because people won't send their payments through the mail. We don't have that problem here."

Well, that's one way of looking at it. But I think the good postmaster must have read Brist v. Superior Court (1 Cal. 2d 4

where the accused was convicted on the sole evidence of a police officer:

After his conviction, the Supreme Court of California let him scott free on a Writ of Prohibition, deciding that his conviction of 288A (bathroom perversion - for our purposes, violation of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution). The police officer testified that on the day of the arrest he was stationed at the Emporium Department Store in a space between the ceiling of the men's restroom and the next floor above. From this vantage he could, by means of two vents, look down at the four toilet stalls of the room. He even had motion picture equipment and a radio transmitter with him and maintained one-way radio contact with other police and store security officers located in a room a short distance down the hall from the restroom. He took pictures and saw the actual act. There were no warrants issued for searching the premises.

Said Justice Schauer, of the California Supreme Court, "Man's constitutionally protected right of personal privacy, not only abides with him while he is the householder within his own castle, but cloaks him when, as a member of the public, he is temporarily occupying a room -- including a toilet stall -- to the extent that it is offered to the public as private, however, transient, individual use".

So -- "John law may "coddle criminals" but if it didn't exist as an adjunct to the admonition against unreasonable search and seizure laws just how much further would the police go to

invade the most personal privacy of all of us? (Once they barged  
the bedroom of the Speaker of the California Assembly and his  
wife.)

Of course, there are anomalies in search and seizure deci-  
sions because there will always be refined anomalies in the com-  
plexities of man's conduct. Try as they will, the modern business-  
machine law professor and legislator can't categorize our conduct  
so that it will always be neatly labelled and put up in stan-  
dardized cans on shelves, or disgorged, like a cigarette machine,  
spewing out an identical package for an identical coin.

This is what makes judging of humans and the subsequent  
appeal from a conviction such a difficult task. It's the adage,  
"Hard cases make bad law". This adage could also be paraphrased  
that, once a good decision or a good law resolving human conduct,  
this is no assurance that the holding in that case will be appli-  
cable to a slightly different set of circumstances.

So, we come upon one case in which a suspected narcotics  
violinist attempted to hide his bundle of opium by swallowing it.  
The zealous police officer, without warrant, promptly "searched  
and seized" the bundle by forcefully pumping the suspect's stomach.  
The United States Supreme Court held this was an invalid "search  
and seizure". It affronted human dignity (as well as traumatizing  
the suspect's gastrointestinal tract). The conviction was reversed.

But then, about the same time, another suspect in  
California, in fear of apprehension by the police, secreted a bundle  
of narcotics in his lower colon by rectal insertion. This ignored

California police "searched and seized" this bundle. Said the court, affronted California Supreme Court, "this is a valid search and seizure". The conviction was affirmed.

A comparison of these two decisions caused even a great admirer of constitutional law as the late Dean of Washington Law School, David E. Snodgrass, to comment that, "Apparently constitutionality depends upon which end of the alimentary tract one starts operating!"

We also have it that land outside the curtilage of a dwelling is not covered by the search and seizure amendment's protection, nor are buildings detached from a residential structure. The police may seize and convict me of possession of lottery tickets hidden in an outdoor John, seized without a warrant. But if I were to have hidden them in my John indoors, my conviction would be reversed, not because I was innocent, but because it was an invalid "search and seizure".

The protection does extend, however, to business premises. But "house" is not a public jail. Therefore, there is no protection for search and seizure of an inmate in the latter. A "house" does include a business office, a store, a hotel room, an apartment, an automobile, an occupied taxicab, even a vacant house. But it is not an invalid search to observe that which occurs openly in a public place and which is fully disclosed to visual observation.

Property put in a trash barrel is "abandoned" and the constitutional privilege does not extend to its seizure as "evidence" of the defendant.

But an anonymous tip is no basis for an arrest or a search under Amendment IV, even though the search does turn up contraband. The contraband cannot be introduced into evidence. If a policeman gains entrance to one's home by artifice or force, his entry violates the Amendment and contraband that is turned up cannot be used in evidence. "Exploratory searches" by a police officer without specific objects in mind are invalid regardless of what is found. Suspicion is insufficient to validate a search without a valid warrant. But a search may be made when incident to a lawful arrest. Not before arrest. The search of a speeder's car without a warrant cannot turn up evidence for other crimes when the defendant was only stopped for speeding.

And those seeming inconsistencies in the interpretation of Amendment IV are by no means concluded. There's a basic philosophy that runs through them, the same protection of the state liberties that came only after we had Amendment IV, not before. And now the trend is that evidence illegally obtained by state officers cannot be used in state courts any more than that illegally obtained by federal officers in federal courts.

There is a requirement that as soon after arrest as is reasonably possible, an accused must be "arraigned", or confronted with a formal accusation of his crime. Law enforcement agencies would change this rule. Why? Surely they cannot argue that they need time to decide what accusation to make against the arrested man. Even assuming the arrested man is guilty, there is no justification for delaying his arraignment. There will be plenty of time to check his other crimes, if any, after arraignment.

To torture him before with the suspense of not knowing what he faces and what he is accused of returns us to that sinister early time in our law when a man could be secretly accused, secretly confined.

What is really at stake is that at his arraignment the accused will be advised of his right to counsel and his right to remain silent. He will be warned that any statement he makes will be used against him. Thus, after arraignment, police will find it more difficult to extract a confession. So there is nothing confusing, sinister, mysterious, or coddling at all about the prompt arraignment rule; the police know very well when they have held a man too long without having had him arraigned (being brought before a judge.)

When they extract a confession during a period of illegal confinement before arraignment, they take the calculated risk that any conviction, tainted with that confession may be reversed. For the police to cry "coddling criminals"! when this risk materializes is poor sportsmanship -- if they would make of law a game.

The police know that the closer the time to the alleged crime, at which the suspect is interrogated, the better, more truthful are the answers. Indeed, the law says, there is a "res gestae", the emotional period close to the event in which a man spontaneously spills forth his mental state to give verbal cogizance to what he did. As seconds, minutes, hours, days, go on, repeatedly to confront and cajole, with or without a subtle or brutal third degree, is to obviate the prompt arraignment rule.



Fatigue, fear, motive, desire to please the police, make for the distorted confession.

But even at the other end, the closer to the crime, there is respectable authority which says that the suspect "regulate" (fill in with what he's been told -- the police) back from the unconscious state what the police had told him. (back Ruby did this).

This brings up another constitutional problem from settled, at just what stage of the criminal "proceedings" is an accused entitled to a lawyer? Since 1873 (all our rights go back to Magna Carta by any means, as we have seen), an accused was supposed to have a lawyer as a matter of right. But it wasn't until 1964, that he got one in misdemeanor cases, as distinguished from felonies. That is the now-famous Gideon case, which will give more work to criminal lawyers than others did to surgeons.

But the law enforcement officers say, reluctantly admitting the rule of prompt arraignment and the right to a lawyer, there is no practical way of advising a suspect "when the investigation fastens upon him specifically" (as one court said they had to do), that he is entitled to a lawyer. Since, as we have seen our emotions, our conduct, don't come in pints and quarts and via our court decisions which analyse, regulate, deter and punish our emotions and conduct cannot be mathematically categorised either. So much of law is a question of degree. This, again, is just another way of saying that our conduct is varied, flexible, capricious, unpounded, and complex.

We say it's a very simple thing for a police officer to be invited into a home or to get a search warrant on probable cause and under oath. But the officer says "We don't have time".

What of the man with the mask leaving the second story window, having burglar's tools in his pocket and a bag of tools over his shoulder? If he has one foot over the window sill, must the policeman first say "Don't say anything, it may be used against you. Do you want a lawyer"? And if the suspect (upon whom the "investigation has become fastened") says he does "want a lawyer", must the policeman then keep him in that position until he goes back to the squad car and gets the Public Defender, who will have to ride in every police patrol car?

Of course, not. But, in the Ruby case, where Jack was roundly interrogated a half hour after he was taken into custody by police officers, and in the jail, despite the Texas admonition that he must be warned of his right to remain silent and be given counsel if he desires, his constitutional rights were plainly violated. And so were Lee Harvey Oswald's for that matter.

It wasn't for some twelve hours that it occurred to the police to warn Oswald and provide him with a lawyer, and, when he was provided with a lawyer, the President of the Dallas Bar Association, a civil lawyer who makes no pretence of trial work or criminal cases, announced, after his interview with Oswald, to the effect that Oswald was "perfectly normal", thus effectively destroying the lawyer-client privilege.

And this privilege is another "coddling".

one believes that what is told by penitent to priest or from patient to doctor should be divulged. I've always felt in this life it's quite necessary that there should be someone sometime beside an accused, or even an afflicted (the guilty) who should share the burden without fear that what is said could be pried from his lips. But then I also feel that even a guilty person is entitled to a lawyer, and, in most instances, much more in need of one than an innocent one, but this latter not for the reason that most law enforcement officers would insist: There is much more to be said for a guilty person, and there is always much more than can be said. No one so guilty but that something cannot be said in some expiation of his sins. That is the lawyer's duty. That's one of the reasons for right to counsel for all of us.

Then there is the "coddling" of "hearsay".

"Why can't I say on the witness stand what someone told me?"

This is a favorite "technicality" finger-pointed by the layman who declaims with Dickens, "The law's an ass!"

Principally, you can't say what "someone" told me because I'd have no way of cross-examining that "someone" who "told you" this. I would have no right of confronting this vicarious accuser or even knowing who he is; I'd have no way of letting the jury get him and hearing his whole story after cross-examination. Is this a good rule, or does it coddle criminals? It's a good rule unless you like gossip and second and third-hand evidence and the unethical who generally fade when called upon to make a direct accusation.

In the law of almost every civilized society, there is a procedure that outlaws state prosecutions, the statute of limitations. (But every one of these systems excepts the most serious crimes, murder, treason, and other serious felonies from cutting off as long as the offender lives. These statutes of limitations are likewise tolled while the defendant is out of the jurisdiction or in hiding). Even in the recent German War Crime Trials, there was a provision for a statute of limitations.

Is this a coddling, or making of law a game like the old sanctuary chair in the Middle Ages where, if an accused entered the Church through a sanctuary door and went to the sanctuary chair, then followed a prescribed procedure of putting on certain clothes and going by a defined route to the nearest sea coast, he could not be apprehended?

Not at all. In our human society, in which our greatest human attribute is to err, there is neither perfection in our laws or the people they govern. But we do strive for certainty (this may be the forgiveness under another guise). This is best manifested in the statute of limitations over on the civil side. If a suit isn't prosecuted within a year, two years, three years, depending upon the type of suit and the state (they all vary), then no matter how valid the suit, it is forever barred. The reason for turning down most of the cases I've had to refuse on the civil side in my office are because they have been outlawed by the statute of limitations -- and I've seen how tormented by insurance companies over this "loophole" law.

...the highest indication... our country  
criminals would be prison reforms in the shape of marital visits,  
psychiatric and work therapy, radio, TV and athletic contests.

Our prisons are the most brutal in the world. Not neces-  
sarily corporally but physically. Our prisoners have had more from  
the outside world. When they are confined, they miss more.

In America, prison terms are longer, executions more drawn  
out and agonizing and the wrath of the law generally more ex-  
cising than in any other civilized country. It took us some twelve  
years to wreck our civic vengeance on a human being caged like a  
rat in a trap, Caryl Chessman at San Quentin. This unique "good-  
ling" was hardly understood by those who sent California's  
Governor Pat Brown the thousands and thousands of criticizing callo-  
grams from throughout the world.

Chessman's big crime was to affront the dignity of the  
great State of California by showing he'd been denied due process,  
i.e., the drunken court reporter hadn't prepared proper notes of  
his trial. We put him into the gas chamber to prove that we were a  
lawful state somewhat in the manner of Dallas proving their res-  
pect for law and order by sentencing Jack Ruby to their public  
abattoir.

Against the spectre of a million Americans reveling in  
yesterday's execution over their morning orange juice, the claim  
that we condemn our criminals is not only blatantly false, it is  
bizarre.

examined the heads of prisoners (many years ago, and found them the best in the world, not because of their country, but because they treated their prisoners as "sick persons". This isn't a maudlin observation, nor do the Russians do this from any altruism or greater love of their fellow man. They regard convicted criminal somewhat as a broken wheel on one of their ways of production, and the faster they get him "repaired" and back to work, the faster there is more production for their economy. So they put a psychiatrist to every dozen prisoners or so (compare the State of Nevada, where there are \_\_\_\_\_ psychiatrists for \_\_\_\_\_ prisoners).

The Russians allow wives and children to visit prisoners and share conjugal rights on weekends as a reward for good behavior. Prisoners are paid wages. They may send money home. When their sentence is up, the prisoner is sent home, as a truly rehabilitated, re-educated and not vengeful man. No one in the community to which he returns treats him as a criminal. They are treated as people who have been sick and been away and returned to society as again normal human beings. Their recidivism rate is much lower than ours.

Just the other day, the Marin County, California, Grand Jury voted that San Quentin Prison, the largest prison in the world be moved to some other community. The reason given was that there were "too many stabbings" in the prison, too much time was being spent by the Marin County District Attorney over crimes in the prison.

A grand juror reported in the San Francisco Chronicle that San Quentin land was too valuable for a prison. I wrote prisoners are too valuable for San Quentin. They are still human beings, and, if they are going to return to society, they must be treated as such, even "coddled", and if all men are not even a policeman should be able to understand, they will rebel and cause more crime.

I suppose it's about time for me to say whether I believe there is crime in the United States, whether it is increasing, and whether there are "international crime rings".

As a trial lawyer of some thirty years, I am neither naive nor unknowledgeable in crime, criminals, or criminal statistics. To me, calling criminal syndicates, which do exist, by any ethnic names, doesn't make them more or less or ominous. There's the valid complaint from every country in the world that crime is increasing in that country -- and not due to constitutional safeguards which some of these countries don't have.

As a defense criminal lawyer, I am just as patriotic (perhaps more so for my Constitutional stand) as the policeman on my beat. I deplore crime as much as he, although I suppose it could in one sense be said crime is my livelihood. (Then, too, automobile accidents are my livelihood, and I could never be accused of wishing one would happen).

I can tell you just as dramatically as Mr. Hoover of the existence of arrogant, brutal, villainous, unscrupulous, international crime rings and criminals in the United States today.

Just last week, an 18-year old girl, still beautiful, though she had been, in her short teen lifetime, a dope addict, a prostitute, and a madam came into my office to tell me of her girlfriends, they both in their teens, who had been in the underworld because they had "information".

She said she could go free if she would tell the police the names they wanted to know. She couldn't. She was afraid she, too, would be killed. After I had cross-examined her and had been told with book, verse, page, number and bullet hole, I was told I had that "coddling" privilege against having to divulge any information that my client had told me.

I was even more shocked than my police friends would have been to have heard what I did, but I wouldn't give up one "constitutional coddling" to bring these men to justice, though some of these "overlords of vice" are the very ones Mr. Hoover writes of knowing and being able to do nothing about them. As a trial lawyer, my revulsion that these men are walking our streets can't be assuaged by a policeman's claim, that the "technicalities of the law" prevent him from cleaning up what he already knows when he tells us who, what, and how they are. He knows much more than this girl and I.

Edgar Hoover and most of these very vocal law enforcement officers who complain of criminal coddling and describe how difficult is their task of convicting criminals, in the same breath write books and give speeches naming names, places, people and evidence. How is it that so many criminals and their crimes



and their evidence is known to them; yet they are not apprehended or molested or convicted?

I cannot believe that our law of evidence is so "technical" that convictions could not be secured when Mr. Hoover can specifically detail the criminal evidence at his command. Is it that there is a vast overlordship of crime in the United States, not necessarily in Cosa Nostra or Mafia or other equally sinister-sounding names, but an informed political overlordship that senators and congressmen and legislators and governors so that they, in turn, control Mr. Hoover from making his arrests and prosecutions, he only going after his quota to keep the "law-abiding people" happy? If this is so, why doesn't Mr. Hoover, fearless man that he is, speak out against those politicians who control him, who really are worse than a Mafia, a Cosa Nostra, and the organized criminals whom he repeatedly describes?

Surely, a relaxation of wire-tapping, the nature of limitations, hearsay, "search and seizure" and those other "technical" rules of law, wouldn't change the basic morality of the political control -- if such exists?

Really, today, law enforcement officers have a more minute scrutiny and control over every one of us without expanded search and seizure than at any time in man's history: Once upon a time, everyone in England was enrolled into his respective Hundred (literally a group of 100 people). Each of the Hundred was his brother's keeper, because if anyone in the Hundred committed a criminal act, this criminal not "fessing up", all in the Hundred had to pay.

...ation, not necessarily individual vengeance, was  
the rule, and, indeed, this cultural pattern is the law in many  
primitive and some Oriental societies even today, where, if a  
depredation is done in the village, if the offender does not come  
forth, the whole village is punished. The blacksmith, the  
of the Hundred, did not roam from his village. He was catalogued  
and categorized and numbered as though in a prison populace with-  
out walls.

But today, we, all of us in the United States, live in a  
rather expanded Hundred. We, too, are all catalogued and categor-  
ized as never before, from birth to grave. There are birth regis-  
trations, school registrations, marriage registrations, and death  
registrations, and in between there is the "enrollment" into the  
modern Hundred by means of a Social Security number, the  
serial number, the driver's license, voter's registration, Blue  
Cross insurance, fingerprinting for specialized jobs, cataloguing  
for Federal and State income tax, pensions, insurance.

He's a mighty sick bloodhound who can't track one of us,  
enrolled as we are in this Hundred, leaving tracks as pronounced  
as a bleeding black bear in the snow. We can't hide in a neigh-  
boring state because there is extradition, and we can't move about  
without some sort of automobile license, a personal license, a job  
license, a registration license. We could go to Brazil, but their  
glutenous habit of charging expatriates five dollars for a loaf of  
bread is discouraging to permanent residence.

I really don't believe we are "coddling criminals".

I think that the FBI and the police have more going for them by way of science, forensic medicine, communications, the "enrollment" in the Hundred, than ever before in man's history.

Our real problems are in the preservation of human rights of our individuality.

It is not so much that the police want to convict the criminals for rape, robbery, and murder that bothers me, it is the multiplication of and the desire to convict for the more serious crimes -- the malum prohibitum as against the malum in se.

To do this, they must categorize and uniformize and make us lose our individuality even further. There are more crimes on the books than ever before. There are more being made every new legislative day, and indiscriminate wire and phone tapping, search and seizure, violation of our privacies would be Big Brother's best weapons.

The "conservatives", who would police-state us by revoking our coddling constitutional guarantees ironically do so under the guise of protecting our properties and individual liberties. They go under the guise of individualism, that is, the type of individualism that says you have the God-given individual "right" to starve, you've got the God-given "right" to take care of yourself and, if you don't then you've got the God-given right to reap in your old age the foolishness of your youth!

I said in DALLAS JUSTICE:

"The testimonial credibility of policemen on the witness stand, I am convinced, often stems from the belief deep in their

law-abiding hearts that they are serving a higher truth. Instinctively, they know a lot about the rules of evidence. They know a lot about the case in which they are testifying that cannot be brought out in Court. They are convinced -- it is part of being a cop -- that the reason the defendant is sitting where he is, that the law, their part of the law, has done its job, and that the job of the judge and jury is to provide a quick, questionless conviction and sentence. The presumption of innocence is for lawyers, not for cops. The man must be guilty, they think, or else why is he on trial?

"And so, sometimes, they convince themselves that a modicum of truth-stretching on their part could achieve the desirable end that strict adherence to the rules of evidence could not.

"Moreover, there is the psychological truth that if you want hard enough to believe something, you can make yourself think it is indeed so. Officer Law knows that defendant X said something and he realizes that if the words were so-and-so, they would help convict X. It is not too difficult to convince himself that X's words must have been the convicting kind of words and he testifies to them in thoroughly good conscience.

"It is a good thing, Patrolman Law tells himself, to look up bad people. If the legal and constitutional niceties of the situation preclude that, it should be an equally good thing to bend the rules a bit. This is the sort of thinking behind the police cries for wide wire tapping powers, for the right to hold prisoners incommunicado for long periods before they are brought

up for arraignment, for much of the night wing talk that periodically supports proposals to ease the constitutional guarantees of due process and against arbitrary search and seizure.

"Although I deplore the practice, I am willing to be charitable in my assessment of the position that police departments must to see things the way they do".

I know that every police department, federal, state and county and city, practices a number of illegal procedures which result in conviction. These procedures, as well as the convictions are illegal. How many innocent men are convicted? I don't know. But I know that some of us, accused, who are innocent, are convicted when our constitutional safeguards are abandoned.

One of these cute little despicable gimmicks we don't hear about from those who say we're "coddling criminals" is the "hold".

An accused is arrested and, to prevent the normal procedures of arraignment, bail, early trial, and release, "hold for Sacramento" or "hold for St. Louis" is placed against him. This real, or, more often, suppositious "wanted" by another police department practically and effectively violates all of the constitutional rights of the accused because judges are loathe to allow the man out or on bail and the timid lawyer (of whom there are, unfortunately, many) as well as a police-minded judge, keep the accused in jail until they sweat out of him what they want to hear what they think he did.

Another illegal procedure is the "reust". State police operate on the undeniable statistic that most of us are

committed by repeaters (from our "modeling" prisons). So the "repeater", be he on parole or probation, is "trusted". His constitutional rights are sketchily preserved, and he's the last one in the world to clamor for them, feeling, as a practical matter, he may "affront" those who affront him by denying him these constitutional rights.

If he is on parole, his constitutional rights are half yours and mine because by a legal fiction he is regarded as in "constructive prison" during his parole, and he has to submit to interrogation, search and seizure, or back he may go as a parole violator. The "presumption of innocence" with these once-convicted is a travesty. It is the French presumption of guilt without the safeguards of that great legal system. He, unlike the released Russian prisoner who has paid his social debt and is returned to the human race. In our democracy he lives in the same kind of police state we had before our constitutional guarantees were written -- they don't apply to him!

Let yourself once be embroiled with the law and forever more are you a second-class constitutional citizen with the "Oh he's got a record". Further, while under our law, every man convicted of a felony is presumed to be innocent, there is that rule of evidence that he may be "impeached", if he testifies, by showing he has been convicted of a felony. This amounts to nothing more, practically, than a conviction based on the probability that because he did it once before, he has done it again! For the "average", by statistics (i.e., recidivism), this may be true.

what of the individual? He's the you and me accused that we are all concerned with. Our law isn't collective justice, it's individual justice.

Then, there is the "informer". He is the worst of all. He revolts us because he is out to save his hide at the expense of his brother's, or he's out for Judas money alone. But, to make him in context, to give this devil his due, we've seen how necessary spying is (or, at least, so we have been told) in international law. I suppose if international spying is necessary then this dirty business is just as necessary domestically -- but it doesn't make it any less dirty.

One of the particular complaints of the police is that under our coddling constitutional guarantees, the accused has the right to know and face his accuser. He has the right to cross-examine him. But once this is done with an informer, the informer loses his effectiveness. He can no longer be duplicitous when both his faces are known to the underworld. —

To preserve this constitutional guarantee of confrontation, ancient law was dug up in a recent spy case tried in Federal Court in New York that the accused had the right not only to see, and hear witnesses against him, but to know their addresses as well. The FBI had to concur with the United States Attorney and a Federal Judge to dismiss a prosecution rather than give up this information and disclose the name of a valuable spy. The accused spies against the security of the United States went scot-free. It was felt that it was better to abandon the prosecution than to

give up the usefulness of these valuable first spies.

Coddling?

A similar problem was apparently successfully solved on the civil side where there are no such constitutional guarantees. Suit against a manufacturer of a secret weapon which was defective and killed an airman. Suit for wrongful death brought by the widow. The Government intervened and claimed that to allow the manufacturer to testify would give "secrets to the enemy" by disclosure of the "secret process", and if he determined that the Government claim was true, then the suit would have to be abandoned. This might be sue for property, i.e., "wrongful death", damage on the civil side can be lost just as a prosecution can be lost on the criminal side, the one to protect the individual, the other to protect the Government.

A dictatorship probably can operate more efficiently than a bumbling democracy, capitalism. But I suppose it's just that "bumbling" that coddling constitutional guarantees protect. And, in my thirty years of civil and criminal trial practice, proportionately few were the guilty that I've seen go free, particularly in the Federal Courts, where the prosecution was aided by the FBI (they brag of a record of ninety percent convictions of those indicted).

Is it that we contrive to look our very worst in the best cases that makes the layman listen to the over-zealous police officer who would change our system? The criticisms in the Ruby Scottsboro, the Sacco-Vanzetti, and such cases, are not of our



0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62

daily justice. If one will pop into any of our courts, trying the day-to-day case, civil or criminal; he will find that the law's not "an ass".

He will no longer find instances of lawyers' bridges and necessities, demanding a "yes" or "no" answer. That wouldn't be tolerated by the modern trial judge. The witness who wants to "tell his whole story" does get a chance to do so -- if it is relevant, if it's competent, if it's material. And if it's not, and the judge so rules, you, as an impartial observer I am sure will understand why and what that often slurred phrase "incompetent, irrelevant, immaterial" really means. I am sure that search and seizure evidence illegally obtained will affront you, as will hearsay, the common scolds' gossip.

As science advances, there is more perfect medicine, more perfect engineering, more accurate astronomy, even more accurate drilling for oil and more pinpointing and discovery of the early developing tumor.

Are we getting more "accurate" justice?

In proportion to the "sciences", no, because law is not more a "science" than is human living. Law is a "discipline", or a "profession". To err is human, and as long as we have humanity, we will have this probably desirable attribute. Common law is customary law. All the sciences in the history of the world can be raked up in the ashes of the law.

Indeed, in law we don't want to become more scientific. We don't want to be uniformized or IBM-ized. This was the gravest

of the complaints whether they (or the authorities) know it or not, of the students at the University of California. This is also the gravamen, although probably unwritten, of the complaints against the police, who would further categorize and uniformize and enroll us into a modern-day Hundred.

Probably the best way to achieve the policeman's goal of less crime and criminals, is to do more "coddling" of criminals after they have become criminals. Rather than cut down the number of parolees and probationers, there should be more, but with a corresponding increase of probation and parole officers for supervision.

More scrutiny of the mental aberrations of those in trouble when first they get into trouble will prevent the crimes of the Oswalds. Some of these, I'd be the first to admit are the incurables -- that is by today's medical help.

That an Oswald went through a Marine Corps examination is only further proof of the fact our neighbor notes in saying of someone he thought he knew when first reading of this friend's falling out with the law, "I thought I knew Jim. I didn't think he could do a thing like that".

There is the tragic case of the beautiful American ski champion who was horribly killed, mutilated, and dismembered by a \_\_\_\_\_ year old boy in Reno, Nevada.

He'd had a criminal record in Utah and later in Nevada. Both records showed that he would kill and kill again, but we, because we don't want to coddle criminals, just didn't appreciate

the funds to advise with adequate parole and probation and to investigate with psychiatric centers such men as he, who, unless they are going to be put to death, God forbid, or kept permanently in prison, eventually are kicked out of an already too crowded prison to reject society.

First, we don't give them adequate therapy. Then we make them revengeful and vicious. Eventually, when they come out, we force them to fend on their pauperized own.

One "reform" I would agree to but which seems difficult under present constitutional, both State and Federal, provisions, is equal "discovery", that is, the right to learn...of both sides of the law suit to have pretrial factual knowledge of the other side's case.

I believe that this "discovery" should be bilateral and equal and fair to both sides. I believe the criminal accused should give the state a psychiatric examination upon demand, just as in civil cases, the personal injury plaintiff must, in the better state's jurisprudence, give a physical examination to a doctor of the defendant insurance company's own choosing.

Though some trial and appellate courts have skirted with and admitted it for limited purposes, there is no court in the United States which has yet allowed "truth serum" results in court for all purposes. (One of Earl Stanley Gardner's men and I did save three men in condemned row in San Quentin -- People v. Rocoto -- on a writ of coram nobis in 1964 to the California Supreme Court in which we used truth serum on a complaining witness).

serum and by means and the other like mental inquiry procedures, apparently frequently used by some foreign police, have never reached scientific accuracy to allow their use in this country.

But Francis Camps, England's great forensic pathologist, once said to me:

"I'd rather see a drop of a witness's urine than to hear his on-oath testimony all day. I could depend more on my laboratory tests on the former, but I have no scientific way of testing the latter!"

But, over on the civil side, in the paternity case many states ruled and still rule against putative child parent blood grouping tests in the face of now almost 100 percent scientific accuracy in ruling out certain "fathers".

And how about our jurors? I can truthfully say I have never seen a jury (and this includes the Ruby jury -- my worst one) consciously try to render an improper verdict.

Sure, they do err because they are human but our experience with intelligence tests for jurors and blue ribbons juries, hasn't given us a better brand of justice. It's given us a type of "justice" less objective and more desired by those who set up the intelligence tests and those who selected the blue stockings.

As long as Joe Smith and Henry Brown and William Johnson, III, all vote for the President of the United States, the Governor and the Mayor, then they, with their idiosyncrasies, their foibles, their emotions, their knowledge and their lack of knowledge should vote on my life, liberty and pursuit of happiness or not.

is a microcosm of a city, it is collective  
moral and standards for individual justice.

In picking the jury, for the first time, I offered  
to use Rozzchak (psychiatric ink blot tests) cards. My offer was  
refused. What I was attempting in this unusual case was to  
those who had unconscious feelings against Jack and felt on a  
verdict of execution could exculpate Dallas.

But it's not all Birchers and the Righters and  
men who ask for a revision of our criminal laws to prevent  
ling criminals, a national police force, wire-tapping. The  
the Leftist Negro leaders who are pressing for an FBI which  
Washington, can take over part of the job of the local police  
the South. And there are other reform groups, dissatisfied with  
local police action, not enthusiastic enough for their own  
interests, who also want a national system of police.

One FBI already has a budget of some \$150,000,000 a year  
with over 14,000 employees, 6,000 special agents, and 3,000 civilian  
It has field offices in 55 cities and resident agents in 500 other  
towns and cities.

History shows deep-seated abuses in nations where national  
police systems have operated (with, of course, the glossors of  
"prominent citizens") under political control of central govern-  
ments. Examples include the terrorism of Hitler's Gestapo, the  
atrocities of the Soviet Secret Police, the reign of terror in  
Cuba under both Castro and Batista, a state with a corrupt national  
police (by way of understatement) only 90 miles from the United States.

States.

During the 1962 confrontation between the late President Kennedy and the steel industry over a boost in steel prices, the Kennedy Administration went further than any previous Administration in using the FBI as a national police arm. There are thousands of many complaints alleging misuse of federal authority in tax cases and in other fiscal and economic matters to compel individuals to bend to the will of the central government.

All pure food and drug inspectors carry a wire recorder with them when they walk into your factory.

There are cute gimmick laws to avoid constitutional problems such as the law providing that a motorist gives "implied consent" to chemical intoxication tests when he applies for his driver's license. The effect: Mandatory blood alcohol tests for drunk driving suspects. This measure, sponsored by the National Traffic Safety Association, has been defeated previously by the California Legislature. It's up again. It would probably successfully circumvent the fourth amendment.

Far more effective, if we could ever manage it, would be the education of all drivers that drunk driving is kid stuff -- don't do it! And so with Las Vegas. All law enforcers tell us it's an evil place. Hoodlums control its pretty shows and prettier girls, its gaming and also its dope and murders. But this most of us already know. Yet we still gaily go there. We're a lawful but lawless people. But we also once had a flag with a rattlesnake emblem and the motto "Don't tread on me". That was

about the same time we were writing these adding constitutional guarantees.

Mr. Justice Brennan, recently referred to the apparent failure of many Americans, especially the young generation, to understand the value and importance of their constitutional liberties. (He referred to a recent study made at Purdue University of high school students. More than a third of those polled, for example, did not object to third-degree methods used by the police).

The Justice believed that public understanding is essential to assure official observance of individual rights (and to controlling crime). "As the power of government expands, the opportunities for official abuse of that power multiply. Those who would wield the power are not sensitive to the guarantees of individual liberty the likelihood of official lawlessness cannot help but increase".

During recent years, the highest court in our land, the Supreme Court of the United States, has devoted much of its time to the lowliest of details concerning the least of our citizens: a misdemeanor offender, a hopelessly recidivist narcotics addict. But while seemingly this highest Court has wasted its time on the minutiae of errant conduct of those of the least of us, it really has been fulfilling its highest duty of a highest court in a democracy in vicariously protecting the individual personal rights of all of us. (Property rights have come second).

Paralleling the growth of federalism and the potential of a police state with better communications, i.e., electronic type, central fingerprinting, forensic laboratories, television photos, police radios, all of which have potentials to transgress

individual freedoms, the Supreme Court has been zealous to protect those accused of crime, we who are presumed to be innocent.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and other agencies of the national government have lived with the ambivalence of evidence that is illegally obtained is inadmissible for fifty years without noticeable impairment of their effectiveness. And this was long before they had automobile, radio, and national bureau of identification, instant fingerprinting to any spot in the United States, and Mr. Hoover's national school for police officers.

FBI Director Hoover in Chicago on November 24, 1950, said (of his famous target -- and I don't for the minute deny the existence of the danger) "The Communists cry Liberty when really they mean license. Justice has nothing to do with expediency. It has nothing to do with temporary standards...the FBI will continue to be objective...regardless of pressure groups which seek to use the FBI to attain their own selfish aims to the detriment of our people as a whole".

These sentiments I would like to believe of the FBI, and all others who'd change our "coddling laws". But to insure sincerity, let's wish the same of the United Supreme Court and all other courts in this great land of ours.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Wick  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

6/12/67  
*Handwritten signature/initials*

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (66-3476)  
SUBJECT: THE ALLEN BURKE SHOW  
NEW TV  
CHANNEL 5  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK;  
MELVIN BELLI

On 6/10/67, MELVIN BELLI, Attorney, San Francisco, was guest on The Allen Burke Show. During their conversation, BELLI referred to the Director as being "dictatorial." Mr. BURKE stopped him at once and stated he wanted to know what he meant by this statement. BELLI stated that quoting from FRED J. COOK's book that Agents before they met the Director must wash their hands so that they would not be clammy and dress in a certain way. Mr. BURKE stated that he saw nothing wrong with this as all big corporations wanted their people to dress and look well at all times, especially when they were to meet with the president of their company.

At another point, BELLI stated he did not think it was right for Mr. HOOVER to use commencements to criticize the Supreme Court about the ESPOSITO case. BURKE defended the Director and stated that this country was founded on dissension and he saw nothing wrong in Mr. HOOVER doing this if in fact he did it.

[REDACTED]

3 - Bureau  
1 - New York  
TJH:pab  
(5)

ORIGINAL DIRECTOR

67(10)  
105-49865-

NOT RECORDED  
126 JUL 11 1967

2 JUL 19 1967

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP1111

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PERSONAL

b7(C) b7(D)

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOT RECORDED

126 JUN 19 1967

3 JUN 19 1967

JUN 19 1967

COMM-FBI

Reurlet 6-8-67

1 - San Francisco

Re [redacted] letter 6-8-67, captioned "Melvin M. Belli."

NOTE: Bufiles reflect [redacted] has supported the Bureau and the Director [redacted]. The Director last wrote to him on 5-10-66.

The transcript entitled "Are Our Courts Selling Criminals (No, They're Protecting the Accused)" written by Melvin M. Belli.

JMK:kel (5)

Note Continued on Next Page

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-18-90 BY SP2B/KK

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

NOTE CONTINUED:

typical of the nonsense which has been perpetrated by the opportunist Belli. The transcript begins with the words, "I don't like Edgar Hoover" and continues what must be described as an outrageous attack upon the Director and the Bureau. Belli supports the Supreme Court on the basis of the "loopholes" in the law protect citizens against invasions of human rights. There follows a contrived discussion which enumerates abuse and infringements upon the rights of individuals. On page 11 he refers to "Bobby Kennedy and Mr. Hoover and their strange bedfellows" as eager to tap his telephone. It is his opinion information collected by telephone tapping could be used for sinister purposes. In the discussion that follows he touches upon questions involving legal search and seizure and concludes the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution must not be violated. It appears to be his contention that there is no such thing as coddling of criminals, although he is hard pressed to substantiate this view. He discusses Russian prisons, the Costa Nostra and other topics in an attempt to make his case convincing. On pages 26 and 27 Belli makes the preposterous charge that the Director and other law enforcement officials prosecute only a given quota to satisfy the law-abiding population. His comments are highly repetitious and all to the point that there is no coddling of criminals by the courts. On page 30 the budget of the Bureau is quoted for the previous year and the total number of employees is listed. On page 40 Belli says the Kennedy Administration used the FBI as a "national police arm." He concludes his remarks on page 42 by misquoting the Director whose actual remarks were delivered in Chicago on 11-24-64 as follows: "They cry liberty when they really mean license!" The other comments are substantially correct as they appear in the Director's speech "Time for Decision." On the same page he seems to be saying the Bureau can perform its duties within the present framework of decisions rendered by the Supreme Court.

FBI

Date: 9/18/67

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : LEGAT, BONN (80-13) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI  
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Re Bonn cables 9/15/67.

Enclosed is the tape of that portion of the Armed Forces Radio Network newscast delivered at 10:00 P.M. (Bonn time) on 9/14/67 concerning subject. The tape is recorded at 7 1/2 I.P.S., four track. There is some "garbage" at the beginning of the tape recorded at a different speed.

Pertinent portion of the tape is as follows:

Announcer: "As the President backed local law enforcers, noted attorney MELVIN BELLI was tearing into the nation's Number One law enforcement officer, FBI Director J. EDGAR HOOVER."

"BELLI, who once defended JACK RUBY, was in Frankfurt, West Germany, today when he questioned HOOVER's initiative against organized crime..."

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Enc. 1)  
(1 - Liaison)  
1 - Bonn

JCFM:11  
(4)

ENCLOSURE ON BULKY RAMP  
50-10-11-67

105-49865-41  
10/4  
22 SEP 21 1967

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP1001/ger

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

C. C. Bishop

Special Agent in Charge

70 OCT 1967



0 BONN 80-13

1  
2  
3 I've heard this guy at commencement addresses  
4 snidely take on the United States Supreme Court.  
5 I've read his books, and he can name, and he  
6 does and, if he doesn't, all he has to do is pick  
7 up the green felt jungle or any AP or UPI dispatch,  
8 and they will name who are vice overlords; they'll  
9 name who is bringing in the dope and all the rest  
0 of that.

1  
2 "We don't need any laws other than we have to  
3 prosecute them. We don't need a liberalizing of  
4 our laws to prosecute 'em. They're all amenable  
5 to prosecution right now and HOOVER knows who they  
6 are, and the question I put is why aren't they  
7 prosecuted when he puts his finger on 'em at  
8 Graduation Day Exercises, when he writes books  
9 about them, when he talks about them. Is it that  
0 he's got some deal with the local politicians?  
1 Is it a sort of a thing -- Look, this is sacred  
2 ground. This Senator has gotten campaign contribu-  
3 tions from this group of people, or this is a way  
4 of life in our State that don't touch it.

5  
6 "HOOVER says, 'Look, I want to go in there. These  
7 guys are getting by literally with murder. Why  
8 can't I go in there?' No, that's hallowed ground.  
9 You can do everything else. You're doing a fine  
10 job, old boy, but get in there. Now, is it something  
11 like that? It is something. I don't know what it  
12 is, but it is something, 'cuz he knows who they are,  
13 he has the machinery to prosecute 'em, he can  
14 prosecute 'em. Why does he complain about them and  
15 not prosecute 'em? I don't know."

16  
17  
18 \* \* \* \* \*

19  
20  
21 Announcer: "The King of Torts, Attorney MELVIN BELLI"

# DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☒ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☐ TELETYPE

STATE 06

URGENT 9-15-67

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT BONN NO. 85

MELVIN BELLI, RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS.)

REMYCAB SEPTEMBER 15 INSTANT.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP-7AP/Edm

RECEIVED: 10:33 PM MSE

REC 3

105-49865-42  
11 OCT 4 1967

EX 106

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

CC: Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Jones  
3RD CC: MR. BRENNAN

54 OCT 10 1967  
If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

Tolson  
DeLoach  
Mohr  
Bishop  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

# DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☒ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☐ TELETYPE

STATE 04

URGENT 9-15-67

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LEGAT BONN NO. 84

MELVIN BELLI, RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS).

I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT BELLI WAS QUOTED, OR PARTIALLY  
RECORDED, ON ARMED FORCES NETWORK RADIO NEWS BROADCAST FROM  
SPEECH CASTIGATING DIRECTOR FOR FAILURE TO TAKE MORE EFFECTIVE  
ACTION AGAINST MAJOR CRIME. REPORTEDLY USED STRONG TERMS  
MENTIONING DIRECTOR BY NAME. I DID NOT HEAR BROADCAST, AND  
NOTHING HAS APPEARED IN LOCAL AMERICAN OR GERMAN PRESS TO THIS  
MOMENT.

Consulting  
with  
STATE  
DEPT

[REDACTED] BELLI HAS BEEN IN FRANKFURT  
DEFENDING ACCUSED AMERICAN SOLDIER.

REC 3 105-49865-43

RECEIVED: 8:11PM RM  
EX 106 COPIES DESTROYED  
9 25 AUG 28 1972

11 OCT 4 1967

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

If the information contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably  
paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

F16

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Bishop *[Signature]*

DATE: 9-22-67

FROM : M. A. Jones *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI *[Signature]*

By airtel dated 9-18-67, Legat, Bonn, submitted a tape recording of a news cast by the Armed Forces Radio Network on 9-14-67, containing remarks by captioned individual. According to Legat, Belli was in Frankfurt, Germany, as legal counsel to an accused American soldier when he made these remarks.

In substance, Belli stated that the Director has often snidely criticized the U. S. Supreme Court at commencement addresses and in his books. He states that "vice overlords" are well-known to the Director, and poses a rhetorical question as to whether the Director may be politically influenced for not "prosecuting" them. He manifests his abysmal ignorance as to the role of the FBI by his criticism of the Director's refusal to "prosecute" major criminals when he has full knowledge of their identities.

This, of course, is a mere continuation of previous attacks Belli has made against the Director in the same vein. As an addicted exhibitionist, he is fully aware that such unfounded and wild allegations will result in publicity, and he has continually exploited the use of the Director's name to this end.

## RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

DFC:ksf  
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAR/gm

EX 106

5 OCT 4 1967

52 OCT 10 1967

F-16

PERS. REC. UNIT



TRUE COPY

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, DC.

b7c [REDACTED]  
October, 1967

Dear Mr Hoover:

By way of identifying myself: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] lawyer Bellie's slanderous remarks about you.

Enclosed is a clipping from yesterday's Miami Herald, and an idea I have for catching the thieves.

Without altering the stamps and thus risk notice from stamp collectors, I'd just alter the size of one hole in the perforation. By changing the position of that one altered hole for different zones in the U.S.A. and then later finding many stamps used out of zone, it would just be a matter of pin pointing the large user, and eventually the fence.

Best of luck in this, and all other tasks you are encumbered with, despite the lack of cooperation from the black robed bench polishers. For God and Country. I remain.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ [REDACTED] b7c

P.S. The contents of this letter has not, and will not be divulged to anyone else.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-19-80 BY SP2TAP/efm

CERTIFIED

No. 203730

MAIL

ITC: 10-10-67

10-10-67

11-11-67

[Handwritten signature]

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

67C  
Oct 5, 1967.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ PROC.

40 40 OCT 9 1967

Dear Mr. Hoover:-

By way of identifying myself [redacted]

[redacted] lawyer  
Bellie's slanderous remarks about you. Melvin Bellie

Enclosed is a clipping from yesterday's Miami Herald, and an  
idea I have for catching the thieves.

Without altering the stamp and thus <sup>risk</sup> ~~get~~ notice from  
stamp collectors, I'd just alter the size of one hole in the  
perforation. By changing the position of that one altered hole  
for different zones in the U.S.A. and then ~~finding~~ later  
finding many stamps used out of zone, it would just be  
a matter of pinpointing the large user, and eventually the  
fence.

REC-2405-49865-4/5

Best of luck in this, and all other tasks you <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ 1967  
encumbered with, despite the lack of cooperation from the  
black robed bench polishers. For God and Country I remain.

P.S. The contents of this letter  
has not, and will not be divulged  
to anyone else.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP-1/1/80

Sincerely yours,

ENCLOSURE

ATC 10-10-67

67C

# Miami Favorite Source Of Mob Stamp Crimes

By PAUL SCHREIBER  
Herald Staff Writer

Organized crime has turned to collecting stamps — using the Miami area as a favorite source of supply, the chief U.S. postal inspector said Tuesday.

With torches instead of tweezers, explained inspector Henry B. Montague, criminals have stripped nearly \$2 million in stamps from post offices across the country.

Miami, he said, ranked high in the number of burglaries. A local inspector, W.L. Nestor, called South Florida a "hotbed" of postal theft.

At one time, Montague admitted, the incidence of such robberies was rare. That's not true, he said, since organized crime figured another system.

Their system is hard to beat:

The stamps, stolen by gangs of specialists, are peddled in other states to underworld fences who pass them on to business firms apparently controlled by organized crime and the Mafia.

"We can't necessarily tie the thefts to the Mafia," Montague said, "But the



fences need a market and that's where organized crime comes in."

The postal burglary has become fairly routine. Gangs armed with sophisticated cutting tools enter the post office after posting a lookout with a walkie-talkie outside. They burn, cut through and peel away layers of metal on the steel vaults until they are able to scoop out every available stamp.

"The stamps are then flown out of Miami and sold to fences in other states," Nestor said.

The fences, purchasers of stolen goods, pay the gangs 30 to 50 per cent of face value. In turn, the fences sell to companies able to distribute the stamps without arousing suspicion and get 50 to 75 per cent of stamp value.

Legitimate business firms, Montague said, would refuse to buy stolen stamps, so out-

lets tend to be Mafia-operated companies.

Montague said many of the firms are set up expressly for purposes of fraud, generally involving violation of postal regulations. Their operation is to order large quantities of merchandise and then quickly declare bankruptcy or disappear after disposing of the goods.

Stolen stamps, he added, provide an extra margin of profit.

Montague, addressing the National Convention of Postmasters at Atlantic City, said gangs have operated largely in the Northeast, the Midwest and in cities like Miami.

The interest in South Florida has been strong: More than 50 burglaries in little more than a year.

"Miami must be close to the top 10 in the country," Nestor said. "We've had more burglaries in the Miami-area than in the whole Atlanta postal division — Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia."

Montague called the increase "alarming," and outlined installation of new detection systems and safes in 11 test post offices.

Page 1 Section B) The Miami Herald.  
Oct 4, 1967

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-13-80 BY SP/ML/AM

ENCLOSURE

05-49865-45

REC-25

October 11, 1967

105-49865-45

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of October 5th, together with its enclosure, and certainly appreciate the interest which prompted you to advise me of your idea concerning a means of identifying stamps. Since investigations involving the thefts of stamps are handled by the Postal Inspectors and not by the FBI, you may wish to furnish your suggestion to The Honorable, The Postmaster General, Washington, D. C. 20260, for his consideration.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 19  
OCT 11 1967  
COMM - FBI

NOTE: Bufiles disclose two prior outgoings to correspondent, last outgoing [REDACTED]

No referral of his current letter being made to the Post Office Department in view of the postscript appearing on his letter of 10-5-67.

HRH:mlb (3)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP-10/10/80

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 26 1968

FBI NEW ORLS

TELETYPE

10-50 AM 2-26-68 URGENT DAO

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM NEW ORLEANS

MELVIN M. BELLI; MISCELLANEOUS.

RE NO TEL CALL.

THE SATURDAY MORNING EDITION OF THE TIMES-PICAYUNE  
NEWSPAPER, FEBRUARY TWENTYFOUR, LAST, PAGE THIRTEEN, CONTAINS  
AN ARTICLE BY DON LEWIS BASED UPON LEWIS' INTERVIEW OF BELLI AT  
ANTOINE'S RESTAURANT IN NEW ORLEANS. THE ARTICLE IS  
CAPTIONED, "FAMED LAWYER BLASTS HOOVER" WITH A SUBCAPTION  
"BELLI CALLS FBI DIRECTOR 'FATUOUS OLD DICTATOR'". THAT  
PORTION OF THE ARTICLE CONCERNING BELLI'S STATEMENTS ABOUT THE  
DIRECTOR IS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS:

"SAN FRANCISCO ATTORNEY MELVIN M. BELLI FRIDAY NIGHT  
CALLED FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DIRECTOR J. EDGAR  
HOOVER 'A FATUOUS OLD DICTATOR' AND CHARGED THAT HOOVER  
'HAS SET UP A LITTLE STORM TROOP EMPIRE.'"

"BELLI, THE MAN WHO DEFENDED JACK RUBY WHEN HE  
WAS TRIED IN NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR FOR MURDERING LEE HARVEY  
OSWALD, WAS INTERVIEWED AT ANTOINE'S RESTAURANT, SEVEN  
ONE THREE ST. LOUIS.

END PAGE ONE

REC 67

EX-105

11 MAR 1 1968

57 MAR 8 - 1968

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAP/17m

Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tave	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

## PLAYBOY PANEL

(continued from page 58)

agreed mainly to disagree with the other panelists about not only the nature of, the reasons for and the consequences of the current crisis in relations between the police and the public, but also what to do about it. He shares the conviction of many law-enforcement officials throughout the country that recent Supreme Court rulings in the civil-liberties field are handcuffing the police in their efforts to maintain law and order in the face of what FBI and metropolitan police figures indicate is a national crime wave of unprecedented dimensions. Neither he nor the other panelists, however, agree with those who feel that the police should be given carte-blanche authority to "stop and frisk" any citizen in the streets, to enter and search any home without a warrant, to use wire taps, hidden microphones and cameras, peephole surveillance, lie detectors and other such constitutionally controversial devices in order to stem this alleged crime wave.

Citing such abuses as police brutality, illegal invasions of privacy and unethical interrogation procedures, other panelists felt that police power—far from being inadequate to cope with crime, which they denied is on the upsurge—has already exceeded its rightful authority and, in some cases, even the bounds of the Constitution, and must therefore be abridged rather than expanded. As a deterrent to such violations of individual rights, several members of the panel recommended the establishment of civilian review boards empowered to investigate complaints of improper law-enforcement practices and to enforce appropriate disciplinary action. Feeling that such boards would serve only to further frustrate the police in the performance of their duty, Professor Inbau and Judge Leighton thought that police departments should be allowed to police themselves via internal investigative agencies. It was suggested, finally, by Mr. Pemberton, Judge Leighton and Dean Lohman that the quality of law enforcement must be improved by adopting training programs for police recruits that would include schooling not only in the best modern techniques of police work but in the scope of civil liberties and the limitations of their own authority.

Though your assessments of the problem, and the solutions you've suggested for it, have been widely divergent, we feel that the light and heat generated by this exchange has helped not only to confirm the complexity of the crisis but to clarify the issues involved—and to point the way toward understanding.

# MEDICO

*world's largest selling pipe*

**gives you pleasure  
and peace of mind**

Filter out tars, juices, nicotine with Medico's scientific 2 1/4" disposable Filter with 66 baffles. Draw in clean, flavorful smoke — increase your smoking enjoyment. Medico is crafted only of selected imported briar. Nylon bits guaranteed bite-proof. Relax — smoke a Medico.

For beautiful color catalog, write Medico, 18 E. 54th St., N. Y. 22, Dept. A16. Please enclose 10¢ for handling.



**MEDICO CREST**  
\$6 TO \$20



10 for 10¢  
Also  
Menthol-Cool  
10 for 15¢



Ventilator  
\$3.50



Ebony  
\$4.50



Guardsmen  
\$4.95



Seafoam  
\$5.50



Illustrated  
**GOLD CREST**  
dark claret \$8  
(light café finish \$9.00)



Other Medico  
Filter Pipes  
\$2.50 up  
Prices Higher out of U.S.A.

## MEDICO® FILTER PIPES

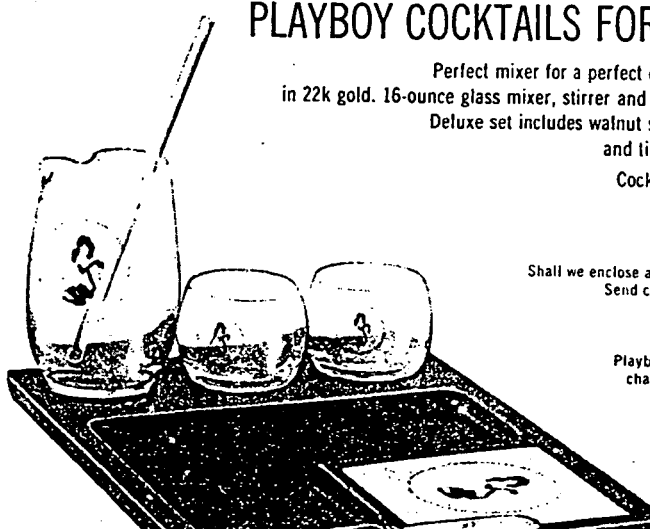
Official Pipes New York World's Fair 1964-1965

stir her to romance

## PLAYBOY COCKTAILS FOR TWO SET

Perfect mixer for a perfect evening. Emblazoned in 22k gold. 16-ounce glass mixer, stirrer and two cocktail glasses. Deluxe set includes walnut snack tray with knife and tile for cheese cutting.

Cocktails for Two Set, \$5  
Deluxe Set, \$15  
Both prices ppd.



Shall we enclose a gift card in your name?  
Send check or money order to:  
**PLAYBOY PRODUCTS**  
919 N. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Playboy Club keyholders may charge by enclosing key no.

PAGE TWO

"THE SIXTY-YEAR-OLD ATTORNEY SAID THE ONLY REASON THE FBI DIRECTOR HAS BEEN REAPPOINTED TO HIS POST IS BECAUSE 'HE HAS HAD SO MUCH ON PRESIDENTS THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO KICK HIM OUT'.

"THEY KNEW THAT IF HOOVER WERE REMOVED FROM OFFICE HE WOULD COME BACK TO HAUNT THEM THROUGH SPEECHES AND BOOKS WITH EMBARRASSING CONTENTS," BELLI SAID.

"SOURED LONG AGO

"BELLI CALLED HOOVER 'UTTERLY AND COMPLETELY VICIOUS' AND SAID HE STARTED 'TO GO SOUR ON HIM LONG AGO WHEN I SAW HOW AFRAID FBI AGENTS WERE OF THEIR MASTER.'

"FBI AGENTS ON THE WITNESS STAND HAVE LIED MANY TIMES," BELLI SAID. "THEY GO WITH THE PARTY WHAT BRUNG 'EM," BELLI ADDED, "AND THEY'RE NOT GOING TO TESTIFY AGAINST THEIR CHIEF."

"BELLI SAID HE IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF ATTORNEYS WHO HAVE HAD FBI AGENTS CHECKING INTO THEIR PAST."

NEW ORLEANS INDICES CONTAINS NO IDENTIFIABLE REFERENCES RE DON LEWIS. THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO CONSIDER WRITING  
END PAGE TWO



PAGE THREE

DON LEWIS AND SETTING HIM STRAIGHT REGARDING THESE VICIOUS  
CHARGES MADE BY BELLI AGAINST THE DIRECTOR.

END

WA.....DEL

FBI WASH DC

M

REC'D  
FBI  
FEB 28 11 28 AM '68

REC'D  
FBI  
FEB 28 15 00 PM '68

CC: Mr. Bishop



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: 2/26/68

TO : Mr. Bishop

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
CRITICISM OF DIRECTOR  
AND FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## BACKGROUND:

Our New Orleans Office advised that the 2/24/68 issue of the "Times-Picayune" newspaper in that City contains an article based on an interview of Melvin Belli by Don Lewis. According to this article, Belli described the Director as "a fatuous old dictator" who "has set up a little storm troop empire." Belli continued, according to this article, by repeating a number of hackneyed and unsupported criticisms of the FBI.

Our New Orleans Office suggested that the Bureau might consider writing Don Lewis and setting him straight concerning the vicious charges made by Belli against the Director.

## INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

Belli, a San Francisco attorney, is considered one of the most notorious charlatans of the legal profession. He feeds on publicity and has provoked much controversy by his repeated attacks against the FBI as well as a number of other prominent national officials and institutions.

His criticisms, as reported by the "Times-Picayune" are nothing but cheap, undocumented, slander against Mr. Hoover and the Bureau. There is nothing new in this most recent attack which is simply a restatement of wild allegations he has repeatedly made during the past several years to any newspaper, radio or television outlet that would give him an audience.

It will be recalled that Belli served, for a time, as defense attorney for Jack Ruby who shot and killed assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. This was strictly a grandstand performance which produced little toward the defense of his client.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

JHC:ab (8)

CONTINUED - OVER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESEARCH

M. A. Jones to Bishop memo  
RE: MELVIN M. BELLI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

*C CONSULTING WITH CIA*

We have no information identifiable with Don Lewis. However, we have enjoyed very favorable relations with the "Times-Picayune".

OBSERVATIONS:

Belli relishes controversy and his repeated accusations against the Director and the Bureau have received scant public attention. For this reason, it is not believed desirable to approach the "Times-Picayune" in an effort to rebut his charges.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

*gny* *concur.* *TEB* *ds* *ms*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2-28-68

Airtel

REC 67

105-49865-47

6-105

To: SAC, New Orleans

From: Director, FBI

MELVIN M. BELLI  
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Reurtel 2-26-68, concerning interview of captioned individual which appeared in the 2-24-68 issue of the "Times - Picayune" newspaper.

Belli's accusations against the FBI in referenced interview are similar to those he has repeatedly voiced to other news media in recent years. In view of Belli's penchant for controversy, no useful purpose would be served by writing Don Lewis for the purpose of rebutting these unfounded charges.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAG/CM

NOTE: See M. A. Jones to Bishop memo of 2-26-68, captioned "Melvin M. Belli, Criticism of Director and FBI."

JHC:nls/jma (7)

MAILED 19  
FEB 28 1968  
COMM - FBI

REC-9 BISHOP  
FBI

REC-9 BISHOP  
FBI

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI

Date: 2/26/68

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
MISCELLANEOUS

Re New Orleans teletype to Bureau, 2/26/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau is the original and one copy of an article which appeared in the Times-Picayune Newspaper of New Orleans, dated February 24, 1968, page 13.

③ Bureau (Enc.  
2 - New Orleans  
RER - cst  
(5)

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 8/21/81 BY 6112-8

EX 101

REC 29

105-49865-48

FEB 28 1968

CRIME RESEARCH

2 C. C. Bishop

XEROX

MAR 12 1968

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

7 (1) MAR 19 1968 Special Agent in Charge

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Tamed Lawyer Blasts Hoover

## Belli Calls FBI Director Fatuous Old Dictator

By DON LEWIS

San Francisco attorney Melvin M. Belli Friday night called Federal Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover "a fatuous old dictator" and charged Hoover "has set up a little atom troop empire."

Belli, the man who defended Jack Ruby when he was tried in 1964 for murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, was interviewed at Opine's Restaurant, 713 St. Louis.

The 60-year-old attorney said the only reason the FBI director has been reappointed to his post is because "he has had so much presidents that they didn't have the guts to kick him out." They knew that if Hoover were removed from office he would come back to haunt them through speeches and books with harassing contents," Belli said.

### SOURED LONG AGO

Belli called Hoover "utterly completely vicious" and said he started "to go sour on him long ago when I saw how the FBI agents were of their master."

"FBI agents on the witness stand have lied many times," Belli said. "They go with the easy what brung 'em," Belli said, "and they're not going to testify against their chief."

Belli said he is one of a number of attorneys who have had FBI agents checking into their

turning to District Attorney Garrison's probe of the Kennedy assassination, Belli said: "I was close to Ruby and I don't think he (Garrison) is anything."

"What he's got, I don't know," Belli said. "I'm waiting like the rest of the world to see," he said.

"If he falls flat on his face," Belli said, "I'll be the one guy

to say he had the guts to try Ruby's tempestuous trial in 1964, as "a warrior with a big heart and a great personality."

Belli termed Garrison "a very good friend of mine" and "a terrific trial lawyer."

"Garrison is an honest man and I would be a character witness for him anytime," he said.

### BACKS COMMISSION

Belli said, however, that he still accepts the Warren Commission findings that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed President John F. Kennedy.

"I'll believe it until Garrison can prove to the contrary," he said. "I'm still receptive, but he hasn't convinced me," Belli said.

Commenting on the continuing attempts of Clay L. Shaw's attorneys to get a change of venue for their client, Belli said: "I think New Orleans is like San Francisco—the people in the two cities are the most tolerant in the world."

"If I were a defense lawyer," Belli said, "I wouldn't want to move the trial."

### FORMER CLIENT

Referring to his former client, Jack Ruby, Belli said: "He was a status seeker... a climber who wanted to belong to society."

Belli said flatly: "I think the guy was nuts."

The California attorney said Ruby told him that "he did it (killed Oswald) for Jackie and the kids. This was Ruby's rationalization for the act," Belli said. "This is absolutely not true."

Belli described Ruby as a "psychomotor epileptic" and said "what turned him on" were television strobe lights in the basement of police headquarters in Dallas, Tex.

"When the lights came on," Belli said, "they brought about his seizure" and Ruby shot Oswald.

Oswald was shot and fatally wounded Nov. 24, 1963.

Belli described District Judge Joe Brown, who presided over

Photo by The Times-Picayune.  
MELVIN M. BELLI  
Blasts J. Edgar Hoover

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

SECTION 1

TIMES PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

6-12-80

BY SP2TAP/CPM

Date: 2-24-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: ASSASSINATION OF  
PRESIDENT JOHN F.  
KENNEDY, DALLAS, TEX.  
11-22-63

Character:

AFO

or

Classification: 89-

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

☐ Being Investigated

XEROX

MAR 12 1968

105-49865-48

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**[REDACTED]**  
Dallas, Texas 75206

6-6-68

MR. TOLSON ✓  
MR. DELOACH ✓  
MR. MOHR ✓  
MR. BISHOP ✓  
MR. CASPER ✓  
MR. CALLAHAN ✓  
MR. CONRAD ✓  
MR. FELT ✓  
MR. GALE ✓  
MR. ROSEN ✓  
MR. SULLIVAN ✓  
MR. TAVEL ✓  
MR. TROTTER ✓  
MR. JONES ✓  
TELE. ROOM ✓  
MISS HOLMES ✓  
MRS. METCAL ✓  
MISS GANDY ✓

J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am enclosing a clipping from our paper.

I am an admirer of you and your dedication to  
your office for a very long time in your life. I  
resent very much the remarks made here.

This also went out over the Radio.

Sincerely,  
**[REDACTED]**

b7C

0  
Melvin Belli

COPY:hcv

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-13-80 BY SP2TAY/efm

b7C

Dallas, Texas 75206

6-6-68

J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington D.C.

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am enclosing a  
clipping from a paper.  
I am an admirer  
of you and your  
dedication to your  
office for a <sup>very</sup> long  
time in your life.  
I repeat very much  
the remarks made  
here.

This also went out over  
the Radio.

Sincerely,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-90 BY SP2 RPL/LS

RFC 11 105-49865-49

2 JUN 10 1968

ENCLOSURE

CORRESPONDENCE

EXP. PROC.  
37 JUN 10 1968



# 'I Was Wrong,' Says Belli Calling Dallas 'City of Hate'

Melvin Belli, flamboyant California lawyer who unsuccessfully defended Jack Ruby in a murder trial here four years ago, has expressed a tinge of regret about all the unkind things he's had to say about Dallas.

Belli appeared on KRLD radio's "Comment" program Wednesday. During the free-wheeling, wide-ranging discussion, Belli came close to apologizing for scathing Dallas when the jury convicted Ruby and sentenced him to death for killing Lee Harvey Oswald.

**THE VERDICT** was returned on Saturday, and Belli thundered to newsmen that communion wine should curdle in Dallas churches the following morning. He termed Dallas a city of hate.

In front of the microphones, the gray-haired lawyer who gained fame in tort, rather than criminal, cases seemed much more mellow than he did four years ago.

"The city was trying to protect its image, and it was wrong to call it a city of hate," Belli admitted. He spoke of Dallas' "local patriotism" and said that was one factor which induced the Ruby jury to convict him.

He maintained Ruby never should have been tried in Dallas and repeated previous claims that the jury did not pay heed to expert medical testimony.

**STILL TALKING** about the verdict, Belli told interviewers, "Some things went on in the jury room that still haven't been divulged." He refused to elaborate, however, mysteriously hinting that he would reveal jury improprieties at a time of his own choosing.

The shooting of Sen. Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles apparently was the incident which prompted Belli to reconsider his indictment of Dallas. He said California and all of America should feel shame for the shooting.

When the time comes to try the suspect in the successful attempt on Kennedy's life, Belli said, the court should grant a change of venue so the trial will not be near the scene of the crime. Otherwise, he said, there will be a difficulty in finding jurors who did not see or who do not have knowledge of the crime.

Also taken under discussion was Monday's Supreme Court opinion prohibiting imposition of the death penalty by a jury from which persons opposed to capital punishment have been excluded.

"This is the end of capital punishment," Belli said. "With jurors who won't vote for the death penalty, you won't have capital punishment."

Of the high court itself, he commented, "The Supreme Court is making law that's more in context with the times."

**OF INCREASING** crime, he insisted, "We have more crime because we have more people."

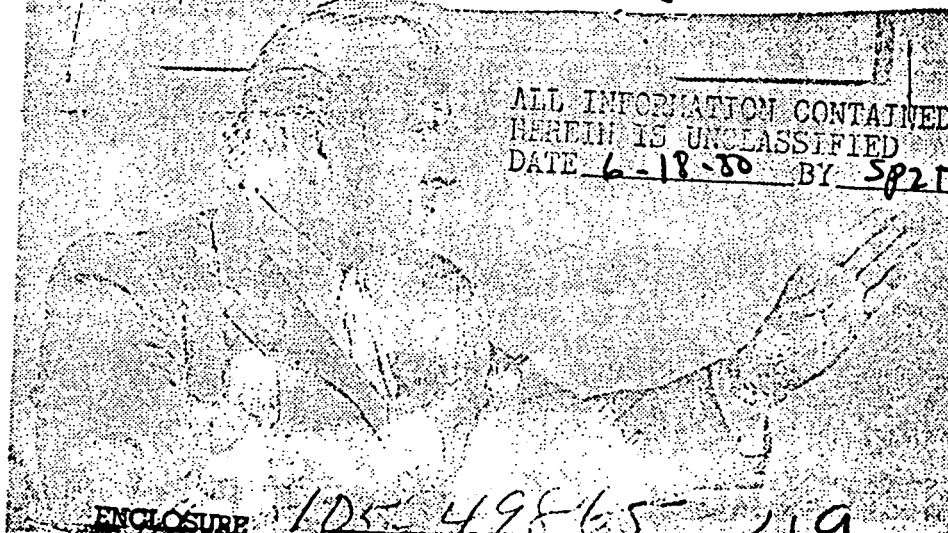
He challenged the validity of FBI crime statistics and said of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover: "Get that bum out of there. He's been in too long."

Belli said Supreme Court decisions do not coddle criminals, as charged by critics.

"Warren was a DA himself," he noted of the chief justice.

Even Vietnam came into the conversation. Belli mentioned that he recently toured part of Vietnam under Defense Department auspices and said the United States is involved in the war there because of "ineptitude."

"We just got sucked in," he said.



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2 TAP/EA

ENCLOSURE

Melvin Belli ... Dallas is not "city of hate" after all.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

me 12

9

r of J  
news  
st gr  
nd ho  
roval.

rector

INFOR  
EIN IS  
F



June 12, 1968

REC 11

105-49865-49

b7c [REDACTED]  
Dallas, Texas 75206

b7c Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of June 6th,  
and want to thank you for forwarding the newspaper  
clipping from your local paper. I am most grateful for  
the interest and support you expressed and hope our  
activities will continue to merit your approval.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 7

JUN 12 1968

COMM-FBI

b7c  
NOTE: [REDACTED] wrote to the Director in August  
1967, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AWT:lvc  
(3) JWC

REC-D at 2:00 PM

FBI

JUN 11

3:21 PM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-12-80 BY SP201/AM

62 JUN 19 1968

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI

Date: 6/19/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: LEGAT, LONDON (P)  
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] b7C

Enclosed herein is a news clipping from the London "Daily Mirror", 6/19/68. It will be noted that this is a scurrilous, unwarranted attack upon you which is deeply resented by and is offensive to all personnel of this office.

I recall that [REDACTED] visited the United States a few years ago and you saw him at that time. Unfortunately, under our procedure, the file pertaining to this visit has been destroyed in accordance with existing Bureau instructions.

[REDACTED] telephonically contacted me this morning, referred to the enclosed news item, expressed tremendous indignation and said that he wanted to do a counter-attack article. He said in order to give his counterattack article impact, he would appreciate it very much, if possible, if he could see you. He plans to be in the U.S. the latter part of August or early part of September. He said he would furnish me his exact itinerary when known.

In connection with the preparation of a counter-attack [REDACTED] stated he would appreciate if the Bureau could send him some information for study at this time.

2 - Bureau (Enc 1)  
1 - Liaison (direct)  
1 - London

Approved: [REDACTED] Special Agent in Charge

NOT RECORDED  
167 JUL 1 1968

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TAP/SEM  
REASON FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 6-19-88

CONFIDENTIAL

ORIGINAL FILED IN

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Wick \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: 6-25-68

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO :

Mr. Bishop

FROM :

M. A. Jones

SUBJECT:

REQUEST TO DO ARTICLE  
COUNTERING MELVIN M. BELLI'S  
CRITICISM OF DIRECTOR

## BACKGROUND:

The Legat at London has forwarded a copy of an article by Melvin M. Belli which appeared in the 6-19-68 issue of the London "Daily Mirror." The article is typical of the scurrilous and offensive attacks which Belli has launched against Mr. Hoover over the years. Belli traces the growth of the FBI and completely distorts the Director's 44-year administrative career. The thrust of Belli's article is that Mr. Hoover has been in power too long, and that because of it the FBI is a threat to "precious American freedoms."

## INFORMATION IN BUFILES CONCERNING BELLI:

Belli, a San Francisco attorney, is considered one of the most notorious charlatans of the legal profession. He is a professional publicity hound who provokes controversy to gain attention. In this pursuit, Belli has consistently slandered the Director as well as a number of other prominent national officials and institutions.

The article by Belli appearing in the London "Daily Mirror" is simply a restatement of the wild and unfounded allegations Belli has aimed at the Director over the years through newspapers, radio and television medias.

Enclosure *sent* 6-26-68

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Bishop - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan - Enclosure

JHC:jar (10)

13 JUL - 8 - 1968

CRIME RESEARCH

CONTINUED - OVER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Jones to Bishop memo  
RE [REDACTED] b7C

Belli, it will be recalled, served for a time as defense attorney for Jack Ruby, who shot and killed presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. This grandstand performance of Belli's produced little defense of his client but a great amount of publicity.

Typical reference to Belli in Bufiles discloses that in 1941, he sent greetings to the Soviet Union in support of its Red Army; in 1949, he protested the conviction of 11 American Communist leaders:

[REDACTED] consulting with CIA

INFORMATION IN BUFILES CONCERNING [REDACTED]

OBSERVATIONS:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter enclosing a summary of FBI accomplishments for the past 60 years, be sent to Legat, London. The enclosed information is all public source material, which has previously been furnished to certain friendly news sources.

TEB  
CONFIDENTIAL

ST  
105-49865-  
b7C  
[REDACTED]  
Reurairtel, 6-19-63.

June 26, 1968

Director, FBI

Reurairtel, 6-19-63.

Enclosed is a copy of a summary of FBI accomplishments during its 60-year history which you may furnish to [REDACTED] while the Bureau encourages a factual presentation to the English public of FBI accomplishments, particularly by a reporter of the caliber of Mr. Belli. It is felt that publication of such an article late this summer would have little impact as a direct rebuttal of the Belli article in the 6-19-63 issue of the London "Daily Mirror." In view of this, as well as Belli's well-known penchant for publicity by controversy, it is believed that Belli's article should not be specifically designed as a counterattack to Belli.

For your information, the Belli article in the "Daily Mirror" is typical of the scurrilous and unfounded charges he has directed against me for a number of years. Belli thrives on publicity and his technique is to invite controversy to obtain it. Although he has regularly gained exposure of his views through newspaper, radio and television media, his attacks against me have received scant public attention or support in the United States.

You may inform [REDACTED] that I will be happy to see him should my schedule permit and I am in my office when he visits Washington. Advise me promptly when his itinerary becomes available so that consideration may be given, consistent with my own commitments, to arranging an appointment.

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach (detached)
- 1 - Mr. Bishop (detached)
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (detached)
- 1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (Route through for review) (detached)

JEC:jar

See Note... next page...

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

61 JUL 15 1968

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAP/Km

ORIGINAL FILED IN

10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62

b7c

NOTE: See Jones to Bishop memo, 6-25-68, captioned "Request to do Article Countering Melvin M. Belli's Criticism of Director." No copy of enclosure for Legat is being maintained in file since it represents public source material which has previously been furnished to select news contacts.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-68303)  
SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI  
SM - C SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

DATE: 10/10/68

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Enclosed for the Bureau's information is a self-explanatory letter dated 10/7/68 from [REDACTED] which transmitted to this office a newspaper clipping of an article concerning the Director under the by-line of MELVIN BELLI, which is also enclosed.

Copies of the above are also enclosed for the information of the San Francisco Division.

[REDACTED] has been thanked by separate communication for his interest in bringing this matter to the attention of this office.

- 1d  
② - Bureau (Encls. 2) (RM)  
1 - San Francisco (Encls. 2) (RM)  
2 - Los Angeles  
PFT/mmc  
(5)

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED  
ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-13-80 BY SP2TAR/cam

REC-25

EX 106

OCT 14 1968

INT/SEC

76 OCT 15 1968

October 7, 1968

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
1340 West 6th Street  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Sirs:

In reading a South African newspaper which a friend had sent me, I came across the enclosed article, and due to its very derogatory nature, I thought perhaps you might be interested in it.

I think it is regrettable that a man such as Mr. Belli, who professes to be an advocate of the law, shows so little regard for the truth, and such a proclivity for untruths as is evidenced by this distorted and egregious piece of journalistic trash. Likewise, I feel that an article such as this, which is outstanding only for its crass inuendos, and which would most likely remain unpublished by responsible persons in this country, should be fostered on the peoples of other countries who are not in a position to recognize its falsehoods.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Los Angeles, California 90041

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAT/EFm

105-4456-50





## by MELVIN BELLI

SAN FRANCISCO attorney Melvin Belli is one of the top trial lawyers in the United States. He defended Jack Ruby during the early stages of Ruby's trial for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald.

**THE arrest and return to the United States of James Earl Ray, the F.B.I.'s latest Public Enemy No. 1, offers Mr. J. Edgar Hoover the opportunity for a memorable and long-overdue act of public service.**

He should resign on this note of high triumph and depart. Such a chance may not come his way again.

Mr. Hoover has sat too long at the head of an organization which many ordinary citizens and lawyers believe is a threat to the precious American freedoms, unless it and its leader are carefully controlled.

A mystifying failure to achieve (except about once a decade) anything that could justify the F.B.I.'s vast cost and influence seems to be one of the bureau's two most consistent traditions.

The other, of course, is its institutionalized hero-worship of the director.

Had Robert Kennedy been elected President he would have dismissed Mr. Hoover. Senator McCarthy, too, has pledged that he would. Governor Rockefeller might.

But it is doubtful whether two wily old Washington hands like Humphrey and Nixon would be so rash. President Johnson, who claims to be one of Mr. Hoover's few close friends, personally extended his career (and salary of \$12,600 a year) past the compulsory retirement age of 70.

### Prayers

**PRAYERS** for Mr. Hoover's retirement have, for a generation, been offered in low voices along the corridors of power.

Popular fare on the subject of Mr. Hoover is a masterfully orchestrated stream of propaganda and statistics that has preserved almost without

change the portrait he painted of himself in the bad old days.

His style is pure Bonnie and Clyde, born in the times when his boys (G-men) was the melodramatic tag) would stake out the "baddies" and wait for the boss to arrive, in his camel-hair coat and slouch hat, for the ritual slaughter.

Had Ray, armed as he was, had the misfortune to be apprehended in the United States, there might have been one of those ghastly and scandalous scenes that are so much a part of the Hoover legend. He could have been despatched in the kind of merciless slaughter that gave the F.B.I. John Dillinger as a patron saint.

Dillinger, a bank robber of the 1930s (and not to anyone's certain knowledge a killer) was finally cornered after a series of hideout fiascos by Mr. Hoover's men and informally executed in a Chicago street. His death mask still greets callers to the Director's office.

### Mandarin

**THE Dillinger story, inflated out of all relation to reality typifies the self-advertisement Mr. Hoover has used to reach the pinnacle of power from which he now looks down; an unassailable mandarin of civil service.**

However, he prefers to remain in seclusion, knowing that the image is more powerful than the reality. Besides, there are too many wrinkles to show.

Hoover was born on New Year's Day, 1895. He became head of the bureau in 1924, the year Lenin died.



## J. EDGAR HOOVER

EYES: Dark  
HAIR: Black—greying  
HEIGHT: 6ft.  
WEIGHT: 180lb.  
AGE: 73

DESCRIPTION: face; barrel broken nose; conservative eyeglasses

Since it was his obsessive belief then that he and his men were saving America from communism—even as it is today, when the Communist Party of the United States is cemented together only by the subsidies of F.B.I. infiltrators—he probably took Lenin's death as a suitable omen.

The F.B.I. had been created 16 years before. After Congress had specifically refused to authorize a special detective force for the Department of Justice, the Attorney-General of the time secretly created one while Congress was in recess.

President Theodore Roosevelt persuaded the lawmakers to accept this fait accompli, despite protestations about secret police. The force, which even had jobs that did not fall in the province of other Federal agencies.

Of these "White slavery" was the most glamorous. Its first chief embraced it as a suitable "menace" as fervently as Mr. Hoover later hounded communism.

During this period, the F.B.I. had a virtual licence to pry into

private lives, and it stuffed its files to overflowing.

During the First World War the worst fears of the bureau's opponents were realised when it led vigilante raids on suspected draft dodgers. Some 60,000 Americans were dragged off the streets by armed men and detained without a shred of legal authority.

Not until 1919 was Hoover associated with the Bureau of Investigation. He became, at the impressively early age of 24, head of the General Intelligence Division of the Justice Department.

Only two years earlier he had joined the department as a \$504-a-year clerk with a brand-new law degree. This was a predictable niche for someone of his background. His father was a low-ranking public servant, his mother the niece of a Swiss-German capitalist Washingtonian.

There were two children older than John Edgar, all devout Presbyterians and dutiful scholars. Master Hoover himself taught at Sunday school, sometimes proudly attired in the

ENCLOSURE



## J. EDGAR HOOVER

**DESCRIPTION:** Full, florid face; barrel-chested; broken nose; dresses conservatively; wears eyeglasses for reading.

State lives, and it stuffed its to overflowing.

During the First World War worst fears of the bureau's agents were realised when it vigilante raids on suspected dodgers. Some 60,000 Americans were dragged off the streets by armed men and detained without a shred of legal authority.

Not until 1919 was Hoover associated with the Bureau of Investigation. He became, at the impressively early age of 34, head of the General Intelligence Division of the Justice Department.

Only two years earlier he had joined the department as a 24-year clerk with a brand-new law degree. This was a respectable niche for someone of his background. His father was a low-ranking public servant, his mother the niece of a prominent Washingtonian.

There were two children older than John Edgar, all devout Presbyterians and dutiful scholars. Master Hoover himself fought at Sunday school, sometimes proudly attired in the

uniform of his high school cadet corps. The distinctive broken nose was gained in a church baseball game.

His father died in 1922, and until his mother followed in 1938, John Edgar lived at home. Even now he lives in a small Washington suburban house, alone save for a housekeeper. Apart from an occasional day at the races, his main recreation is gardening.

### Unsavoury

THE first task of the General Intelligence Division was to organise a wave of raids and deportations among aliens in the panic that gripped America after the Bolshevik Revolution.

Hoover directed these with zeal and a staggering lack of concern for fundamental rights or legal niceties.

The experience commended him to President Warren Harding, and, then only 26, he was appointed Deputy Chief of the F.B.I. This was led by Warren's crony, William Burns, head of a

private detective agency with less than savoury reputation.

There followed a shameful period in which the F.B.I. accumulated a grubby record of strike-breaking, frame-ups and corruption. Political hacks exchanged favours with it. Agents searched the private offices of Congressmen and breached their mail.

Mr. Hoover — an honest man and a true professional whatever his failings — recorded that he contemplated resignation. But he held on, and, at the same time, mounted a shattering attack on the Ku Klux Klan, which was then becoming a national menace.

This was a truly praiseworthy accomplishment, but it is something he has never equalled.

Young Hoover's tenacity was rewarded when, in 1924, Attorney-General Harlan Fiske Stone, determined to reform the bureau, made Hoover its chief, with orders to clean house and a pledge that he would never be subject to political control.

The F.B.I. under Hoover preferred to concentrate on gory, headline-grabbing gun battles with gangsters of the depression years, who could just as easily have been dealt with by local police.

Indeed, the local police usually did all the leg work, then were forced to watch the G-men walk off with the credit. Even Dillinger was turned in to the Chicago police by an informant.

### "Red menace"

IN the wartime and post-war years, when the "Red menace" was the enemy, the F.B.I. did more to intimidate genuine liberals than could ever be balanced by the capture of a few spies.

The two areas in which a national police force could have been most effective remained virgin territory: rackets and rule by the mob. They still flourish, although the names of every top mobster, his property and organisation, are common knowledge.

The law is adequate. Why Hoover has never considered organised crime a proper target is mystifying.

Until very recently, prosecutions under Civil Rights legislation have been token. Mr. Hoover never saw fit to exert the formidable machinery of the F.B.I. on behalf of deprived citizens.

Dr. Martin Luther King

had no illusions about where Mr. Hoover's sympathies lay, nor those of the many fellow Southerners among his agents.

This year the director has already given Congress its annual fright, warning that communists infest the Black Power movement and the anti-war protest groups.

Congress, as always, voted his budget without demur. It was more than \$145-million with which to maintain 16,251 personnel.

### Law revolt

AMERICA is currently undergoing a law revolt.

The Supreme Court, in a series of enlightened decisions, has limited the powers of the police and broadened the rights of suspects to bring the practice in all of the United States in line with those basic guarantees that have always existed under British law.

Capital punishment, long abandoned by the rest of the civilised world, is also being edged out. A virtual moratorium exists on the spectacle of the public abattoir.

Mr. Hoover has spoken out against these important, progressive steps. In the rapidly-changing, humanitarian Sixties he remains a lowering, implacable figure of the heartless Thirties.

Not the least of his shortcomings is the conformity and humourless moulding imposed upon the idealistic young lawyers who become F.B.I. agents.

F B I

Date: 10/22/68

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Bishop	✓
Mr. Casper	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. Felt	✓
Mr. Gale	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Sullivan	✓
Mr. Tavel	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Miss Holmes	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: SAC, MOBILE (62-0)  
 RE: MELVIN BELLI  
 RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

On the evening of 10/21/68, MELVIN BELLI appeared on WALA-TV Channel 10, Mobile, Ala., in connection with his appearance before the student body at Spring Hill College, which was also scheduled for the evening of 10/21/68. BELLI was interviewed by DICK DARBY, Director, who made available a transcript of his remarks.

A transcript of BELLI's interview with Mr. DARBY is enclosed for the interest of the Bureau.

Also enclosed is an article which appeared in the 10/22/68 issue of The Mobile Register which contains BELLI's

3 - Bureau (Encs 2)  
 1 - Mobile  
 JMR:gre  
 (4)

ENCLOSURE

REC 105

EX 100

OCT 25 1968

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 6-12-80 BY SP2 TM/SMC

CRIME RESEARCH

C. S. Bishop

Approved: *Uma*

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

NOV 12 1968

MO 62-0

comments and which is similar in context to the TV appearance.  
It is pointed out that in both the TV appearance and news-  
paper article BELLI makes reference to the Director.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1B  
The Mobile Register  
Mobile, Alabama

Date: 10/22/68  
Edition: Final  
Author: Frye Gaillard  
Editor: Fallon Trotter

Submitting Office: Mobile

☐ Being Investigated

FAMOUS LAWYER HERE, World famous in all circles, Mr. Bell, expressed his viewpoint on a wide variety of subjects in a Press Register interview in Mobile. Mr. Bell was in the Port City to address the students of Spring Hill College. His speech was sponsored by the Student Government Association, headed by Jim Page.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-19-90 BY SP2TRP/Em

ENCLOSURE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



## Noted Trial Lawyer In Mobile For College Address

# Belli Not Shy Politically —Or Otherwise

By FRYE CHILLARD  
Register Staff Reporter

Meivin Belli is not a shy man. The famed trial lawyer has definite views on a wide variety of subjects, and he doesn't care who knows what they are.

For example, there is no ambiguity in his feelings about Republican presidential candidate Richard Nixon. He can't stand him. "There is no such thing as the new Nixon," Belli told the Press Register Monday. "It is just a case of Trickier Dick."

"To know Nixon is to distrust

him," Belli continued. "Those who know him distrust him most of all."

Third party presidential candidate George C. Wallace is also on Belli's blacklist, although the lawyer regards him more highly than Nixon.

"I'd rather have Wallace than Nixon (as president)," Belli asserted. "At least we know where he stands. We know he is no good, and we know how to handle him."

The internationally known attorney said Vice President

Hubert Humphrey is his choice for president. But he said Humphrey should cut himself loose from President Johnson's "umbilical cord."

"Johnson's presidency has been a horrible experience for the country," Belli elaborated. "There will never be another Southern president any time soon because people will remember LBJ came from the South."

### GREATEST THREAT

Belli said he views organized

crime as the greatest threat to law in America. "Hypocrites like J. Edgar Hoover have attempted to dupe the American people with catch phrases about crime in the streets," Belli maintained. "Hoover knows the extent of organized crime and who the leaders are, and yet he won't crack down."

The attorney charged that Hoover has criticized the U.S. Supreme Court because "he wants to use the lash" on people accused of crimes.

"He doesn't realize that

perisons have a front and a back door," Belli added. "People are supposed to go out as well as come in."

Belli views recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions concerning arrest and evidence as positive steps toward the rule of law in the United States.

He said he believes the decisions have created "The Law Revolution" (the title of his next book) which makes this "the age of the trial lawyer."

(Page 8, Col. 5, BELLI)

## Belli

"The position of the trial lawyer is this—he is more important than doctors, priests or the president," Belli asserted. "He safeguards liberties and freedom."

"It doesn't matter who is elected president," he added. "Whoever it is will not be able to undermine America's legal institutions. We lawyers will not let them."

Belli was scornful of statements by Wallace that he would alter directions of rulings by the Supreme Court. "Wallace knows he can't curb the power of the court. He's an intelligent man. He knows the principal of judicial review goes all the way back to Marbury vs. Madison (a landmark court ruling handed down when John Marshall was chief justice early in the 19th century.)"

The attorney explained that he felt "crime in the streets" will cease to become a serious problem.

He said he views it primarily as a manifestation of "anger on the part of the black man."

"Really it goes back to the Civil War," Belli continued. "We are finally coming to a national shakedown after the war, but we are coming through it beautifully."

Belli has offices in San Francisco, Tokyo, Rome and Frankfurt, Germany. One of his partners in the Frankfurt firm is another famed American lawyer, F. Lee Bailey.

Belli has represented such figures as Jerry Rubin (leader of the Yippies), Raymond Burr (television's Perry Mason), Jack Ruby (accused slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald) and other well-known personalities.

He said he views Rubin as "an ebullient young rebel" who acts on his own "with no direction from any foreign power."

Burr, according to Belli, has absorbed a great deal of legal knowledge through his role as attorney Perry Mason.

Belli himself hopes to absorb a little acting ability from some of his clients. He says he will

play a role in an upcoming movie about his life.

In the movie, he will play a dishonest insurance broker.

The attorney was in Mobile Monday for a speech at Spring Hill College. His appearance was sponsored by the Student Government Association, the same group which will sponsor a debate between LSD advocate Timothy Leary and a medical doctor Nov. 11.

10  
11  
12 Mr. Darby: Mr. Belli, the nation became quite aware of you  
13 during your defense in the Jack Ruby situation.  
14 Today, in this election year, law and order has become a  
15 major issue. Most of the people think it has gotten com-  
16 pletely out of hand. As a defense attorney, how have the  
17 new Supreme Court rulings affected you, sir?

18  
19 Mr. Belli: Well, they haven't affected me as much as they  
20 have affected everybody who has ever wanted  
21 protection for the man on the street. We are not coddling  
22 criminals, we are protecting the accused. The thing that  
23 bothers me is the hypocrisy -- worrying about all this crime  
24 in the streets, so called, when all the big boys, all the  
25 gangsters, all the Mafia, all the rest of them -- there is  
26 nothing being done about them at all. And we know who they  
27 are -- Edgar Hoover knows who they are -- and if he'd stop  
28 talking about the little fellow in the streets and applying  
29 the law so heavily and go after some of the Mafia and the  
30 black hand boys I think he'd do a hell of a lot more for the  
31 good of this country than all these bleatings about the  
32 Supreme Court. I think he's one of the most unpatriotic  
33 individuals in America today with his criticism of the United  
34 States Supreme Court at snide commencement day addresses.

35  
36 Mr. Darby: If you had the opportunity to make one predic-  
37 tion regarding law and order, what would you  
38 say?

39  
40 Mr. Belli: I'd say the Supreme Court's going along the way  
41 it is regardless of who is the President. I  
42 would think that our country would go along the way it is  
43 regardless of who is the President because the most important  
44 man in the country today is not the President of the United  
45 States, he's the trial lawyer and I think that your future  
46 depends upon the trial lawyer to protect your rights. I  
47 don't care whether your Governor is going to be President,  
48 or whether Mr. Nixon, whom I don't like, is President, or  
49 Mr. Humphrey. Regardless of who he is going to be, the per-  
50 petuation of our institutions is in the hands of the trial  
51 lawyer and he's a damnably important individual in this  
52 country.

53  
54 Mr. Darby: Thank you very much, sir.

55 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
56 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
57 DATE 6-12-80 BY SP2TAP/LA

105-49865-51  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
ENCLOSURE



FBI

Date:

10/28/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (62-0)

RE: ~~██████████~~ H. W. GILL, aka  
Mrs. Elsie C. Gill  
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS) *b7C*

Attached is newspaper article which appeared in the Sunday, 10/27/68, issue of the Mobile Press Register, Mobile, Ala.

Mrs. H. W. GILL is identical with Mrs. HARRY W. (ELSIE C.) GILL, 10 Houston St., Mobile, Ala. 36606. She is Corresponding Secretary for the Forum for the Republic, before which group ASAC JOHN M. REED spoke on 9/12/68. (See Mobile letter, 9/4/68)

Mrs. GILL's comments are in connection with MELVIN BELLI's recent visit to Mobile. This article was sent to the Bureau by airtel dated 10/22/68.

Mobile files contain no derogatory information concerning Mrs. GILL. She is known to be a staunch supporter of the FBI and of the Director, as evidenced from the attached letter, and it is recommended that a letter be directed to her.

3 - Bureau (Enc  
1 - Mobile  
JMR:gre  
(4)

ENCLOSURE

REC 46

NOV 1 1968

COPIES DESTROYED

9 25 AUG 28 1972

Approved: *Wm*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-12-20 BY SP1AP/Kan

61 NOV 14 1968

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**Belli And Hoover**

The Editor,

Dear Sir: Although a reporter described Mr. Melvin Belli, recent guest speaker to Spring Hill College here, as a "famed trial lawyer," one feels inclined to question the man's wisdom and his knowledge of his government's department of law and order, by reason of his public statements concerning our chief of the FBI.

When this reportedly famous wizard on the finer points of the law, intimates that J. Edgar Hoover is a hypocrite and is delinquent in his duties concerning the problem of rising crime in our nation, he evidently is woefully lacking in knowledge as to what the assignment of the Federal Bureau of Investigation really is.

By orders of our federal government, it is Mr. Hoover's job to get the facts in cases coming under federal jurisdiction, and to locate the culprits; after which he is equally duty-bound to turn his findings over to the Department of Justice. Thus, Mr. Hoover's job is primarily one of investigation and of the apprehension of the offenders; and his record in this line of duty is magnificent and above reproach.

Should Mr. Hoover undertake to prosecute the case or to insist on seeing to it that proper punishment is administered, he would indeed be overstepping his bounds.

Therefore, in view of this state of affairs, it is not only unjust but also indicative of extremely poor judgment in midst of the present crisis in our land for this Mr. Belli to criticize our wonderful chief of the FBI.

MRS. H. WY GILL  
10 Houston St.  
Mobile

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 6-A  
Mobile Press  
Register,  
Mobile, Alabama

Date: 10/27/68  
Edition: Sunday  
Author: Mrs. H. W. Gill  
Editor: Fallon Trotter  
Title: "Letters to the Editor"

Character: 62-0

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Mobile

☐ Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

105-49865-52

Mobile, Alabama  
October 2, 1968

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

Editor  
Mobile Press Register  
Mobile, Alabama 36602

Dear Sir:

Although a press reporter has described Mr. Melvin Belli, recent guest speaker to Spring Hill College here, as a "famed trial lawyer", one feels inclined to question the man's wisdom and his knowledge of his government's department of law and order, by reason of his public statements concerning our Chief of the FBI.

When this reportedly famous wizard on the finer points of the law, intimates that J. Edgar Hoover is a hypocrite and is delinquent in his duties concerning the problem of rising crime in our nation, he evidently is woefully lacking in knowledge as to what the assignment of the Federal Bureau of Investigation really is.

By orders of our Federal Government, it is Mr. Hoover's job to get the facts in cases coming under Federal jurisdiction, and to locate the culprits; after which he is equally duty bound to turn his findings over to the Department of Justice. Thus, Mr. Hoover's job is primarily one of investigation and of the apprehension of the offenders; and his record in this line of duty is magnificent and above reproach.

Should Mr. Hoover undertake to prosecute the case or to insist on seeing to it that proper punishment is administered, he would indeed be over-stepping his bounds.

Therefore, in view of this state of affairs, it is not only unjust and un-patriotic, but it is also indicative of extremely poor judgement, in midst of the present crisis in our land, for this Mr. Belli to criticize our wonderful Chief of the FBI. Such mouthings are bound to bring comfort to the communists, the dupes, dopes and their fellow travellers in our nation.

If our "famed trial lawyer" is really concerned about crime in America, let us suggest that he aim his criticisms at the real basis of our problem - a Supreme Court and a U.S. Attorney General who consistently decide in favor of the enemy.

Patriotically yours

cc: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

Mrs. H. W. Gill  
10 Houston Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36606

Mrs Gill

105-49865-3

REC-14

18 OCT 25 1968

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-18-80 BY SP1/raj/8m

CORRESPONDENCE  
PERS. FILE

# THE MOBILE REGISTER

MOBILE, PRICHARD, CHICKASAW, ALABAMA, TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 22, 1968

Noted Trial Lawyer In Mobile For College Address

## Belli Not Shy Politically— Or Otherwise



**AMED LAWYER HERE**—World-famous trial lawyer Mel Belli expounds his viewpoint on a wide variety of subjects in a Press Register interview in Mobile Monday. Belli was in the Port City to address the students of Spring Hill College. His speech was sponsored by the Student Government Association, headed by Jim Page.

By FRYE GAILLARD  
Register Staff Reporter

Melvin Belli is not a shy man. The famed trial lawyer has definite views on a wide variety of subjects, and he doesn't care who knows what they are.

For example, there is no ambiguity in his feelings about Republican presidential candidate Richard Nixon. He can't stand him. "There is no such thing as the new Nixon," Belli told the Press Register Monday. "It is just a case of Trickier Dick." "To know Nixon is to distrust

him," Belli continued. "Those who know him distrust him most of all."

Third party presidential candidate George C. Wallace is also on Belli's blacklist, although the lawyer regards him more highly than Nixon.

"I'd rather have Wallace than Nixon (as president)," Belli asserted. "At least we know where he stands. We know he is no good, and we know how to handle him."

The internationally known attorney said Vice President

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-18-90

SP2TAP/SM

105-49865-53

ENCLOSURE

10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62

Hubert Humphrey is his choice for president. But he said Humphrey should cut himself loose from President Johnson's "umbilical cord."

"Johnson's presidency has been a horrible experience for the country," Belli elaborated. "There will never be another Southern president any time soon because people will remember LBJ came from the South."

#### GREATEST THREAT

Belli said he views organized

crime as the greatest threat to law in America. "Hypocrisies like J. Edgar Hoover have attempted to dupe the American people with catch phrases about crime in the streets," Belli maintained. "Hoover knows the extent of organized crime and who the leaders are, and yet he won't crack down."

The attorney charged that Hoover has criticized the U.S. Supreme Court because "he wants to use the lash" on people accused of crimes.

"He doesn't realize that

prisons have a front and a back door," Belli added. "People are supposed to go out as well as come in."

Belli views recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions concerning arrest and evidence as positive steps toward the rule of law in the United States.

He said he believes the decisions have created "The Law Revolution" (the title of his next book) which makes this "the age of the trial lawyer."

(Page 8, Col. 5, BELLI)

5  
10  
1  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100

Belli 10/27/68

From Page 1

"The position of the trial lawyer is this—he is more important than doctors, priests or the president," Belli asserted. "He safeguards liberties and freedom."

"It doesn't matter who is elected president," he added. "Whoever it is will not be able to undermine America's legal institutions. We lawyers will not let them."

Belli was scornful of statements by Wallace that he would alter directions of rulings by the Supreme Court. "Wallace knows he can't curb the power of the court. He's an intelligent man. He knows the principal of judicial review goes all the way back to Marbury vs. Madison (a landmark court ruling handed down when John Marshall was chief justice early in the 19th century.)"

The attorney explained that he felt "crime in the streets" will cease to become a serious problem.

He said he views it primarily as a manifestation of "anger on the part of the black man."

"Really it goes back to the Civil War," Belli continued. "We are finally coming to a national shakedown after the war, but we are coming through it beautifully."

Belli has offices in San Francisco, Tokyo, Rome and Frankfurt, Germany. One of his partners in the Frankfurt firm is another famed American lawyer, F. Lee Bailey.

Belli has represented such figures as Jerry Rubin (leader of the Yippies), Raymond Burr, television's Perry Mason, Jack Ruby (accused slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald) and other well-known personalities.

He said he views Rubin as "an ebullient young rebel" who on his own "with no direction from any foreign power."

Burr, according to Belli, has absorbed a great deal of legal knowledge through his role as attorney Perry Mason.

Belli himself hopes to absorb little acting ability from some of his clients. He says he will

play a role in an upcoming movie about his life.

In the movie, he will play a dishonest insurance broker.

The attorney was in Mobile Monday for a speech at Spring Hill College. His appearance was sponsored by the Student Government Association, the same group which will sponsor a debate between LSD advocate Timothy Leary and a medical doctor Nov. 11.

October 31, 1968

REC-14

105-49865-53

ST-138

Mrs. H. W. Gill  
10 Houston Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36606

Dear Mrs. Gill:

The copy of your letter dated October 24th addressed to the Editor of the "Mobile Press Register," together with the clipping you enclosed from the October 22nd issue of that paper, has been received. It was certainly thoughtful of you to furnish these to me and I want to express my appreciation for your kind comments regarding my work.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 4  
OCT 31 1968  
COMM-FBI

- Mobile - Enclosure

[REDACTED]

WMG:cam (5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-10-80 BY SP2TAP/Em

9 NOV 15 1968



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b1 with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
\_\_\_\_\_

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



# Belli Talks on TV To 'Zodiac' Caller

A-4 By Dave Smith  
Los Angeles Times

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 22

A man who said he is the Zodiac killer repeatedly phoned a television talk show here today to arrange a secret meeting with attorney Melvin Belli.

Belli kept the date but the mysterious caller did not.

Police declined to speculate whether the bizarre phone calls were really from the killer of five or from a sick prankster.

The dramatic series of contacts began with a phone call to police at 2 a.m.

The caller demanded that either Belli or Boston attorney F. Lee Bailey—both figures in celebrated murder cases—appear on the morning talk show of disc jockey Jim Dunbar on KGO-TV.

Police phoned Belli, who went to the studio as ordered. Shortly after the show began at 6:30 a.m. the first call came through.

While thousands of breakfasting bay area residents listened, a soft, sometimes muffled voice told Dunbar, "I'll kill" unless he could speak to Belli.

Belli was put on the line, and the voice said, "I want help."

Then began a series of 13 abrupt conversations in which the caller identified himself as the Zodiac and also said his name was "Sam."

When Belli attempted to draw the caller into conversation, he was repeatedly cut short as the man gave one-word and two-word answers, then slammed

the phone, then called back.

In another short conversation, Belli asked, "What is your problem?"

"I don't want to go to the gas chamber . . . I have headaches . . ."

"How long?"

"Since I killed a kid."

In still another conversation, the man's voice was extremely muffled, and Belli asked, "What's the matter?"

"My head aches. I'm so sick. I've having one of my headaches." Then the man emitted a strange noise and shouted, "I've got to kill! I've got to kill!" Then he hung up.

Both Dunbar and Belli assured the man that his calls were not being traced. Police declined to say whether that was actually the case.

Although most of the conversation was clearly audible to TV viewers, Dunbar and Belli also arranged that some calls be received on a private line.

It was in one of these short talks that Belli and the man arranged a 10:30 a.m. meeting "inside" a building in "a place that begins with 'D,'" Belli said.

Shortly before noon, police confirmed that Belli and Dunbar had gone to 6726 Mission St. in Daly City, to an office building owned by the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Crowds of police and newsmen were also on hand at the appointed hour, including television crews and police.

Belli and Dunbar waited 45 minutes, but "Sam" didn't appear.

Tolson ☒  
DeLoach ☒  
Walters ☒  
Mohr ☒  
Bishop ☒  
Casper ☒  
Callahan ☒  
Conrad ☒  
Felt ☒  
Gale ☒  
Rosen ☒  
Sullivan ☒  
Tavel ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Holmes ☒  
Gandy ☒

*This mystery will do any thing for publicity.*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP-10/1/80

The Washington Post  
Times Herald

The Washington Daily News

The Evening Star (Washington)

The Sunday Star (Washington)

Daily News (New York)

Sunday News (New York)

New York Post

The New York Times

The Sun (Baltimore)

The Daily World

The New Leader

The Wall Street Journal

The National Observer

People's World

Examiner (Washington)

Date OCT 23 1969

REC-81

105-41815-55

RECORDED

NOV 4 1969

56 NOV 7 1969

*File → Melvin Belli*



United Press International

Host Melvin Belli, right, pleads with a man named identified himself as the "Zodiac" killer of five persons, San who called a San Francisco TV station 13 times and Belli appeared on the talk show with host Jim Dunbar.

FBI

Date: 11/21/69

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Walters  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Bishop  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (80-310)

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI  
REMARKS CONCERNING DIRECTOR  
KOCO-TV (AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY)  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA  
11/20/69

MELVIN BELLI, controversial San Francisco, California, attorney and defender of JACK RUBY, slayer of President KENNEDY, assassin, is presently in Oklahoma City, where he is representing a local family in a malpractice suit being brought against the estate of a former physician.

In a television interview aired on KOCO-TV at 5 p.m., 11/20/69, BELLI, among many other gratuitous remarks, commented that FRANK SAWYER (old-time gangster and hoodlum) had been sentenced to 35 years in prison and had later been proven innocent. BELLI said that the Director in this connection commented that had SAWYER not been in prison for that particular offense, he would have been in for something else.

BELLI also remarked that in a recent book written by ALVIN KARPIS, KARPIS states that in connection with his arrest by the FBI, that the Director had waited "around the corner" until after KARPIS had been disarmed before actually making the apprehension himself. BELLI also commented, "I don't like Edgar."

Enclosed is a newspaper clipping taken from the "Oklahoma City Times" issue of 11/19/69, which reports an interview with BELLI. No comments concerning the Bureau appear in this story.

The above being furnished for Bureau's information, and Bureau will be kept advised of any other pertinent remarks made by BELLI while he remains in the Oklahoma City Division.

ENCLOSURE

Bureau (Enc. 1)

1 - Oklahoma City

LAG:mwr

(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-12-88 BY SP4TAP/CM

NOV 24 1969

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

CRIME RESEARCH

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Belli Speaks Out on Various Topics

## Hotel Service Rapped

By Mary Jo Nelson  
Melvin Belli, flamboyant San Francisco lawyer who defended Jack Ruby, slayer of President Kennedy's assassin, said today in Oklahoma City he does not approve of marijuana but thinks it is no worse than alcohol.

In the city for a legal conference, the long-haired Belli spoke out on a variety of topics.

Among other things, he says:

"It is a pity that Oklahoma City has 'so little good hotel service.'"

"He has about quit going to medical doctors but is treated instead by chiropractors."

The tobacco companies may be damaged seriously by a series of lawsuits filed by the victims of lung cancer.

And, LSD, the hallucination-producing drug, "scares me to death," but he thinks young people are beginning to turn away from it.

Belli said he found little available, first-class hotel

service after he arrived here for a pre-trial conference.

"Why doesn't a city of this size do something about that?" he asked.

Sporting his silver hair just above his collar, Belli complained that his barber cut it too short last Friday.

He said a chiropractor cured him of headaches after medical doctors failed to do so for 30 years. Now he sees a chiropractor regularly, just about every place he goes.

He thinks "quacks" could help the legal profession also, adding: "That's why I'm so successful."

Belli said he does not approve of young people's use of marijuana.

"But neither do I approve of their parents getting stoned on bourbon. I do feel the kids have a point. They're unhappy about their parents' drunkenness. And the parents who have a cocktail hour every night are all equipped to set examples

for their children."

Belli said LSD and other drugs are a menace to young people, but he said most of the students in his law class at the University of California use marijuana habitually.

"I think this is not as bad as getting drunk on liquor, because marijuana is not habit forming, there is no hangover and it doesn't lead to something stronger."

Belli thinks liquor ads in American publications "are an affront to all of us."

He also dislikes tobacco, and finds it "utterly amazing" that more lawsuits have not been filed by families of cancer victims. He predicted one good lawsuit won in such a case would set off a chain that could seriously hurt the tobacco companies.

Belli is representing Mr. and Mrs. Bill Dane and their young daughters in three lawsuits filed against the estate of the late Dr. Robert D. McKee. The Danes seek to recover judgments totaling \$1 million. They claim the child is seriously handicapped because Dr. McKee failed to give Mrs. Dane proper pre-natal care before her birth.

The trial will be held next month before Judge Jack R. Parr.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

26 Oklahoma City Times  
Oklahoma City

Date: 11-19-69  
Edition: Evening  
Author: Mary Jo Nelson  
Editor: Charles L. Bennett  
Title: Ben K. West

Character:

or

Classification: 80-310

Submitting Office: Oklahoma City

☐ Being Investigated

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-17-80 BY SP1281/9m

105-4905-56 ENCLOSURE



41 Melvin Belli, right, talks with Floyd Martin, Oklahoma City lawyer.  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62

August 13, 1970

105-49865-

Mr. Sidney Levin  
Executive Vice President and  
General Manager  
WKAT Radio Station  
1759 Bay Road  
Miami, Florida 33139

PERS. REC. UNIT

Dear Mr. Levin:

Your letter of August 5th concerning  
comments made about me over your station has been  
received. While I appreciate your offer of time for  
rebuttal, I feel that these scurrilous charges should  
not be dignified by a reply.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

- 1 - Miami - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (detached)
- 1 - Mr. Bishop (detached)
- 1 - Miss Gandy (detached)
- 1 - Miss Holmes (detached)
- 1 - M. A. Jones (detached)

NOTE: See M. A. Jones to Bishop Memo dated 8-13-70, captioned,  
"Melvin M. Belli, Criticism of Director and FBI."

LSL:paa (9)

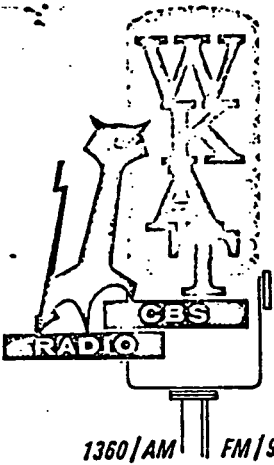
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAP/EM

ORIGINAL FILED IN 94-409865

SENT DIRECTOR  
FOR APPROVAL  
8-13-70

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

60 SEP 1 1970



# The Talk of Miami

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Walters	_____
Mr. Soyars	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

August 5, 1970

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

On Tuesday afternoon, August 4, at approximately 6:15 P.M., in the midst of an interview; Mr. Melvin Belli, Attorney at Law, made remarks which we have construed to be a personal attack on you.

In the highest tradition of fair play, we are enclosing a tape recording of those remarks and offer you a reasonable amount of time on this radio station to respond.

We are very anxiously looking forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

105-49865-

NOT RECORDED

183 AUG 24 1970

Sidney Levin  
Executive Vice-President  
and General Manager

Enclosure

SL/rd

*Detached 8*  
*ms w*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TDP/CAE  
PERS. REC. DATE

4 AUG 20 1970

CORRESPONDENCE

Mailing List

ORIGINAL FILED IN 94-49865-



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop *[initials]*

FROM : M. A. Jones *[initials]*

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
CRITICISM OF DIRECTOR  
AND FBI

DATE: 8-13-70

*126*

*[Handwritten signature]*

Tolson *[initials]*  
Sullivan *[initials]*  
Mohr *[initials]*  
Brennan, C.D. *[initials]*  
Callahan *[initials]*  
Casper *[initials]*  
Conrad *[initials]*  
Felt *[initials]*  
Gale *[initials]*  
Rosen *[initials]*  
Tavel *[initials]*  
Walters *[initials]*  
Soyars *[initials]*  
Tele. Room *[initials]*  
Holmes *[initials]*  
Gandy *[initials]*

By letter dated August 5th, Mr. Sidney Levin, Radio Station WKAT, Miami, Florida, forwarded a tape of an interview of Melvin Belli by an unidentified WKAT announcer which Mr. Levin considered a personal attack on the Director and he offered time for the Director to reply to these charges.

A review of this tape indicates it was a telephonic interview of Belli concerning the remarks by President Nixon concerning the Manson murder trial. Belli was extremely critical of the President's remarks and said the explanation offered by Ronald Zeigler was ridiculous. He said that Nixon had come from behind his mask and revealed that it was he, and not Mitchell, who was attacking the judicial system and attempting to downgrade our institutions. He said that one is not supposed to talk about Mr. Hoover and motherhood, but Mr. Hoover is doing more to damage the Country than anyone he could think of with his attacks on the Supreme Court. He said he realized that the Director had taken over a corrupt organization and built it into a fine one but this was exactly the danger because he now thinks his word is law. He referred to the "villainous semantics" of the Director in saying that justice was not a part of law and order.

## INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-17-80 BY SP1RAP/CA

Belli, a San Francisco attorney, is considered one of the most notorious charlatans of the legal profession. He feeds on publicity and has provoked much controversy by his repeated attacks against the FBI as well as a number of other prominent National officials and institutions. In the past we have not dignified his charges with a reply and it is felt we should not do so in this instance.

*675*

*[Large black redaction box]*

## Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Bishop - Enclosure
- 1 - Miss Gandy - Enclosure

- 1 - Miss Holmes - Enclosure
- 1 - M. A. Jones - Enclosure

SENT DIRECTOR FOR APPROVAL  
8-13-70

CONTINUED - OVER

CRIME RECORDS UNIT

LSL:paa (7)

AUG 21 1970

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 94-42986-1



0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10 M. A. Jones to Bishop Memo  
11 RE: MELVIN M. BELL  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62

67C  
RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to Mr. Levin.

TEBker  
L. J. Jones Wel

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

DATE: 10-14-70

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: APPEARANCE OF MELVIN BELLI, ATTORNEY, ON  
THE DAVID FROST SHOW, TELEVISION STATION  
WTTG, CHANNEL 5, 8:30 P.M., TUESDAY, 10/13/70  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Walters \_\_\_\_\_  
Soyars \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Belli was one of two guests appearing on captioned's show which was monitored by SA [REDACTED]. No reference was made to the FBI or to the Director but Belli, in discussion with Frost, made the following remarks of interest to the Bureau.

Belli discussed wire tapping briefly and stated he still believed that wire tapping was morally and legally wrong and that it "stinks of spying." He stated he believed that a man's home is his castle and that the police have enough going for them that they do not need to wire tap. There was a discussion about the waste of manpower in maintaining taps and Belli wondered how many men down in Washington were listening to dirty conversations at the present time.

In addition, he referred to a former Chief of Police in Los Angeles, not identifying him, who had a dossier on everyone on the West Coast. Belli said he could not understand why the collection of such information was necessary.

## RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. Bishop  
1 - Mr. Casper  
1 - M. A. Jones

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TRP/CA

CRIME RESEARCH

LMG:dkg (7)

EX-103 REC-2

105-49865-50  
9 OCT 20 1970

192

M&#39;e&#39;

11  
192 rt (Mo)ipping Below

Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Walters  
Mr. Snyers  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

# Belli on Hoover

Melvin Belli came to town the other day and casually slandered three American presidents. The lawyer's thesis: that J. Edgar Hoover keeps his job only because he knows dark secrets about his superiors.

"How much he has got on the present guy (Nixon) I don't know," Belli said. "The reason the Kennedys didn't get him out of there and Johnson didn't get him out of there is that he had too much on both of them. The reason that politicians don't go after him is that he just knows too much."

What could they be, those evil deeds of Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon, that are so terrible they enable the FBI director to blackmail the White House? What are the crimes or indiscretions that Belli so matter-of-factly attributes to three successive presidents?

The world will never know, at least from Melvin Belli, because as seems to be customary in attacks on Hoover and the FBI, no facts were offered in evidence.

Hoover, said Belli, has criticized the United States Supreme Court as being a "bunch of Communists."

When? Where? What is the source of this quotation? Again, no evidence — merely an unsupported assertion.

One would think, after the acute embarrassment of Rep. Hale Boggs and the lesser embarrassment of Sen. Muskie, that prominent figures would be less careless in their remarks about a respected public official.

But the innuendoes, distortions, deceptions and plain lies continue. And we continue to wonder: Where now is the showing of fair-minded outrage brought forth by such excesses as those committed by the late Sen. Joe McCarthy? Does the acceptability of the Big Lie technique depend on the identity of the victim? In some quarters the capacity for indignation appears to be highly selective.

Belli is a well known "ass"!

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

W. A. Jones

24  
Omaha World-Herald  
Omaha, Nebraska  
Date: 5-4-71  
Edition: Metropolitan  
Author:  
Editor: Keith Wilson  
Title:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-19-80 BY SP-1/KAN

Submitting Office: OMAHA  
☐ Being Investigated

REC-66 105-17865-59

JUL 23 1971

0  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100

JUL 27 1971

252

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*Memorandum*

ca = y 2#39; 8#39;  
- 1#1 5#92

[REDACTED]

1#1 5#92

5

5#22"

2#39;

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Director, FBI

DATE: 6/2/69

SAC, Honolulu (62-0-2686)

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
DEROGATORY COMMENTS MADE REGARDING  
FBI AND THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

As a result of information provided the Honolulu Office to the effect that MELVIN BELLI had made some derogatory remarks regarding the FBI and the Director in a broadcast on station KHON-TV, [REDACTED] was contacted.

[REDACTED] was again contacted, as a result of which contact on 5/29/69 he provided a tape of BELLI's comments on 5/5/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau is a copy of the tape made by the Honolulu FBI Office. Following is a transcription of pertinent portions:

"You talk to any good cop and he'll tell you that he can work and live with Escobido, and he likes Escobido. Escobido being a case, of course, you've got to advise a man that he has a lawyer and doesn't have to say anything without the presence of a lawyer, and they'll get you one if you don't have the funds. I was over in Vietnam not long ago as a guest of the Government and I saw a little practice Escobido up there in the front lines. You have a man in combat before the company commander can ask that man, if he's going to accuse him, 'why are you lagging behind,' he's got to say I'll furnish you a lawyer. And I say I go back home and tell this to the people and they'll think that we've carried it to its utter sublime ridiculous. But they said that thing's given us more morale over here - that due process has followed the troops. And we don't need the fellow to prove what happened - the company commander has seen it. So why not stick with our original basic premise that we're an accusatorial society - you've got to accuse and the state has to prove a man guilty rather than inquisitorial. We're going to have the

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1) ENCLOSURE

1 - San Francisco (info)

1 - Honolulu

54 JUN 20 1969

IFW:pio

REC-24

17 JUN 5 1969

X-1 Control Area 6/1/69

EXP. PROC.

JUN 5 1969

IFW:pio

HN 62-0-2686

Spanish Inquisition and the continental system here - we don't want that. I think more than ever, with all of these wiretapping devices and everything else that are being used despite the law - I think the FBI's breaking the law much more than some of these hoods.

"Q: What about this on the national level? The Department of Justice says that it needs this evidence in order to convict the men who are running organized crime.

"That's a lot of hogwash! And I think Hoover's just as dishonest as Dick Tracy is. They come up with they need all of this evidence. You know and I know down in the bookstore in this hotel we can go down and get the Green Felt Jungle, we can get books, we can get Life Magazines, that give us a blueprint who are the hoods and who are doing these things. And if Mr. Hoover doesn't know - I can tell him. He's pick up a number of other guys who can tell him. He's got it all in his files and he doesn't need wiretapping. What he wants to do is to make a national police force and give the national police force the right of invading our privacy in civil as well as criminal matters. And with government by expedience and with the population explosion, I think it's one thing we have to be more careful of than anything else, and I hope that the present administration doesn't get the idea that we ought to have wiretapping, that we ought to give Hoover more powers, and that we are coddling criminals. We're not."

The Bureau and San Francisco Office are being advised of BELLI's comments so that they can be aware of his attitude towards the Bureau in possible future contacts.

# Santa Cruz D.A. to Ask New Vice Probe; Denies Misconduct Charges

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

By ERNEST LENN  
Examiner Staff Writer

SANTA CRUZ, Dec. 8.—District Attorney Charles Moore today lashed back at the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury which accused him of misconduct in office by asserting he would call the body into session for a new investigation of vice, bribery and extortion.

Moore's announcement came on the heels of his appearance in superior court, where he indignantly denied "each and every accusation" leveled against him by the grand jury and aimed at his ouster from office.

The district attorney said he would call upon the grand jury to begin the new inquiry early next week.

Moore declared that new information concerning conditions had come to his attention in recent days, and indicated he intended to press hard for indictments.

## CITES BAR PAYMENT.

Although Moore declined to pinpoint the new material, he says he has, he declared flatly that it concerned "vice, bribery and extortion." In the only specific instance he cited, Moore said he would seek indictments involving a Watsonville bar operator whom he said has been paying a Watsonville policeman \$20 a week.

That payment, Moore reiterated, was for "protection" from police "interference."

Moore also snapped back at inferences by the State attorney general's office that the district attorney was "overrating" the alleged conditions. He is prepared to document and to back up his charges, Moore said.

Moore's announcement of the new grand jury inquiry highlighted a day in which fresh turmoil was injected into the long sizzling countywide controversy. There were, these other developments:

1—Moore's former aide, Raymond Jehl, and Sam Milano, a pinball distributor, also appeared before Superior Judge James Atteridge and issued blanket denials to bribery and extortion charges brought by the grand jury.

2—Moore's defense counsel, fighting the misconduct

charges against the district attorney, began issuing subpoenas to a large number of county residents, including two police chiefs, two former operators of houses of prostitution, and three members of the grand jury. Depositions aimed presumably at supporting Moore's vice charges, are to be sought.

## SEPARATE ACTION.

Moore and his attorneys, Melvin M. Belli of San Francisco and James Boccardo of San Jose, made it clear that they regarded the two forthcoming activities as separate undertakings.

In spearheading the grand jury inquiry, the attorneys said, Moore will be acting to "discharge the duties of his office."

In issuing subpoenas for depositions, they added, the attorneys are acting as the district attorney's defense counsel.

But there also were indications that a rough road lies ahead. Sources close to the grand jury indicated that body may balk at undertaking a new inquiry and broad hints were dropped around the courthouse that Judge Atteridge may have something to say about the materiality of the depositions.

The appearance of Moore, Jehl and Milano in superior Court here brought the controversy in which the youthful prosecutor finds himself to a new high.

## CHARGES MADE.

Jehl, the district attorney's former consultant on vice conditions in the county, and Milano, the pinball game distributor, were charged with bribery and extortion.

Both pleaded not guilty and their trial was set for January 4. Their indictment grew out of testimony before the grand jury including the charge that Milano gave Jehl \$4,000 to "protect" Milano's pinball machines.

Moore was arraigned on a non-criminal accusation of misconduct in office that could result in his removal from office if he is found guilty.

It was brought by the grand jury before which he appeared shortly after he took office last January to charge that vice was flourishing in the county.

Subsequently Moore accused three members of the jury, Foreman Carlyle Blodgett,

T.I.F. - SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER  
San Francisco, Calif.  
December 9, 1955  
Page 2 Col. 1,2,3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 11 1955	
FBI - SAN FRANCISCO	

8 JAN 11 1956

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

## **Brown re-affirms a pledge**

"I am doing an honest job and a good job. I will never do anything to make my wife and seven kids or my supporters ashamed of me."

"A sheriff in this county can become independently wealthy in just one year," Brown bluntly stated. "This I will never do."

"I am living on my salary, which I said I would do. This is not easy as there are lots of additional expenses as a public official that I hadn't figured on."

The sheriff said he has just borrowed money to paint his house and he is paying off a new car. He added that he has not yet been able to pay George Newell the funds advanced during the campaign but he certainly intends to do so.

Brown disclosed that so far he has turned over to the county about \$7,000 which he is legally entitled to keep as part of his sheriff's fees. He is the first sheriff in this county to do so. Other sheriffs in non-chartered counties currently keep these funds, as allowed by state law.

Brown said he has learned a lot since January.

## **School of hard knocks**

"I have learned not to knock my head against a stone wall in trying to get things done. Martinez has taught me a lot. I am going slower."

He added there are many things yet to be changed in his department. He emphasized the need for a new prison farm, which could be completely self-supporting and even raise food for the county hospital and juvenile home.

The water at the present farm is contaminated, he said, and it costs the county \$60 a day to bring in water. Prisoners carry water to their barracks from the tank in tin cans and guards bring water in thermos jugs from their homes. Farm facilities are inadequate and the county should be ashamed of it.

Brown stated he is trying to get the county to act on this and other problems.



Neuron Time Press Keller

10-13-11

I note in your Thursday edition of the Detroit Free Press and article by Melvin Belli headed: "Hoover Runs F. B. I. Like Personal Fief," wherein he takes a wholly unwarranted swipe at J. Edgar Hoover and the way he runs the F. B. I.

This is but one of hundreds of attempts by certain high up government officials and others with a political pull to curb Hoover's operation of the F. B. I., and to make him subservient to their wishes. So far they have failed and Hoover runs that huge organization as it should be run. These political bandits would like to make Hoover submissive to their will and to go lightly on certain cases because of the influence they allegedly hold with the voters, which in most cases is purely illusive.

Hoover however pays little attention to these requests whether they come from high-up officials or from elsewhere, and runs the department as he thinks it should be run.

So far in the thirty or forty years he has been at the head of this great organization there has never been a scandal or a question of influence, and that riles the big shots. When they find out they can't run the F. B. I. their next move is to try and unseat Hoover, which usually runs a certain course and then dies out.

Hoover runs this department so efficiently that no President had dared remove him. The public would rise up in wrath at any such attempt. They insist that the big shots, in government and out, leave him alone and let him run the department, as others run theirs. The public has confidence in Hoover. They show none to his detractors.

They should know enough by this time to let well enough alone.



b7c

65815-1

fm

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Wick

DATE: 2-25-66

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: "PLAYBOY" MAGAZINE  
MARCH, 1966  
PANEL DISCUSSION:  
CRISIS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Captioned magazine (attached) includes a panel discussion on alleged infringement of constitutional rights of individuals. Taking part are shyster lawyer, Melvin Bell; subversive pervert, Bayard Rustin; disgraced ex-Agent, William Turner; American Civil Liberties Union Executive Director, John Pemberton, Jr.; Judge George Neighton of Chicago; the notorious literary Fred Cook, as well as Northwestern University's Fred Inbau and Joseph Lohman of the University of California School of Criminology.

As expected, all but Inbau and Lohman bitterly attack law enforcement with emphasis on their own particular complaints. Some of the strongest references emanate from ex-Agent Turner, who criticizes law enforcement in general and the FBI in particular on such points as alleged illegal arrests, wire tapping, overemphasis on statistical accomplishments, abuse of civil liberties, invasion of privacy and polygraph use.

The "Playboy" spokesman ridicules the upswing in crimes and attempts to establish the point that the Director and others who abhor "coddling of criminals" are at war with those who support civil liberties. One main point of discussion revolves about the interrogation of suspects with and without an attorney.

Some highlights of points discussed are as follows:

Inbau and Lohman feel recent Supreme Court decisions re individual rights have crippled law enforcement. The rest of the panel vehemently argue to the contrary, mentioning McNabb, Mallory, Gideon and Escobedo decisions. Methods of interrogation are discussed with the same split of opinion as previously indicated.

Pemberton rambles loudly and at length about civil liberties.

Rustin feels Negroes are victimized and tricked into confessing to crimes they did not commit. Also, that vagrancy laws and the bail bond system discriminate against the poor.

Pemberton strongly criticizes the "stop-and-frisk" statutes, Inbau vigorously supports these where reasonable suspicions exist.

In discussing "no-knock-and-enter" laws, Turner mentions (page 54) an FBI motel raid where Agents allegedly shot an innocent man in the face when he did not open the door fast enough. He apparently refers to an incident on 2-12-53

Enclosure 53 - APR 14 1966

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Wick 1 - Mr. Gale  
1 - Mr. Callahan 1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Casper 1 - Mr. Sullivan 1 - Mr. Mohr

DeLoach  
Mohr  
Wick  
Callahan  
Casper  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

REC-52

APR 15 1966

b1 c when Los Angeles Agents raided a motel room occupied by two men believed to be badly wanted fugitive [redacted] and [redacted]. After announcing their identity, the motel occupants slammed the door, trapping an Agent's arm and one shot subsequently fired by this Agent struck one of the occupants on the bridge of the nose superficially wounding him. While a most unfortunate occurrence, the Agents' actions were not near as irresponsible as suggested in this article. H.V.

b7c F.M. Cook then makes reference to a raid in the 1930's, apparently referring to the [redacted] case.

Belli, Pemberton and Leighton decry "hysteria" over crime in the streets claiming this is overemphasized; Turner agrees, claims he made arrests as an Agent he is ashamed of just to "play a numbers game" and to justify appropriations- he suggests this could be controlled by reducing appropriations.

Cook ridicules FBI crime statistics; Inbau strongly defends them.

In discussing wiretapping, Turner says he did this in the Bureau though clearly illegal. Pemberton then quotes a (1940) statement by the Director deploring wiretapping.

Turner states that while the Bureau admits the number of wires tapped, they don't say how many "bugs" are used.

Turner, in discussing mail covers, suggests that his mail to publishers is being watched because of his criticism of the Bureau.

In discussing covert surveillances, Belli particularly criticizes "peephole" types; Turner says he has done it even though unconstitutional and "I hated it."

In discussing polygraphs, Belli states he has used them and found them valuable; Turner alleges that although the Director has stated his distrust of polygraphs, the Bureau uses them on its own personnel.

Regarding civilian police review boards, Rustin and Pemberton argue for their establishment; Inbau argues against such boards.

Belli alleges the Director and others are greedy for power and want a police state.

Leighton is highly laudatory of the Chicago Police Department as an example of great improvement. 111

#### OBSERVATIONS:

Little new in the line of criticism has been presented by this collection of misfits and there appears to be no value in debating with this magazine or this panel, all of whom except Inbau and Lohman being notably antagonistic toward the Bureau. The only dignity that might descend on this sorry group would be recognition of any type from the Bureau. The best interests of the Bureau would appear to be served by officially ignoring this cheap attempt to enmesh the Bureau in their petty grievances.

RECOMMENDATION: For information. ✓ 101 111

DO-6

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MR. TOLSON ✓  
MR. DELOACH ✓  
MR. MOHR ✓  
MR. WICK ✓  
MR. CASPER ✓  
MR. CALLAHAN ✓  
MR. CONRAD ✓  
MR. FELT ✓  
MR. GALE ✓  
MR. ROSEN ✓  
MR. SULLIVAN ✓  
MR. TAVEL ✓  
MR. TROTTER ✓  
MR. JONES ✓  
TELE. ROOM ✓  
MISS HOLMES ✓  
MRS. METCALF ✓  
MISS GANDY ✓



from A. C. SPECTORSKY

Dear Mr. Hoover:

It is our pleasure to send you  
tearsheets from the March issue  
of PLAYBOY and call your attention  
to "The Playboy Panel: Crisis In  
Law Enforcement". The members of  
the panel are Melvin Belli, Fred  
Cook, Fred Inbau, George Leighton,  
Joseph Lohman, John Pemberton, Jr.,  
Bayard Rustin and William Turner.

We would be delighted to hear --  
and would certainly value -- any  
thoughts you have concerning this  
feature which we might use in our  
Letters to the Editor column.

Cordially,

*A.C. Spector*  
A.C. Spector  
Editorial Director  
PLAYBOY

*Sanorey*  
*W. J. Sullivan*  
*W*

PLAYBOY / 232 east ohio • chicago 11

REC-9

APR 26 1966

APR 29 1966

ENCLOSURE

discussion

# THE PLAYBOY PANEL: CRISIS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

*a timely debate on civil authoritarianism and its infringement on the constitutional rights of the individual*

## PANELISTS

**MELVIN M. BELLI** gained international notoriety two years ago this month when he publicly denounced the Dallas death sentence for his client Jack Ruby, murderer of Lee Harvey Oswald, as "the shotgun justice of a kangaroo court." But Belli had already been one of the most flamboyant, contentious and able ornaments of the American bar for many years. An embattled defender of individual rights in hundreds of criminal cases and personal-injury suits—for which he pioneered six-figure awards—he is a champion of the underdog and an avowed enemy of what he calls "the fascistic cop mentality." Author of many standard texts on trial law, a frequent lecturer on courtroom procedure, a popular and outspoken guest on TV discussion shows and a contributor of polemical opinion pieces to various national magazines, he has also been the subject of a controversial *Playboy Interview* (June 1965).

**FRED COOK** is the author of 11 books and hundreds of magazine articles, many of them trenchant exposés of scandals and miscarriages of justice in the fields of law enforcement and civil liberties—labors that have earned him admirers and enemies in equal measure. Winner of the 1961 Sidney Hillman Award and three-time winner of the New York Newspaper Guild's Page One Award for his journalistic public service, he made the best-seller lists in 1964 with *The FBI Nobody Knows*, a hard-hitting documentary eye opener that punctured the popular myth of FBI expertise in spy chasing and crime detection, and deplored both the autocratic power and the right-wing political philosophy of its hitherto sacrosanct director, J. Edgar Hoover.

**FRED E. INBAU** is regarded as the nation's foremost expert on police interrogation. A onetime practicing attorney and former director of the Chicago Police Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory, he is currently a professor of law at Northwestern University and editor-in-chief of the school's *Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science*. Widely respected in police circles for his many authoritative articles and books on scientific and psychological methods of questioning criminal suspects, he is best known for his co-authorship of the definitive *Criminal Interrogation*.

**GEORGE N. LEIGHTON**, judge of the Circuit Court, Criminal Division, of Cook County (Chicago), Illinois, since 1964, has a long history of winning and making controversial decisions. In addition to numerous civil rights victories as a defense attorney in Southern courts, Leighton won freedom in 1952 for an Illinois convict after 17 years of imprisonment for a crime he didn't commit and, in a widely publicized eleventh-hour rescue, saved a condemned convict from execution in 1963. Even more celebrated was his unprecedented exoneration last year of two Puerto Rican boys charged with attacking two off-duty Chicago policemen with broken beer bottles and putting one of them in the hospital with multiple slashes on the face. His decision was based on evidence that the boys acted in self-defense when one of the policemen used excessive force in making an improper arrest—against which the citizen has a right to defend himself.

**JOSEPH D. LOHMAN**, dean of the School of Criminology on the Berkeley campus of the University of California, brings to the academic world a wealth of practical experience in law enforcement: as the former chairman of the Parole and Pardon Board of Illinois, onetime sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, and founder of the Southern Police Institute in Louisville, Kentucky. He is also a member of the President's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime, and a consultant to police departments in Chicago, Denver, Louisville, St. Paul, Washington, Pittsburgh and New Orleans.

**JOHN PEMBERTON, JR.**, is the national executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, the most militant private agency dedicated to the protection of individual rights against encroachment by authoritarian power. Among its many legal battles on behalf of minority groups and unpopular causes, the ACLU has even fought for the right of arch-reactionary right-wing groups to enjoy the constitutional privilege of free assembly at meetings where the ACLU itself has been condemned as a branch of the Communist Party—which it emphatically isn't, though it has often fought just as hard to safeguard the same right for American Reds. Pemberton is accustomed to contumely from every



**BELLI:** Peephole surveillance is utterly and completely abhorrent, totally impermissible. It's far more immoral than the immoralities it seeks to eliminate.



**RUSTIN:** No police are going to stop and frisk well-dressed bankers on Wall Street, but they don't hesitate to stop well-dressed Negro businessmen in Harlem.



**TURNER:** It's a known fact that traffic cops work on a quota system of arrests, expressed or implied. It's not so well known, but so do criminal investigators.



**INBAU:** We urgently need legislation to



**PEMBERTON:** The polygraph violates a person's right not to testify against himself. He is coerced by the threat of presumed guilt if he refuses to submit.



**LEIGHTON:** We're told crime has increased "five times faster than the population." I suspect that such statistics are issued to terrorize rather than inform the public.



**LOHMAN:** Once a man has been informed of his rights to counsel and to remain silent, the police should be permitted to interrogate him exactly as they wish.



**COOK:** This runaway increase in crime

**BAYARD RUSTIN**, executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, an activist civil rights organization, has been an articulate, versatile fighter for racial equality ever since he was youth organizer of the 1941 Negro March on Washington and first field secretary of the then newly organized Congress of Racial Equality. In the course of an energetic and checkered career, he has spent 28 months in a Federal penitentiary as a conscientious objector, led sit-ins at the British Embassy in Washington as chairman of the Free India Committee, served 30 days in a chain gang for leading a Freedom Ride through North Carolina, and helped Dr. Martin Luther King organize the historic Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott. In 1963 he was deputy director of the second March on Washington, and the following year he engineered the New York City school boycott. "His whole life," in the words of one reporter, "has been spent in a confrontation with police power."

**WILLIAM TURNER**, a former FBI agent and wire-tap expert, first came to public notice five years ago when he wrote to Senate and House committees—while still employed by the Bureau—demanding an investigation of FBI disciplinary measures. Immediately dismissed, he took to the air on both coasts to broadcast stinging criticisms of FBI policies and investigative methods. Since then, he has become a writer on modern police-science techniques for the legal and criminology press, consulting editor for *Police Science Library*, and a free-lance contributor of general articles to major national magazines—specializing, naturally enough, in investigative reportage. He is also writing a book, *In Light and Shadow*, about the boom in scientific crime-detection methods and their possible threats to civil liberties.

**PLAYBOY:** Amid a mounting chorus of ominous warnings by law-enforcement agencies of a rampaging upsurge in crime—at a rate five times faster than the national population growth, according to the FBI—the issue of "violence in the streets" has become both a tabloid catch phrase and a political football. Ignoring unequivocal statements by equally responsible authorities that the number of violent crimes, far from increasing, has actually been cut in half during the past 30 years, many pundits, prosecutors and police officials have found a convenient scapegoat in "bleeding-heart" judges—ring-led by the "liberals" on the U.S. Supreme Court—whose legal and humanitarian concern for the constitutional rights of the individual has resulted in a series of recent decisions decried by J. Edgar Hoover, among others, as a judicial campaign to "coddle criminals."

witnessed in my years of law enforcement—an overzealous pity for the criminal and an equivalent disregard for his victim."

Foremost among the historic Supreme Court decisions deplored by Hoover—and hailed by civil libertarians—are the Mapp, the McNabb-Mallory, the Gideon and the Escobedo cases, as they are popularly known. Briefly stated, the Mapp decision outlawed any use in state courts of evidence obtained by illegal house search without a warrant. In the Gideon case, the Court ruled that anyone accused of a serious offense, if unable to afford a lawyer, has a right to court-appointed counsel. The McNabb and Mallory decisions disallowed the use of confessions in Federal trials whenever Federal officers fail to bring the suspect before a magistrate "without unnecessary delay" so that he can have a preliminary hearing upon the accusation made against him. And in the widely reported case of *Escobedo vs. Illinois*, the Court voided a Chicago laborer's murder confession because police had refused to let him see his attorney before his interrogation, even though the lawyer was in the station house at the time.

Angry prosecutors have protested that almost nine out of ten convictions are based on a plea of guilty or some other form of confession. Disallowing confessions, they argue, will fatally shackle law-enforcement officers and remove the last restraints on a runaway crime wave. At loggerheads with this view are those who point to such cases as that of George Whitmore, Jr., a Negro trucker's helper, convicted and jailed in New York City in 1964 for the murder of two girls on the strength of a six-page confession, who was later proved innocent when investigative work turned up the real murderer and proved Whitmore's elaborately detailed confession to be false; and that of the knife murderer of Kitty Genovese, who carried out his crime under the eyes of 38 witnesses in Kew Gardens, Long Island; he later embarrassed police by confessing another murder to which they already held a confession from another man. Pondering how these false confessions were extracted in the first place, the public has not been reassured by declarations such as the one made last year to a *Harper's* magazine reporter by former New York City deputy police commissioner Richard Dougherty: "It is hardly news that suspects of serious crimes often get 'worked over' in the back rooms of station houses."

Who is right—the policeman who warns that we will soon be living under a rampant reign of criminal terror unless his hands are untied, or the zealous civil libertarian who declares that the police are the problem?

effect, permit any questioning, and the situation is becoming intolerable. In a recent case in Washington, D.C., for example, both the District police and the FBI were checking on a bank robbery. They got a hot tip on a suspect and information good enough to justify issuing a warrant for his arrest. After his arrest, on the way to the police station, the arresting officers stopped under a street light and questioned the suspect for a few minutes. He told them freely that he had committed the robbery, even told them where to find the gun and loot. They went there and found that he was telling the truth. But the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, acting in accordance with the McNabb-Mallory rule, held that the confession and the gun and the money could not be used as evidence against the bank robber because of the delay of mere minutes in getting him before a Federal magistrate. Common sense says the McNabb-Mallory ruling cripples law enforcement, and this is one factor that accounts for the increase in crime in the District of Columbia—and elsewhere.

LEIGHTON: Fred, you cite the increase of crime in Washington since the McNabb-Mallory decision as though one flowed from the other, but you haven't shown any cause-and-effect relationship between these two facts. Since I've been sitting on the bench of the criminal division of the Cook County Circuit Court, I have disposed of 135 cases, but in not a single one has the right to interrogate suspects been important to the prosecution of the case. In any event, these decisions are now the law of the land, and the police have no choice but to obey.

INBAU: That's the very fact I'm lamenting.

PLAYBOY: Would you favor passing legislation to grant the police broader interrogational powers than the courts now permit?

INBAU: Indeed I would. We urgently need legislation permitting police a reasonable opportunity to interrogate criminal suspects before arraignment—and without a lawyer present; for his attorney, as I said before, is going to tell him to keep his mouth shut.

LEIGHTON: But he has a perfect right to keep his mouth shut, lawyer or no lawyer. The only purpose there could be in keeping him from seeing his lawyer at that point is to keep him from knowing and exercising his constitutional right to keep his mouth shut. The major point behind these criticisms of the McNabb-Mallory, Gideon and Escobedo decisions is that the pro-police people don't want any laws of any kind to govern the conduct of the police. Do you deny that a suspect has a right to remain silent, lawyer or no lawyer?

INBAU: I feel that an accused man should

tion begins—but by the police, not an attorney.

LOHMAN: As a former police officer, I must agree that many cases warrant brief questioning before bringing the suspect to a magistrate. Once a man has been informed of his rights to counsel and to remain silent, the police should be permitted to interrogate him exactly as they wish. So long as the suspect knows of his right to remain silent, it's senseless to forbid his being interrogated.

INBAU: Let me give you an example of the atrocious damage that results from a strict application of these rules against police interrogation without the presence of an attorney. In New York several years ago a doctor was murdered and his wife was almost killed by a man who was burglarizing their house. She was taken to a hospital. In the doctor's house, police found a discarded bloody shirt. One of the doctor's white jackets was missing. Police also found a set of keys on the floor. By checking the laundry marks in the shirt, police tracked down a suspect. He had the doctor's jacket. The keys found at the scene fitted the suspect's locker. When he was taken to court and charged with the murder, he was carefully informed of his right to counsel and asked if he had a lawyer or wanted the court to appoint one. He asked for time to think it over. The judge gave him a day. Right after that court session, the police took the defendant to the hospital, where the doctor's wife identified him as the killer. He was later tried and convicted, but the Federal Court of Appeals ruled that the state had to try the man *again*, because the police had violated his rights by taking him to the hospital when he didn't have a lawyer to advise him. That kind of excessive judicial nicety is dangerous nonsense.

PEMBERTON: You seem to regard the civil liberties granted by the Bill of Rights as nit-picking technicalities. Well, they exist to protect our concept of what is decent in a civilized society. On one hand, the government represents a tremendous power with immense resources to investigate and prosecute. The individual, even the wealthiest and most powerful individual, has no comparable financial or other resources, and the indigent suspect has so little comparable power as to call it nonexistent. It is unseemly that such a powerful government should rely on an individual's own words to justify what the government has already done—that is, take him into custody and deprive him of his liberty. Let that immense power find probable cause for arrest *before* the suspect is picked up, not after. It violates our sense of decency for a powerful government to send its agents out on a dragnet sweep of a com-

munity. The accused—especially the innocent and, hence, presumably inexperienced accused—are at a disadvantage in a contest with the police and prosecutor. Without the help of an attorney learned in law and sophisticated in the ways of police tactics, the innocent suspect can be tricked into convicting himself with words from his own mouth.

RUSTIN: Let me tell you something about that cop mentality. In Harlem at least, police officers are judged in part by their record of arrests and percentage of convictions. For that reason, many juveniles, unprotected by the constitutional safeguards that adults enjoy in normal courts, are often persuaded by police to plead guilty to a lesser offense than the arresting charge even though they're completely innocent of any wrongdoing. Because these youngsters don't know their rights, they're tricked into building up the police record of arrests and convictions.

TURNER: Mr. Rustin's experience in Harlem is not unique. Virtually *all* law-enforcement agencies feather their nests with statistics. It's a known fact that traffic officers work on a quota system of arrests, expressed or implied. It's not as well known, but so do criminal investigators.

PLAYBOY: Do the rest of you gentlemen agree with Mr. Rustin's contention that juvenile-court procedures deprive teenagers of constitutional safeguards enjoyed by adults?

PEMBERTON: It's a very real problem. The American Civil Liberties Union is currently investigating the case of a juvenile in Pennsylvania who was jailed on hearsay evidence without an attorney and without being told what the charges against him were.

LOHMAN: Many agencies are studying youth courts to introduce reforms to ensure that juveniles will enjoy the same safeguards as adults. But I would not go so far as to suggest, as some have, that juvenile courts be replaced by adult courts. A few adult courts, in fact, are adopting some juvenile-court procedures. The juvenile court has shown us that wrongdoing is not always willful. We don't want to deprive youthful offenders of their civil liberties, but we must continue to treat the problem of criminal responsibility of the very young as quite different from the responsibility of the mature. Indeed, we should emphasize the difference even more than we do now.

PLAYBOY: Do you agree with those who feel that socially and economically underprivileged adult defendants are denied their constitutional rights to an even greater degree than juveniles?

LOHMAN: It is precisely to protect the liberties of the weak and the indigent that these new court decisions are being

wrong—in the view of most informed and reasonable observers. In the hope of assessing the validity of these polar views, and thus of arriving at a more realistic appraisal of the problem, *PLAYBOY* has convened this panel of well-known authorities on law enforcement—representing every shade of opinion—for a discussion of the issues involved. Gentlemen; let's begin by asking whether you feel that the controversial Supreme Court decisions we've cited protect the rights of the individual or "coddle the criminal," as the police allege.

**INBAU:** In my opinion, these decisions have had a crippling effect on law enforcement. Because of the *McNabb-Mallory* and *Escobedo* rulings, police are, for all practical purposes, prevented from interrogating suspects in private. It's usually useless to interrogate a suspect with his attorney present; any lawyer worth his salt is going to tell his client to shut his mouth and keep it shut. Some judges are unrealistic; they don't realize that most crimes are solved not by fancy detective work from clues left behind by the criminal, but rather by skillful interrogation behind closed doors.

**TURNER:** I think it's often the police departments, not the judges, who are unrealistic. Once they get a confession, they think they have a case all locked up, and this leads to sloppy corroborative detective work. Then, when they go to court and have their case shot full of holes, they wail that the court is coddling the criminal.

**BELLI:** If any D. A.s and police chiefs are reading this, I'd like to straighten them out on a couple of basic misapprehensions before we go any further. First of all, if we're coddling anyone, we're coddling the *accused*, not the criminal. Secondly, "coddling" is hardly the word to describe the court's and the counsel's effort to guarantee the inalienable rights outlined in our Constitution to every citizen.

**PEMBERTON:** I agree. The Supreme Court's devotion to our basic constitutional rights isn't pampering criminals; it's simply being true to ourselves and our democratic heritage.

**LEIGHTON:** I agree. But if I may return to Professor Inbau's implication that restrictions on interrogation are leading to an increase in crime, I do not know of a single statistical proof that these recent decisions have hampered police. Professor Inbau says that interrogation is an indispensable part of police work, but I am told that FBI police-academy instructors emphasize just the opposite view. They insist that any intelligent investigator can usually reconstruct the crime by clues found at the scene. Even when there are few clues, however, there's no

had several burglaries totaling \$150,000 worth of diamond-cutting tools. A brilliant police official advertised in all the papers: "Wanted: diamond-cutting tools. Buyer will pay top price." Who should show up with a greedy grin but the burglar's fence.

**INBAU:** Certainly there is an occasional opportunity for that kind of police work. But reality is usually different. Take the hypothetical case of a woman raped in a dark alley. All she can report is that her assailant was a white man around 5 feet, 8 inches tall, wearing a blue shirt and dark trousers. The victim was struck on the head and bled profusely. Now, suppose a gas-station attendant reports that a certain white man about 5 feet, 9 inches tall, wearing a blue shirt, borrowed a key to the men's room that same night to wash what appeared to be blood from his hands. Of course, that doesn't mean that this particular man committed the crime. No sensible judge or jury would convict on such feeble evidence, and the police would not want them to; but the only way to find out if this fellow is guilty—or innocent, for that matter—is to question him. This is the way most crimes are solved. But I want it clearly understood that the police should not be permitted any rough stuff, or to use any interrogation tactics or techniques that are apt to make an innocent man confess.

**LEIGHTON:** Now we're getting to the heart of the matter: Just what is "rough stuff"? Police coercion need not be physical; psychological coercion can be just as punishing and persuasive.

**BELLI:** And reprehensible. Perhaps the rubber hose is not so standard a piece of police equipment as it once was, but today there are far more sophisticated methods of torture in daily use. We all concede that a man must not be forced by rack, wheel or thumbscrew to confess a guilt that isn't true. But I see little difference between whipping a man and brainwashing him, or scaring him half to death. A dishonest interrogator, for example, can isolate a suspect who is ignorant of his rights and unprotected by an attorney, and murmur sympathetically to him, "Too bad you can't be home taking care of your family. We think your wife is going to be all right, but she's coughing pretty bad. Of course, the doctor is doing all he can, but she's calling for you. Now, if you'll just tell us all about it, you can be out on bail in an hour to take care of her." Well, that poor fellow will say just about *anything* to get out and look after his wife.

**COOK:** Another equally effective and insidious technique is to subject the suspect to hours and hours of questioning by relays of interrogators. Usually a

d. That last brute who was so rough on you is a real heel and I heartily disapprove of his methods. But you and I are friends. We can do business. Have a cigarette and tell me all about it." Essentially, that's the technique the Chinese Reds used in Korea to brainwash prisoners. Today it's a standard technique of virtually all American investigative agencies. Professor Inbau's own textbook on interrogative techniques recommends this very use of alternate interrogators with different personalities and approaches. Finally, a suspect gets tired; he's half-dead for lack of sleep; his brain and will are numbed from grappling with his emotional reaction to the two different personalities, and he'll say anything the police want him to say. During the hours of questioning, the police have drummed into him all the details he needs to make an elaborate confession as though from his firsthand knowledge as the guilty man. They have repeatedly asked, for instance, "Weren't you at First Avenue and Sixth Street at 3:30 A.M. with a switchblade in your pocket?" That makes it easy for him to confess having been exactly where the police want him at the time they want him there.

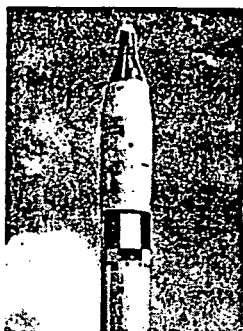
**PLAYBOY:** Are you saying that the police deliberately feed suspects these details in order to extort false confessions?

**COOK:** Not deliberately, no. But there is a very peculiar cop psychology. When a cop arrests a suspect, he feels he's solved the case: To be arrested is to be guilty. It's a sincere feeling for the cop, an inevitable development of his way of life. All of us would suffer from the same prejudice if we were doing his difficult job. He's carried away by his theory of how the crime was committed, by his own brilliance in solving it, and he's certain the only remaining problem is to squeeze the truth out of the guy he's already chosen as the guilty man.

**LEIGHTON:** I think you may be a bit guilty yourself—of oversimplification. You're quite right, though, when you say that the tough-guy-nice-guy system has become a standard police interrogation procedure—almost as common as the deplorable practice of unremitting interrogation over inordinately prolonged periods. Fifteen, even thirty hours of nonstop questioning is by no means unheard of.

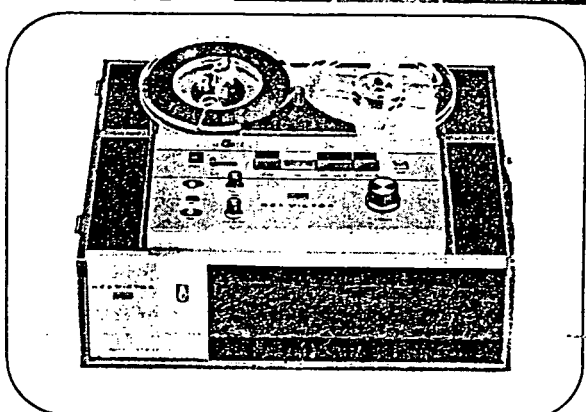
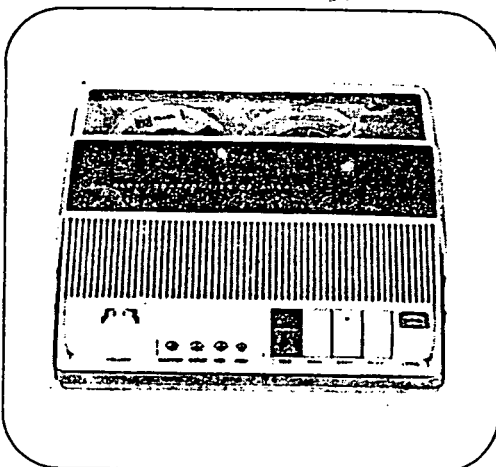
**INBAU:** Be that as it may, I think that the limits of interrogation should remain elastic. Cases differ. Suppose a suspect says he was with Joe so-and-so at the time of the crime. The police should be allowed to hold him till they can track down and question Joe and check the alibi. That may take an hour, four hours, who knows? If Joe, a responsible citizen, says the suspect was indeed with him, the police turn the suspect loose. If Joe says





National Aeronautics &amp; Space Administration

We make one for Gemini—  
now we offer 9 for you  
...tape recorders from  
RCA Victor (from \$49<sup>95</sup>\*)



Nine to choose from—and every one is Solid State. Not a tube in the lot. And they all have the Space Age reliability of RCA Solid Copper Circuits that won't come loose, won't short circuit, won't go haywire.

Choose a snap-in cartridge model that loads in seconds. Or a reel-to-reel model. The *Tiros I* at upper left is battery operated. Take it anywhere. Or, with adapter (optional), plug it into any 120-volt AC outlet. The *Score I*, above, is a deluxe 4-track reel-to-reel model with 6" oval speaker, tone control, tape usage digital counter and VU meter. See them and seven more—at your RCA Victor dealer's—soon.

\*For the *Tiros I*, prices optional with dealer

RCA Solid Copper Circuits are the circuits of the Space Age... they replace old-fashioned handwiring for better performance, greater dependability, fewer service headaches.



...the community has changed. Up to now, the police have acted toward submerged sections of the population without the same restraint that they've shown toward the more articulate and advantaged citizens who have long held power—and enjoyed the benefits of counsel as a matter of course. But now the depressed populations have a voice and leadership. They believe in themselves and are acting collectively—and effectively—through organizations representing them.

**BELL:** We're just damned lucky that we live in a country where the Supreme Court protects the stumblebum sleeping under the railroad bridge as zealously as it does the president of the railroad sleeping in his private car. In the Gideon case, for instance, the Court weighed the appeal of an insignificant unknown convict as carefully as they would a brief from the president of U. S. Steel. As soon as the Supreme Court forgets the rights of the least of us, the rest of us are going to be taken over by the "righteous" who can't wait to ride roughshod over the Constitution. When he was Attorney General, Bobby Kennedy was quoted as saying, "We can and must see to it that America does not unjustly punish the man who is already serving a life sentence of poverty."

**RUSTIN:** We can and must—but we don't and haven't. We continue to maintain a plethora of statutes meant only to harass the poor and the weak. Vagrancy laws, for instance, are the most oppressive type of class legislation. They exact punishment for the so-called crime of being poor and unemployed. Making a crime out of the state of being jobless in a society steadily wiping out jobs through automation is simply not worthy of a civilized people.

**PEMBERTON:** Vagrancy laws, essentially, are a device used by local authorities to keep what they call "undesirables" out of the community by harassing them, arresting them repeatedly till they leave and haunt some other city. A poor drunk will be ridden mercilessly by police just for being drunk, but a rich drunk can sop it up by the gallon for years and never feel the law's weight.

**RUSTIN:** All too true. But that isn't the worst of it. Perhaps the most notorious inequity of all in modern law enforcement is the bail-bond system, which penalizes the poor for being poor. If a poor man cannot dig up bail, he must stay in jail for months awaiting trial—just as though he had already been proven guilty. Nobody gives him back those months of imprisonment, nor is he recompensed in any way if he is eventually found innocent. The rich offender, meanwhile, can walk the streets freely because he has the money to spring himself. Instead of requiring financial bond courts

**PEMBERTON:** We are rapidly nearing time when old-fashioned bail will be abolished. The Vera Foundation in New York recently carried on a three-year Manhattan Bail Project experiment during which 3505 accused were released on their own recognizance after recommendation by the Foundation staff. Only 1.6 percent willfully failed to appear in court; during the same period, three percent of those out on financial bail bond failed to appear. It's also noteworthy, and a bit sobering, to reflect that 59 percent of those held in jail till trial were convicted, but only ten percent of those who had been out on bail. This, it seems to me, may indicate that freedom of the accused before trial is an important factor in preparing a defense and escaping improper punishment.

**BELLI:** Another excellent reason to do away with the bail bond—if one is needed—is the simple fact that it's a dirty, vicious racket. Too often the bail-bond broker gets his cut of the criminal lawyer's fee, acting as a lawyer's agent and steering business to the highest bidder. It's a completely illegal racket, but it exists in every major city in the United States.

**PLAYBOY:** That brings up another aspect of legal injustice to the poor. What happens to the accused who can't afford a lawyer's fee, either? The Gideon decision requires that each accused, no matter how poor, has the right to counsel. How do you think it should be provided?

**BELLI:** I favor the paid public defender, like those of Oakland and Los Angeles in California. The Los Angeles public defender has a large staff with many investigators and, what's more important, all of them are sincerely dedicated to defending the poor. When I visited Russia, the people there were shocked to learn from me that in most parts of the United States the government pays not only for the prosecution but also for the defense.

**RUSTIN:** But to have the state pay both the prosecutor and the defender gives the state still more power than it already wields in court. Inevitably, the defender will become friendly with the prosecutor because his salary comes from the same treasury. It's only human nature for him to become, perhaps unconsciously, more on the side of the state than of his indigent clients. No, the defense of the indigent should be the function of private agencies such as the Legal Aid Society, the bar associations, civil rights groups and volunteer panels of public-spirited attorneys.

**PEMBERTON:** Though ours is not a legal-aid society, the ACLU is one of those private agencies Mr. Rustin just described. We've studied this knotty problem without reaching any clear conclusion, but we do favor private agencies.

societies like ours, paid public defenders—whatever system or mixture of systems each district feels is most effective in its own area. But whatever system is used, the government should foot the bill for the truly indigent. Most of our experience with the public-defender system has been good, by the way, despite the reasonable-sounding objections Mr. Rustin has raised.

**PLAYBOY:** For several years, Mr. Pemberton and the ACLU have been in the forefront of a campaign by various civil liberties groups to overturn local "stop-and-frisk" statutes that permit the police in some cities to accost any citizen "on reasonable suspicion," search him publicly and force him to explain his presence and his plans. The principal avowed purpose of the search is to protect the police from attack with concealed weapons and to prevent thieves and dope pushers from "dumping" stolen goods or narcotics before apprehension. Do you think this law serves its purpose, gentlemen—and that the stated end justifies the means?

**PEMBERTON:** The answer to both questions is an emphatic no. The policeman's right to force us to explain our presence on his beat is a gross violation of our right to remain silent—and to mind our own business. And the stop-and-frisk law gives the police the right to detain anyone they feel intuitively is about to commit a crime. How can you have probable cause to believe a person guilty of a crime that hasn't been committed yet?

**INBAU:** Hold on a minute. This stop-and-frisk law doesn't permit a policeman to stop just any citizen on a whim. He can stop and frisk only when there has been a crime committed in the neighborhood and the person stopped fits the description of the criminal, or when he finds persons loitering in a dark alley where they have no business at three in the morning. This is what the law means by "reasonable suspicion" that a person has committed a crime or is about to commit a crime. A policeman can't search for papers or slip through personal effects; he can search only for weapons. Should he search a wallet and find a stolen bond, for instance, that bond would not be admissible as evidence, because he would have exceeded the search authority given him by this statute.

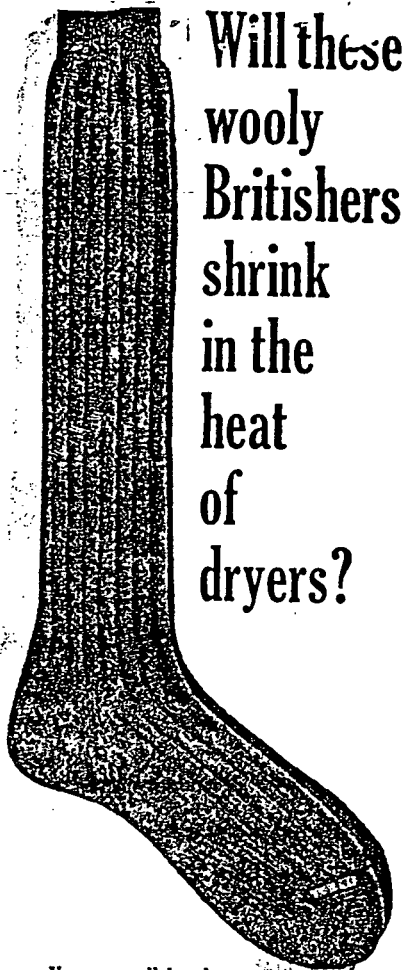
**RUSTIN:** Whatever its provisions or its purpose, this law is a nefarious example of class legislation, for its effect is to permit harassment of the poor. No police are going to stop and frisk well-dressed bankers on Wall Street—but they don't hesitate to stop well-dressed Negro businessmen in Harlem and go through their attache cases. That kind of brusque police action is reserved for the poor

Before

aztec

AFTER SHAVE & COLOGNE

FOR men



Will these  
wooly  
Britishers  
shrink  
in the  
heat  
of  
dryers?

Never. You can tell by the Red Toe Stripe.® It's the mark of the unshrinkables—Jockey Thorobred® English Wool Hose. The patented English process (a Jockey exclusive) makes them so machine washable and dryable—you get this guarantee: a new pair free if they shrink out of size. In ankle and over-the-calf styles. \$2. A gentleman's hosiery.



Did Wellington  
shrink at  
the heat of  
Waterloo?

used this power to embarrass or harass the innocent—of whatever race—there would be such an outcry that the law would be repealed. Yet in the case of *People vs. Rivera* just last year, the New York Court of Appeals upheld the validity of the stop-and-frisk statute with only one dissent, and the U. S. Supreme Court has refused to review that decision. This combination of court rulings puts the stop-and-frisk law on very solid ground.

**BELLI:** I wouldn't say that. The stop-and-frisk law is clearly unconstitutional, in my opinion, and I predict that it will be struck down when next it's tested by the Supreme Court.

**PLAYBOY:** Another police-backed local statute that's come under fire from the ACLU and other civil liberties groups is the so-called "no-knock-and-enter" law, which empowers law-enforcement officers—again, on "reasonable suspicion"—to burst into and search a suspect's home or place of business without either knocking or announcing themselves as policemen. Do you feel that this law is unconstitutional, too, Mr. Belli?

**BELLI:** Absolutely. And I predict exactly the same fate for it.

**PEMBERTON:** Both of these laws dangerously weaken the barrier between us and unlimited, arbitrary authority. They practically beg for unscrupulous policemen to abuse their power and—Professor Inbau's reassurances notwithstanding—to harass citizens they don't happen to like. We abandoned a historic safeguard of our liberties when we accepted those laws.

**INBAU:** Remember that the police are empowered to stop and frisk or to break in only after going through the full procedure of establishing probable cause, and in the case of the no-knock-and-enter law, of obtaining a search warrant as well. Thus the innocent public is protected from brusque, unwarranted intrusion by the police. As for the stop-and-frisk law, don't you think, in all fairness, that a policeman *should* have the right to search for dangerous weapons before exposing himself to possible criminal attack?

**PEMBERTON:** That argument is just as specious as the one given for the passage of the no-knock law: to permit a forcible unannounced entrance "where danger to the life or limb of the officer or another may result" from a properly announced search. But violence is far more likely to occur when police kick down a door without announcing themselves. In fact, kicking a door down is pretty violent to begin with and invites violence in return.

**RUSTIN:** Of course it does. A frightened householder, armed with a gun, might

criminals and might open fire on them—with every justification.

**TURNER:** Especially in New York, where the newspapers specialize in lurid accounts of "crime waves," there is a hysteria that could easily prompt an innocent householder to shoot first and investigate later. And the police are by no means always innocent of this kind of freewheeling violence at a house arrest—even if they don't actually kick down a door. When I was still a special agent, the FBI got a tip from a motel owner that one of his guests looked like one of the "Ten Most Wanted" criminals. They surrounded the place and banged on the door. When the guest cracked it open slightly, one of the agents shoved his credentials forward, but it was pitch dark. "FBI, open up!" he barked. When the poor, frightened guest didn't instantly fling the door open to invite this armed mob inside, they shot him in the face. It turned out later, of course, that he was perfectly innocent. The agents responsible were severely disciplined, but they didn't go to jail. This incident shows what kind of tragic injustice can result from the use of excessive force in serving an arrest warrant.

**COOK:** This resort to violence by the police is a bad sign of declining professionalism. One of the best cops I ever knew was a New York detective named Johnny Cordes. He piled up a fantastic record of arrests, but he developed the theory that he was a better cop if he never carried a gun, and for years he practiced his profession completely unarmed. He's still alive, retired with many honors. Contrast him with the FBI agents who were trailing a pair of kidnapers in the Thirties. The local police were cooperating and knew where one of the principal suspects was hiding out, but they wanted to catch the other one, too, when he visited his pal. The FBI had been advised that the police were staked out watching the hide-out, but they got impatient and at midnight Hoover himself led a fire fight. They got their man, all right, but not the second kidnaper; the local police found out later that he had indeed come to pay a visit that night—and had watched the whole battle as part of the crowd. The cop who depends on muscle and gunplay is always inferior to the one who relies on brains.

**BELLI:** Too many policemen are nothing more than overgrown kids still playing cops and robbers—only for *keeps*. But there's too damned much gunplay around on *both* sides of the badge. *Everybody's* playing with guns as though they were toys. We don't have bears prowling the streets anymore; there are no Indians climbing through the windows. The so-called constitutional right

that cities with strong laws controlling firearms have much lower homicide rates than cities with unrestricted sale of guns. In New York City, where ownership of firearms has long been supervised, the murder rate is 3.8 per 100,000 of population, substantially lower than the national average of 4.5 and about one third of Alabama's 10.2. New York City also has the lowest robbery rate of the nation's nine largest cities. These figures offer a pretty sound argument for the control of firearms. And just by the way, these figures also argue that there is a bit of hysteria behind the current tendency to call New York City's streets a jungle of violent crime.

**LEIGHTON:** I agree that contemporary crime statistics produce hysteria rather than thoughtful consideration of the factors that contribute to the incidence of crime. For example, we are told that crime has increased "five times faster than the population." From a definitive point of view, is this a statement that enlightens us? I sometimes suspect that such crime statistics are issued to terrorize people rather than to inform and educate the public.

**TURNER:** You're absolutely right, I'm sorry to say. As an FBI agent, I made arrests I was ashamed of just to play the numbers game. Conscientious cops hate it, but this business of amassing statistics is forced down their throats. Obviously, justice suffers as a result. It's an abuse that should be ended. I suppose the only way to stop it is for those who appropriate funds for police agencies to yawn when a police chief—or a J. Edgar Hoover, for that matter—tries to impress them with numbers.

**COOK:** The FBI crime compilations are peculiar products of a new system of tabulating crimes. In 1930, when the FBI began collecting crime statistics, only 400 police departments reported to the FBI; now about 8500 departments report. Obviously, the sheer volume of crimes reported will grow explosively when the number of reporting agencies increases twentyfold. Added to this is the fact that calls-for-service to every police department in the country have multiplied by factors as high as ten or twelve just in the last five to ten years. I wouldn't be at all surprised if this so-called runaway increase in crime is nothing more than a runaway increase in calls to the police—from a public panic-stricken by a crime-wave scare instigated by the police themselves.

**TURNER:** Let me tell you about a "crime wave" that hit San Francisco last year almost overnight—without the slightest increase in the crime rate. In the North Beach district of the city, some self-righteous morality groups got together and pressured the police into raiding several

proceeded to round up all the girls; and for good measure, they filled up the remaining seats in the paddy wagons with all the drunks and roisterers in North Beach—wholesale lots of them. Not surprisingly, the arrest rate in San Francisco leaped astronomically; to judge by the arrest figures, the city was running amuck. But there had been no upsurge of crime—merely a small but well-directed ground swell of bluenoses who forced chicken-livered police officers into making arrests for so-called crimes that had never bothered them before.

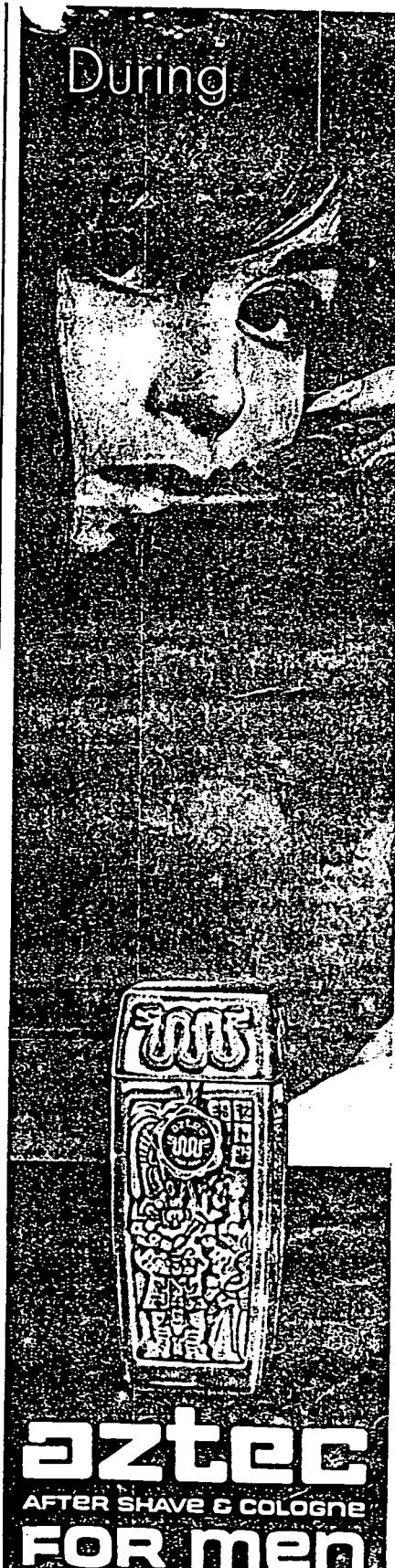
**LOHMAN:** There's still another factor that misleadingly inflates crime statistics. It just so happens that the number of people in that age group which has always committed a disproportionate number of crimes—from 15 to 24—is increasing far faster than the general population. So, naturally, there is an increase in crime rates; but this certainly doesn't imply increasing lawlessness in society as a whole.

**INBAU:** Be all that as it may, the FBI statistics show irrefutably that crime is increasing five times faster than the population. The Attorney General says the crime rate went up 14 percent just last year, and our general population certainly didn't jump that much. Even if the adjustment of statistical methods were to show a less alarming proportionate increase, the police would still have an enormously increasing absolute number of crimes to contend with, and they need all the tools we can give them. A murder is a murder and calls for police action whether it represents only one homicide per 1000 or per 100,000 population.

**PLAYBOY:** Let's discuss some of those tools. Mr. Turner, as an ex-FBI specialist in electronics devices for clandestine surveillance, how do you feel about legalized wire tapping by law-enforcement agencies?

**TURNER:** In the first place, by its very nature, the tap is *illegal*, no matter who does it. Technically, it falls under the heading of "search and seizure"; it's illegal because it's impossible in advance to name the specific conversation to be "searched" or the specific information to be "seized," as the Constitution requires in all other searches and seizures. In order to legalize it, you'd have to pass a constitutional amendment—and that's something I'd hate to see happen. I say this as one who has monitored many FBI wire taps during which I necessarily eavesdropped on the conversations of innocent persons discussing matters not pertinent to the investigation, therefore none of my business. It's not a nice job.

**PEMBERTON:** A study of wire tapping in New York City showed that of 3588 phones tapped in one year, about half



During

aztec

AFTER SHAVE & COLOGNE

FOR men

# What can a beer drinker expect from it?



## wonders!

He can expect a moonlit night. An ocean cruise. A hole in one. A first at Sebring. A Broadway hit. Everything seems commonplace next to Colt 45 Malt Liquor.

law enforcement: the rest will be between innocent persons. But that won't prevent the invasion of their privacy by eavesdropping policemen. Mr. Turner's disclosure that he practiced wire tapping as an FBI agent is a fascinating bit of intelligence when you consider that J. Edgar Hoover has called the practice unethical and detrimental to sound police practice. If I remember correctly, he said, "The discredit and suspicion of the law-enforcing branch which arises from the occasional use of wire tapping more than offsets the good which is likely to come of it."

**TURNER:** He's quite right—though it doesn't alter the fact that the Bureau uses it as a matter of course. Very little positive information comes across a wire tap, however, unless it's from an innocent and naïve person, and those aren't the people police are after. When I was with the Bureau, we used the tap almost entirely on cases of subversive activity, but we rarely picked up anything useful. The same time and energy could have been better spent on some other technique. The FBI doesn't really depend on the tap very much; the agency rarely has more than 100 taps going at any one time.

**PLAYBOY:** That sounds like a lot of wire tapping.

**TURNER:** Not when you consider that the New York City police have at least that many going at one time just within the city limits. But I think the argument over wire taps sometimes distracts from a more invidious practice: the planting of hidden microphones. A bug picks up not only phone conversations but *everything*, including pillow talk. And invariably a trespass is committed to install it, which is not the case with wire taps. As you may know, the FBI publicly acknowledges the number of taps it has across the country at any one time. Once I was ordered to pull out a tap because one was being installed in another city; this would keep the books in balance. But I was at the same time ordered to install a bug to replace the tap. The FBI does not announce the number of bugs it has going.

**PEMBERTON:** And our technological revolution is spawning dozens of new eavesdropping devices every year. Sooner or later, inevitably, miniature television transmitters like the ones in *Dick Tracy* will be developed and we will have entered the era of 1984 with Big Brother's eye on us day and night. And don't think certain police officials will hesitate to use it. In California they even bugged a bedroom shared by the speaker of the California Assembly and his wife. Any assumption that wire tapping and eavesdropping has been or will be confined to criminals is naïve.

tle fascist at the other end a juicy earful!

**COOK:** Everybody I know who is at all vulnerable *assumes* his phone is tapped. If you've ever opened your mouth in protest, raised your voice on a controversial issue, you take it for granted that your phone is tapped. But I don't know what can be done about it. It's alarmingly widespread—and becoming more so every day.

**PEMBERTON:** I know an enterprising reporter for the *Chicago Sun-Times* who called on 11 private detectives picked at random from the phone directory. He asked each to set up a wire tap and made his reasons progressively more despicable. Finally he asked a detective to bug a priest's confessional, rather hoping he would get a punch in the nose for even suggesting it. But the detective blandly agreed. Only one man turned him down, and even he offered to help *arrange* a tap. The reporter ended his investigation convinced that almost every one of the city's 200-odd agencies not only could have but *would* have set up a tap on absolutely anyone. It's a ghastly commentary. But how can the government prosecute when it's hypocritically breaking the same law?

**PLAYBOY:** How do you feel about the legality and morality of other invasions of privacy in the name of law enforcement—such as the mail cover, for example, by means of which policemen keep a log of all incoming and outgoing mail with the collaboration of postal officials?

**TURNER:** The Postmaster General recently put a stop to that practice, I'm happy to say. At least he's *said* he has; I'm always a bit skeptical. I have every reason to believe that a Federal agency put a mail cover on *me* not long ago. I sent two manuscripts to magazines in New York, and shortly afterward, two Federal agents called on the editors and asked to see the manuscripts. They had no legal way of knowing such manuscripts even existed, much less that they had arrived at those specific editorial offices. Undoubtedly they had gotten wind of the fact that I was working on a couple of pieces about the FBI, and had correctly surmised the obvious: that they were not entirely sympathetic. Knowing that many editors could be intimidated by a call from Federal agents, they decided to try it, but one of the editors balked and that piece was published. I don't know why the agents were so concerned; it was only a critique of the FBI for its incompetence in failing to prevent the Kennedy assassination.

**PLAYBOY:** In addition to mail covers, postal inspectors have also resorted to spying on their own employees through one-way mirrors and peepholes in toilets. And the Walter Jenkins case revealed that the same methods are widely

tion division. If somebody is beat or brutalized by a policeman, these cases are investigated by the police themselves. If he finds cause, Superintendent Wilson takes the matter to the state's attorney's office for prosecution. We are proving in Chicago that the police can supervise themselves when the public demands it.

BELLI: Well, I'm not so sure about that; but my fear for our civil liberties is not a fear of police brutality or corruption. I think the average cop on the beat is doing a hard job well. What scares me is the greed for power of people like J. Edgar Hoover and the far-right extremists who yearn for a police state. These Supreme Court decisions which they so abominate aren't making the policeman's job tougher; they're putting the bridle on Hitlerian bastards who have no place in our democracy. If we want to preserve it, we need only two inviolate rules, in addition to the writ of habeas corpus and a judge-and-jury system: (1) You don't have to say anything that may be used against you, and (2) you're entitled to a lawyer. If we can preserve just those two rules, we will be able to preserve our democracy. If you could get just those two guarantees in Russia or China, those countries would be so changed that you couldn't tell them from the United States. So let us not, in God's name, lose those guarantees here.

INBAU: We're not about to lose them, Mr. Belli. But we cannot preserve law and order when all our concern is on civil liberties, for civil liberties cannot exist except in a stable, safe society. To have civil liberties without safety of life and property is a meaningless thing. We cannot abolish the police and still maintain an orderly society, nor can we impose so many restrictions on them that they are powerless to prevent crime and apprehend criminals. Court decisions seeking to force the police to behave properly by releasing obviously guilty persons will not protect our liberties in the long run. The prime power police should have to combat crime effectively is the right to interrogate suspects privately for a reasonable length of time before arraignment. Again, I emphasize that the suspect must not be mistreated and he must be informed of his right to remain silent. But the police must be allowed to question a suspect in private, or law enforcement as we have known it will become a shambles. If police are deprived of this basic right, we must brace ourselves for an avalanche of crime even greater than we suffer from today.

COOK: I disagree completely. Regardless of the needs of law enforcement, we must preserve our liberties at all costs. The survival of each of us as an in-

dividual, our liberties, we are that much closer to disappearing into a vast, faceless police state, just as Mr. Belli fears, and human society will become indistinguishable from a termite colony. I concede that we may have more lawlessness today than in the past, but I don't feel that there is a cause-and-effect relationship between increasing crimes and court decisions that protect civil liberties. No, our whole moral tone is lower, thanks chiefly to our free-enterprise-racket society, our scramble for personal gain. You see evidence of this lax moral tone, to name just one example, in the widespread practice of robbing insurance companies by making excessive and fraudulent claims. When the little guy at the bottom of the heap sees those at the top taking moral shortcuts, rigging prices contrary to the law, cheating on taxes, he figures it's only smart for him to grab his own piece of the action. In this kind of society, you're going to have more crime regardless of expanded or curtailed police power. The protection of individual civil liberties has nothing to do one way or the other with the crime rate; but in any case, they must be preserved.

RUSTIN: I agree with Mr. Cook that the society we live in does not really want true law and order, or at least is not willing to make those reforms that will lead to true law and order. In terms of human rights, the policeman is the patsy for our society; he is the instrument for enforcing a basically unjust system. Police just cannot accept poor people as being of the same value as those who have made it. Any effort to improve law and order by increasing the number of police or their powers is doomed to fail. All you achieve is to create a larger number of corrupt policemen. As long as society tolerates bad housing, antiquated school systems and massive unemployment, it will be impossible to maintain law and order. Reliance on police power has not prevented and will not prevent outbreaks of lawlessness like the riots in Watts and Harlem. These controversial court decisions, far from encouraging crime, are merely a small first step toward a larger justice. Without this minimal protection of civil liberties, law and order would be impossible. For a more orderly and just society, we must tear down slums and build decent housing, throw out our 19th Century school system and set up schools to prepare people for the technological society of this century, to provide full and fair employment for all people. Without reforms, we will be faced with increasing disorders regardless of the powers given to police. In the corrupt society of today, the policeman is just part of the widespread decay of morals. The police are themselves pris-

oners of the police problem simpler, it would call not for more policemen with more police powers, but for more justice. Who knows? Perhaps someday it will.

PEMBERTON: Big government—and that includes its law-enforcement arm—threatens to become so powerful that to preserve the kind of democracy we've enjoyed in the past, we are going to have to inhibit rather than increase its power. Law in a democracy is always enforced more effectively by moral sanction than by police force. Respect for the law is the most important factor in maintaining law and order. And to preserve respect for the law, a society must have law-abiding policemen. If we maintain a police force recruited from superior types of citizens and trained in the best modern techniques of police work, it will not be necessary to abridge personal freedoms in order to preserve the peace. The public will respect the law because the police themselves respect the law.

LEIGHTON: I agree. We are demonstrating in Chicago that improvement of police communications, equipment, training and internal discipline does more for law enforcement than a dubious curtailment of civil liberties.

LOHMAN: Giving the police greater authority to abridge the rights of individuals is certainly not the answer. What must be done nationally, as is being done in Chicago, is to recruit a higher type of rookie and train him in the latest investigative techniques. But he must also be made to understand what civil liberties are, and what restrictions he must accept. If he learns his police work well, he will find that those restrictions do not hamper him.

TURNER: The modern recruit is already far superior to the old-time cop. In San Jose, California, for instance, 80 to 90 percent of the police are college graduates. Gradually a superior brand of policeman is crowding up from the bottom to replace the old-fashioned martinet who came up the hard way and hasn't even heard of such a thing as civil liberties. We still have a long way to go before we reach Utopia, and we'll probably never quite reach it, but the quality of policemen is improving every day. Meanwhile, the courts are performing an absolutely vital function in protecting the individual against the crushing power of the state. Professor Inbau apparently feels that a clearly guilty person should be convicted regardless of police intrusion on his liberties; but once the police have a foot in the door, once they are permitted to violate anybody's civil liberties whether that person is clearly guilty or not, it will be no time at all before we lose the civil liberties of everybody, guilty and innocent alike.



**BELL:** I can understand how the use of wire tapping, however distasteful, might occasionally be unavoidable in order to bring a guilty man to justice—or to save an innocent one. But *this sort of thing* is utterly and completely abhorrent, totally impermissible whatever the justification. It's far more immoral than the immoralities it seeks to eliminate. How would you like to make your living by gluing your eyes to a hole in a john to see what's happening on the other side?

**TURNER:** I've done it—and I hated it. There is no more miserable, degrading work than that kind of surveillance. But quite apart from the basic indecency of it, this kind of Peeping Tom work is grossly unconstitutional: it's an invasion of privacy without even the pretext of looking for specific evidence of a specific crime. It's just a dragnet operation invading the privacy of perhaps a thousand innocents in the vague hope of catching maybe one guilty man. But the police don't hesitate to employ these methods with just that hope. And, unbelievably enough, many courts actually *admit* that improperly obtained kind of evidence; it's done all the time.

**PLAYBOY:** The reliance of police on the polygraph, or lie detector, as an interrogational technique is even more widespread than their use of wire tapping, bugs, mail covers and peephole spying in surveillance work. Distrust of the polygraph's findings, however, has spurred many cities and six states to outlaw its use, and it has recently been under attack or investigation by labor unions, the Defense Department and a Congressional subcommittee. Is their disapproval justified, in your opinion?

**BELL:** Not in my experience. I've used it many times and found it a most useful and often an invaluable instrument. Once, I remember, the prosecution wouldn't let us give polygraph tests to three of my clients on condemned row in San Quentin, so we took the complaining witness to Reno and tested him there. His story proved to be completely untrue; so we saved three men's lives with that machine.

**PEMBERTON:** Whatever its effectiveness in detecting lies, the fact remains that the polygraph violates a person's right not to testify against himself. The individual is coerced by the threat that he will be presumed guilty if he refuses to submit. No less invidious is the fact that during the test he answers dozens of questions irrelevant to the crime, thus giving the police information that neither they nor anybody else has a right to know. And some polygraph operators have reported that certain subjects who haven't been caught in a lie nevertheless show "dishonest tendencies." It doesn't take much intuitive ability to conclude that a machine and operator could not be trusted.

**PLAYBOY:** The Congressional committee that recently investigated the polygraph—which was being considered for Government use—concluded that there is no such thing as a "lie detector" and that the machine's purported infallibility is a hoax. Would you agree with that?

**TURNER:** J. Edgar himself told the Warren Commission, "The FBI feels that the polygraph technique is not sufficiently precise to permit absolute judgments of deception or truth." But I happen to know for a fact that the FBI uses the polygraph on its own personnel.

**PLAYBOY:** For several years, critics of the police, especially in cities with large Negro and Puerto Rican populations, have been clamoring for civilian review boards with power to fire or discipline law-enforcement officers for improper conduct or procedures, including the use of the investigational and interrogational devices we've been discussing. Police respond that they should be allowed to police themselves. How do you gentlemen feel about it?

**RUSTIN:** I cannot understand police objection to the idea. While one function of the board would certainly be to protect the public against police malfeasance, another equally important function would be to clear innocent policemen of baseless charges brought by mischief-makers. How could an innocent policeman object to that?

**PEMBERTON:** What the police object to about civilian review boards is the possibility that all kinds of wild accusations against them will get into their records and haunt them for the rest of their careers, even if they're exonerated. It doesn't seem to bother them that this is precisely what happens to innocent private citizens who get picked up in dragnet roundups for police interrogation. That arrest is on their records whether or not they're ultimately convicted. So it turns out that policemen are just as sensitive as ordinary citizens about having their records needlessly besmirched.

**INBAU:** It's for that very reason that I feel civilian review boards would serve merely to frustrate and demoralize the police. The right thing to do is what we did in Chicago after the scandalous discovery a few years ago that many police were involved in a burglary ring. The public was so outraged that they demanded a new superintendent of police. The city brought in Orlando Wilson, who used to hold the same chair in criminology at the University of California now occupied by Dean Lohman, by the way. Under his leadership, Chicago is now protected by what is fast becoming the best police force in the world. It's a force much more mindful of the rights of the public than the old force, and

After

aztec

AFTER SHAVE & COLOGNE

FOR men

## We're Happening All Over

(continued from page 98)

600 active members on several campuses—is the May 2nd Movement, an outgrowth of the May 2nd Committee formed at a socialist conference at Yale in March 1964. Its name comes from the fact that on May 2nd of that year, the Movement organized a march on the United Nations, protesting the war in Vietnam.

Like the DuBois Clubs, the May 2nd activists consider what they term "American imperialism" their primary target. Admitting frequent, informal ties with the Progressive Labor Party, May 2nd leaders deny they have been taken over by the PLP. They call their nascent organization "a radical student peace organization," but they are not pacifists. "We cannot," says one of their leaders, "ask the Vietcong or the black people in Northern ghettos to be nonviolent. Oh, I used to be a pacifist, but I never had to try it out. However, a Vietnamese peasant confronted by a Marine or a black man being hit by a cop cannot be asked to be nonviolent. Pacifism is irrelevant for them."

Old-line, anti-Communist leftists such as Socialist Norman Thomas and Bayard Rustin, chief strategist for Martin Luther King, condemn the overt commu-

nism of the PLP; and they consider the DuBois Clubs and the May 2nd Movement as at best politically naïve and at worst easy prey to manipulation by Communists. SDS, SNCC and the Northern Student Movement resent the implication that they can be successfully infiltrated. They will cooperate with the DuBois Clubs and the May 2nd Movement—though not with the rigid, raucous PLP—on specific projects, maintaining their own stubborn independence. Since they practice total inner democracy and have no patience with pat ideologies, whether Soviet or Chinese, they are confident they can protect themselves.

On one occasion, a PLP member infiltrated a SNCC unit in the South, becoming editor of that group's local newspaper. When the paper began to look as if it had been programmed by a computer in Peking, the journalistic James Bond of the PLP was dismissed.

"Look," says C. Clark Kissinger, a short, wiry, 24-year-old graduate of the University of Chicago (where he majored in mathematics) and now a full-time strategist for SDS, "we began by rejecting the old sectarian Left and its ancient quarrels. We are interested in direct action

1 specific issues. We do not spend endless hours debating the nature of Soviet Russia."

In agreement with Kissinger is 28-year-old Bill Strickland, a tall, slim, pervasively hip Negro who directs the Northern Student Movement from an office in Harlem. A *magna cum laude* graduate of Harvard who wrote his master's thesis on Malcolm X, Strickland speaks for the majority of today's radical American young when he insists: "Whatever 'revolution' does occur will be an American revolution, coming out of the American experience. We'll have to evolve our own ideology. You can't impose an alien ideology in the United States. We're not interested in a guy's memorizing Trotsky's theory of permanent revolution or in some Stalinist with a line. We're interested in creating new forms and new institutions."

"Man," adds a member of SNCC, "the Communists, they're empty, man, empty. They've got the same stale ideas, the same bureaucracy they've always had. When he gets mixed up with us, a Com-mie dies and a person develops."

The Northern Student Movement—the SNCC of the North—was formed in 1961. Manned largely by college students, some of whom dropped out of school for a time to work in the field, the NSM at first concentrated on tutorial programs for children in Negro slums. In the last year, its focus has changed to helping the poor—the black poor—organize themselves into power blocs.

With some 2000 student members on 73 campuses, the Northern Student Movement has 32 field secretaries and 40 full-time volunteer workers. Now nearly all in the field are Negro. Engaged in community organizing in Boston, Hartford, Detroit, Philadelphia and Harlem, they are acting as catalysts for rent strikes, political action, pressure on War-on-Poverty officials to enlist the poor in decision making, and otherwise as stimuli for the previously voiceless to join forces. "We go way beyond voter registration," says Strickland. "What's the point of getting people registered so that they're swallowed by the same old mechanistic political machines? We're engaged in creating new political structures for a really new society."

A switch to politics is also a major part of the new direction being taken by CORE. Formerly, CORE concentrated its energies on civil rights breakthroughs—from public accommodations to job—but now, CORE's former national director, James Farmer, emphasizes, "our goal is power, political power" (see *When Will the Demonstrations End?*, PLAYBOY, January 1966, and *Mood Ebony*, PLAYBOY, February 1966). One route to that power is the opening of store fronts...

