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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. MOHR

DATE: 6-17-65

FROM : W. S. TAVEL *ST*SUBJECT: ANONYMOUS LETTER DATED 6-10-65 TO
PRESIDENT JOHNSON POSTMARKED
FORT WORTH, TEXAS, CONTAINING ALLEGATIONS
AGAINST INSPECTOR H. L. EDWARDS AND OTHER
BUREAU PERSONNEL

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

ROUTE IN
ENVELOPE

Anonymous letter writer, signing himself "A loyal, concerned Dallas FBI employee," by letter to President Johnson dated 6-10-65, postmarked Fort Worth, Texas, makes several allegations against Bureau personnel. Director stated, "Look into this promptly. I suspect someone in the Bureau here may be the author or is furnishing information to such ex-Agents as Turner or Levine. The postmark Ft. Worth means nothing. H."

Allegation #1: That Inspector H. L. Edwards attended Attorneys General conference at Phoenix, Arizona; was found drunk in hotel room, was unable to deliver a speech; later same night was stopped for driving on wrong side of road and running through stop signs; and that ticket was fixed on instructions of high FBI officials in Washington. Facts: Almost identical allegations received in previous anonymous letter to Director dated 5-15-65 postmarked El Paso, Texas. My inquiry in Phoenix, as contained in my memo 5-24-65, reflected allegations were distorted exaggerations; indications were that Edwards delivered scheduled speech; was awakened next morning in hotel room, but no evidence he was drunk; received ticket for unlawful speed which was not "fixed" but is still on file in Phoenix Police Department; plea of guilty was entered by former SAC Edward Boyle and judge suspended sentence. Edwards was censured for failure to report traffic ticket. Allegation #2: Writer of present letter states above matter was recently brought to Director's attention by one who attended the conference and a top aide was sent to Phoenix where a whitewash was apparently administered as decision reportedly reached that Edwards was innocent and no administrative action was taken against him, certainly none approaching that rigidly required by FBI rules. Facts: This obviously refers to my inquiry. No "whitewash" was administered. I obtained signed statements from Bureau personnel, verified movements through #3 Cards, personally examined police records, interviewed hotel manager, police officers, judge, and others having knowledge of incident and presented full facts to Director, who approved censure for Edwards. Allegation #3: Edwards' conduct was covered for and not disclosed to Director at time it happened by Assistant Director James Gale, you (Mr. Mohr), and later by me (Tavel), and possibly SAC at Phoenix, who reportedly has just been promoted for his success in whitewashing

ENCLOSURE

WST:jmr

(2)

67-798-3150

Searched

REC-140

JUL 27 1965

TRM

Memo to Mr. Mohr from W. S. Tavel

Re: Anonymous Letter dated 6-10-65 to President Johnson, etc.

Edwards' conduct. Facts: Gale denies knowing of incident when it happened and no white-wash resulted. SAC William Soyars has been transferred from Phoenix to Cincinnati since my inquiry, with Director's approval, but his transfer had no relation to my inquiry.

Allegation #4: That several years ago you (Mr. Mohr) were involved in drinking incident at Toots Shor's in New York but were covered for by associates, several of whom suffered severe administrative action including transfers. One "took the rap" for you, was broken from his high position, but is now reinstated in charge of large eastern office as reward for "taking rap" for you. Facts: On night of 5-8-57 SAC MacLennan, Pittsburgh Office, then ASAC at New York, had dinner with you and former SA T. F. Ring and non-Bureau personnel, and about 10:30 P. M. left the others and was stopped while driving personally owned car alone shortly thereafter going wrong way on one-way street and did not have auto registration with him. No charge was placed and officer said MacLennan was not under influence of alcohol. MacLennan did not immediately report incident and was censured, placed on probation, removed as ASAC, demoted to GS-13, and ordered under transfer to Kansas City but transfer was later canceled, and SA Joseph M. Zimmerman, Night Supervisor who knew of incident and did not report it, was censured and removed as Supervisor and Inspector's Aide. MacLennan has held several positions, including assistant to Mr. Belmont, after leaving New York and prior to his present assignment. Allegation #5:

That you (Mr. Mohr) have also been involved in drunken escapades in other places, including Miami where you allegedly were arrested at one time, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington, D. C. Facts: You have denied this whole allegation categorically and have stated that you have never been arrested in Miami or elsewhere. Allegation #6: Your brother, Paul J. Mohr, reportedly had upwards of \$1,000 in bad checks out against him when he applied for Special Agent position and investigation had to be held up 3 times before you were able to cover this blemish. Facts: Paul Mohr applied as SA 9-8-51 and entered on duty 10-29-51, reflecting no delay in investigation. He listed \$557 of outstanding debts, including \$300 loan from his brother, Chester, and \$160 to General Services Administration Credit Union where his credit was satisfactory. Credit agencies and police records checked reflected no credit difficulties or bad checks outstanding and he was earning \$3100 per annum. Paul denies allegation, states is outright lie, and that he never had any bad checks and didn't even have a checking account prior to his entering Bureau.

Allegation #7: You (Mr. Mohr) are reportedly brother-in-law of Sam Astoli, alias "Kingston Sam," notorious east coast bookie and hoodlum operating out of Kingston, New York. Facts: You have advised that the mother of Samuel Astolas, Jr., is a distant relative of your mother's and you have had no significant contact with him. Bureau files reflect he was known as "Kingston Sam," is a professional handicapper, and had associated with bookies and gamblers in Kingston, New York; Cincinnati; and Newport, Kentucky, according to reports in 1953, 1960 and 1961.

Writer also criticizes Bureau's weight program and what he terms the Director's "destructive personnel policy." He suggests the President may wish to have John W. Macy, Jr., Chairman of Civil Service Commission, review recent instances of

Dallas, Texas
June 10, 1965

PERSONAL

Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

It is with regret that I must bring to your attention a serious matter affecting our national security and involving the FBI. Some months ago one of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's top aides, Inspector H. Lynn Edwards, was sent by Hoover to represent him personally as a featured speaker in Phoenix, Arizona before a District Attorneys' convention attended by prominent people from numerous southwestern states. When time came for Edwards to speak, he could not be found. Inquiry by the head of the FBI Office there revealed Edwards was drunk in his hotel room and the manager thought he was dead. He was revived; however, someone else made his speech much to the embarrassment of those who knew what transpired.

Not content to let well enough alone, Edwards the same night got drunk again and was driving his car in Phoenix when stopped by a police officer for driving on the wrong side of the road and running through stop signs. On instructions by high FBI officials in Washington, the ticket was fixed to the annoyance of the Phoenix Police Department, and Edwards was allowed to return to Washington without prosecution.

ENCLOSURE

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Finally, when it became painfully clear that nothing would ever be done about this matter, it was recently brought to the attention of FBI Director Hoover and Attorney General Katzenbach by one who attended the conference and knew of the disgraceful misconduct of Edwards. Usually a situation of this type results in the immediate dismissal of any government official under the terms of President Eisenhower's Executive Order 10450, issued April 27, 1953, prescribing rigid security requirements for government employment. The over-all criterion was that any person whose employment was not clearly consistent with the national interest should be barred from federal service. The term "security risk" was redefined to include heavy drinkers, loose talkers, sex perverts, persons judged unreliable, untrustworthy or immoral, and persons previously convicted of felonies or misdemeanors.

In addition, FBI rules of conduct are most stringent in matters of such flagrant misbehavior and demand the immediate dismissal of any employee found to have been engaged in such conduct. It appears the rules were waived in Edwards' case for some unknown reasons.

It is understood that as soon as Hoover received the recent communication telling of Edwards' convictions, he promptly dispatched another top aide to Phoenix to look into the situation. A whitewash apparently was most skillfully administered, as the decision reportedly was reached that Edwards was innocent of the serious allegations commonly known to dozens of people to be true, and no administrative action was taken against Edwards, certainly none approaching that rigidly required by FBI rules of conduct or Executive Order 10450.

It would take the connivance of a number of high FBI officials to cover this situation so skillfully

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for Edwards, who is known for many years by many fellow employees to be an extremely heavy drinker if not an alcoholic. Edwards' conduct was undoubtedly covered for and not disclosed to Hoover at the time it happened by his immediate superior, James H. Gale, an Assistant Director; by John P. Mohr, an Assistant to the Director; and later by the high ranking official who has just completed an inquiry into the matter; and possibly the Agent in Charge of the Phoenix Office who reportedly has just been promoted for his outstanding success in helping to administer a coat of whitewash to Edwards' most reprehensible conduct.

John P. Mohr, incidentally is one of the Big Five in the FBI hierarchy and is a well-known heavy drinker, probably an alcoholic. Several years ago he was involved in a drunken scene in Toots Mor's Bar in New York City but was covered for by his associates, several of whom suffered severe administrative action including transfers. One took the rap especially for Mohr, was broken from his high position but is now reinstated in charge of one of our large eastern FBI offices in payment for services rendered in taking the rap for Mohr. That official also has a long history of heavy drinking, well known to FBI headquarters.

Mohr has also been involved in drunken escapades in other places including Miami, where he allegedly was arrested at one time, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., and his associates have been hard pressed to keep him from being arrested at other times as a common drunk. Mohr also has a brother who is an FBI official and who reportedly had upwards of \$1,000 in bad checks out against him when he applied for the position of Special Agent in the FBI several years ago. Investigation had to be held up three times before Mohr was able to cover this terrible blemish against his brother's record, one that would quickly eliminate any other agent applicant. His brother then easily got the job which ordinarily calls for fidelity, bravery, integrity and character. Mohr also reportedly is the brother-in-law of Sam Astoli, alias "Kingston Sam," notorious east coast bookie and hoodlum operating out of Kingston, New York, but this damaging association has never interfered with his dazzling ascent to the

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FBI's administrative heights and rumored to be the next FBI Director.

Mohr and Edwards, close friends, also have been among the prime pushers of Hoover's weight program resulting in dozens of agents being run out of the FBI or to suffer many transfers or loss of income because of their inability to meet the FBI's rigid and unrealistic weight limits which Mohr has never bothered to make and it is doubtful if Hoover and Edwards can make. This has not stopped them from inflicting untold hardships on hundreds of innocent members of FBI Agents' families and in actually undermining the health and well-being of many agent personnel.

This letter is being written to you, Mr. President, because you are the one loyal, upstanding, powerful American who can correct this situation. No Attorney General in the past has ever questioned Hoover's destructive personnel policy or questioned his cover-ups for intimate aides who have flouted the rules of decent conduct. Other prominent FBI officials have reached retirement age although alcoholics and the Edwards situation isn't particularly important except for the following reasons:

1. He should be fired as a security risk just as surely as you were forced to fire Walter Jenkins, because of Edwards' extremely sensitive responsibilities involving our national security.

2. He not only was in violation of local laws but was in violation of one of the FBI's strictest rules against drinking on the job, and in this instance at great embarrassment to the FBI in Phoenix and in the entire southwest among a most important group of law enforcement representatives.

3. This situation points up the sad possibility that Hoover is not being told the truth by his top aides. I feel sure he would have fired Edwards at the time of the incident or recently if he had been told the whole truth about the matter.

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For these reasons and before this situation explodes into a bombshell most embarrassing for your administration, hundreds of FBI employees who know of this shameful cover-up of Edwards' misconduct which is embarrassing to us all, will welcome your personal inquiry into the matter. You might like to have Mr. John W. Macy, Jr., Chairman of the United States Civil Service Commission, look into this matter and make a survey of the last several hundred instances of administrative action taken by Hoover against his personnel. Such a review with unbiased approach will reveal unbelievable action taken, involving many needless transfers at great cost to the taxpayers, firings, demotions, forced retirements, etc.

Among the most disgraceful to be found within the past year or so will be Hoover's reprehensible action taken against twelve to fifteen loyal FBI employees whom he decided to blame, at the recommendation of Assistant Director Gale, for action contributing to the assassination of the late President Kennedy, thereby hoping to relieve himself of the criticism of the Warren Commission. Several in our Dallas office were dealt with severely. One of the most heart-breaking cases involved Agent James Hosty, young father of eight children, one suffering from cerebral palsy, his wife pregnant, who was suspended without pay for a month and transferred to one of the FBI's most dreaded disciplinary offices. This action reportedly followed disciplinary action already taken against this agent regarding the same matter.

Many of us think the time has come for a quiet look at the Edwards case, the factors involved, as well as the over-all ruinous personnel policy of the FBI before it becomes necessary for a congressional committee or the news media to undertake the task at great embarrassment to your outstanding administration. You are the one man in America who can correct this situation in our great organization which we think is contributing much to the national security and which can ill afford even one of the Edwards type in its midst.

Sincerely yours,

A loyal, concerned Dallas
FBI employee

Copy to: Mr. Nicholas Katzenbach, Mr. John W. Macy, Jr.
and Mr. J. Edgar Hoover