

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

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

TO: Mr. Mohr

FROM: C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: PHILIP CORSO

[Handwritten: Corso, Philip]

DATE: March 4, 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-20-85 BY SP-7 mac/fee
#263,334

The Director's telephone room notified me at 3:00 p.m. that Congressman Michael Feighan (D-Ohio) was in the Director's reception room. The Director, at the time, was tied up with the Attorney General.

I went over to the Director's reception room and, while "passing through," recognized Feighan and shook hands with him. I told him that I had been in the audience when he spoke to The American Legion Americanism Commission on 3/3/65 at the Sheraton-Park Hotel. I told him I was the National Chairman of Public Relations, The American Legion and that I wished to express the Legion's appreciation for his requesting to appear before us to discuss immigration matters. He replied that he was not aware of my Legion membership.

There was some initial small talk regarding Communist Party activities in Ohio. I told Feighan I had once been assigned to the Cleveland Division, consequently, was very familiar with his territory. I then mentioned that because of the fact he was in the Director's reception room perhaps he was waiting to see the Director. I mentioned that the Director was tied up as result of being up on the Hill all morning before the Appropriations Subcommittee. Before Feighan had a chance to answer, I told him I felt I knew what he wanted to see the Director about and that I thought perhaps he, Feighan, could understand that the employment of Philip Corso was strictly a problem between the Attorney General, Chairman Emanuel Celler of the House Judiciary Committee; and Feighan. Feighan replied this was true, but the FBI had furnished information to the Attorney General which had maligned Corso's character. I told him we had furnished information at the specific request of the Attorney General concerning material from FBI files. I mentioned that we had not intentionally maligned Corso's character but it seemed to me Corso had maligned his own character.

Feighan asked what I meant by the above remark. I told him of the extreme difficulties we had experienced with Corso with respect to the assassination of the President. I told Feighan that as a man with an intelligence background I felt certain he could understand the great hysteria, chaos and alarm which swept Washington and the entire country during the initial phases of the assassination investigation.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Jones

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

CDD:amr (5)
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XEROX
MAY 22 1965

CRIME RESEARCH
[Handwritten initials]

DeLoach to Mohr memo 3/4/65

Re: PHILIP CORSO

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He stated he could understand this. I told him that quite abruptly one afternoon Senator Jim Eastland, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a good friend, had called me up to the Hill, taken me into a private room and locked the door, at which time Eastland and [redacted] had confided in strict confidence that they had information indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald was an FBI informant. I told Feighan that I had emphatically denied this allegation. Senator Eastland then told me that Senators Hruska and Dirksen were aware of the allegation and were greatly alarmed. At this point, I told Feighan that I again felt certain that he could understand the very bad position such an allegation, whether true or false, could place the FBI. He stated he understood this. I told him the Director had immediately dispatched me to see Senator Hruska, and that Senator Hruska, despite Senator Dirksen being in the hospital with a case of bleeding ulcers, had ridden in a car with me to see Senator Dirksen. I told Feighan that after straightening out this matter with the above-mentioned Senators it then became necessary to run down this false rumor so that we could stop such allegations at their source.

b7c
I mentioned that I had asked [redacted] if he would furnish the identity of his source. [redacted] told me that he must refuse to do this until he had contacted the source and obtained his permission. A short time later [redacted] called me and revealed the identity of the source as Philip Corso of Senator Thurmond's office. I told Feighan that I had immediately contacted Corso and that Corso had admitted talking to [redacted] and telling him that considering the fact that Oswald had been given a position in the Soviet Union, had married a Soviet citizen, and had been allowed to return to the United States made it appear that Oswald had indeed been an informant for the FBI or CIA. I told Feighan at this point I had impressed upon Corso the fact that this was a false deduction and that such an erroneous deduction could place the FBI in a bad light if it continued to spread all over the Hill. I told Feighan that I had specifically asked Corso if he had picked up this information from any sources of his. I added that Corso advised me that he had picked such information up from sources within CIA. I pressed him to advise the identity of these sources and called him telephonically on at least 2 occasions to inform him to put up or shut up. On the third occasion Corso admitted to me that several friends had picked up erroneous information and had made a deduction from such information. I mentioned to Feighan that the matter ended there with Corso agreeing that he had spread a rumor based upon false information.

Feighan told me that in his opinion Corso was trying to do the FBI a favor. I told Feighan that if Corso had wanted to do us a favor he would have gotten in touch with the FBI immediately rather than spreading his rumor all over the Hill. Feighan made no reply to this.

DeLoach to Mohr memo 3/4/65
Re: PHILIP CORSO

I told Feighan that he obviously didn't have all information concerning Corso. I mentioned that the Associate Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization had furnished the FBI a copy of a letter signed by Corso late last fall. I mentioned that in this letter Corso had falsely accused the FBI of tapping Senator Strom Thurmond's telephone. I named several other scurrilous allegations included in the letter. I told Feighan that I had asked Corso to come down to my office, at which time, in presence of a witness, Corso had admitted preparation of the letter in question however, attempted to excuse this matter by stating that he and several other men were sitting around in Senator Thurmond's office one night with nothing to do and dictated this letter as a joke. I told Feighan that such tricks were no joke to us. Feighan asked if we had the original of this letter. I told him we did not, that we had a copy of the letter which had been found in front of the Senate Office Building. I further told Feighan that we had not mentioned this to anyone and had more or less forgotten the matter, however, in view of his feelings regarding Corso, I thought he should know about this incident.

I told Feighan that I wanted to make it very clear to him that the controversy concerning employment of Corso was strictly a matter for the Attorney General, Chairman Celler, and himself. I mentioned that whether he employed Corso or not was of no concern to the FBI. Feighan again stated that the FBI had maligned Corso's character. I told him that from the facts involved, it would appear that Corso was the one that had maligned himself. I further told him that the fact that the Attorney General had given Chairman Celler a memorandum concerning Corso was not a matter in which the FBI was involved. Feighan agreed but stated that Celler had told him that Corso could not be employed until Feighan personally approached the FBI "and got Corso straightened out with DeLoach." I told Feighan I had given him our side of the story and that I would be glad to meet him face to face any time to further discuss the matter.

At this stage of the game, Feighan started looking at his watch at 30-second intervals and finally stated that unfortunately he could not wait any longer to see the Director. I told him I felt certain he could understand the Director being extremely tied up as result of being gone all morning. Feighan stated that he might attempt to see the Director later on, however, he didn't know.

It should be noted at one stage of the conversation Feighan asked me specifically if the FBI furnished raw, unevaluated data when a name check was made by us for the Attorney General. He asked a second question as to whether the FBI did not try to qualify its raw, unevaluated data. He added quickly that in the matter of Corso we should have advised the Attorney General of Corso's brilliant war record. I told

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

DeLoach to Mohr memo 3/4/65
Re: PHILIP CORSO

Feighan that when the Attorney General asked us for information we furnished all data in FBI files and then it was up to the Attorney General to evaluate such data. I told him that very frankly we were not aware of Corso's "brilliant war record." I mentioned that the Attorney General, being the individual requesting such information and the individual disseminating such information to Congressional sources, properly had the responsibility of furnishing the information as he saw fit. I mentioned that this, of course, was not the responsibility of the FBI. Feighan made no comment.

OBSERVATION:

Feighan had heard only one side of the story, that of Corso. He had not heard the facts. Corso has obviously planted the seed in Feighan's mind that the FBI is out to ruin him. Feighan now has some doubt in his mind concerning Corso. He was quite shaken when I told him about Corso's trick in dictating the above-mentioned scurrilous letter. While we have won a temporary point, I don't think we have heard the last of this matter. Feighan and Mannie Celler bitterly hate each other. Feighan is stubborn, tenacious, ill advised, and certainly most naive. I remain of the opinion that the Director should not see Feighan and be drawn into this controversy on a personal basis. The Attorney General has, of course, brought about this controversy by leaving a copy of our name check memorandum with Chairman Celler. The fight still would be between the Attorney General, Celler and Feighan.

J. Conrad

AM

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

Letters to the Editor

On Controlling Crime

As anyone who reads the editorial page of this paper knows, *The Washington Post* is conducting an all-out campaign for the control of sales, and for the registration of firearms. As a reader of this paper for over 20 years, and one who has generally admired this paper's sensible stand and courageous support of many worthy causes, I am deeply disappointed and ashamed of the low level of the present series of editorials.

Some news articles in this paper have attempted to strike a sensational note by reporting at length tragic accidents in which, for example, an innocent child may have been killed by a firearm carelessly left within its reach. Just as tragic are the countless other accidents involving automobiles, knives, electrical appliances, plastic bags, and any number of other inanimate objects.

The crime rate in New York City has not gone down because of the Sullivan law. It is unrealistic to expect that the registration of guns will keep the criminal from obtaining firearms. Narcotics are presently outlawed, and yet dope addicts can purchase them with little difficulty. If local law enforcement officers are given the power to control the registration and ownership of firearms, what could we expect in a place like Selma, Ala.

That there is an unduly high rate of crime in Washington is undeniable, but the firearm must not be made the culprit in this deplorable situation. Every commission which has studied the crime problem has pointed out that its solution must be found in correcting the basic causes—slum conditions, poor housing, lack of work opportunity, low income, etc.—and in more strict enforcement of already existing laws. It is abundantly clear that the law-abiding citizen and only he, is the one who is going to be harassed and restricted by the proposed control measures.

—GEORGE T. JONES

Hyattsville, Md.

Philip J. Corso

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

62-110017

NOT RECORDED
APR 15 1965

SEE PAGE 2

79 APR 16 1965

APR 3 1965

Correcting the Story

Jack Anderson's column which appeared in your issue of March 29 contained misstatements and distortions of the facts concerning me and my record of Government service.

Neither the FBI, Justice Department nor Attorney General Katzenbach blackballed me with the Judiciary Committee of the House as suggested by the article. Congressman Celler was the only one involved in this blackball operation.

I am not a "private investigator" nor have I ever been. I am paid monthly out of Government funds by U.S. Treasury check through the House Disbursing Office. I have never been on Congressman Feighan's private payroll, or paid out of his private funds.

I was not the source of the vicious rumor that Oswald had been in the pay of the FBI and the charge that I "blandly explained" that I picked the rumor up from CIA is equally false. I have never made either statement in public or otherwise. I did learn that a Communist in Texas was circulating such a rumor, and I reported this to the proper authorities. This hardly made me the "source" of the rumor.

The charge that "not a single Judiciary member supported Feighan's demand to put Corso on the public payroll" is false. The truth is that the only vote taken on the recommendation was in Subcommittee No. 1 of the Judiciary Committee and it was endorsed—without a dissenting vote—by the quorum then present.

The charge that I was recommended as chief counsel of the Immigration Subcommittee at \$20,000 a year is false. I was recommended for another position on the Subcommittee staff.

I am a lieutenant colonel of the U.S. Army, retired, and I retain that rank in the retired reserve. Over the course of 21 years of military service as troop commander and intelligence officer in two wars, I have received 17 decorations and over 50 written citations including four from Cabinet members during my tour of duty with the National Security Council. This undoubtedly is offensive to Anderson since he continuously attempts to discredit the military.

PHILIP J. CORSO
LA. Col. (Ret.),
Fairfax

Notes
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Wick

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

TO : Mr. DeLoach *JD*

DATE: 4/1/66

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION FURNISHED BY
FORMER SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] former Special Agent, called to advise me Colonel Philip Corso, who apparently worked at one time for CSS and Senator Strom Thurmond (Republican - South Carolina), is now allegedly doing some work for Congressman Michael A. Feighan (Democrat - Ohio). [REDACTED] said that Corso is suing Drew Pearson for libel; that he had filed a lawsuit some time ago. He did not know exactly when.

[REDACTED] wanted to bring some information to my attention which is not in the pleadings. He said that when this case comes up for trial Corso intends to state that Pearson has indicated to three witnesses that he claims he got derogatory information on Corso in a report of the FBI pertaining to Corso. [REDACTED] indicated he believes that such a comment was in one of Drew Pearson's columns. He said he was furnishing the above because of his interest in seeing that something was done to get Pearson. I told him that insofar as we were concerned we were not interested in Pearson.

He also advised me that [REDACTED] had an office on Connecticut at K right [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] is a [REDACTED]. He also said that [REDACTED] was the one who [REDACTED].

He said [REDACTED] represented the [REDACTED] represented [REDACTED] and apparently [REDACTED].

He also apparently assisted in getting [REDACTED]. The foregoing allegations are not new.

[REDACTED] also said that he was checking on a [REDACTED] who is [REDACTED] the Soviet Press Secretary at 1706 - 18th Street. He said his reason for checking on her is that he believed that she was supposed to be [REDACTED].

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 1-3-81 BY SP8 BJA/BJW
 893,828

REC-15 62-110012-5 APR 13 1966

55 APR 22 1966
APR 22 1966

CONTINUED - OVER

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-441100-106

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION FURNISHED BY
FORMER SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] but they have not established this as yet. b7c

ACTION

The above information should be made a matter of record.
Our files should be checked to see if we have any information
concerning [REDACTED]

*Memo DeLoach
Rosen to DeLoach
4-3-66
RHS:CEO*

*Being done
1
Res: [Signature]
[Signature] [Signature]*

APR 15 1966
-2-
RECEIVED

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT


Memorandum

Tolson	_____
DeLoach	_____
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Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
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Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. DeLoach *JD*

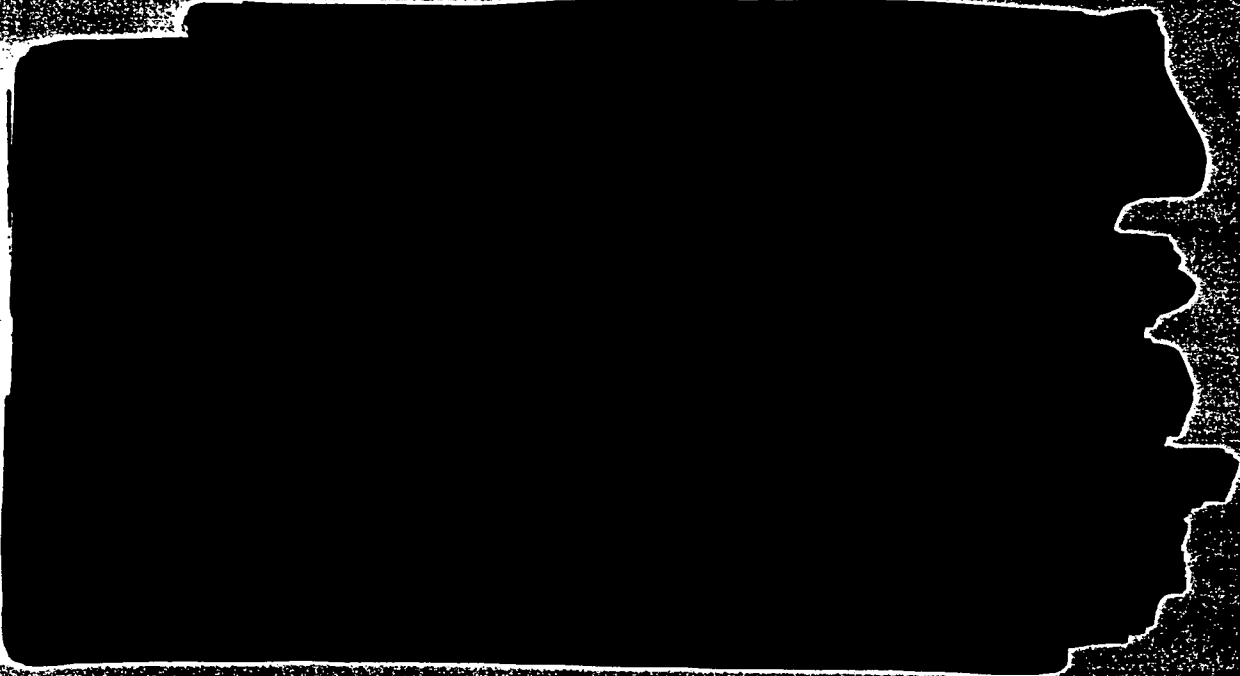
DATE: 4/1/66

FROM : R. E. Wick

SUBJECT: SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION
AND NATIONALITIES,
CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL A. FEIGHAN
(D - OHIO), CHAIRMAN;
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON 

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6/2/66
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b7c
(1)
(2)



Congressional information not subject to FOIA

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-93163

DATA IN BUREAU FILES

Our files reflect that  entered on duty with the Bureau as a clerk-typist, GS-2, on 5/8/50 and on 5/20/50, was appointed as a Special Agent. He voluntarily resigned to accept other employment effective 3/1/63 while assigned to the New York Office. His services were satisfactory.

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

TEB:mls

(4)

53 APR 15 1966

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APR 5 1966

CONTINUED - OVER

105-93163

Wick to DeLoach Memo, 4/1/66

RE: Subcommittee on Immigration and Nationalities

With regard to Congressman Michael A. Feighan, he is a graduate of Harvard Law School, was elected to the 78th Congress on 11/3/42 and has been re-elected to succeeding Congresses. Our relations with him were generally satisfactory until early in 1965 when Feighan was attempting to employ Philip J. Corso on the staff of the Immigration and Nationalities Subcommittee. Corso is well known to the Bureau, fancies himself as an expert in the intelligence field and has a history of making wholesale accusations against many persons and agencies of the Federal Government of plotting to subvert the nation and has caused many agencies, including the FBI, to expend much manpower, money and effort to disprove some of his accusations. One of such false allegations of Corso was to the effect that Lee Harvey Oswald was an FBI informant, which allegation Corso finally admitted was based on false information. As a result of a name check request received from the Department, we furnished information to the Attorney General concerning Corso, and the Attorney General showed the information to Judiciary Committee Chairman Emanuel Celler. This resulted in preventing Subcommittee from hiring Corso. Feighan accused the FBI of having maligned the character of Corso by furnishing information concerning him to the Attorney General.

Drew Pearson's column of 3/29/65 referred to Congressman Feighan's fight to put Corso on the Government payroll and a portion of the column is entitled "FBI Blackballs Aide," and indicates that Feighan phoned the Attorney General and tongue-lashed him for turning over an FBI memorandum concerning Corso to Representative Celler and accused the Attorney General of "McCarthy-like tactics" in circulating "unevaluated" information.

OBSERVATIONS:

In view of the antagonistic attitude which has been displayed toward the Bureau by Feighan, particularly with regard to the Corso matter, it is not felt that we should take any steps to be of assistance to his subcommittee or any of its representatives.

ACTION TAKEN:

The confidential nature of data in Bureau files was explained to [redacted] and he was advised that because of this, it would not be possible for the Bureau to be of assistance to him in connection with his request. He advised that as an ex-Agent, he was aware of this policy and understood the Bureau's position.

RECOMMENDATION:

None, for information.

b7c

BS

V.

RA

JPC

W

JS

The Attorney General

April 15, 1966

REC-32

EX-114
Director, FBI

44-110017-6

LIEUTENANT COLONEL PHILIP J. CORSO

Reference is made to my memorandum of November 10, 1964, setting forth the results of a name check concerning the above-captioned individual.

On April 14, 1966, one Robert Mamel, Suite 620, Shoreham Building, Washington, D. C., telephone Republic 7-4660, telephonically contacted this Bureau and identified himself as an attorney representing Lieutenant Colonel Philip J. Corso in connection with a libel suit which Corso has filed against columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson. He stated that depositions are presently being taken in connection with the libel suit in the office of attorney John Donovan, Washington, D. C., who represents Anderson and Pearson. He advised that on April 14, 1966, Anderson and Pearson attempted to have put into evidence, by means of a deposition, a memorandum from me to you dated November 10, 1964, dealing with Corso and also containing data concerning one [REDACTED].

Mamel advised that he has objected to the introduction of this memorandum by Anderson and Pearson.

He further stated that he has reason to believe that this memorandum was made available by you to Congressman Emanuel Celler, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and that Congressman Michael A. Feighan knows something concerning this memorandum and background but Congressman Feighan is out of town and Mamel is unable to contact him.

Attorney Mamel asked a representative of this Bureau if it was a violation of Federal law for the memorandum referred to to be in the possession of Anderson and Pearson. When he was advised that no comment could be made on this matter, he indicated that he was going to take this up with you so that appropriate action could be taken against Anderson and Pearson in the event they have violated a Federal law by being in possession of the memorandum.

The above is furnished for your information.

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent with cover memo)
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (sent with cover memo)

FEB:par (8)

NOTE: See RIFE, Wick to DeLoach memo 4-14-66 re "Philip J. Corso, Attempt to Introduce FBI Memorandum Into Evidence in Libel Suit."

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-9-91 BY SP8/BJB/STP

APR 15 9 55 AM '66
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CIA

JK