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SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLII
EX-16

Date: August 22, 1970

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

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

Subject: B7C

Consulting with CIA

You are advised that the files of this Bureau contain information indicating that an application was filed on November 12, 1967, for a license to export one UXE vessel owned by Harry Clement, 500 South Main Building, Washington, D.C., to an unknown purchaser, to Valset, Incorporated, 33 Central Avenue, Panama, P.P. The seller of the vessel is listed as "United States Maritime Commission and the vessel is alleged to have been de-identification.

The following data was supplied in support of the application:

1. Vincent Salvo
   33 Central Avenue,
   Panama, P.P.

2. Sydney Joseph Williams
   33 Central Avenue,
   Panama, P.P.
Date of Incorporation: June 30, 1947.

Directors:

1. Aladar Z. Balkany, (Nationality: Hungarian)
   10 Boulevard du Theatre,
   Geneva, Switzerland.

2. Alejandro B. Rots, (Nationality: Cuban)
   118 East 65th Street,
   New York, N. Y.

3. Oscar Grundar, (Nationality: Swiss)
   10 Boulevard du Theatre,
   Geneva, Switzerland.

Officers:

1. Aladar Z. Balkany - President
2. Alejandro B. Rots - Vice President, Treas.
3. Oscar Grundar - Secretary

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

Stockholders:
Aladar Z. Balkany 500 shares
Alejandro B. Rots 500 shares

"For your further information, this 151.1 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)

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

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 Sa'enz
   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. Ratez, (Nationality: Cuban)
   115 East 55th Street,
   New York, N.Y.

3. Oscar Cuendar, (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.
UNSUE; aka. R.A. Wagner;
MELVIN M. BELL - VICTIM

EXTORTION

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

MEMPHIS DIVISION
AT 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
AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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

ADMINISTRATIVE:

On 4/1/64, the letter from Mr. BELL was acknowledged by the New Orleans Division. For information of the Memphis Division, SA 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 BNU, 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 type-writer, provided he is a student in Mississippi State University there.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Oxford

Report of: SA
Date: April 3, 1964
Office: NEW ORLEANS

Field Office File No.: 9-1975
Bureau File No.: 1

Title: UNSUB;
MELVIN M. BELL - 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 local directories, Jackson, Mississippi.

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 F.O. Box of the Jackson, Mississippi, Resident Agency, "Gentlemen: 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 St., Jackson, Miss.". This letter is signed MELVIN M. BELL and is written on letterhead stationary of BELL, ASHE and GERRY, 722 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California.

The letter enclosed with Mr. BELL'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 BELL, 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.
...after searching 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...
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.
On April 1, 1964, SA 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.

Observation of E. Capitol Street in Jackson by SA 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.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (9-NEW) (P)
SUBJECT: UNSUB; R. A. WAGNER; MELVIN BELLI - VICTIM

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.
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."

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 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.

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 from State College, Mississippi.

A report will follow.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

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

SUBJECT: UNSUB; aka, R.A. Wagner
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM
EXTORTION
(00: 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

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

Approved: Special Agent in Charge
Sent M Per
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
LATENT CASE NO. 49703

TO: SAC, New Orleans

April 21, 1964

RE: UNSUB. AEA R. A. WAGNER
MELVIN H. DOLCI - VICTIM
IDENTIFICATION

REFERENCE: AIRPOL 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.

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

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

Q1 and Q2 are enclosed.

Laboratory report separate.

Edg. (2)

2 - Memphis
1 - San Francisco

John Edgar Hoover, Director
RE: UNSUB; aka R. A. WAGNER
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM
EXTORTION
(OC: MEMPHIS)

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:

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: SAC

Examination completed: 3/17

Dictated:
RE: UNSUB; aka R. A. WAGNER
MELVIN M. BELL - VICTIM
EXTORTION
(CO: MEMPHIS)

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: 

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 Bolli says..." and ending "...is no sanctuary."
To: FBI, New Orleans (9-1975)  
Date: April 15, 1964 

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

Examination requested by:

Reference:

Examination requested:

Remarks:

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

John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. 9-42096
Lab. No. D-446832 JC

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
1 - Memphis Enclosure (Lab report)
WLC:p1 (5)
REPORT of the
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, New Orleans (9-1975)
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.
RECORDED
4/7/64
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
PL
Laboratory Work Sheet
NO LAB FILE
Re: UNSUB; aka R. A. WAGNER
MELVIN M. BELL - VICTIM
EXTORTION
(OO: MEMPHIS)

LATENT

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

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
MEMPHIS

OFFICE OF ORIGIN
MEMPHIS

DATE
5/20/64

INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
4/10-5/12/64

REPORT MADE BY
67C

TYPO BY
mnr

TITLE OF CASE
UNSUB, aka R. A. Wagner;

CHARACTER OF CASE
EXTORTION

REFERENCE:


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 (10).

LEADS:

KNOXVILLE DIVISION

AT DUNLAP, TENN.

Enclosed for Knoxville is one copy of report of SA dated 4/3/64 at New Orleans.

Will locate and interview...

1-Bureau (9-42096)
1-USA, Oxford, Miss.
2-Knoxville (Enc 1)
2-San Francisco
2-Memphis (9-1244)

1 MAY 25 1964
It is noted that [redacted] is considered a suspect in this matter only because of the fact that he is the only person 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.

2) In the event that [redacted] owns a typewriter, type-writer specimens should be obtained from him. Also, 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.
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. has graduated Mississippi State University, home address listed as  

On April 10, 1964, SA 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.
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.

The latent fingerprint is not identical with the fingerprints of an unknown or MELVIN MOURON BELLI, born in California, July 29, 1907.

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

On May 1, 1964, [redacted] advised that the records of that date 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
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.

On May 1, 1964, 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 person advised that he had formerly resided 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 his home address as Further information indicated that graduated from Mississippi State University and that he was born on

On May 12, 1964 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.
Memorandum

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (9 12411)

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (9 1803)

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLi-VICTIM EXTORTION

DATE: 5/28/64

MEMPHIS

Re report of SA at Memphis, dated 4/3/64; and Memphis air tel to Bureau, dated 5/5/64.

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 bell-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 MCT-45
(12)

JUN 5 1964
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.
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 WALLET, 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 R IIO 17 I7 T 10 15

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

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

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

DATE: 6/6/64

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)
Your File No. 9-550
FBI File No. 9-42996 REG. 39
Latent Case No. 49706

To: J. C. San Diego 9301 EX

RE: POSTULATES: R. A. SUGER;
SILVINI BELLI - VICTIM EXECUTION

San Diego letter dated 6-6-64, and San Francisco letter dated 5-26-64

EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: San Diego and San Francisco

SPECIMENS: Elimination fingerprints of Louis Sachgalupi, aka Melvin Belli

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

Submitted fingerprints Sachgalupi enclosed.

INC.

2 - Memphis (9-1244)
1 - Knoxville
2 - San Francisco (9-1873)

With Incl. F.

(9)

11-11-1964

[Signature]

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-

Answer to: SAC, SAN DIEGO

Latent Case No: 49706

Examination requested by: Addressee

Copy to: 9-42096-1Kx; 2SF 7-1803

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

Date of reference communication: Letter 6-6-64 (s.s.)

Specimens: 5/28/64 (s.s.)

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

NAMEN FOR FILM: FILM WANTED FOR FINGER

\[1/16/64\] THAT STATE IN 1954

Result of examination:

Examined by: [Signature]

Evidence noted by:

Examination completed 9-5-64

Time 5:11 PM

Dictated 5-11-64
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE
JACKSON

OFFICE OF ORIGIN
JACKSON

DATE
8/3/64

INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
5/14 - 7/27/64

TITLE OF CASE
UNSUB, aka R. A. Wagner;
MELVIN M. BELLI - VICTIM

REPORT MADE BY
SA 67C

TYPED BY
MJH

CHARACTER OF CASE
EXTORTION

REFERENCES

67C
San Francisco letter to Memphis dated 5/28/64. (10)
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. (10)

LEADS

KNOXVILLE DIVISION

AT DUNLAP, TENN.

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

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

REG-40

COPIES MADE:
1 - Bureau (9-12096)
1 - USA, Oxford, Miss.
2 - Knoxville
2 - Jackson (9-10)

AGENCY:
REQUEST REC'D:
DATE FW'D:
HOW FW'D:
5 6AUG121964

NOTATIONS

5
"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.

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

Report of: SA 9-10
Date: August 3, 1964
Office: JACKSON

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:
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 WALLET, personal secretary of MELVIN M. BELLI. No additional information relative to the identity of the UNSUB developed in Starkville, Miss., area.

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 WALLET, handled this one letter.
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 II0 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."
By communication dated June 26, 1964, the Knoxville Office advised that efforts to locate at
were conducted on May 26, 1964, with negative results.

On May 22, 1964, the
advised about the person 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
were deceased and he used the
address in
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.

On June 5, 1964, and on July 27, 1964, this matter was
thoroughly discussed with
and
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.

By communication dated July 27, 1964, the Jacksonville Division advised that on July 21, 1964,
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS

SUBJECT: UNSUB: aka R. A. WAGNER
MELVIN M. BELL - 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

(X) MEMPHIS
( ) JACKSON
( ) JACO

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

C. STATUS

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

NOT RECORDED

1 AUG 14 1954
Date: 9/3/64

Transmit the following in

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRMED

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (9-42096)

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

SUBJECT: UNSUB, Aka. R. A. Wagner;
HELVIN M. BELLI: VICTIM

EXTORTION

CC: JACKSON

48005

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

Enclosed for the Bureau are three letters written by unsub, two of which bear the return address State College, Mississippi, dated 2/26/64 and 3/6/64 and the third letter which bears the return address 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 unsub by SA 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.
Laboratory Work Sheet

Recorded 9/11/64

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

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

Examination requested by: Memphis (9-1244)
Examination requested: Document
Result of Examination: 

Specimens submitted for examination
KL-K3 Three typewritten letters prepared by

Date received: 9/3/64
Examination by:

No Lab File
File # 9-42096-8
Lab. # D-458005 JC

Specimens submitted for examination
KL-K3 Three typewritten letters prepared by
To: FBI, Memphis (9-1244)  
Date: September 22, 1964

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

Examination requested by: Memphis
Reference: Airtel 9/3/64
Examination requested: Document
Remarks:

Enclosures (5) (K1 through K3, 2 Lab report)  
2 - Jackson (9-10) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
REPORT
of the

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Memphis (9-1244)
Re: Unsub, aka R.A. WAGNER;
MELVIN M. BELL
VIKEX

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

Specimens received 9/8/64

KL - K3 Three typewritten letters prepared by

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.

ΛΕΗ: SP₁ (6)
Recorded 9/11/64

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

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

Examination requested by: Memphis (9-1244)
Examination requested: Document
Result of Examination:

Specimens submitted for examination

K1 - K3 Three typewritten letters prepared by

Retimed Service
200 Jackson (9-12)
9/22/64

1- Mr. McNerney

Airtel

To: SAC, Memphis (9-1244)
From: Director, FBI (9-42096) - 9

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
AA, O
R. A. WAGNER
HELVIN H. BELL - 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 of the possible suspects 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
he 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 6/10/64. File
reflects that attempts were being made to locate a possible
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

In letter to the Bureau dated 9/15/64,
his 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)
Airtel to SAC, Memphis

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT

AKA,

R. A. WAGNER

Memphis Office should immediately contact 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:

Captioned individual was 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 Calvin Belli using his name. The Bureau files indicate that he was considered a possible suspect concerning a threatening-type letter sent to Belli from Jackson, Mississippi, signed "The Committee." Letter of 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 at 8/3/64.
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 things I had been threatened with, is an understatement. However, gracious man that he is, Mr. Hoover on May 1, 1963, replied to my correspondence and tactfully told me:

Not only was it foolish—indeed, 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 hopes 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 a world view or social-racial cerebral egalitarianism has increasingly little place in "responsible and respectable" educational circles.

Thus, not being able to teach, I found 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 defendable) were all too effective it would seem...certainly those published in Mississippi journals. I wrote possibly 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 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 (apologetically as I recall) told me "no," as well as repeating that the Bureau did not have my name on its "hit list," which was 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 "warming" 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 going on 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 strange, 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 acquain-
ted with the "police state" concept, I would imagine, as are a host of other business-
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
egalitarian 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-Jeovy-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 persons 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 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
clarified up so far as I have been erroneously and maliciously involved; I do not
want such a dastardly charge as extortion in any government or police record of mine so
to hinder my being employed by the Federal Government.

For the record, I do not belong to any political group—"extremist" or otherwise.

P. S. I apologize again for the type of this letter.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE
-JACKSON
OFFICE OF ORIGIN
-JACKSON
DATE
9/29/64
INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
8/12/64 - 9/21/64

TITLE OF CASE
UNSUB; aka R. A. Wagner; Melvin M. Belli - VICTIMS

CHARACTER OF CASE
EXTORTION

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

LEADS

JACKSON OFFICE
AT 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

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

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

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

NOTATIONS

STAT. SECT.
United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Copy to: USA, Oxford

Report of: SA
Date: 9/29/64

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:
Located and interviewed Memphis, Tennessee. 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 extorton letter in question. No additional information relative to the identity of the Unsub developed in Starkville, Mississippi, area.

Details:
By communication dated August 13, 1964, the Knoxville Office advised that on August 12, 1964, advised that the present address of When she last heard from not in Florida and was seeking employment.
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.

He stated that although he has written letters to various newspapers and periodicals, he has never written to Mr. MELVIN M. BELLII. He could furnish no suspects and said that he has no known "enemies".

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 BELLII, further stating that if necessary to clear his name, he would be quite willing to take a polygraph examination.

that the letters dated February 26, 1964, and April 6, 1964, were typed on his typewriter which is now located at the residence of and that the letter dated July 1, 1964, was typed on a portable typewriter belonging to and is located at the

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

by Sup 930 Date dictated 9/3/64

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

On September 16, 1964, and on September 21, 1964, inquiry was made of [Redacted] and [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)

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

DATE: 9/29/64

SUBJECT: ORSUN, aka,
R. A. Wagner;
MELVIN M. BELL - VICTIM;
EXTORTION
(DD: Jackson)
Buded: 9/30/64

Re: Telephone to Memphis dated 9/22/64.

On 9/25/64, an interview was conducted by
SAC and an interview of the letter of 9/13/64 by the bureau was
acknowledged.

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. 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 investigation of this matter handled by
the bureau.

Recent visits state that subsequent to
being interviewed he has met 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 after this reason had become
suspicous of him. He stated that he realizes now that
the local contact was probably a coincidence and
temporary and was not a result of the investigation.
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.

[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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REPORTING OFFICE</th>
<th>OFFICE OF ORIGIN</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>JACKSON</td>
<td>JACKSON</td>
<td>10/14/64</td>
<td>10/8/64</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TITLE OF CASE**

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

**REPORT MADE BY**

67 C

**TYPOED BY**

ih

**CHARACTER OF CASE**

EXTORTION

**REFERENCE:** Report of SUB dated 9/29/64 at Jackson.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1-USA, Oxford

Report of: SA 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: FBI Laboratory concluded that the questioned typewriting appearing on the letters voluntarily furnished by 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.

DETAILS:

By communication dated September 3, 1964, the Memphis, Tennessee, office forwarded to the Bureau three typewritten letters voluntarily furnished by 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.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

transmit the following message:

To:  Director, FBI

From: SAC, San Francisco (105-4626)

Subject: CHANGED

MEVIN M. BELLI

RE: WFO - airtel to Bureau, 6/29/56, entitled "MEVIN (PH)

MEVIN 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 MEVIN BELLI, protesting prosecution
of 12 Communist leaders.

DPW newspaper, 11/6/41, contains names of number of persons
and name MEVIN 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
(3)

EX-109

Jul 7 1953
EX-109

Sent M Par

Special Agent in Charge
Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO (105-18134)

SUBJECT: MELVIN L. BELL (CO:SP)

DATE: 7/17/56

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

BURCAU
1-San Francisco (105-4626) (info) (RM)
1-WFO
JON: NJM
(4)

CLASS: S ESP S 7-17-80
REASON: NTS, 1-11.12
DATE OF REV: 7-17-90

RECORDED: 14
INDEXED: 14

CONFIDENTIAL

EX-120
Office Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: [redacted], San Francisco (105-4626)
SUBJECT: [redacted]

DATE: July 10, 1956

Re: MFO 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. BELL or his wife when they return from their trip to the USSR.
The September, 1955 San Francisco Telephone Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELL, Attorney, with offices at 240 Stockton Street, telephone GA 1-0316, residing at 1228 Montgomery Street, telephone YU 2-2146.

The 1955-1956 San Francisco City Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELL, 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. BELL, 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.B degree, and having offices at 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco.

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

CLASS: 57
DATE OF REVIEW: 7-10-56

ENCLOSURE

105-498-65-4
Section II, page 1, column 1, reveals Attorney MELVIN BELL, 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 BELL, attorney and writer, married on May 3, 1956, a former air line hostess, JOEY TURNER, in San Francisco. MELVIN BELL, according to the article, formerly was married to BETTY CALLINGTON and divorced in 1951, having two children. He married TONE NICHOLS, a former stenographer, and they were divorced in March, 1955.

On March 9, 1951, the name of MELVIN BELL, 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."
"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 GATH, included in addition to HALLINAN: MERVIN BELL, 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 Great 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."
Signing the message of greetings, with modifications, in some instances, were: ".....MELVIN M. BELL, attorney....."

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

TO: Mr. Nichols

FROM: M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: MELVIN-BELLI
ATTORNEY, SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

DATE: December 14, 1956

PURPOSE:

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

CLASS: EXT. BY Special Agent

SEASON, 1975: 4-14-56

DATE OF REVIEW: 12-14-90

DETAILS

ATTORNEY

There are frequent references in files 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...
Jones to Nichols memorandum

December 14, 1956

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)

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)

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

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.
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

The 1956 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a Melvin M. Belli, born 1907, with admission to the bar in 1933. Belli is a member of the American Bar Association and attended the University of California receiving the B.A. and LL.B. degrees.

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 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."
"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."

Signs the message of greetings, with modifications in some instances, were: "....... MELVIN M. BELL, 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 Mervin 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
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.

"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 HALIN; 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 1045.

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 5166, 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 "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper, issue of May 3, 1956, revealed Melvin Belli, attorney and writer, married on May 3, 1956, a former airline 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.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper, issue of July 3, 1956, 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. (105-49865-4)

The Grievance Committee of the California Bar Association may have additional information concerning Belli.
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 Melvin Belli, who is connected with the National Association of Compensation Attorneys.

Lewis stated that Belli had written a book "Ready for Plaintiffs" 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 harassment 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.
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Mr. DeLoach

FROM: M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

SECRET DATE: September 1, 1959

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.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

Enclosure: Letter 9-1-59

1 - Mr. Belmont

HEH: sec (6)
Office Memo

Secret

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Mr. DeLoach

FROM: M. Jones

DATE: August 28, 1959

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

BACKGROUND: The attached newspaper clipping from "The New York Times" dated 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, Ash and Gerry, 240-Stockton Street, San Francisco, California.

SYNOPSIS:

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information.

DETAILS: The "Daily People's World," communist newspaper, of November 3, 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4 contained an article entitled "Bay Area..."
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, 1945. 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.

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
Jones to DeLoach Memo
Re: Melvin M. Belli

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

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)

Belli was reported to be leaving his wife on July 3, 1956, for Europe (105-49865-4)

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

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

September 1, 1959

Director, FBI

135-49865-8

MELVIN M. BELL
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

As you may be aware, Melvin M. Bell, a San Francisco trial attorney, introduced West Coast mobster Mickey Cohen on the seminar on legal topics 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. Bell and Cohen have regarded this incident as humorous, but, of course, this type of humor is in extremely poor taste.

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

1 - Mr. Belmont

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

MAILED 19 AUG-19
SEP-1 1959
COMM.FdR
Mobster's 'Lecture' Embarrasses Bar

MIAMI BEACH, Aug. 24—Leaders of the American Bar Association were fuming today over an appearance by Mickey Cohen, notorious mobster, at a Miami conference yesterday. Cohen turned up at the seminar after he was introduced as "Professor O'Brien," an expert on tax evasion and income tax cases.

"That's nothing unusual," Cohen said. "They know I'm paid nothing, not even travel expenses, and the police know I'm going." Anyway, Cohen flew into town for Mr. Bell's handling the picture.

All information contained herein is unclassified.

DATE: 6-17-65

Cohen, one of the leading figures in organized crime in America, was known to be suspected of murder in Chicago. Cohen was gunned down a year ago in Los Angeles. He was shot in Chicago last Saturday while Cohen was at a high-level meeting of local and national reporters.

They should see somebody when they are going to someplace, Cohen told reporters after his talk with the detectives.

As for the seminar, that turned out to have no official connection with the American Bar Association, which, holding its annual convention here, Cohen came here for the conference of Melvin M. Belli, a Los Angeles lawyer. The last of Mr. Belli's seminars, on trial tactics at the bar association's annual convention, was attended by the National Industrial Conference Board and the National Association of Manufacturers, among others.

Mr. Belli, however, today announced that he had written to Cohan, who had attended the seminar, that the seminar was being held in Los Angeles against a charge of assaulting a policeman. After one meeting, Cohen pleaded guilty and was fined $200. The seminar was a "secret" that the mystery guest would be Cohen, but both the newspapers and the police knew in advance.

"That's nothing unusual," Cohen said. "They know I'm paid nothing, not even travel expenses, and the police know I'm going.

Anyway, Cohen flew into town for Mr. Belli's seminar, and the picture.

"Mick" was introduced by Mr. Belli, who presented him as "Professor O'Brien," an expert on tax evasion and income tax cases.
Memorandum

TO: Mr. Malone

FROM: H. L. Edwards

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELL
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 2/25-25, 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
Memorandum to Mr. Mohr
Re: Melvin M. Belli
105-49865

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 it 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.
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.

Based on Malone to Mr. Mohr memo, 3/7/60 Re: Mélvin M. Belli, Attorney, San Francisco, California. KWW: jss.
Office Memorandum  UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  

TO: Director, FBI  
DATE: 3/18/65

FROM: SAC, San Francisco (105-4626)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
ATTORNEY  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA  

Rep. 3/14/60.

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

As set forth in letter to the Bureau from departing, dated 3/21/47 captioned "SS E. A. BRYAN, SS QUINAULT VICTORY,  
PORT CHICAGO CASES, ADMIRALTY MATTER," with reference to BELLI,  
charging Bureau Agents with harrassing his clients, it will be noted  
that, in that regard, after being interviewed in this matter by Agents  
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 a  
blind memo.
The newspaper items mentioned in the memorandum were obtained through the library of the "San Francisco Examiner," a newspaper published at San Francisco. The items were clippings filed in envelopes; where the clipping was from the "San Francisco Examiner," it only bore a date stamp of the date of issue from which clipped, where the item had been clipped from another newspaper, it had been stamped with the name of the newspaper and the date of issue only.

Information with reference to the articles from "Life," "Time," and the "Saturday Evening Post," national magazines, were secured from the San Francisco City Library.
March 18, 1960

MRS. Melvin M. Belli
Attorney
San Francisco, California
Joy T. 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, 1929, a former air-line hostess, Joyc Turner, in San Francisco. Melvin Belli, according to the article, formerly was married to Betty Bannantine and divorced in 1951, having four children. He married Tonia Nichols, a former stenographer, and they were divorced in March, 1955.

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

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

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

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

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

The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of April 28, 1959, sets forth, under the caption "Belli Plans Plea for Stripper in Dope Case," information that San Francisco attorney Melvin Belli announced yesterday he would champion the cause of Las Vegas stripper Candy Barr, a comedy girl friend of gambler Mickey Cohen, convicted of possession of marijuana. The item stated that Belli, reached by telephone in Las Vegas, said, "This is a gross miscarriage of justice. I have definitely taken up her case and we're going to the U. S. Supreme Court with it."
The article stated that Cohen said he made the arrangements for Belli to defend Miss Barr. Cohen was quoted, "I made connections for Candy. I am not paying the bill. But I okayed the credit on it. She'll pay him when she's able."

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

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

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

In the "San Francisco Examiner" issue of August 25, 1959, it was set forth in an article that Melvin Belli, top trial lawyer from San Francisco, had introduced Mickey Cohen as Professor O'Brien at the American Bar Association convention in Miami Beach. The article stated that Cohen, as Professor O'Brien, lectured to the unsuspecting lawyers as a
"professor" on income tax. The article stated the Association did not think it was funny and an Association spokesman said that it was obviously an attempt to use the American Bar Association for a private promotion, according to the news item. The news article quoted Belli as follows: "If they can't appreciate that part of the program, then the whole Bar Association has lost its sense of humor." Belli was further quoted that he was sorry Cohen had appeared before the convention.

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

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

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

The "San Francisco Examiner" issues of October 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29, 1957, contained items mentioning Melvin Belli as attorney for Beverly Leadland, teen-aged protege of the late Errol Flynn, movie actor who died at Vancouver, British Columbia, in October, 1959.

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

The "San Francisco Examiner" of December 8, 1957, datelined Marysville (California) contained an article that attorney Melvin Belli had filed action for the son and daughter of a person by the name of Long. The news item set forth that according to the action Andersen induced the father "through fraud and under influence" to will all but $113,500 of the estate to Andersen and his law partners, Norman Leonard and Richard Gladstein.
The "San Francisco Chronicle" issue of October 9, 1956, had an item that attorney Melvin H. Belli was charged in the Municipal Court (San Francisco) with failing to pay $176.00 in overtime wages to two secretaries. The "San Francisco Chronicle" of October 20, 1956, had an article on the same matter. This article stated that a couple of former secretaries had hailed Melvin Belli into court on charges he failed to pay their overtime for the last two weeks they worked for him. The charge was described as a misdemeanor.

San Francisco, California, Police Department arrest records Nos. A28055 and A28056 reflect that Melvin Belli of 1228 Montgomery Street was arrested on the morning of September 19, 1956, on warrants issued on complaints of two individuals charging violation of 216(a) of the Labor Code. He was released immediately on $100,00 bond in each of the two cases. The records of Municipal Court, Department No. 11, San Francisco, reflect that Belli was acquitted of these charges in each case for violation of 216(a) of the Labor Code on December 12, 1956. The action numbers in the Municipal Court are 9327 and 9329.

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

"San Francisco Examiner" of May 10, 1955, in an item captioned "Chessman's Book Suit" set forth that attorney Melvin Belli, on behalf of Miss Asher, had filed suit in Marin County (California) Superior Court, asking the court to order Warden Harley O. Teets, Director of Correction (California) Richard McGee and others to release Chessman's latest book, "Trial and Ordeal," to attorney Asher.
"Life" magazine (published by Time, Inc., 540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois) in an issue of October 12, 1954, beginning on Page 71, contains an article by Robert Wallace captioned "The King of Torts." The subheading reads "Melvin Belli's court room props and his pyrotechnical oratory have reaped big awards for his clients and himself while revolting the practice of personal injury law."

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 SB 1666, 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 2, 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.

"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 McGrath, included in addition to Hallinan: Mervin Belli, attorney:..................

The "Peoples World, formerly 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 Great 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.

"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 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.

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

TO: Mr. Malone

FROM: H. L. Edwards

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELL
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SAN FRANCISCO

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.

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

Belli 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 , I informed him of the proposed Belli Seminar. This was complete news to 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 REG 68

Enclosure
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 court 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. "Dean of my office, the Legal Chairman.

All good wishes.

MELVIN M. BELLI
SAC, San Francisco (105-4626) 9/7/60

Director, FBI (105-49865) 1/2
EX 179
REG 31
MELVIN M. BELLI
IS - BU

Re: FBI 9/2/60

SF should submit a letterhead memo, suitable for dissemination, classified Confidential, setting forth pertinent information contained in the internal report, 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)

Note: B. 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 ABA 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. R. L. Edwards to Mr. Malone dated 8/9/60.
September 29, 1960

RE: MELVIN M. BELLi

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.

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.

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 Lt.Degree. The directory also lists BELLi, ASHE and GERRY, T. Building, San Francisco.
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 foreword 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 5, 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 Tort 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, revealed 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.
November 9, 1960

RE: KELVIN M. HECI

The April 18, 1958, issue of the San Francisco News, page 1, columns 3, 4, 5, and 6, contains an article entitled "BUFFANO 'Peace' Out in Cold Again", in which BENIAMINO BUFFANO attempted to dedicate his 37 foot statue, called "Peace" at the San Francisco Airport. Article states: "Among those invited: Secy of State BULLES, Governor KIGHT, Mayor CHRISTOPHER. BENIAMINO BUFFANO.

"But, it turned out, the governor would not show for the unveiling at the airport tomorrow if the mayor did."

"BULLES, who is running the State Dept., would not show if BUFFANO did, for BUFFANO 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 "BUFFANO Reports Bulganin Full of Red Tinted Peace Dreams" in which Sculptor HENRY BUFFANO describes his adventures in Soviet Russia, including a two hour session with Premier NIKOLAI BULGARIN in which they discuss, "from Sputnik I and II, nuclear science, art, guided missiles, disarmament and world economy to Hungary, Red China, and the United Nations."
The December 21, 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 cut 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 BENJAMINO BUFANO 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 opinions of the FBI, it is the result of the FBI and is issued to E. O. 10450; it and its contents be distributed only.
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. JOHNSON, 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 bribe.

His defense attorney BELVIN BELL, a prominent San Francisco lawyer, as a defense apparently intends to show that there was friction between Chief IVAN ROBINSON (VA) of the Downey Police Department and Judge JOHNSON; that this friction caused ROBINSON's attempting to tell JOHNSON that sentences he should impose and JOHNSON's opinion that the Downey Police Department was not properly handling narcotics violations. BELL appears to be preparing to show that in view of the lack of cooperation between ROBINSON and JOHNSON, JOHNSON thereafter 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. BELL apparently intends to show that because of the conflict between JOHNSON and ROBINSON and JOHNSON's investigation into narcotics at Downey that ROBINSON and the Downey Police Department thereafter set out to frame JOHNSON and that the entire case in this matter is a frame-up of JOHNSON by ROBINSON and the Downey Police Department.
This office has followed the matter in the press and was directed to the Bureau on November 1, 1961, by Captain IVAN ROBINSON, JR., Chief of Police, Downey, California, FBIJA Associate. Our interest was only because ROBINSON was a National Academy Graduate.

On November 1, 1961, S. J. TRAINOR, Chief of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, telephonically contacted this office in reference to "instant trial of JOHNSTON." He stated that an investigator for the District Attorney's Office advised that as part of its defense, JOHNSTON's attorneys would claim that JOHNSTON wrote a letter to the FBI. The investigator asked TRAINOR whether JohnSTON would have written a letter complaining of narcotics conditions in Downey had been written to the Federal Bureau of Narcotics. TRAINOR stated he had checked their files but could not locate any such letter or from the Judge. TRAINOR wondered if such a letter had ever been directed to this office inasmuch as he knew we formally referred narcotics matters to his office, feeling that we would not have failed to find such a letter on which he was unable to find. A search was made of Los Angeles files and no such letter was located.

TRAINOR was recontracted and advised that we had no record of a letter from Judge JOHNSTON. He was advised, however, that our files are confidential and that he should not tell the investigator from the District Attorney's Office the results of the check of our files. TRAINOR stated he understood and would not make any statement that a letter from Judge JOHNSTON had not been sent to the FBI.

BELL stated that attorney MELVIN BELLI had turned the JOHNSTON trial into a trial of ROBINSON, and was attempting to make ROBINSON the defendant. He said that BELLI was one of the most vicious and unscrupulous individuals that he had ever encountered; that BELLI was making numerous unfounded allegations against ROBINSON; and that he did not know how to counter this type of attack.
stated he did not know Judge
JOHNSTON very well at all but knew of his extremely bad
tulmption for chasing after women before he was appointed
to the Downey Municipal Bench. He stated for that
reason he had stayed at arms length from JOHNSTON.

he recalls only one brief two-minute
conversation with JOHNSTON over these years.

stated the unfounded allegations
of BELL I were being printed in many newspapers and made
reference to an article which had appeared in the November 1
issue of the "Huntington Park Signal," an afternoon paper
published in the small suburb of Huntington Park. A copy
of this article is enclosed herewith. The article in effect
states that the feud between Judge JOHNSTON and Chief
ROBINSON worsened after JOHNSTON had written a letter to
the FBI. AND Chief ROBINSON had destroyed an arrest record
in a heroin case.

stated that questions in his mind
were whether JOHNSTON had made such a complaint to the FBI
and whether the FBI had investigated any such complaint. He
went on to state that he felt this data put out by BELL I was
completely false and that he recognized he would have been
aware of any investigation. He stated that his
knowledge of FBI jurisdiction is such that FBI does not
handle narcotics matters, nor would they be interested in
any alleged destruction of a record of a drug addict.

A complete review of all possible references in
the Los Angeles Office was made, and a review of all
correspondence in the 12-O file (narcotics matters) going
back to 1955 has been made with negative results.

I talked to and he fully realizes
the confidential nature of our files and stated that he
would do everything he could to avoid any interjection of
FBI in this matter.
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.

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.
Memorandum

TO: Mr. DeLoach

FROM: M. A. Jones

DATE: November 13, 1961

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 courting after women before he was appointed to the Bench. According to Robinson, Belli has turned the Johnston trial into a trial of Robinson and is attempting to make Robinson the defendant. Belli 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 lead between Johnston and Robinson's men worsened after Johnston complained to the FBI and Robinson destroyed an arrest report in a heroin case.

Belli has been checked and no record could be located of any 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 would have been referred to the Federal Bureau of Narcotics.
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 have 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 prosecuted 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 Test 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 1947, 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 O'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.
ReSFlet 11-9-60.

On 10-11-62, 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.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-49865)          DATE: 12/11/62

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

SUBJECT: CHANGED MELVIN MOURON BELLII
          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.

ResFlot 11/9/60 captioned "MELVIN M. BELLII; IS-

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

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

2-Bureau (Eng 9)
1-San Francisco (105-4626) (Inc) (Enc 1) (RM)

DMB: kjm
(4)

Copy to: CIA/State/RAO
ONI/OSI/ACSI
by routing slip for info.
Date 1/3/63 by CAM/Red.

MCT-18 103-78-15-17
REG-71

Dec 12 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, 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.
RE: MELVIN MOURON/BELLI

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

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

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

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.
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 readers 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. BELL1
March 13, 1963

Mr. Melvin M. Belli
Belli, Ash 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

Memorandum

TO: Mr. DeLoach

FROM: M. A. Jones

DATE: 3/13/63

SUBJECT: MR. MELVIN M. BELLI
BELL, 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 FILES: M. A. Jones

Enclosure: Letter 3-13-63 EX-102 REC-72

Enclosures (2)
M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo
Re: Mr. Melvin M. Belli
San Francisco, California

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 at 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 anything 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.
Memorandum

TO: Mr. DeLoach
FROM: M. A. Jones

DATE: 3-26-63

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

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

6 APRA 1 1963, FIFTH FROM CONTAINED
C.J.H.par (5)

MARCH 28, 1963
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. Tonsill 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.
TO: Mr. Belmont

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.

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

WP: necb 9-1963 1963-01-29

All information contained
Belli Says
He's Not
Flamboyant

Melvin Belli insists he is not
flamboyant.

In the course of a book he
wrote to a Dallas Hearst reporter,
Belli, lawyer for Jack Ruby,
penned these words:

"To all friends with all good
wishes Melvin Belli. Not a flam-
boyant lawyer—colorful, yes!".

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

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

Belli added to the pre-Pres-
idential press conference.

Belli is, as much a perform-
er 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 con-
tributed to the 45-year-old Belli's
reputation as one of San Francis-
co's most effective lawyers.

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

"Every good trial lawyer is, to
some extent, an actor, be he arti-
ist or ham; and he is also a play-
wright and a director, who pre-
pared the "script" sets the scene
and stage-manages the evidence.
Mr. Belli is all of that, and more."
Ruby's Lawyer Has Reputation As Courtroom 'Barrymore'

By William Flynn

San Francisco - The California Bar will have a celebrity lawyer in its midst when Maurice Bello, the So Cal correspondent for the New York Daily News, visits the area to meet Ruby Bell, the former Hollywood actress turned criminal defense attorney.

Bell is a genius with a flamboyant personality. He is a lawyer, but he is more than that. He is a showman, a performer, a man who commands attention when he walks into a room.

His clients include such notables as Jack Ruby, the assassin of Lee Harvey Oswald, and Robert Kennedy, the attorney general of the United States.

Bell's reputation as a brilliant trial lawyer is no secret in California. He has won hundreds of cases, and his clients have included some of the most famous names in Hollywood.

One of his most famous cases was the trial of John McGargill, a Los Angeles police officer accused of murdering a woman.

For months, Bell had been preparing for the trial, gathering evidence and making plans for his strategy.

Finally, the day arrived for the trial to begin. Bell entered the courtroom, his white hair and beard adding to his already impressive appearance.

The jury was impaneled, and the trial began. Bell knew he had to be at his best if he was to win this case.

He started by addressing the jury, telling them about McGargill's exemplary service as a police officer.

He then began to present his case, using all the skills he had learned during his years as a trial lawyer.

Bell's closing argument was a masterpiece of legal rhetoric. He spoke with passion and conviction, leaving no doubt in the jury's mind that McGargill was guilty of the crime.

The jury deliberated for several hours before announcing their verdict. They found McGargill guilty of murder.

Bell was not deterred. He knew he had won, and he continued to fight for his client's freedom.

In the end, he succeeded. McGargill was acquitted on appeal, and Bell's reputation as a brilliant trial lawyer was further enhanced.

Bell's life is full of such trials, and he continues to succeed time and time again.

He is a true celebrity lawyer, a man who commands attention wherever he goes.
Juror Concerts Addition
A San Francisco Superior Court judge became so transmuted with the itemized list of damages that when Bell struck the total with a flurry of chalk dust, the jurist exclaimed: "You don't mean $500,000, Mr. Bell. My client should have $300,000." Bell, scanning the figures, added, "The jury fascinated! He struck out the $200,000 total, told the court, five minutes later, that total $300,000.

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

Bell, 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. "It allows 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, green.

"The Rolls is the best car," he says, "even if 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 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.

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 collection ranging from frothy bits of verse to "Life and Legend in the Three Volume "Political Trials," that is a textbook to the members of his profession.

"I've made more than $6,000 out of that one," he tells.

Office Near Home
His office, just a few blocks away, has a Telegram along Montgomery Street, renovated 100-year-old building. The exterior is done in beige, has a frilly, iron-work fashion of the Queen Anne, New Orleans.

A Philadelphia trained jurist, William Sweeney, was in New York once visited Bell's building. After surveying the garish interior of Bell's office complete with 100-year-old, bar, Mother Lode antiques, a steam room, the bars, reached by sliding down a man's brick-pole, he said he wandered into the street, viously suffering from the glare.

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

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

As for the American Bar Association, Bell says: "I hang that certificate over the bowl in the wash room."

No Ordinary Counsel
"Thus," he 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 Monroe Bell will provide Ruby with more than a competent defense.

He always gives his client that his clients have the right to spend thousands of dollars to prove it.

And those who lost the cases that resulted in the expenditures may not win from Monroe Bell but they have been him, and for him.

He accepts gratuities without a price tag, and the two are due but no overpayment.

After all, "genius is lots out reward for a job well done."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
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—The State Bar today asked the 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 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.

NOT RECORDED

46 APR 7 1964
TO:  
Mr. Mohr

FROM:  
C. D. DeLoach

DATE:  February 25, 1964

SUBJECT:  
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

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 back at 3:30 p.m.

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. He stated that his reporter had pledged not to reveal the name of his 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 reporter about this matter additionally advised him that it was entirely possible that J. Edgar Hoover's FBI headquarters in Washington would never be consulted about local informants. The reporter argued 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.

said he wanted to let the Director know about this matter at once, that the Director already knew of this rumor that this was an old, old story about a scintilla of truth to it. I went into some detail with explaining that careless rumors came from 3 different sources: (1) I explained the matter of Senator Estes Kefauver, Chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, and Jay Sowkins, counsel of that Committee, having picked up this information from a source employed by Senator Strom Thurmond. I told him he had backed down. (2) I claimed that he merely deduced such facts on the basis of prior experience in military intelligence. I told him that they had faulty logic and was a "dreamer"; (2) I mentioned the drive by the Communists to
DeLoach to Mohr-memo
Re: Assassination of the President

Approve the fact that Oswald was a confirmed Marxist by alleging that Oswald was an spy or either the FBI or CIA; (3) I told ________________________ that the "recently released former Agent" was undoubtedly one ___________________________ who was dismissed with prejudice for making false and defamatory statements about the FBI. I additionally mentioned the incident involving the reporter by the name of Hudkins who had refused to back up his statements previously made to Henry Wade, the prosecutor in Dallas, Texas. Insofar as Belli was concerned, I told _____________________________ he might like to consider the source inasmuch as Belli would use every subterfuge possible in order to get publicity for himself and to get his client, Rusk, off the hook on a plea of insanity.

I agreed that the allegations were undoubtedly false and stated that he was satisfied and that no action would be taken by the papers. He asked, however, that I call _____________________________, publisher of the _____________________________, and tell him the same facts. He stated that it could be reached at _____________________________, his listed number at the _____________________________ offices:

I talked to _____________________________ at approximately 4:20 p.m., 2/25/64, and he related to me the same facts as previously given by _____________________________, however, added that the reporter ________________ Melvin Belli making the above-mentioned allegations went into some detail refuting the same allegations that both _____________________________ and _____________________________ had mentioned. In conclusion, I told _____________________________ that Belli's allegations, particularly, would necessitate our interviewing him and asking him to put up or shut up. He wanted to think this would be necessary and agreed it should be done. ________________ concluded by stating that the article would not be published in the _____________________________ papers; however, he felt that Belli would continue his gabbing and some other paper might carry these allegations. I told him that other publications had already carried almost the same rumors mentioned former Agent ________________ article in "SAGA" magazine as well as the article in "Nation" magazine and the articles by the Communist Party. ________________ was not familiar with these articles, however, stated he could see the rumors were being well played.

Both _____________________________ and _____________________________ were completely satisfied concerning our refutation of these allegations.

ACTION:

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 ________________ reporter [Redacted]. Neither _____________________________ nor [Redacted] desired to reveal the name of 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.
Memorandum

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM Mr. W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT LEE HARVEY OSWALD

INTERNAL SECURITY - R - CUBA

DATE 2-28-64

Memorandum Mr. DeLoach to Mr. Mohr, 2-25-64, reported information from SAC Mohr and SAC Branigan. That unnamed reporter described source 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. Belli making these allegations. It was 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 Mr. Belli 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 land still goes him that these rumors originated with William Alexander, Assistant 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 or such he didn't think
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 Tonashill stated that they had 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 tell 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, Tonashill 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 reinvestigating him and the Director has instructed
that no further contacts be had with

(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
and ask that he make the [redacted] Belli's statements available

(3) Immediately following [redacted] it is made available, we will furnish the above details to the
President's Commission.
Memorandum 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 allegations that Belli had stated that FBI 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 a trap. It was recommended that no worthwhile purpose would be served.

On 3-3-64, SAC Shanklin advised that Belli was contacted by him, and it was pointed out to him that we keep getting indications that the source of the rumors that Oswald was an FBI informant is the FBI and that this is the old rumor, as he has told us to stop talking and that he 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 remain 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
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SULLIVAN

RE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
105-32555

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

ACTION:

When
alleged Belli interview
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
pin down this latest allegation.
By DONOVAN BESS and WORTH GATWOOD

ONLY 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 nothing but an air-tight case against his client, Jack Ruby, who starred in TV’s only live killing.

Belli has already won 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 oppponent. 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 tory, which is illegal for a suit for damages based on a wrong act or negligent act.

Belli estimates that he wins at least 91 million a year for his clients, most of whom come to him after getting ran over by streetcars, mauled by factory machinery or victimized in some fashion by allegedly careless or stupid doctors.

Just two weeks ago, his habit of shelling big payoffs off in a $625,500 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
A. 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. "In those days," he said, "I had a vivid feeling of looking at the world, 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.

Draped in Scarlet

The offices are carpeted and draped in scarlet, the tradition of the elegant bawdy house that once flourished in San Francisco. The suite is cluttered with an assortment of antiques that range from an 1810-model Copenhagen telep­phone 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, Belli stands at his desk, stunning the faces of the office by sudden creeping and exchange of the same.

The law is over promptly at

Belli makes his way up the narrow spiral staircase to the courtroom. There, in solitary concentration, he prepares his cases with a thoroughness that he knows as a jolting surprise to many a lawyer who figures he has Belli image was marked unfairly. It's an easy mistake to make.

In court or out, he is as conspicuous as a large diamond in a coal bin.

A 58, Belli is florid, large-hung, distinguished actor-like, he wears his gray hair in the sort of swept-back mane affected by U.S. senators around the turn of the century.

Sartorially, Belli is a picture of eccentric splendor: glove-like, high-heeled boots made in Italy, custom-made, costly suits, a double-breasted jackets. When he throws back his jacket in his frequent thrusts in and out the courtroom, he draws orders a glasses and blinding scarlet lining.

In court, he is a master showman. One of his favorite devices is to intrinsically in his briefcase for an intimidating document — previously he referred to as an "air of mystery" — which the witnesses squirm in misery on the stand.

Expert in Use

Of Visual Aids

He is also expert at subtly and respectfully aggravating a jury into losing its temper. Belli uses this method sometimes when he knows the case will be appealed. The judge's outbursts will tend to make the opposing lawyer appear less than important in the appeal, thus making the record fall apart.

But Belli is not only an expert in the art of using evidence. He is an expert in the use of blackboard and chalk to drive home his points, and his use of visual aids in evidence has been marked by a juror popeye.

Once, while arguing a malpractice suit based on a California operation, Belli brought in a waxed model of the female organs of a woman. The very next day, the waxed model of the female organs, were attached as necessary by Belli and needed to by the assistant nurses. They removed her client's $3,000,000.

In another malpractice suit, Belli went even further. This was the case of a woman who had undergone abdominal surgery and had been left with a hernia. Belli intended to show the jury the trashcan and unsightly. The defendant's lawyer refused to accept the photograph.

So, as Belli put it, the patient was treated as if she didn't exist and disavowed by the jury.
The plaintiff completely disrobed her eyes, and dropped them on her breasts. The jury gave her $115,000 for her scar tissue.

There is nothing Belli likes better than looking at doctors, whom he charged with sloppiness, exclusiveness, and wastefulness. He used to talk to doctors about their short and stormy marriage, and 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, and I'm exhibiting A," he said.

She, Quit Airline Job To Become Mrs. Belli

In 1953, a friend introduced Belli to Joy Curve, who quit her airline job to become the third Mrs. Belli. They spent their honeymoon in Yuma, Ariz., where they were trying a case.

The Bellas live most of the time in an elegant, easy-California home, where it is said that Belli looks upon himself as a throwback to that gaudy, free-wheeling era, in fashionable Telegraph Hill, and some of the time in an Italianate villa they own in the Hollywood Hills. Their life revolves around their ten-year-old son, Clovis Melvin Belli.

Belli works on little Caesar, so he has not arranged for a big success. He is trying to make a movie based on the book "The American," and he has been working with brilliant Belli doing an Italianate version of "Modern Times," and at one time celebrated a big jury award by wearing an attire that lighted up his face.

Belli also turned down a Hollywood producer who wanted to make a movie based on the book "The American." He is afraid it will be hard, but he added, after a bit of thought: "I might be interested — if the part is more than just a crooked insurance adjuster."

Yearly Seminar
Always Crowded

Meantime, he confines his non-courtroom appearances to a yearly seminar, always crowded with lawyers from the whole world. The seminar includes lectures and demonstrations, all staged with brilliant Belli showing off his reputation.

A couple of years ago, he introduced a surprise guest: Patti White, 25, who attended Belli's seminar while she was in school. She now is a lawyer for the 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 all the odds.

The incredible series of events in the Kennedy-Oswald-Ruby tragedy will occupy the attention of historians for generations. However, it is said that the assassination of President Kennedy was the turning point for the country's most famous lawyer of modern times.

The Kennedy-Oswald-Ruby tragedy will occupy the attention of historians for generations.
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: Belli relaxes at home with third wife, for-pay airline hostess Joy Gurney, and son, Caesar, 6. Right: Belli strikes pose against bar in office where he dispenses hospitality along with counsel.
In one of most dramatic photos of all time, Ruby is shown at instant he shot Lee Oswald in basement of Dallas jail.
Candid, Controversial And Clever, Lawyer Melvin Belli Is a Perry Mason With Showmanship

The Defender
An old hand at battling odds, Melvin Belli—[——] is picture of confidence as he discusses defense of client 'Jack' Ruby [A], killer of late President Kennedy, presumed assassin, in rococo San Francisco office where 1920ish decor proclaims antique phone.
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 who looked 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 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

Jury, judge, the prosecution and Dallas. Something swift verdict Saturday, he blew up and denounced verdict, 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 PhilBurke, listed the best-known criminal lawyer as Texas.

Percy Foreman, as the new member of the defense team Mr. Burkeen and Joe Toohill continued as Ruby's representatives.

The motion was filed with the clerk of trial Judge Joe B. Brown's court and cited 33 alleged errors as grounds for a new trial. It will now be denied and the case taken to the state Court of Criminal Appeals.
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 re-shuffled 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.

He 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 36 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 Tomaino, a Jasper lawyer.

Both were associated with
Belli during Ruby's month-long trial.

Burlerson said he conferred by phone with Percy Foreman, the 5-foot-4,-250-pound Houston lawyer hired Thursday to head the defense, and Foreman authorized him to file the plea.

The defense lawyers said Judge J. B. Brown blocked Ruby from receiving a fair trial by
- Refusing to move the trial to another county.
- Letting jurors pass judgment on Ruby even though they had "witnessed", the slaying on their television screens.
- Allowing officers to testify about statements they said Ruby made while under arrest.
- Denying a pretrial sanity hearing.

Judge Brown, who was reported out of the city Friday, will schedule a hearing, probably late next month.

If Judge Brown denies the request for a new trial, defense lawyers will go to the Court of Criminal Appeals. If turned down there, they could ask the federal courts to review the case on the ground Ruby's constitutional rights have been violated.

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 said he had planned to tell 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.

Bell also 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.
Memorandum

TO: Mr. W. C. Sullivan
FROM: D. J. Brennan, Jr.
DATE: 3/23/64

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 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
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.
Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
RE: MELVIN MOURON BELL
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ACTION:

For information. Belli has been dismissed by Ruby as his attorney to handle his appeals.
Memorandum

To: W. C. Sullivan
From: W. A. Branigan
Subject: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

DATE: 3-3-64

Reference is made to my memorandum dated 2-2-64 above-captioned, regarding information received from and publications, that a reporter had been advised by Melvyn 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 on 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 "chilled vibes" of Alexander planting such rumors.

Referenced memorandum also pointed out that while Belli had categorically denied making the statements alleged by officials, the Bureau should win this matter down by request to make Belli's statements available. Assistant Director DeLoach contacted Belli's and requested that Belli's statements be made available. Belli's indicates that the Bureau. While Mr. DeLoach has followed with Belli and the latter has said there is no indication we will. It may be believed this matter should be pinned down and that Mr. DeLoach should have either produce specifically why he cannot.

105-82555

BFR:klw/mhv (10)
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. While my memorandum of 3-6-64 recommended that the President's Commission be advised of this false allegation after we knew it is to be noted we have not 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]
SAN FRANCISCO, April 28—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.
Belli Fears Death Waits at His ‘Trial’ in Dallas

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.

“We 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 stirring 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 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 choose 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 horror, 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 as 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
WELL, BY NOW there's 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 bounding down the grand stairway with the vitality of a youngster. He was immaculate in his white leggings, three-quarter length jacket and spotless white cap. The customary rosebud peaked 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?

Read Bob Considine's column Monday through Friday in The Journal-American.
### FBI

**Date:** 7/14/64

**TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING IN**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AIRTEL</th>
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<td><strong>TO:</strong></td>
<td><strong>FROM:</strong></td>
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<td>DIRECTOR, FBI (44-24015)</td>
<td>SAC, DALLAS (44-1639) (P)</td>
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The attached copy of a letter dated April 21, 1964, from MELVIN BELL, 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 BELL 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)

---

10/23/65

NOT RECORDED

170 JUL 23 1964

### FBI

**DATE:** 6/18/60

Approved by Special Agent in Charge.
July 20, 1964

By Courier Service

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Him 

Honorble 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, to General Melba, former Deputy Director of the American Bar Association, which letter calls into question the facts and accuracy of the information you have obtained...

Inasmuch as it contains data relating to Jack E. Ruby and his trial in Dallas, Texas.

With reference to the statement made by Mr. Rall to page 11 of the letter to the subject that Sergeant Moran of the Dallas Police Department recently complained to his chief of police that the blood around him of Ruby, if the chief is advised you that this blood is completely false, the Agent of that ranger had reported Sergeant Moran of lying and have them at any time before the trial of Jack E. Ruby.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

[Signature]

JUNE 27, 1964

SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.

[Handwritten notes]
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 (those 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 or 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 it "plot" in all its intimations.
Mr. Belmont

TO: Mr. Belmont

FROM: A. Rosen

DATE: July 30, 1964

SUBJECT: JACK L. RUBY, AKA;
LEE HARVEY OSWALD, AKA - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

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 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 interviews with
him. Mitchell said Belli explained the use of the cameraman, 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 could 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

[Handwritten note: 170 AUG 18, 1964, 3:45]
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 a confidential basis is given to Craig, it will no doubt also become public media. The Bureau must not become involved in this public argument between Belli and Craig.

ACTION:

In view of the Commission's interest in Ruby, the information furnished by will be disseminated to the President's Commission taking care to conceal as the source.

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.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-24016)
FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (44-430) (P)
SUBJECT: JACK L. RUBY, Aka; LEE HARVEY OSWALD, Aka - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS
OQ: Dallas

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.

ENCLOSURES: 2 - Bureau (Enc. - 5)
1 - Dallas (Enc. - 1) (44-1639)
1 - Oklahoma City
DHS: bnm (5)

Approved: Special Agent in Charge
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.
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 receive 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.
Mitchell indicated that Belli frequently referred to the unethical approach he was using, stating that if it became known he would "go to jail." These references by Belli alarmed Mitchell to the point that he disassociated himself from Belli's employment, but he was sworn to secrecy by Belli before leaving. Mitchell indicated another cameraman was also employed by Belli, and as far as Mitchell knew, the other cameraman had remained in Belli's employ.

The confidential source furnishing the above information indicated that he had no way of evaluating the truthfulness of Mitchell's story, nor even if Mitchell had been employed by Belli as a cameraman.
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 shot 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."
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (DIRECTOR, FBI (DIRECTOR, FBI)

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (C. 

SUBJECT: SN - C. 

OO: NEW YORK

The Bureau airtel, 10/16/64.

Enclosed herewith are nine copies of a LCM suitable for dissemination concerning the debate between MELVIN BELL 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 Mrs. HELEN JANET KEEFER, Walnut Creek, California.

A copy has been sent to New York because 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:

1. Bureau (REG)(Encls. 12) (REG)
   1 - New York (INFO)(Encl. 2)(REG)
   1 - Dallas (INFO)(Encl. 2)(REG)
   1 - San Francisco
   JGC: rap

L. C. Wcl!
However, the People's World newspaper, a west coast communist newspaper published weekly on Saturday, on October 17, 1964, published an article on page two captioned "Debate on Warren Report Blackout".

In paragraph three of this article a question was raised as to why the newspapers in the San Francisco Bay Area had no reporters at this debate.

Enclosed for the Bureau are three xeroxed copies of this article. One copy is enclosed for each New York and Dallas, because of their interest in this matter.
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 captions
"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

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.
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 TIPPIE; 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 teen-agers 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.
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 America 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.
UPI-157

LIBEL SUIT

SAN FRANCISCO--SAN FRANCISCO ATTORNEY MELVIN M. BELLI TODAY FILED A $90 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
Belli Picks New Target, FBI's Hoover

BY BILL PORTERFIELD
Chronicle Reporter

Melvin Belli, the rapid-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:

1. That he loves Texas—all Texans, even though Texas lawyers "antiquities."
2. 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 error— 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.

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Mr. Talley
Mr. Patterson
Mr. Church
Mr. Austin
Mr. Terry
Mr. Galbraith
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Talley
Mr. Dicke
Mr. Allen

Mr. Clower
Mr. Gandy
Mr. Maloney
Mr. Room

THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Date: 12/9/64
Edition: BILL PORTERFIELD
Author: W. P. STEVEN
Title: 

Character:

Classification:

Submitting Office: HOUSTON

175 - 77

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
IN THIS DOCUMENT
WHO BE CORRECTED

DEC 22 1964
Belli May Join Indians In Legal Battles

**Melvin Belli**

At a news conference yesterday, Belli announced that he would sue the United States government to redress what he called "vernacular" errors in the state of Washington's water rights settlement with the Puyallup tribe. Belli, a well-known criminal defense attorney, has represented the Indians in a number of legal battles.

The suit, which will be filed in Seattle, alleges that the Indians were not given adequate notice of the settlement, and that the settlement was unfair to the Indians.

Cone said that if Belli can arrange it in his busy schedule, he'd be "very much interested in helping 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 Satsiac in his $62 million cross-complaint against the state for alleged past, present, and future lost income because of state interference with his fishing rights. Cone also said Belli might assist Satsiac in his appeal of a justice court conviction for assault arising out of the colocated September three fishing on the County-City Building.

No date has been set on the pre-trial hearing over Satsiac's $62 million cross-complaint.

Cone said any assistance to Satsiac or the Puyallup by Belli would be "a labor of love." He said he knew Satsiac was in no position to pay Belli the regular fees.

Bellis firm presently is representing the Puyallup Indians of California in an appeal of a land settlement which granted about $3 million to the Puyallup tribe.

**Hinges on Schedule**

Cone said everything hinged on Belli's schedule, but declined to say whether the attorney "definitely is interested."

At the same time Satsiac said another protest march on Olympia 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 cavalcade to Olympia while the trial is in progress.

"We want to find out where red men fit in Gov. Dan Evans blueprint for Progress," Satsiac said.

**U.N. Membership**

In another attempt to draw attention to the Indian cause, Satsiac requested information Wednesday from United Nations Secretary U Thant about possible Puyallup tribal membership in the U.N.

He claimed that the Puyallups as a separate nation are interested in national identity because the United States "has ignored the perpetuity of our inherited rights and treaties which were binding for all time."

Closer to home, Satsiac said he has called a meeting of some Puyallup Indians Jan. 30 to discuss the possibility of requiring sports fishermen to get a permit from the Puyallups before fishing for steelhead on the lower Puyallup River.

"An recommendation would have to be presented to the Puyallup Tribal Council and its chairman, Frank Wright. Neither the tribe nor Wright have indicated they desire any such plan."

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**TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE, Tacoma, Washington**

**Date:** 1/21/65

**Edition:** 1

**Author:** Melvin Belli

**Editor:**

**Title:** MELVIN BELLI

**Character:**

**Classification:** 70-?

**Submitting Office:** SEA TLE

**Being Investigated:**
Memorandum

TO: Mr. DeLoach
FROM: M. A. Jones
SUBJECT: PLAYBOY MAGAZINE
      MAY, 1965, ISSUE

DATE: 5-11-65


According to this book review, a minor character in the plot is a "disillusioned FBI agent named Arnold Mordecai Eisenraub, 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 harassment -- 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.

File 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.
May 12, 1965

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

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 those 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.

and I send you our very best wishes.

Sincerely yours,
May 24, 1965

Boston, Massachusetts

Dear [Name]

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 you to send best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: We last corresponded with [Name] cordially on 7-6-62. At that time he was on the Special Correspondents' List. The remarks that refer 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."
Memorandum

TO: Mr. DeLoach

FROM: M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW, "PLAYBOY" MAGAZINE

MELVIN BELLI

JUNE, 1965

Melvin Belli, San Francisco attorney and the most notorious chaotian 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 a 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 is 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 communists" 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 "unblemished 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?"

Enclosure

1. Mr. DeLoach
2. Mr. Rosen
3. Mr. Gale
4. Mr. Sullivan

(Continued on next page)
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 bizarreness of his character. His reasoning on every count is typical of his nature as an egomaniac. To do anything but ignore him would play into his hands and provide him with 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. Horace of the legal profession"—these are among the kinder things said about San Francisco attorney Melvin Monroe 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—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 ranging from $100,000 to a record-setting $675,000. He has also pioneered the use of "demonstrative evidence" before juries—graphic, and sometimes gory, courtroom displays of artificial limbs, autopsy photographs, skeletons, drawings, X rays, witnesses on stretchers—treating William Proctor, former dean of the University of California Law School, to call him "a Hollywood producer," and his trials "epics of the supercolossal." 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 wave of controversy. But no case 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 shortest 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 $50,000 altering to such turn-of-the-century elegance that it has been formally described State Landmark Number 408 by the California Historical Association. From a local San Francisco Girl, Fleming, to expand a glimpse from the street through the picture windows of his ornate office, where Belli himself may be seen at his vintage desk consulting with clients and colleagues amid a spectacular horde of heavy crystal chandeliers, solves, chairs, leather couches, janitors' quit prus, oil paintings, remarks to Belli's forensic triumphs and brandy, legal and medical books, army surgeon's apothecary jars, several hundred skeletons and a 23-foot-long bar. Within a small communications network of telephone and speaker systems, Belli maintains which 18 lawyers on the third floor, their secretaries, private in snobby, other specialists, attending the cases of clients by the dozens who have been hired by Belli's magic name and lusty courtroom battling average.

In a casual display of expansive pomposity, millionaires Belli invited to the keys to his Rollo-Royce Cloud for our use during the tour and dined and rejoiced in his $280,000 Twin Peaks home. During our weekend series of conferences, 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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
CLASSIFIED OR SECRET

[Signature]

JUN 1, 1969
PLAYBOY: You said once the Dallas lawyer warranty of the name has indispensable in defend the perjured, 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?

BELLO: 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, in my heart, I knew 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?

BELLO: Oswald's trial by the law was the biggest scandal in the history of American justice. The world saw the horrid spectacle of Oswald, without legal counsel, interrogated for hours and hours into that Friday-night mock-scene "press conference" and the putative questions in police headquarters corridors. He had no counsel to object to object as dozens of self-seeking, self-serving "authorities" volunteered to the press their prejudiced, incriminating and otherwise unwarranted statements regarding Oswald's guilt. He went a full day without counsel. In my belief, the public's mounting execration of our country 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 counter 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 try him"? What kind of defense counsel would have consented to the Dallas police department's utterly unbecoming act of murdering Os-
PLAYBOY: Why did you take on the Ruby case? Some say it was for the publicity.

BELL: 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 pay any part in your decision?

BELL: 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.

BELL: If that’s what you heard, that’s what you heard.

PLAYBOY: That’s all you want to say about it?

BELL: No more—now.

PLAYBOY: All right. Once you accepted the case, what made you decide on a plea of temporary insanity?

BELL: The incontrovertible evidence of psychiatric examinations. Jack Ruby was a very sick man who belongs in a mental hospital. We owe to our national image a dramatic example of how the American legal system pursues the innocent in its own 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 who was the assassination that stunned and shocked and sapped 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 far-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 and injunctive victory of bigotry and injustice.” How do you feel about it now?

BELL: 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 complete scientific testimony about that pitiful, afflicted little man. I shouted long, vituperatively, and in terms 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 have a voice from among those Americans who recognized what had happened, and who were sickened by Dallas’ cruelty, the snagginess, 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 assassin might have been murdered?

BELL: It’s uniquely true of Dallas. Dallas is unlike any other city in the rest of Texas in that it is different from Dallas. Federal Judge David Hughes called Dallas “the only city in the nation in which the Presen-
have been the cruelest. The percent of veteran writers who
depicted and repeated in such terms as "murder capital of the world,
"a sick city," "a hotbed of vice," "a city of shame and hate." 
Here is a city where a minister told his flock, "If any of you vote
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for this Catholic Kennedy, don't you ever come to my church again.
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 sacred as motherhood—but both can get a bit sickening when overplayed, 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 wise at covering up their tracks that it's hellishly difficult to get a conviction, and he wants to keep his precious FBI's gleaming reputation unmarred by failure.

PLAYBOY: We take it you're not one of Hoover's 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's an archreactionary auto-ruled 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 only wire tapping but search-without-warrant and knock-and-enter in the name of law and order, he would completely abandon due process and constitutional protection guarantees every citizen.

PLAYBOY: Aren't you going a bit...
BELLS I probably am--but I'm telling the truth. When the paper's 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 extravagantly harassed Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa?

BELLS: 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, crude, and even incontinent of his truth. . . . 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?

BELLS: 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 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?

BELLS: His office did a tremendous and good job on civil rights; but in Jack Kennedy's Administration, could my 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 perpetually exonerate whites charged with murdering Negroes?

BELLS: He's a segregationist, but . . .
With the public hours 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 will, 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?

**BELLI:** 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 overnight revolution in the sex relationship is going to accomplish anything good. Greater candor, yes; greater permissiveness, no. I can't believe that pre-marital 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 perverted sexually than lecherous old grandpas. 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?

**BELLI:** 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, I 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 pisky tricks, and played more than his share of them. In a dresser drawer, I remember, Errol kept about 50 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
PLAYBOY: In Sonora, California, you grew up?
BELI: 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?
BELI: 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 reprieve, a bench warrant, a couple of subpoenas 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 School of Law. I stood a lucky 13th in a class of 150.
In 1935, 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 Bigalupi." 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. Many times I got thrown out of more than the Southwest, but I know when I handled my deep, strong justice for the underdog and the out, and it's where I learned about the kangaroo courts in this country. Well, after that migratory hobo investigation job ended—Say, I see you're telling my story. Do you really want to hear it?
PLAYBOY: Certainly.
BELI: 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 hobo 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 Aviles, "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 piggickers, 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 he had admitted into the evidence. When past the jury box with it, I was struck a hell of a thought. My whole case was an argument to determine if Ernie would live or die, was in that class.
So I, "accidentally" stumbled and dropped it a hundred miles.
A plaintiff trying to collect adequate payments from his insurance company, trying to whittle down or avoid payment of an adequate award for a personal injury inflicted through the fault of the defendant whose paid-up insurance premium that company has regularly collected? Which is the greater peril? You talk about insurance company profits—well, let me tell you something: The insurance companies are among the world's biggest businesses, and they got that way by taking in unbelievable amounts of the public's money in premiums—billions of dollars a year. The public is buying protection. But the insurance-company executives seem to forget that they are holding the public's money in trust. They come to regard that money as theirs, and they'll be damned if they'll give it up without a struggle. They accept your money readily enough, but did you ever try to collect any money from a big insurance company? Nine times out of ten, when the time comes to pay off, they fight tooth and nail to get out of their obligation.

Their cries that adequate awards threaten to bankrupt them are nothing alongside their shrill cries whenever someone suggests now and then that the state take over their business. Isn't it odd for someone claiming to be losing so much to scream so loudly against losing the opportunity to keep on losing money? No, the six-figure adequate awards I've pioneered are equitable, just and necessary. These awards are here to stay, and I think the trend is further upward. But I will guarantee you that awards to the personal-injury plaintiffs will never keep pace with the insurance companies' fantastic and mounting profits.

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 and its long-term uses are sufficient to control the patient's pain, some cases are hopeless and the only alternative left is a cordotomy, the severing of the spinal cord to halt the dread 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 inured.
their lives to a wheel chair or a brace, or to the indignities of life and bitter 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, stately 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 $160,000 apiece in 1950 and 1951, 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, hordes of people around the three

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 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. A number of 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 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-criminal client. And these same A.B.A. presidents are approving the abolition of law-school courses that would teach a 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, accounting and the like, we may as well hand over the business-administration schools. Then the few of us remaining criminal lawyers and general trial lawyers may as well be displayed at the morgue house where the public can state and
old and nearly extinct species attracted to the zoo by the A.B.A. presidents' 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.

BELL: Every penny I get, I earn! Do you think 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 idea 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?

BELL: 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?

BELL: 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 country side 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 them any more than against the patients—against the doctors and the doctors' organizations. It's a conspiracy by the doctors. Hence my aim has been to bring the individual doctor to court in such a way as 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?

BELL: 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 maligned, maybe irrevocably, 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 involved in kickbacks. I 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 Fehl will 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—
Let me tell you about a very simple case of where medical knowledge paid off for me, among the hundreds and hundreds of times that it has. This was as simple as merely knowing a word, a medical term, when I heard it. I was cross-examining a doctor who contemptuously attributed several of my plaintiff's complaints to "medical ignorance." When I got up to present my argument to the jury, I had a medical dictionary in my hand. I read aloud the meaning of that word; it wasn't anything with which my male client was likely to be afflicted. It means "irregular menstruation." My client won a handsome award. By now I probably know as much medicine as I do law. Here in my office I've collected a bigger medical library than is owned by probably any doctor in San Francisco. It rivals my law library—in which 29 of the books are my own, by the way.

**PLAYBOY:** How do you find the time to study medicine, write books, give lectures, teach law courses—and still maintain your overflowing calendar of personal-injury cases?

**BELLI:** Well, somehow you manage to get done what you feel has to be done—especially if you don't see anybody else doing it. And besides, I love my work. But I sometimes wish I could be a scarecrow, with two lives—the life I have now and another life. I yearn for the quietude and the thoroughness of dealing with only a few cases. The way it is now, I have to budget my time like a whore when the fleet's in. This morning I've been on the telephone, about different cases, with Canada, New York City, Pittsburgh, The Virgin Islands, and I've exchanged cables with Hong Kong. I need time to work on my autobiography. I've been collecting stuff for 15 years. It's going to be big. And it's really going to lay into all those bastards.

**PLAYBOY:** Who do you mean by "all those bastards"?

**BELLI:** You know: Bobby Kennedy, J. Edgar, the A.M.A., the A.B.A., the insurance companies, ad infinitum.

**PLAYBOY:** Don't you sometimes feel that you've earned a few more enemies than you can afford?

**BELLI:** Maybe so. Maybe I should have better sense than to take them all on headfirst and simultaneously. Because you know what I'm scared of in this office today? The big frame-up! I'm always telling myself I have to watch my tongue. My fault is that of Adlai Stevenson. He likes to make cracks, too. It cost him the Presidency. But were it not the cost, I've got to fight for what I think is right—and against what I think is desperately wrong—or I wouldn't think much of myself as a human being.

I've told you how in my early days I began to acquire my bitterness against the guy with a billy, the extremer haves. We see injustices all around...
and we all want to get out—but how many of us dare? Well, we 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 realize 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 universal, and I passingly accept.

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: "Bell'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; it'd suit their end. I've often told your readers in the past and over the air, and I've heard it, 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 Bell. 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?

BELL: You bet it is. And things have been coming to a head since the end of the Ruby trial. I was absolutely swayed 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 this is 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

official list—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.?

BELL: 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.

BELL: 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 the law. The law is my muse. Since I was wooing been a jealous mistress, but my courting of her these 30 years has been exhilarating time.
"Look at the creeps who favor capital punishment; you get the feeling they want to be the ones to pull the switch. Dick Nixon is all out for it; I can’t think of a better argument for its abolition."

"I’m for hire. I’ll defend anyone who comes to me—even the president of the Bar Association suing a guy for accusing him of being in favor of civil rights, due process of law and against wire tapping."

"I’ve endured my share of slings. ‘Bell’s a nut, a charlatan, an egomaniac’ Sure, I’m flamboyant; I can afford to be—I’m a damn good lawyer. You’ve got the bell to get the people into the temple."

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
August 3, 1965

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

NOTE: Buffer reflects limited cordial correspondence with Miller prior to 1955;

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)
Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thanks for the requested copy, "F.B.I. Appropriation 1966." The Miami Herald of July 27, 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 letter, complete, three days later. I phoned the Editor as soon as I had misprinted words, and then Mr. Dance said "No one will notice it." The Miami News of July 27, 1965 page 1B had a similar article, which I answered, part of which was printed July 30, 1965 page 6A.

Personally I think Atty. Belli is off his rocker as he has gone on record as being in favor of transvestites like females, and went to the nearby town of Dania to represent them, just in case the police there stopped the show.

Kindest regards to you and your very able staff.

Very truly,

[Signature]

MELVIN B. BELL
Melvin M. Belli called J. Edgar Hoover an "ideological fascist" Monday during an address at Miami Beach. He also took a shot at U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"I don't like Edgar Hoover," declared the San Francisco co-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 designed, 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 is his embittered far-right-wingers 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 "closed public relations men," 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 "technicilities."

Belli said that he has seen these same loopholes and "technicilities" save the innocent from the death chamber as well as all 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.

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 techniques 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 incident," 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 that the Supreme Court in recent years has been fulfilling its duty by protecting the individual personal rights of all.

He warned that parallelism to the growth of totalitarianism, a potential danger of a police state resulting from better communications and scientific crime prevention facilities such as laboratories and radio.

Belli quoted Hoover saying at Chicago that justice has nothing to do with expediency. FBI will continue to be used regardless of "political groups which dare to use the FBI to attain their own ends."

He added that there is no place in the law for "bulldozing laws." He said that crime is being "honed" by the individual.

Belli concluded by saying: "There is no change in the social structure of our people as a whole."
Guilty Men Shouldn't Go Free

I was impressed with Attorney Belli's statement that the public subscribes to the necessity of a legal system that can '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 of such 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 critic' 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 warden, '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 wrote criticizer
2. " repeaters
3. I wrote criticizer repeaters
FBI's Hoover A Fascist, Lawyer Belli Says

By MARTY SCHRAM

Reported by 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 lawyer Melvin Belli was getting his well-known dander up over charges that courts are coddlimg criminals.

Belli — former attorney for Jack Ruby, murderer of Lee Harvey Oswald — bristles at the slightest suggestion that criminals are coddlmg the law.

"It's a flaw in the American Constitution," he said here.

"And J. Edgar Hoover is constantly mouthing that slanderous 'coddlmg' 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 protect the innocent — not convict the guilty, argued Belli.

"Over the years, I've seen some flagrantly guilty go free; but I've also seen the same 'loopholes' and techniques of the law save the innocent who otherwise would have perished.

"Better to let 99 guilty go free than convict one innocent person."

Belli called FBI Chief Hoover an 'ideological fascist' who has created a God-like image of himself 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. Robert Kennedy (D-N.Y.) have advocated allowing wire-tapping evidence in the courtroom.

"But I'm just Victorian — and legal — enough to believe that my home is still my castle," 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 hometown 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."
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. No 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 musket of fire.

ED A. KRAHNSCH, Miami
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 “Eva.”

As opposed to, that is, to “Take it off,” which once echoed through the Aloha Club, now the C-Go-Ash Club.

It is — anyway since Belli and company were watching the Florida premiere of the closest-thing-to-naked, but not really in a go-go dancing —
August 6, 1965

Miami, Florida 33168

Dear [Name],

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 files.

DFC: kim (3)
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-?" Belliz. Since Pres. Kennedy's death I have seen this name in print quite often and each time I have less and less respect 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 Polecits" 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,

[Signature]

Aug. 2, 1965

[Address]
FBI's Hoover a 'Fascist,'
Says Criminal Lawyer Belli

BY JOHN McDERMOTT

Melvin M. Belli called J. Edgar Hoover "an ideological fascist" Monday during an address at Miami Beach. He also took a shot 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 conjunction with 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 patriots 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-right henchmen is because of their retaliation 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" confused 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 death, although in some cases the guilty..."

Melvin Belli at Convention

...raps Bobby Kennedy, too.

Belli quoted Hoover as saying at Chicago in 1958 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 "out-dating laws." He said that the crime factor should be to preserve the freedom and the legal rights of the individual.

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."

He said that he has seen these same loopholes and technicalities save the innocent from death, although in some cases the guilty..."

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.

He quoted Hoover as saying at Chicago in 1958 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 "out-dating laws." He said that the crime factor should be to preserve the freedom and the legal rights of the individual.
August 10, 1965

Dear,

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.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Bureau files reflect limited cordial correspondence with...

SAW: cms

[Redacted text]
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 force...
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 the 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 citizens, 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

RLF:et

be: THE MIAMI HERALD
THE MIAMI NEWS
C. D. DeLoach, Assistant Director
Francis X. Plant, Esquire
Miss Fran Keogh, Ex-FBI Agents Society
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 the hearts of policemen, that they are serving a higher truth than justice when they testify for the prosecution. They often know, in fact, about the case in which they are testifying that might be helpful to the defendant—but they sometimes neither make available to his attorney nor mention in court. They are convinced—it's part of being a cop—that the reason the defendant is sitting there is that he is their part of the law, has done his job, and that the job of judge and jury is provide a quick, questionless conviction and a stiff sentence. The presumption of innocence until guilt is proven is to lawyers, not for cops. The man must guilty, they think, or else why has been arrested, arraigned, and brought to trial? So they sometimes convince themselves that a modicum of truth stressing or truth omission on their part can achieve the desirable end that strict adherence to the rule of evidence can not.

Perhaps, of all people, from whom 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 few cops who get 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 clients. 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 through legal loopholes and go scot-free in my time; but far more often I've seen these same loopholes used to shield innocent men and women who otherwise have perished or been swallowed up for the best years of their lives, and that's not the reason for the rising crime rate. And it's certainly not because people are growing more lawless and as the one darkly hinted. As a case in point,
MIAMI NEWS 7-27-65

FBI's Hoover A Fascist, Lawyer Belli Says

BY MARTY SCHRAM

A former attorney for
Jack Ruby, murderess of Lee
Harvey Oswald, bristles at
the slightest suggestion that
Hoover is 'tolling' criminals.

"It's a slur on the American
Constitution," he said here.
"If you're going to use
Hoover's techniques, you
might as well have the
'kind' of police the Gestapo
had." Hoover, Belli said,
"is one of the best witnesses
in the world."

The constitutional
guarantees were written to
protect the innocent, not
convict the guilty, argued Belli.

MELVIN BELLi

"Over the years, I've seen
2000 times guilty go free
... but I've also seen those
came 'sophisticates' and 'techni-
criticism of the United States
Supreme Court," said Belli.
The attorney then pointed out
that both Hoover and Sen.
Robert Kennedy (D-N.Y.) have
advocated allowing wire-tapping
evidence in the courtroom.

"But I'm just Victorian
... enough to believe that
my honor, is still my cast-
tle," countered Belli.

And he added:
"I've had my phone tapped
for the first time. J. Edgar
Hoover has been a year ago.
And Los
Angeles Police Chief (William)
Parker is building a dossier on
me. It's like something out of
Hitler's atomic weapons"

The 30-year-old attorney ("I'll
be 35 Thursday") is co-counsel
in a local case, where three
people are charged with
decent exposure. The
girls served drinks wearing
nothing but pasties above the
waistline. (Bell recently won
a similar case in his home-
town, San Francisco.)

"It's a good 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 CONFIDENTIAL
DATE 6-17-65 BY splttk.com

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ENCLOSURE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
FBI's Hoover a 'Fascist,'
Says Criminal Lawyer Belli

By JOHN McDERMOTT
Herald Staff Writer

Alvino M. Belli called J. Edgar Hoover "an Ideologi-.
43' fascist" Monday during an address at Miami Beach.
7 also took a shot at U.S.
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128, I don't like Edgar Hoover," declared the San Francisco
20 attorney as he opened the
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73 fear of him and afraid
59 to criticize him even though
31 he knows he is an ideologi-
65 cal nutcase.

80 Belli went on to say how-
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328 ual, not the freedom for
336 the benefit of the govern-
344 ment.

The Miami Herald
Florida
July 27, 1965

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
July 30, 1965

Honorable Robert L. Floyd
Fratas, 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
Memorandum

TO

Mr. Mohr

DATE: July 29, 1965

FROM

C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLII 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:

There is attached a suggested letter to Judge Floyd from the Director.

Enclosure:
1 - Mr. Jones
1 - Mr. Morrell

CDD:bpk

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EX. 107

REG 70

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8-2-65

5AUG291965

10540/CMB 83
Memorandum

TO: Mr. DeLoach  
FROM: M. A. Jones  
DATE: 8-9-65

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..."

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 Goering. These things don't belong in a democracy."
M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo

RE: THE APPEARANCE OF MELVIN BELLi
ON THE LES CRANE TELEVISION SHOW "NIGHTLIFE"

Crane refuted Belli's remarks at this point stating that he had spoken to "FBI men who have read the book" including a former Agent who is now an official in New York City and that they had all indicated that Levine's allegations had no basis in fact.

Belli, not to be deterred, alleged that Levine was denied membership in the Arizona Bar Association because he (Levine) had made critical remarks concerning Mr. Hoover.

Crane's interview of Belli on this program lasted approximately ten minutes.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.
CRANE: "Our next guest, who is called by some of his friends critics, a mad genius, the court jester, meaning the courtroom jester, a publicity-mad petitfogger, 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..."
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.)

"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..."

"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."

"For those who might not have read the magazine article
would you like to repeat some of the things you said about Bobby Kennedy?"

"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.
those. 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 though 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 ego, sad, 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."

"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
the law in which I'll ask for a lot of people who might want to know: Would
you defend anybody?"

Bell: "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 the 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 represen 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 by crying for the other
side. I think that's our greatest attribute. And another thing too that you
uc
the layman I say collectively criticizes us for... They say, 'Well, after the case is over with and he is yelling at that lawyer in court and he is bowheating or criticizing that lawyer he will be out over in the saloon across the street having a drink with him.' Yes, we will. We're professionals and we have got to know each other so that we can whittle these trials down and get in and out of court in a hurry. I think you would want us to be friends, as long as... In court, we don't do anything or pull any punches."

CRANE:

"All the time that I grew up and, frankly, Fred Cook's book notwithstanding I haven't really read too much that has convinced me otherwise. I have always felt that one of the great, you know, strong, dedicated Americans was J. Edgar Hoover. Now, of late, it has become the fashion for some reason to put the blast on J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI and you have been in the forefront of the blasers."

BELLI:

'I have always felt this way. I can start in by saying that I think the cops in this country are a dedicated class of people. I think the guy that goes down in the cellar with our without a gun and brings the fellow down there, brings him out without the tear gas. You'll find that 90 percent of the cops will do that. They are courageous, they're honest, they're not on the take, they're not in the business, they're not crooked. They're dedicated--without them we couldn't have a country. With Edgar Hoover, I think he has built up an elite corps. I think when an FBI man gets on the stand he has a feeling this man is guilty or
or why would he be brought to trial? We are in here to prosecute. Maybe the rules of evidence the Supreme Court has now is coddling the criminals doesn't work out so well so I've got to shade the evidence of the testimony a little bit and I've got to do justice. The spirit of the esprit de corps is the worst thing about it. I think that we allowed a system, a sort of police state within a country, a democracy to grow up. What Cook said frightened me. This inside the FBI, about Hoover. the ideology of the man at graduation (sic). 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 as they would go into the presence of Herman Goering. These things don't belong in a democracy. He has brochures on most of the people in the United States. His counterpart on the West Coast is Chief Parker. Chief Parker has brochures on most of the people in the West."

"You mean the Chief of Police of Los Angeles?"

"In Los Angeles."

"Why the hell should he have a brochure on everybody?"

"I'd like to see the two of them at the corner of Hollywood and Vine fighting each other with their brochures. I'd like to be the arbiter—pull some of those out (sic)."
"Les, I think that we're all aware that Chief Parker aspires to Mr. Hoover's position, which I think Mr. Hoover has held much too long. If we won't let a President stay in that long why should we allow this man who is head of this police organization to stay in there as long as he has. He has brochures on every prominent citizen of the United States."

"Why is Chief Parker gathering these brochures and portfolios on the prominent citizens of the West? We don't need those in a democracy. Why do the two of these need these overlapping brochures on all of our people. I think that's something that is completely foreign to a democracy. Something like that they did in Unter den Linden. That was the beginning of a police state. Over there they said it couldn't happen here and it did happen. I think that this is where something like that could happen here and I'd like to see them have a change down there. I thought Bobby Kennedy was going to change him. I thought his brother was going to change him."

"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 cf the coddling criminal laws of the United States Supreme Court. He also says we ought
to impeach Warren and the Supreme Court is bad. He has the guts to say this sort of stuff. I think that if he knows who all of these people are then he ought to move out against them. Why don't the people in Congress say something? Does he have something on our Senators? Does he have something on our Congressmen that no one will ask him to give an accounting when he says I know who they all are but I'm not doing anything? I think that these are questions that can be answered only by the Senators and Congressmen."

CRANE:

"The question that I raise is, certainly a gentleman that has dealt with the law as long as you have would seem to base your evidence on certainly a much stronger case than the writings of one fellow who has been pretty generally discredited."

Belli:

"I base it on my own experiences in court. Every time we have an FBI man in court we're headed for trouble because I think that the FBI men in the cases I have seen have shaded evidence and again there's this thing of the esprit de corps. If they've indicted somebody they've got to have a 90-percent record of convictions and if they're in there testifying against the defendant they are going to see that there is a conviction. I have that feeling and I think that every defense lawyer in this country and any part of this country will tell you the same sort of a thing. Whether the 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."

"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."

"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,
In the specific reports of the Arizona State Reports of January of this year, the Supreme Court of Arizona was amazed that the State Bar would prevent this man from being a lawyer and saying he was unethical. Because of this, they overruled the State Bar and allowed him to become a lawyer in Arizona. Now, I think when a State Bar in any state says the man is unethical because he criticizes a man in this country, I think that has gone pretty far.

A lawyer's job is to criticize. I think a lawyer's job is to be controversial. I think a lawyer's job is to be a leader, to stir up controversy so that there will be light on these controversial subjects. I don't think Mr. Hoover wants it that way."

"Aren't you in trouble yourself with the American Bar Association?"

"They're in trouble with me—that's the way I like to look at it. Everything is relative in this life."

"Hasn't there been a move, in fact, to oust you from the American Bar Association?"

"I don't know what they're doing presently. After the Ruby case they were going to try me in the top floor of the Statler Hotel. Now, I shouldn't have said—asking where I was going to be tried—whether I was going to be tried on the top floor near an open window or not and I didn't want to go down there. But I remember I wrote them a letter."
I said I'd be damned if I'd resign now. I was going to let them kick me out and see why I was unethical. If it was solely because of what I had said at the end of that trial that I tried down in Texas. It was the only reason that they assigned—and again this feeling that lawyers can't say anything, can't criticize. That we should bear the wounds of our clients and file a formal petition to the Supreme Court. Heavens, by the time you file petitions to the Supreme Court the man might be hanging to the nearest limb of a tree and it could be like that too."

"If they toss you out of the American Bar Association, can you still practice law?"

"I don't have to belong to the American Bar Association. You can take books out of their law library. Bob Considine said it was like being drummed out of the book-of-the-month club. He said that.

Not I."
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.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC MIAMI

ATTENTION: CRIME RECORDS SECTION

[Redacted]

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 BELL, San Francisco criminal attorney. His remarks were made to the newly formed Criminal Law Section of the American Trial Lawyers Convention at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida, 7/26/65.

Mr. BELL also criticized former Attorney General, now U. S. Senator, ROBERT KENNEDY.

The article is self-explanatory and the newspaper item is attached.

Bureau (Enc. 1) (AM)
M: Miami
MJS

REC 45 1055-4.9.65
EX 105 9-9
Jul 25, 1965

[Redacted]
FBI's Hoover a 'Fascist'-
Says Criminal Lawyer Belli

By JOHN MCDERMOTT
Miami Staff Writer

Melvin H. Belli, called "Fugger" Hoover, an ideological fascist, Monday during an address at Miami Beach.
He also took a shot at U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Belli, the San Francisco attorney, opened his remarks to the newly formed Criminal Law Section of the American Trial Lawyers Association at the Fontainebleau Hotel.
Belli's observations came in the American court system, particularly the U.S. Courts of Appeals, he charged that "the courts tend to 'coddle' criminals.

He said one of the reasons he doesn't like Hoover is that he has designed, through his high-powered public relations organization, created an image of himself as the most honest American politician is 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 is embarrassed for him is because of their sale to Wall Street for a "zilch".

What the courts are doing, said Belli, is protecting the rights of the accused regardless of who they are.

He said Hoover and his aides are guilty of "bogus" public relations men who are "as common as the common law, or the French civil law where it has been accepted that 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 of every attorney must make his living for what he does, Belli said.


Melvin Belli at Convention

...raps Bobby Kennedy, too

Belli said that he has seen many loopholes and "stupidities" 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 "humanize" the guilty to make sure they 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 payment 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. Belli, both, Belli said, are 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 paralyzing the growth of federalism is a potential danger of a police state resulting from better laws and police wire tap communications, and active crime prevention facilities.
Belli quoted above 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 goals.

Belli concluded by saying that "there is no need to
change the so-called "cooling off" factor in the
immediate past should be to preserve the freedom and the
gal rights of the individual."
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 CONFIDENTIAL

L. C. WRIGHT
July 19, 1965

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I have been watching the Lee Crane Show for the second time. I hate to admit to this being from our area (although I hear San Francisco is referred to as Lee 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, as 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 regard to 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 a lot.


my young children begin to see the massive damage incurred by our past and present governments. On giant steps towards socialism and, yes, communism.

Our family and some friends are trying, too. Writing Congressman, reads and talking to others.

But we seem to reach a few—and mine 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,

[Signature: B.C.]
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.
I do thank you for the services you've performed for our Country. You are appreciated by the majority of Americans.

Respectfully,

[Redacted]

Address per envelope:

[Redacted]
July 29, 1965

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

Enclosures (2)
Communism and the Knowledge to Combat It
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Buffels.
TO: Mr. DeLoach  
FROM: M.A. Jones  
DATE: 8-27-65  

SUBJECT: "PLAYBOY" MAGAZINE  
SEPTMBER, 1965, ISSUE  

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.

Buffies reflect nothing identifiable with either Dr. Bourgeois or Mr. Yates.

RECOMMENDATION:  

For information.
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 Bureau files.

1 - Mr. Tolson
2 - Mr. DeLoach
3 - Follow-up 9-16-65

NOTE: [RESEARCH) CRIME RECORDS taking an issue with unjustifiable criticism of Director by Attorney Melvin Belli, it is not identifiable in Bureau files and Mr. Tolson has requested that he be identified.

JRH: 10k
(7)
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. DeLoach
FROM: M.

DATE: 9-17-65

SUBJECT: Remymemo 8-27-65.

Referenced memorandum mentioned that one had written vigorously disputing unjustified criticism of the Director made by notorious San Francisco Attorney Melvin Belli.

not identifiable in Buffels 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 this Los Angeles individual. Los Angeles has replied by airmail of 9-14-65 advising that this person cannot be identified.

They point out there are innumerable individuals named Casper Callahan, Conrad Fall, Gale, Gale, Galer, Lister, Mines, Tolson, and Tolson. There is no information in Los Angeles files identifiable with

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI -- ATTENTION CRIME RECORDS DIVISION
FROM: SAC, CINCINNATI (62-3020)
WILLIAM BELL
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

Enclosed herewith is the newspaper article containing comments made by BELL which appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer of 2/9/67, page 45.

WBS: Lt
(4)
C.C. Week

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
Ruby Lawyer Airs His Gripe

Attorney Melvin Belli unburdened a half-dozen unorthodox observations in Cincinnati Wednesday — including one to the effect that J. Edgar Hoover is an American Franco who could 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 his oil-rights case for 5000 of the state's leading business leaders.

He granted an interview at his room at the Hotel Hilton, where he resides, to the Register-Herald. He said, "Before I had time to make my mark on the man, I decided to move out of the state."

Mr. Belli was dressed in casual fashion — plaid coat, blue turtle neck sweater. He was not a casual man, however, as he proceeded to make his mark on the controversial subject to which he had been summoned. His large, blue-ringed glasses and large nose were made to point out his mark.

Mr. Hoover's name came up in discussion of U.S. Supreme Court decisions which have been blasted by Mr. Belli. The local police were on the lookout for him, but they were not successful in finding him.

First, he said, the U.S. Supreme Court has done absolutely nothing unusual "if you know your civics. It's just making state courts what has been done all along in Federal Courts."

"The author made him think of Hoover, long-time director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

"Hoover is one of the most evil men in the country," the attorney declared, radiating, "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 and 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 tone of his making people wear suits and ties before he'd talk to them... he's making the man working under him wear certain types of suits or shoes or the tariff won't like you."

Mr. Belli gestured with the eyeglasses. He is so cleverly disguising the appearance of the American people that he's making them feel..."

"The lawyer paused, but not for long."

"Gov. Richard Reagan of California, he said, couldn't do more if he tried to make himself unapproachable."

"It's almost impossible to impeach a governor, but if any steps are being taken in this country they will be taken against him (Edgar Hoover)."

Mr. Belli predicted a dark future for the City of Dallas, as has been reported before, is one of Mr. Berrymen's chief hotels. Now he has a new one. The City of Dallas, he said in anger after Jack Ruby, his client, was convicted of killing Lee Harvey Oswald.

"I think Jack Ruby was tried very carelessly in that trial," he charged, adding that "Southern prisons" don't seem to understand the value of justice.

Melvin Belli said Williams' apology

"That poor little man was lying on the second 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 police and the press 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 Borden and Decorah Camp Breakridge in Western Kentucky.

The U.S. government took the 32,000 Kentucky acres in 1948 under the laws of eminent domain. Now $5 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 oil companies.
Mr. Bell's 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.
Memorandum

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

TO DIRECTOR - ATTENTION CRIME RECORDS DIVISION

FROM: CINCINNATI (62-3020) 2P

MELVIN BELL, MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING.

RE: MY TELCALL INSTANT. ARTICLE APPEARING IN CINCINNATI ENQUIRER, INSTANT, SETS FORTH INTERVIEW HAD BY NEWSPAPER REPORTER WITH BEN WEST COAST ATTORNEY. BELL 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 BELL 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'LL SHAKE WITH THEM UNQUOTE. CLAIMS DIRECTOR IS ONE OF MOST EVIL MEN IN THE COUNTRY, AND TO BELL, IT IS UTTERLY AMAZING THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HAVEN'T SENT THIS AMERICAN FRANCO PACKING YEARS AGO. UNQUOTE.

END PAGE ONE

FEB 17 1967

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR
IN THE ARTICLE BELLİ ALSO ATTACKS GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN OF CALIFORNIA, AS WELL AS TREATMENT OF JACK RUBY WHILE INCARCERATED IN DALLAS.

NO OUTSIDE INQUIRIES RECEIVED ON BELLİ'S REMARKS. HOWEVER, IN EVENT THEY ARE RECEIVED A QUOTE NO COMMENT UNQUOTE ANSWER WILL BE FORTHCOMING BY SAC. IN THE EVENT TRUSTWORTHY CONTACTS OF CINCINNATI DIVISION INQUIRE, THEY WILL BE ADVISED THAT BELLİ'S SCURRILOUS REMARKS CONCERNING DIRECTOR ARE OBVIOUSLY, ON THEIR FACE, FALSE.

ARTICLE BEING FORWARDED SOG BY COVER AIRTEL.

END

FBI WASH DC

CC: MR. WICK
TO:  DIRECTOR, FBI

SPECIAL AGENT (62-0) (C)

SUBJECT: 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 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.

Bureau (Enc. 2) ENCLOSURE

JMB:1ml

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERIN MARKED "confidential"

DIA: 6-17-70  SFTB:Flem

Approved: 369

Sent M Per
Ruby Lawyer Ails

BY MARGARET JOSTEN

An attorney named Bell, best known for his controversial appearances in courtrooms across the country, took a break from his usual routine on Tuesday. Bell, who is often seen wearing a plaid shirt and a blue tie, decided to switch things up by wearing a plaid sports jacket and blue turtle necked sweater. But he was not a casual man as he proceeded with rapid-fire questions and refutations in court on the topic of a recent Supreme Court decision.

"Mr. Bell 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 wear their hands before he'll shake with them or making the men working under him wear certain ties or shirts or the chief won't like you." Mr. Bell gestured with the eyeglasses, "It is so utterly amazing that the American public has never seen 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..."
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

Albuquerque, New Mexico
87107

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Department of Justice, FBI
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The enclosed article appeared in The Albuquerque Tribune on March 13, since that time I have watched for an article defending you. To date, 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 Column, or maybe you would rather contact them directly. I am sure that most readers of these newspapers would appreciate having the record set straight.

Very Respectfully Yours,

[Redacted]

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREFIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-15-67 BY STAFF TEAM

EX-103

REC 26/6 C - 17 78 63

18 MAR 23 1967
Melvin Belli Sees Link Between FBI Chief, Racketeers, Politicians

By MARY KAY TODESCO
New York Times 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.

"When there is a conspiracy between the FBI and the big-time racketeers," Belli said, "you can tell who are the big gangsters and crooks and who are the go-betweens."

"Hoover is a fraud," Belli declared in a quick interview between legal conferences here and a malpractice trial in Chicago.

"There's a Link"

Belli linked Hoover and the U.S. Attorney General's office with his view of 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."

He agreed to perpetuate an "umbrella of protection" by not cracking down on the big-time racketeers known to him, Belli asserted.

Bell停止 off here, to attempt a conference over the District Court lawsuit against Albuquerque builder Donald Beltamah and the Albuquerque National Bank.

Belli represents Thunder Mountain Construction Co. of Santa Fe and its officers who are suing for $2.6 million as

See BELLI, page 12, "Melvin Belli in Albuquerque.

Belli

Continued from Page One

The jazzy attorney, just out of jail, whipped through 15 minutes by nailing Hoover on top of a concrete block while expressing his opinions on recent Supreme Court decisions, the rise of organized crime, and his life in contemporary society, references to his most recent book, "The Law Revolts: 200 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 in touch with the individual... "In taking care of the minority and the extremists it makes it safer for the majority," Belli said.

The decisions are "not foolish and crass... they have served to make state courts operate more like federal courts."

All information contained

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Enclosures
March 27, 1967

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

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,

[Redacted]

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
Memorandum

TO: Mr. Wick

FROM: M. A. Jones

DATE: June 9, 1967

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
2. Mr. Wick

DFC:ksf/mls

(6) 62 JUN 1967

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN TO BE FILED DATED 6-18-67 BY C2 T5-1567
Memorandum

TO
Director, FBI
Attn: CRIME RECORDS DIVISION

FROM: MELVIN M. BELL
NYC (62-9464)

SUBJECT: J. EDGAR HOOVER
Information Concerning

He has always been critical of anybody who attempted to
criticise the FBI or J. EDGAR HOOVER
in

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 6/8/67

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-22-67 BY SEE TAB
REC 40

51 JUN 28 1967 TRP.
ARE OUR COURTS CODDLING CRIMINALS
(No, They're Protecting the Accused)

By MELVIN M. BELL
San Francisco, Calif.

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 sly opportunistic 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
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 of 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 1970 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
corporation legally avoid the payment of taxes. We try to keep our work as objective as surgeons. And we know that the next session of the legislature pretty well plugs up the loopholes that should be plugged. Law is morality and morals change given the "immutable" constitution with its precisely written and studied sentences changes -- though this is denied. Each succeeding generation of judges says what they think those words were meant to convey."

These "loopholes", these "technicalities of the law", which to some policemen are "coddling of accused" really are basic protections against invasions of human rights. They are much more essential to our modern society and well-being than the "technicalities" of the small print in insurance company contracts, which are so very legal -- and about which no one seems to be doing very much.

It's the trial lawyers who should be explaining, what are these "technicalities", what is their true purpose, that they are not making criminal convictions impossible, where they came from in the first place and why we still have them. But, too many of today's law schools know as little about and the reasons for constitutional safeguards as laymen.

Recently, at Purdue, Indiana, when high school students were questioned about the third degree, a third of them said that the third degree was "all right".

Along with the complaint that we're "coddling criminals", 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 "same fours" (identical) then I have "stare decisis" (to follow 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 certain 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 Harlan.
We hold that even when a husband and wife conspire only between
themselves, they cannot claim immunity from prosecution for con-
sspiracy 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 criti-
cized laws reformed against.

A number of other countries in this troubled world
have made basic legal "reforms" either abruptly or through exci-
sion. But their "reforms" have really been regressions to com-
plete 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. Any
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 crimi-
nal trial a short and speedy race with no "law delays" no
"technicalities". And the prosecutor was spotted six laps ahead of the defendant at the starting line.

While today, at least in America, a person arrested must be brought immediately before a magistrate, warned of his right to remain silent, specifically informed of the charges against him, allowed to subpoena witnesses in his behalf, and to consult with his defense and even be admitted to bail pending the trial, in England at about the same time we thought we had had enough of these procedures and up to late for the United States, a defendant could be and generally was secretly arrested, secretly confined and was not even informed of the charges against him until he was brought to trial. He could be convicted of something he didn't do, as well as something that was quite innocent when he did it, but was made criminal later on; (I.e. the Medley case). A statement was immediately taken from the accused at his place of secret confinement and this was later read in court before the accused knew what he had been charged.

The accused had no right to call witnesses in his behalf and it would have done him very little good, because he could not have consulted with them beforehand to know what would be their testimony. At the trial, there were no rules of evidence and the defendant might even be accused by complainants he had not the right to see (that's why we now have a rule against hearsay, 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 old days anymore.
and every law student has sweated (until the American Bar Association business machines courses took over the law schools) over those "forms of action".

Indeed, now we have in most constitutions (like California's) a "savings clause" that if there are "technicalities" in the trial that would otherwise warrant a reversal, none will be granted in on the whole" just as 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 "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 "Legis?" ("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 "co'dling 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, in a jury could argue past midnight, it was discharged. A "hung jury" (disagreeing) meant an acquittal for defendant, while jeopardy. (This is not the rule now). But trial juries could find themselves tried by a second jury for rendering a verdict.
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 by 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 our 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."
that's prob. (the most controversial of) once 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 an arbitrary autocratic central power that it sought to prevent?

It was the practice of British courts in colonial days 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..."
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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 dodgers collected by Mr. Hoover, he alone knows how many Americans, for whatever purposes, alone knew, should they ever fall into sinister political and 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"? Is there any of those "Unter den Linden" and "Kremlin" information procedures necessary in a democracy?

For those who would join me in my Victorian and appropriate concept that my home is my castle, we must further agree that my bathroom is the innermost 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 peek-into 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 restroom lookouts are an unfortunate invasion of privacy. We'll build no more lookout stations in the washrooms and cover up the ones that exist." (Only the inspectors had keys to those washrooms where they could watch unobserved through one-way glass mirrors...)
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 loitering or drinking, which are engagement problems."

Gronouski said (with chivalry) that because of the low percentage of female employees — "and other reasons" — the peepholes 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 Britt v. Superior Court (4 Cal. 2d 24).
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 268a (bathroom perversion — for our purposes) violated 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 this vantage he could, by means of two vents, look down on 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 'scott 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?" (And they invade the bedroom of the Speaker of the California Assembly and his wife.)

Of course, there are anomalies in search and seizure decisions because there will always be refined anomalies in the complexities of man's conduct. Try as they will, the modern machine-mind machine law professor and legislator can't categorize our conduct so that it will always be neatly labeled and put up in standardized 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 age-old "Hard cases make bad law." This adage could also be paraphrased to that, once a good decision or a good law resolving human conduct, this is no assurance that the holding in that case will be applicable to a slightly different set of circumstances.

So, we come upon one case in which a suspected narcotics violator attempted to hide his bindle of opium by swallowing it. The zealous police officer, without warrant, promptly "searched and seized" the bindle 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, inserted a bindle of narcotics in his lower colon by rectal insertion. The interesting fact

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California police "searched and seized" this bundle. Said the lower courts: "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 Harvard Law School, David E. Shodgrass, to comment that, "ApparentlEy, constitutionality depends upon which end of the alimentary canal starts operating!"

We also have it that land outside the curtilage of one's dwelling is not covered by the search and seizure amendment's protection, nor are buildings detached from a residential structure. If the police seize and convict me of possession of tickets hidden in an outdoor john, seized without a warrant, it is not my business 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, a "effect 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 stopped car without a warrant cannot turn up evidence for other crimes when the defendant was only stopped for speeding.

And these 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 rights of citizens that came only after we had Amendment IV, not before. 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 sense of not knowing what he faces and what he is accused of returning us to that sinister 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 not a confusing, sinister, mysterious, or (dulling at all about the 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 "gestae", the emotional period close to the event in which a man spontaneously spills forth his mental state to give verbal cognizance to what he did. As seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months — repeatedly to confront and coax, with or without a suit or on brutal third degree, is to obviate the prompt arraignment rule — 13 —
Fatigue, fear, motive, desire to please the police, make for the distorted confession.

But even at the other end, the closer to the event, the respectability of authority which says that the purpose is "regulate" (fill in with what he's been told -- isn't your job to fill in from the unconscious state what the police has told him. Ruby did this).

This brings up another constitutional problem that from settled, is just what stage of the criminal "proceedings" is an accused entitled to a lawyer? Since 1673 (all our rights come to 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 more work to criminal lawyers than other did to surgeons.

But the law enforcement officials 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 our court decisions which analyze, regulate, deter and punish emotions and conduct cannot be mathematically categorized either. So much of law is a question of degree. This, again, is just a way of saying that our conduct is varied, flexible, 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 the"

What of the man with the mask leaving the second story window, having burglar's tools in his pocket and a bag of 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 whose 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 prowl 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 admission 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 in criminal cases, announced, after his interview with Oswald, to the effect that Oswald was "perfectly normal", thus effectively ending the lawyer-client privilege.

And this privilege is another "coddling".
one believes that what is told by patient 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 besides an accused, or even an afflicted (the guilty) who should shoulder the burden without fear that what is said could be proed 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 him than an innocent one, but this latter not for the reason that more law enforcement officers would insist. There is much more to be said for a guilty person, and there is always much more than might be said. No one so guilty but that something cannot be said in some exculpation 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 vicious reciter of even knowing who he is; I'd have no way of letting the jury see him and hear his whole story after cross-examination. Is this a good rule, or does it coddle criminals? It's a good rule when you like gossip and second and third-hand evidence and the people who generally fade when called upon to make a direct statement."
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 except that most curious of crimes, murder, treason, and other serious offenses from continuing 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 a legal 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 most 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 exonerated by the statute of limitations -- and I've seen few terms that 5 insurance companies over this "Death" law.

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The highest indication is our continuing criminal activity in the form of verbal visits, psychiatric and work therapy, radio, TV and athletic contests.

Our prisons are the most brutal in the world. Not necessarily 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 terrifying than in any other civilized country. It took us some twelve years to wreak our civic vengeance on a human being caged like a rat in a trap, Caryl Chessman at San Quentin. This unique "scolding" was hardly understood by those who sent California's good Governor Pat Brown the thousands and thousands of criticizing cards 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 drunked 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 respect for law and order by sentencing Jack Ruby to their public abattoir.

Against the spectre of a million Americans reeling yesterday's execution over their morning orange juice, the claim that we execute our criminals is not only blatantly false, it is bizarre.
them the best in the world, not because of their compassion, 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 a convicted criminal somewhat as a broken wheel on one of their wheels of production, and the faster they get him "repaired" and back to work, the faster there is more production for their society. So they put a psychiatrist to every dozen prisoners or so (compare the State of Nevada, where there are ______ psychiatrists in prisoners).

The Russians allow wives and children to visit prisoners and share communal 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 jury reported in the San Francisco Chronicles 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 will have to be treated as such, even "useful", even a policeman should be able to understand, they will return 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 criminal. Here'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 those 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, she and her two 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 had that "coddling" privilege against having to divulge an 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 "consti-tutional coddling" to bring these men to justice, though some of these "enemies 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 clearing 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 enforce-ment 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, plenty, people and evidence. How is it that so many criminals and their friends
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 scientifically 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 or strange names, but an informed, political overlordship that controls senators and congressmen and legislators and governors so that they, in turn, control Mr. Hoover from making his sealed boxes productions? 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 organised criminals when 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 near minute scrutiny and control over every one of us without a search and seizure than at any time in man's history. Once upon time, everyone in England was enrolled into his respective Hundred (literally a group of 100 people). Each of the Hundred — his brother's keeper, because if anyone in the Hundred commits a criminal act, this criminal not "fessing up", all in pay.
Population, not necessarily in individual vengeance, was the rule, and, indeed, this cultural pattern is the law in many primitive and some Oriental societies even today, where, if the depredation is done in the village, if the offender does not come forth, the whole village is punished. The Indian headman of the Hundred, did not roam from his village. He was catalogued and categorized and numbered as though in a prison populated without walls.

But today, we, all of us in the United States, live in a rather expanded Hundred. We, too, are all catalogued and categorized as never before, from birth to grave. There are birth registrations, 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 ID serial number, the driver's license, voter's registration, life insurance, fingerprinting for specialized jobs, cataloging 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 neighboring 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 glutinous habit of charging expatriates five dollars for a loaf of bread is discouraging to permanent residence.

I really don't believe we are "cuddling criminal".
I think that the FBI and the police have gone after them by way of science, forensic medicine, communications, the "enrollment" in the Hundred, than ever before in man's history.

Our real problem 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 obscure crimes -- the malum prohibitum as against the malum in se.

To do that, they must categorize and uniformize and make us lose our individuality even further. There are more crimes of the book than ever before. There are more being made every new legislative day, and indiscriminate wire and phone tapping, search and seizure, violation of our privileges would be Big Brother's best weapons.

The "conservatives", who would police-state us by invoking 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 starve 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 of the..."
law-abiding heroes that they are serving a higher truth. Practically, 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 pure and a cop -- that the reason the defendant is sitting under 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, unquestionable 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 maximum 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 knew 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 convincing kind of words and so convince 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-riding tail that periodically supports proposals to ease the constitutional guarantees of due process and against arbitrary search and seizure.

"Although I deplore the violence, it is vitally relevant to be caritable in my assessment of the caution that must be observant 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 conviction, 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 which I 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, suppositional "wanted" by another police department practically and effectively violates all of the constitutional rights of the accused because judges are loath to allow the man out on bail and the timid lawyer (of whom there are unfortunately, many) as well as a police-minded judge, too, too, accused in jail until they sweat out of him what they want him to say what they think he did.

Another illegal procedure is the "roast". If police operate on the undeniable statistic that most accused are
committed by repeaters (from our "witting" prisons). So the
"repeater", be he on parole or probation, is "tousted". His con-
stitutional 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 those con-
stitutional 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 new
violator. The "presumption of innocence" with these once-convic-
ted 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 in a return
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 con-
vinced of a felony is presumed to be innocent, there is that rule
of evidence that he may be "impeached", if he testifies, by show-
ing he has been convicted of a felony. This amounts to nothing
more, practically, than a conviction based on the maxim "he
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 "informe". He is the worst of all. He revolt's 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 take him in context, to give this devil his due, we've seen him genuine spying is (or, at least, so we have been told) in international law. I suppose if international spying is necessary then his 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 doleling 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 duplicacious 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 confer with the United States Attorney and Federal Judge to dismiss a prosecution rather than give up this information and disclose the name of a valuable spy. The school spies against the security of the United States were politic.

It was felt that it was better to abandon the proceeding than to...
give up the usefulness of these valuable technicians.

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 the "secret process", and if he determined that the Government claim was true, then the suit would have to be abandoned. This can be done just as a prosecution can be lost on the civil 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 indicted).

Is it that we contrive to look our very worst in the cases that make the layman listen to the over-serious police officer who would change our system? The criticisms in the Ruby Scottsboro, the Sacco-Vanzetti, and such cases, are well

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daily justice. If one will pop into any of our courts, trying
day-to-day case, civil or criminal, he will find that the law's
an ass.

He will no longer find instances of lawyers beguiling
noses, demanding a "yes" or "no" answer. That wouldn't be toler-
ated 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 "incompe-
tent, irrelevant, immaterial" really means. I am sure that search
and seizure evidence illegally obtained will affront you, as well
hearsay, the common scolds' gossip.

As science advances, there is more perfect medicine, per-
fect engineering, more accurate astronomy, even more accurate
drilling for oil and more pinpointing and discovery of the
developing tumor.

Are we getting more "accurate" justice?

In proportion to the "sciences", no, because law is no
more a "science", than is human living. Law is a "discipline", or
a "profession". To err is human, and as long as we have human,
we will have this probably desirable attribute. Common law is
temporary law. All the sciences in the history of the world can
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 LAW-ized. This was, he can

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of the complaints whether they (or an extruded) know it or not.

of the students at the University of California. This is that

the gravermit, although probably unknown, of the complaints against

the police, who would further categorize and uniformize an infelici-

ity into a modern-day Hundred.

Probably the best way to achieve the policeman's job be-

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 super-

vision.

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

incorruptible -- that is by today's medical test.

That an Oswald went through a Marine Corps examination

is only further proof of the fact our neighbor notes in saying

someone he thought he knew when first reading of this friend's

falling out with the law, "I thought I knew Sam. 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 Idaho.

Both records showed that he would kill and kill again, but

because we don't want to coddle criminals, just didn't report.
the funds to advise with adequate parole and probation to investigate with psychiatric clinicians such men as he, who, unless they are going to be put to death, God forbid, or kept perpetually in prison, eventually are kicked out of or simply we allow to prison to rejoin society.

First, we don't give them a chance to change. 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 Earle Stanley Gardner's men, yes, we save three men in condemned rows in San Quentin -- People v. Rodriguez, on a writ of coram nobis in 1964 to the California Supreme Court in which we used truth serum on a complaining witness.)
scrum and by other and the other like wind - inquiry procedures, apparently frequently used by some foreign police, have never reached scientific accuracy to allow their use in this country.

But Francis Camp, England's great forensic pathologist once said to me:

"I'd rather see a drop of a witness's urine than 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 taking the latter!"

But, ever on the civil side, in the paternity case many states ruled and still rule against putative child paternity tests in the face of now almost 100 percent scientific accuracy in ruling out certain "fathers".

And how about our juries? I can truthfully say I've never seen a jury (and this includes the Ruby jury -- my word) who consciously try to render an improper verdict.

Sure, they do err because they are human but our experience with intelligence tests for juries 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 scandals, their emotions, their knowledge and their lack of knowledge, can vote on my life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

- 33 -

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
States.

During the 1963 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 force to help many complaints alleging misuse of federal authority in tax, labor, 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 show and pretty girls, its gaming and also its cop-killing murders. But this most of us already know. Yet we still daily go there. We're unlawful but lawless people. But we also once had a flag with a rattlesnake emblem and the motto "Don't tread on me". I at war.
about the area. We were writing these making constitutional

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

privileges. (He referred to a recent study made at Purdue University

about 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 essen-
tial to assure official observance of individual rights (such

as controlling crime). "As the power of government expands, so

opportunities for official abuse of that power multiply.

who would wield the power, are not sensitive to the guarantees of

individual liberty the likelihood of official lawlessness

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 lowest of details concerning the least of our citizens

a misdemeanor offender, a hopelessly recidivist narcotics dealer.

But while seemingly this highest Court has wasted its time on

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 dem-
cracy 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.,

video type, central fingerprinting, forensic laboratories,

photos, police radios, all of which have potentials of
transcend.
individual freedoms, the Supreme Court has been zealous to protect those accused of crime, who are presumed to be innocent.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and others agree that the national government have lived with the continuance of evidence that is illegally obtained is inadmissible for fifty years without noticeable impairment of their effectiveness. And 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 26, 1940, said (of his famous target — and I don't for the minute deny the existence of the danger) "The Communists cry Liberty when 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, all others who'd change our "codding laws". But to insure justice, let's wish the same of the United Supreme Court and all other courts in this great land of ours.
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 commencement to criticize the Supreme Court about the ESPOSITO case. BURKE defended the Director and stated that this country was founded on discussion and he saw nothing wrong in Mr. HOOVER doing this if in fact he did it.
NOTE CONTINUED.
The transcript begins with the words, "typical of the nonsense which has been perpetuated by the opportunists..."
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 71/2 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..."
I've heard this guy at commencement addresses
guiding take on the United States Supreme Court.
I've read his books, and he can name, and he
does and, if he doesn't, all he has to do is pick
up the green felt jungle or any AP or UPI dispatch,
and they will name who are vice overlords, they'll
name who is bringing in the dope and all the rest
of that.

"We don't need any laws other than we have to
prosecute them. We don't need a liberalizing of
our laws to prosecute 'em. They're all amenable
to prosecution right now and HOOVER knows who they
are, and the question I put is why aren't they
prosecuted when he puts his finger on 'em at
Graduation Day Exercises, when he writes books
about them, when he talks about them. Is it that
he's got some deal with the local politicians?
Is it a sort of a thing. -- Look, this is sacred
ground. This Senator has gotten campaign contribu-
tions from this group of people, or this is a way
of life in our State that don't touch it.

"HOOVER says, 'Look, I want to go in there. These
guys are getting by literally with murder. Why,
can't I go in there?' No, that's hallowed ground.
You can do everything else. You're doing a fine
job, old boy, but get in there. Now, is it something
like that? It is something." I don't know what it
is, but it is something. Cuz he knows who they are,
he has the machinery, to prosecute 'em, he can
prosecute 'em. Why does he complain about them and
not prosecute 'em? I don't know."

***

Announcer: "The King of Torts, Attorney MELVIN BELLI"
MELVIN BELL, RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREBIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE: 6-13-67 BY 3P-THYUM

EX 106

11 OCT. 4 1967

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

PARAPHRASED IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE BUREAU'S CRYPTOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS.
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.
Memorandum

TO: Mr. Bishop
FROM: M. A. Jones

DATE: 9-22-67

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI

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)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
IN THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Director,
FBI

Dear Mr. Hoover:

By way of identifying myself:

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 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/

P.S. The contents of this letter has not, and will not be divulged to anyone else.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Oct 5, 1967

Dear Mr. Hoover:

By way of identifying myself, Mr. B. E. Bellis's splendid remarks about you, Melvin Bellis.

Enclosed is a clipping from yesterday's Miami Herald and an idea I have for catching the thieves.

Without altering the stamp and thus get noticed 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 spacing later, finding many stamps used out of zone, it would just be a matter of pinpointing the large area, 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 ribbed bench polishers. For God and Country. 

Sincerely yours,

P.S. The contents of this letter shall not and will not be divulged to anyone else.

ENCLOSURE

IT C: 10-10-67
MiamiFavorite 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.

Montague, ranked high in number of burglaries, a local inspector, W.I. 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 outlets 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.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREBIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-18-65
BY E.P.

ENCLOSURE 4-9665-45
Dear

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

NOTE: Files disclose two prior outgoings to correspondent, last outgoing No referral of this current letter being made to the Post Office Department in view of the postscript appearing on his letter of 10-5-67.
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:

"FAMED LAWYER BLASTS HOOVER" WITH A SUBCAPTION
"BELLI CALLS FBI DIRECTOR 'FATUOUS OLD DICTATOR'." THAT
PORTION OF THE ARTICLE CONCERNING BELL'S STATEMENTS ABOUT THE
DIRECTOR IS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS:

"SAN FRANCISCO ATTORNEY MELVIN M. BELL 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."
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 through- 
out 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 
or 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 panel- 
ists felt that police power—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 
boards 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 establish- 
ment of civilian review boards em- 
powered 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, Pro- 
fessor Inbau and Judge Leighton thought 
that police departments should be al- 
lowed to police themselves via internal 
investigative agencies. It was suggested, 
finally, by Mr. Petherton, Judge Leight- 
ton 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 prob- 
lem, 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 
paint the way toward understanding.
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," BELLİ SAİD.

"SOURD LONG AGO
BELLİ CALLED HOOVER "UTTERLY AND COMPLETELY
VICIOUS" AND SAİD HE STARTED 'TO GO SOUR ON HİM LONG AGO
WHEN I SAW HOW AFRAID FBI AGENTS WERE OF THEIR MASTER."

"FBI AGENTS ON THE WITNESS STAND HAVE LIED MANY
TIMES," BELLİ SAİD. "THEY GO WITH THE PARTY WHAT BRUNG
'EM," BELLİ ADDED, "AND THEY'RE NOT GOING TO TESTIFY
AGAINST THEIR CHIEF."

"BELLİ 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 WRİTİNG

END PAGE TWO
DON LEWIS AND SETTING AIM STRAIGHT REGARDING THESE VICIOUS CHARGES MADE BY BELLi AGAINST THE DIRECTOR.

END

WA...DEL

FBI WASH DC
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Bishop

FROM: M. A. Jones

DATE: 2/26/68

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLICRITICISM OF DIRECTOR AND FBI

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 BUFILSE:

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)
M. A. Jones to Bishop memo
RE: MELVIN M. BELLi

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.

[Initials and signatures]
Airtel

RE: 49865-47

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

NOTE: See M. A. Jones to Bishop memo of 2-26-68, captioned "Melvin M. Belli, Criticism of Director and FBI."
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: FBI, SAC, NEW ORLEANS
SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELL
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.

Bureau (Enc. Shollare)
New Orleans (5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/10/68

EX 101

REC 29 105-49865-48

MAR 12, 1968

COMRESEARCH

Approved: Special Agent In Charge

MAR 10, 1968

Sent M Per
Famed Lawyer Blasts Hoover

By DON LEWIS

An Francisco attorney Mel-

Belli, Friday night called -

tional Bureau of Investigation

lilccause

of its" fatals old dictator" and charged

Hoover "has set up a little

army troop empire.

Belli, the man who defended

Ruby when he was tried

1954 for murdering Lee Har-

vey Oswald, was interviewed at

ome's Restaurant, 713 St.

The 60-year-old attorney said

only reason the FBI director

been reappointed to his post

because "he has had so much

presidents that they didn't

the guts to kick him out.

They knew that if Hoover

removed from office he

never come back to haunt them

ough speeches and books with

arrassing contents," Belli

did

Soured Long Ago

Belli called Hoover "utterly

completely vicious" and

he started "to go sour on

long ago when I saw how

id FBI agents were of their

iter.

Belli said the FBI agents on the witness

had lied many times,

said. "They go with the

by what brung 'em," Belli

ed, "and they're not going to

ny against their chief."

Belli said he is one of a num-

of attorneys who have had

agents checking into their

rning to District Attorney

Garrison's probe of the

idey assassination. Belli

"I was close to Ruby and

yet don't think he (Garrison)

anything." "What he's got, I don't know,

ill said. "I'm waiting like the

of the world to see," he

d.

he says flatly: "I think the

guy was nuts." The California attorney said

Ruby told him that "he did it

(destroyed Oswald) for Jackie and

the kids. This was Ruby's ra-

ionalization for the act," Belli

d. "This is absolutely not

true."

Belli described Ruby as a

"psychomotor epileptic" and

aid what turned him on" were

vision strobe lights in the

ement of police headquarters in

ass, Tex.

When the lights came on," Belli

aid, "they brought about his

suer" and Ruby shot

Oswald was shot and fatally

ounded Nov. 24, 1963.

Belli described District Judge

Brown, who handled the

ry's tempestuous trial in

1964, as "a warrior with a big

heart and a great personality."

Belli said, however, that

Brown "never claimed to be a

great lawyer. He should never

have presided over the trial," Belli

said.

Ruby received the death sen-

tence in Judge Brown's court

but the conviction was later

versed. Judge Brown died Tues-

day following a heart attack.

Ruby died of cancer Jan. 2,

Belli, who has been con-

ducting a running feud with

American Bar Association, said:

"The ABA doesn't like me be-

cause I don't belong to the

stitution."

"I'm a member of the ABA,"

Belli said, "and since they've

tried to kick me out, I wouldn't

quit for the world."

The California attorney has

just returned to the United

States from Vietnam after writ-

ing a series on military justice

wire service and has written

a new book, "The Law Re-

"As to how he would go

court against Raymond Guy-

'Perry Mason' type, Belli

said, 'I'm afraid I wouldn't do

very well -- he's a client of

mine.'"

Belli leaves New Orleans at

t Saturday to attend a

eting of the International

ademy of Trial Lawyers in

oca Raton, Fla. He was the

est dean of the organization

he one of the founders.

ENCLOSURE

Blasts J. Edgar Hoover

(REST OF CLIPPING)

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

PAGE 1

SECTION 1

TIMES PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Date: 2-24-68

Edition: AFO

Author: GEORGE W. HEALY

Title: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F.
KENNEDY DALLAS, TEX.
11-22-63

Character: 89-

or

Classification: 89-

Substituting Office: N.O., LA.

xerox: MAR 12, 1968

705-47865-41
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,

[signature]

COPY: hcv

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS SUPERSEDED  
DATE 6-19-68 BY S.R.M. 8:11m
Dallas, Texas 75206

6-6-68

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am enclosing a clipping from a paper.

I have admired and your dedication to your office for a long time in your life. I repeat very much the remark made here.

This also went out over the Radio.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

Enclosure

All information contained herein is unclassified.

Date 6-18-68 by [Redacted]

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2 June 1968

Correspondence
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 taunting 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 conflict with the times."

"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, 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.

Melvin Belli ... Dallas is not "city of hate" after all.
June 12, 1968

Dear [Name]

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
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: LEGAT, LONDON (P)
SUBJECT: 

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 I 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.

He telephonically contacted me this morning, referred to the enclosed news item, expressed tremendous indignation and said that he wanted to do a counterattack 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 counterattack article, he stated he would appreciate if the Bureau could send him some information for study at this time.
Memorandum

TO: Mr. Bishop
FROM: Mr. A. Jones
SUBJECT: REQUEST TO DO ARTICLE COUNTERING MELVIN M. BELL'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 administration. 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 BELL:

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 media.
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 Buffles 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.

INFORMATION IN BUFFLES CONCERNING:

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.
Recruiter, 6-15-63.

Enclosed is a copy of a summary of FBI accomplishments during its 60-year history which you may furnish to while the President encourages a factual presentation to the English public of FBI accomplishments, particularly by a reporter of the caliber of Mr. Nelson. 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 6-15-C 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 such an 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 called expression of his views through newspaper, radio and television media and attacks against me have received scant public attention or support in the United States.

You may inform that I will be happy to see him should my schedule permit. I will be in my office when he arrives in 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

M. DeLoach (detached)
Mr. Bishop (detached)
Mr. Sullivan (detached)
Foreign Liaison Unit (Route through for review) (detached)

See note...next page...
NOTE: See Jones to Bishop memo, 6-25-63 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.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: BAC, LOS ANGELES (100-68303)

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI
SM - C SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

Enclosed for the Bureau's information is a self-explanatory letter dated 10/7/68 from which transmitted to this office a newspaper clipping of an article concerning the Director under the by-line of MELVIN BELL, 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.

[Signature]

1/ ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE: 6/13/70 BY SP27003G

105-19765-50

REG-25

EX 106

1 OCT 70 1968

INTL 106

7 C OCT 4 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 innuendos, 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,

[Signature]

Los Angeles, California 90041

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREOF IS UNCLASSIFIED
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 organisation 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 institutionalised hero-worship of the director.

Had Robert Kennedy been selected President he would have dismissed Mr. Hoover. Senator McCarthy, too, has pledged that he would. Governor Rockefeller.

But it is doubtful whether two wily old Washington hands like these could have been dislodged from office at the F.B.I. had Ray, armed as he was, had the misfortune to be apprehended in the United States, where 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 knowledge a killer) was finally cornered after a series of hideout fiascos by Mr. Hoover's men and Interpol police. He met a violent end on 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 unsailable 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.

bench on New Year's Day, 1895. He became head of the bureau in 1924, the year Lenin died.

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 authorise a special detective force for the Department of Justice, the Attorney-General of the time secretly created one while Congress was in recess.

President Théodore Roosevelt persuaded the lawmakers to accept this just accoutrement, despite protestations about secret police. The F.B.I. went to work on jobs that did not fall in the province of any other Federal agency.

DATE 6.2-35

Of these "White slavery was the most glorious. 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 15-year-old clerk with a brand-new law degree. This was a predictable niche for someone of his background. His father, a Presbyterian public servant, had been a missionary at a Swiss convent for typical Washingtonians.

There were two children older than John Edgar. All devout Presbyterians and dutiful school children. Master Hoover himself taught at Sunday school, sometimes proudly attired in the
Not until Sate lives, and it stuffed its e press vearl $1. head oi the General... broken nose; its by armed men and de-

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 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 leniency was rewarded when, in 1924, Attorney-General Harlan Fiske Stone, determined to reform the bureau, made Hoover its chief, with an order to clean house and a pledge that he would never be subject to political control.

The F.B.I. under Hoover preferred concentration on 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, a true professional mystifyingly.

"Red menace"

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 36, he was appointed Deputy Chief of the F.B.I. This was led by Warren's cousin, Willard Burns, head of a private detective agency.

There followed a shameful period in which the F.B.I. accumulated a grubby record of strike-breaking, crimes and corruption. Politically hacked exchanges favoured with it. Agents searched the private offices of Congressmen and for child dell.

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"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: racketeering and rule by the mob. Hoover flourished, although the names of every top mobster, his property and organisation, are common knowledge.

The law is adequate. Why Hoover never considered organised crime a proper target is mystifying.

Until very recently, prosecutions under Civil Rights legislation have been token. Mr. Hoover saw us to the test of the formidable machinery of the F.B.I. on behalf of deprived citizens.

Dr. Martin Luther King
10/22/68, an article appeared in the Mobile Register which contained statements made by MELVIN BELLI. Also enclosed is an article which appeared in the Mobile Register. A transcript of BELLI's interview with the student body at Spring Hill College is enclosed for the interest of the Bureau.

On the evening of 10/21/68, MELVIN BELLI appeared on WALA-TV Channel 10, Mobile, A. In connection with this appearance, a transcript of his remarks was made available by DICK DARBY, Director, who made available a transcript of his remarks.
comments and which is similar in context to the TV appearance. It is pointed out that in both the TV appearance and newspaper article BELL makes reference to the Director.
Belli Not Shy Politically

Or Otherwise

By FRANK MILLARD
Register Staff Writer

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 Tricker 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 prisoners 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 rational showdown 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 (assumed 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 action 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. 31.
Mr. Darby: Mr. Belli, the nation became quite aware of you during your defense in the Jack Ruby situation. Today, in this election year, law and order has become a major issue. Most of the people think it has gotten completely out of hand. As a defense attorney, how have the new Supreme Court rulings affected you, sir?

Mr. Belli: Well, they haven't affected me as much as they have affected everybody who has ever wanted protection for the man on the street. We are not coddling criminals, we are protecting the accused. The thing that bothers me is the hypocrisy -- worrying about all this crime in the streets, so called, when all the big boys, all the gangsters, all the Mafia, all the rest of them -- there is nothing being done about them at all. And we know who they are -- Edgar Hoover knows who they are -- and if he'd stop talking about the little fellow in the streets and applying the law so heavily and go after some of the Mafia and the black hand boys I think he'd do a hell of a lot more for the good of this country than all these bleatings about the Supreme Court. I think he's one of the most unpatriotic individuals in America today with his criticism of the United States Supreme Court at snide commencement day addresses.

Mr. Darby: If you had the opportunity to make one prediction regarding law and order, what would you say?

Mr. Belli: I'd say the Supreme Court's going along the way it is regardless of who is the President. I would think that our country would go along the way it is regardless of who is the President because the most important man in the country today is not the President of the United States, he's the trial lawyer and I think that your future depends upon the trial lawyer to protect your rights. I don't care whether your Governor is going to be President, or whether Mr. Nixon, whom I don't like, is President, or Mr. Humphrey. Regardless of who he is going to be, the perpetuation of our institutions is in the hands of the trial lawyer and he's a damnably important individual in this country.

Mr. Darby: Thank you very much, sir.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, MOBILE (62-0)
RE: H. W. GILL, aka Elsie C. Gill
     RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

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. (ELDIE 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 MALTBY & BELL's recent visit to Mobile. This article was sent to the Bureau by airmail 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.

- Bureau (Enclosure: 10 REC, 46)
Bell and Hoover

The Editor,

Dear Sir: Although a reporter described Mr. Melvio Bell, 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. Bell to criticize our wonderful chief of the FBI.

MRS. H. W. GILL
10 Houston St.
Mobile, Ala.
Editor
Mobile Press Register
Mobile, Alabama 36602

October 2, 1968

Dear Sir:

Although a press reporter has described Mr. Kelvin Belli, a recent guest speaker to Spring Hill College, 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.

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Therefore, in view of this state of affairs, it is not only unjust and unpatriotic, but it is 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. Such outbursts are bound to bring comfort to the communists, the dopers, dopers 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. P. W. Gill
10 Houston Street
Mobile, Alabama 36606

Mrs. Gill 105-49865"
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."

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The internationally known attorney said Vice President

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MOMED LAWYER HERE—World-famous trial lawyer Melvin 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.
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."

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(Page 8, Col. 5, Belli)
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Belli has represented such figures as Jerry Rubin (leader of the Yippies), Raymond Burr (Perry Mason), Jack Ruby (accused slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald) and other well-known personalities.

He said he views Rubin as "an abolitionist young rebel" who stood 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.
October 31, 1968

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
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) b __________ 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:

__________________________________________________________________________
Belli Talks on TV
To 'Zodiac' Caller

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 at-
torney Melvin Belli.

Belli kept the date but the
mysterious caller did not.

Police declined to specu-
late whether the bizarre
phone calls were really from
the killer of five or from a
sick prankster.

The dramatic series of con-
tacts began with a phone
call to police at 2 a.m.

The caller demanded that
either Belli or Boston at-
torney F. Lee Bailey—both
figures in celebrated mur-
der cases—appear on the
morning talk show of disc
jockey Jim Dunbar on KGO-
TV.

Police phoned Belli, who
went to the studio as order-
ed. Shortly after the show
began at 6:30 a.m. the first
call came through.

While thousands of break-
fasting 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 conver-
sation, he was repeatedly
cut short as the man gave
one-word and two-word an-
wers, then slammed down.

The phone, then called back.
In another short conver-
sation, 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 conversa-
tion, 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 as-
sured the man that his calls
were not being traced. Pol-
ICE declined to say whether
that was actually the case.

Although most of the con-
versation was clearly audi-
able 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, po-
lice confirmed that Belli
and Dunbar had gone to
6728 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, in-
ccluding television crews and
policemen.

Belli and Dunbar waited
45 minutes, but "Sam" didn't
appear.
Attorney Melvin Belli, right, pleads with a man named Identified himself as the "Zodiac" killer of five persons who called a San Francisco TV station 13 times and appeared on the talk show with host Jim Dunbar.
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (80-310)
SUBJECT: MELV IN BELL I
REMARKS CONCERNING DIRECTOR
KOCO-TV (AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY)
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
11/20/69

MELVIN BELL I, 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, BELL I, 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. BELL I 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."

BELL I 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. BELL I 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 BELL I. 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 BELL I while he remains in the Oklahoma City Division.

ENVELOPE

COLUMN 1 (Bureau (Enc. 1)) ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

LAG: mwr HEREIN: LS UNCLASSIFIED DATE: 11-20-69 BY: S F THE 7-7

Sent M Per

Special Agent in Charge

DECEMBER 9, 1969
Bellis Speaks Out on Various Topics

Hotel Service Rapped

By Mary Jo Nelson

Mervin 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:

1. It is a pity that Oklahoma City has "so little good hotel service."
2. He has about quit going to medical doctors but is treated instead by chiropractors.
3. The tobacco companies may be damaged seriously by a series of lawsuits filed by the victims of lung cancer.
4. And, LSD, the hallucination-producing drug, "scared me to death," but he thinks young people are beginning to turn away from it.
5. 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 ill-equipped to set examples for their children."

Bellli 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 "habitually" use marijuana.

"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 would set off a chain that could seriously hurt the tobacco companies.

Bellli is representing Mr. and Mrs. Bill Dane and their young daughters in the 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 prenatal care before her birth.

The trial will begin next month before Judge Jack R. Parr.
Melvin Belli, right, talks with Floyd Martin, Oklahoma City lawyer.
August 13, 1970

Mr. Sidney Levin
Executive Vice President and
General Manager
WKAT Radio Station
1759 Bay Road
Miami, Florida 33139

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,

[Signature]

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."
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,

Sidney Levin
Executive Vice-President
and General Manager

Enclosure

SL/rd
Memorandum

TO: Mr. Bishop
FROM: M. A. Jones
DATE: 8-13-70

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELL
CRITICISM OF DIRECTOR
AND FBI

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 Ziegler 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:

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.
M. A. Jones to Bishop Memo
RE: MELVIN M. BELL

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to Mr. Levin.
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Bishop
FROM: M. Abelson

DATE: 10-14-70

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

Belli was one of two guests appearing on captioned's show which was monitored by ... 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 use 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.
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 has he 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.
Memorandum

Director, FBI

DATE: 6/2/69

FROM: SAC, Honolulu (62-0-2686)

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI
INFORMATION CONCERNING
DEROGATORY COMMENTS MADE REGARDING FBI AND THE DIRECTOR

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, was 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
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. And I can 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

ERNEST LENN

SANTA CRUZ, Dec. 8—District Attorney Charles Moore today lashed back at the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury which accused him of misconduct in his office by asserting he would carry 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出局 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.

CITIES BAR PAVEMENT.

Although Moore declined to pinpoint the 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 operator whom he said has been paying a Watsonville police officer for a week.

Moore and his attorneys, Melvin M. Bell of San Francisco and James Boccado of San Jose, made it clear 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 that hints were dropped around the courthouse that Judge Attridge may have something to say about the materiality of the depositions.

The appearance of Moore, Jehl, and Miano in superior court here brought the controversy in which the youthful prosecutor finds himself to a new high.

CHARGES MADE.

Although some 40 residents, including two police chiefs, two former operators of houses of prostitution, and three members of the grand jury, Depositions were taken presumably in support of Moore's vice charges, are to be sought.

SEPARATE-ACTION.

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 Carlisle Blodgett, Moore's former aide, Ray Miano, a pinball machine operator, and Sam Jehl, the district attorney's former consultant on vice conditions in the county, and Miano, 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 Miano gave Jehl $4,000 to "protect" Miano's pinball machines.

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER
San Francisco, Calif.
December 9, 1955
Page 2a Col. 1, 2, 3

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
FBI — SAN FRANCISCO

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
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.
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 subservient 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.
Memorandum

TO: Mr. Wick
FROM: M. A. Jones

DATE: 2-25-66

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 Heighton of Chicago; the notorious literary indictee, 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 eminate 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.
Jones to Wick memo

RE: "Playboy" Magazine

when Los Angeles Agents raided a motel room occupied by two men believed to be badly wanted fugitives. 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.

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.

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 notoriously 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 ensnare the Bureau in their petty grievances.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.
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. Spectorsky
Editorial Director
PLAYBOY
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 shogun 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 fascist 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. He has 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 list 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 Chicago Crime Laboratory Manual." He has a long history of witnessing and making controversial decisions. In addition to numerous civil rights victories, he has had the best-seller lists in newspapers and magazines Page One for the three-time winner of the New York Times Book Award for "The Chicago Crime Laboratory Manual." He is a contributor of polemical opinion pieces to various national magazines, he has also been the subject of a controversial Playboy Interview (June 1965).

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 Parole Board of Illinois, one-time 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 PENBERTON, 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 right-wing political groups and unpopular causes, the ACLU has even fought for the right of right-wing political 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 direction.

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, he has had the best-seller lists in newspapers and magazines Page One for the three-time winner of the New York Times Book Award for "The Chicago Crime Laboratory Manual." He is a contributor of polemical opinion pieces to various national magazines, he has also been the subject of a controversial Playboy Interview (June 1965).

BELLI: Peephole surveillance is utterly and completely abhorrent, totally impermissible. It is far more immoral than the immorality it seeks to eliminate.

LEIGHTON: We urgently need legislation here.

RUSTIN: No police are going to stop and frisk well-dressed bankheists on Wall Street, but they don't hesitate to stop well-dressed Negro businessmen in Harlem.
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 is the 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. Impeachment dismissed, he took to the air on both coast and 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 reporting. 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—six-times-faster than the national population growth, according to the FBI—the issue of "violence in the streets" has become both a tabloid catchphrase and a political football. Ignoring unequivocal statements by equally responsible authorities that the number of violent crimes, far from increasing, has actually been declining for 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 commission to "palliate crime."

LEIGHTON: [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.]

PLAYBOY: [In my years of law enforcement—an overzealous plea 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. Disdaining confessions, they argue, will fatally shackle law-enforcement officers and remove the last restraints on 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 shaky 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. Last, but not least, 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 already too lenient?
LOHMANN: 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.

LEIGHTON: Fred, you cite the increase in crime in Washington since the McNab-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: 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 for justice.

PENMBERTON: 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 wealthy 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 community.

PLAYBOY: Do you agree with those who feel that socially and economically underprivileged adult defendants are deprived of their constitutional rights to an even greater degree than juveniles?

LOHMANN: 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, Playbov 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 "coddl[e] the criminal," as the police allege.

INBAU: In my opinion, these decisions have had a crippling effect on law enforcement. Because of the McNab-Mallory and Escobedo rulings, police are, for all practical purposes, prevented from interrogating suspects in private. It's virtually 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 corroboration of detective work. Then, when they go to court and have their case shot full of holes, they wish that the court is coddling the criminal.

BELL: 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 him 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.

BELL: And reprehensible. Perhaps the psychological coercion can be just as swiftly adopted 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 scarifying him half to death. A dishonest interrogator, for example, can boldly ask 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 invalid 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 

AL. 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 extract 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 slippery-detective system has become a standard police interrogation technique—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 elasic. 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...
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e 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.

RUSTIN: 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 inversion of all in modern law enforcement is the jail-handicap 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 handi-cap...
Pemberton: We are rapidly nearing a time when old-fashioned bail will be abolished. The Vera Foundation in New York recently carried out 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 10 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.

Bell: 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?

Bell: 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 be more 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've been trying.

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 arrest 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 flip 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 attached cases. That kind of brusque police action is reserved for the poor.
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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.

BELL: 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. Bell?

BELL: 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 these 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 might well open fire on them—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 model 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 kidnappers 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 already 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.

BELL: 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 Hudson. 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 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 100 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 twofold. 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 or 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 raidsing 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 rioters in North Beach— wholesale lots of them. Not surprisingly, the arrest rate in San Francisco leaped astronautically; 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-hearted police officers into making arrests for so-called crimes that had never bothered them before.

LEIGHTON: 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 13 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.

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What can a beer drinker expect from it?

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.

Wonders!

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PLAYBOY: What can a beer drinker expect from it?

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 distacts 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 kill 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 naive.

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?

Pemberton: 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 talked, 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 used by other agencies.
In 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 the freemarket-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 short cuts, 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-

PLAYBOY: 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 are not going to force the police to behave properly by releasing obviously guilty persons who 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 need for law enforcement, we must preserve our liberties at all costs. The survival of each of us as an individual is far more important than the survival 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 wall 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 iniquity 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. Disturb 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?

BETT: 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 obtrusive 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 "dishonorable tendencies." It doesn't take much intuitive ability to conclude that a machine and camera would.

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 drag-net 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, and he now occupies it by appointment of the Mayor, 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...
We're Happening All Over

600 active members on several campuses — is the May 2nd Movement, an outgrowth of the May 2nd Committee formed at a student 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 students or the black people of the South to be nonviolent. Oh, I used to be a pacifist, but never 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 communism of the PLP, and they consider the DuBois Clubs and the May 2nd Movement as at best politically naive 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, rauous 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, 21-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 on 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, persuasively 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 Communist 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 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 interested 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 jobs — 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 Maul Ethn, PLAYBOY, February 1966). One route to that power is the opening of "door busting tours" to the Negro poor.