

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

SUBJECT: ABSCAM

PART 2 OF 2

Public Response TO AbSCAM

ref. abscam

Nov. 3, 1980

Dear Mr. Webster,
All prayers are with you.
My husband and I are

most grateful to you and
your staff for the all-
compassing task you and
your staff have undertaken
to root out unjust and
even criminal elements
from our society and govern-
ment. More power to you.

We know this project
requires courage, patience and
follow-through, however, any
high- or right-minded persons
who expects integrity and
sound government policies
and practices on the part of

those elected to serve us
will respect your project as a leading element
to begin to sift the chaff
from the wheat in the
interest of preserving electorate

The enclosed clipping explains
itself. Sincerely,

NOV 29 1980

RESPONDENCE

176

b-6

Ray lam-
discovered
omping
law, the
On Sept. 24, a young Montpelier

tons of the disease — nausea, vomit-
ing, fever and diarrhea — for three
hospital and was menstruating at the
time, Dr. C.C. Blake said.

Clampdown on visas

WASHINGTON (AP) — The
State Department said Tuesday it
is lightening procedures for issu-
ing visas to Japanese businessmen
responding to a report in the New
York Times, the department said.
The policy guidelines
are simply looking at
individual cases
more closely at
the critical cases
issued for sup-
live per-

Leaders reaffirm goals

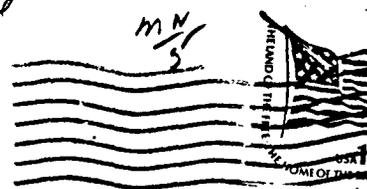
BONN, West Germany (AP) —
Leaders of the newly-relect-
pledged to continue a post-
East-West coalition arms
and cooperate, arms
Common Market with NATO
soldiers
will be
Among the crucial
areas. The United States
a reaction last week.
he superpowers agreed
wear use of napalm
In cities, towns, vi-
e centers.
on incendiary weap-
Novel of land mines
— are the major
tying international
the certain non-

declared dead.
ruling in court if her husband were
the military said she would attend
San Diego, Marian, who lives in
son's wife, Marian, who lives in
the spokesman at Randolph, Shel-
years, said Capt. Mike Michael
missing in Southeast Asia for 15
Owensboro, Ky., has been listed as
Charles Shelton, a native of
of the Navy, Col.
the board's recommendation to
of an announcement a spokesman said
the Secretary of the Navy said
through inhaled vomit after
12 hours, the inquest was told.
Coroner Robert Wilson recorded a
Zepelin of accidental death. Led
"pretty tipsy" for rehearsals at a
Windsor recording studio. Wil-
began drinking quadruple vodkas
more in the studio and continued
drinking large vodkas in Page's
home until midnight.

not in
Phone
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om

[Redacted address lines]

Missouri



Federal Bureau of Investigation
9TH and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC
20535

CORRESPONDENCE
OCT 20 1980

Ask
82 9/11
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63-17561-276X
ENCLOSURE

DO
[unclear]

Dr. Mike Osterholm of the Health Department said Minnesota victims were using tampons when they were stricken, but at least three of the five deaths did not involve brand tampons.

Dr protecting fire weapons

Secondary weapons agreement was accepted of a clause exempting... from... as incendiaries. They're described as "designed to combine penetration, blast or fragmentation effect with an additional incendiary effect."

Negotiators agreed to include in their report to the conference a statement... that the exemption must not be used to camouflage the use of incendiaries.

Besides barring aerial bombardment in incendiaries on military targets in populated areas, the draft prohibits... making civilians the targets of such weapons.

"It's a small agreement, but it is an agreement," said a source in the Mexican delegation, which has urged extensive limitations on incendiary weapons.

WANT ADS DAILY

Preparing a funeral assists survivors in making countless decisions that must be made at the time of death. It also assures that personal wishes will be known.

Heafon-Bowman-Smith

and Siderforden Chapel

Jenrette found guilty of taking agent's bribe

APPROX 1936 DC

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. John W. Jenrette was convicted Tuesday night of accepting a bribe from an FBI undercover agent in the Abscam political corruption investigation.

The South Carolina Democrat, the second congressman convicted in the Abscam investigation, was charged with accepting the money from the agent who was posing as a representative of wealthy Arabs needing special immigration legislation.

The U.S. District Court jury also convicted John R. Stowe, a Richmond, Va., businessman, who was charged with aiding and abetting Jenrette in the bribery scheme.

The jury of eight women and four men returned their verdicts in U.S. District Court after some four hours of deliberations that began just after lunch. The verdict was announced at 5:15 p.m. CDT.

After the jury foreman, Sylvia Parker, announced the verdicts, Jenrette, sitting at the defense table, bowed his head and sobbed into his hands. Stowe sat impassively as he had during most of the five-week trial.

After leaving the courtroom, Jenrette sobbed on the shoulder of his wife, Rita, for nearly a half hour.

He told reporters he was "very much in shock."

"Regardless of what those (FBI audio and video) tapes said, I didn't take any money. I haven't done anything to sell the office," said the 44-year-old, third-term congressman.

He said he planned to continue his re-election campaign, although adding he would meet with the Democratic chairmen in the 10 counties he represents "to determine the best course."

"I'm not going to let this destroy me," he said at one point.

Defense attorneys asked that the jury

be polled individually on the verdicts, and each juror quietly responded "guilty" on each charge.

Jenrette was convicted of one count of conspiracy to commit bribery and two counts of bribery. Stowe was convicted of one count of conspiracy and two counts of aiding and abetting bribery.

Each man could face a maximum 35 years in prison and thousands of dollars in fines.

Sentencing will be scheduled later. Rep. Michael Myers, D-Pa., was convicted Aug. 30 in the first Abscam trial and on Oct. 2, he was expelled from the House by a vote of 376-0.

Before the jurors began deliberating, U.S. District Judge John Garrett Penn instructed them on the laws of conspiracy and bribery and on the legal defense of entrapment.

Both Jenrette and Stowe claimed they were victims of entrapment, in which law enforcement officials induce or persuade persons to commit unlawful acts they would not otherwise commit.

Penn told the jury such inducement "may take many forms including persuasion, fraudulent representations, threats, coercive tactics, harassment, promises of reward, or pleas based on need, sympathy or friendship."

The jury spent more than a month listening to witnesses and watching FBI videotapes, as the government tried to show that Jenrette and Stowe split a \$50,000 payoff from an undercover agent posing as a representative of wealthy Arabs.

Jenrette took the stand last week to deny he accepted the bribe, which was offered in return for his promise to introduce special immigration legislation for the fictional Arabs.

not in phone dir mm

b/b



W

ack 08/21/80 JAF

63-17561-2762 ENCLOSURE

DA



Rep. John Jenrette leans on his wife, Rita, for support after he was found guilty of bribery and conspiracy.

not
Ph
do

John Well Davis

AP

[Redacted]

Ohio [Redacted]

OUTSIDE SOURCE

b-6

November 17, 1980

Public Responses Re Abscam

Mr. Roger S. Young
Inspector in Charge
Office of Congressional and
Public Affairs
United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Young:

Thank you for sending me the material about Judge Webster's speeches which I have now concluded reading. I was especially grateful for the Variety clipping which spells out your current involvement with various television projects. Since [Redacted] seems to be doing something in the genre in which I was interested, I would like to shift my emphasis to another project which [Redacted] has indicated more than a passing interest in. I am referring to the time when Melvin Weinberg was involved in an art theft con for the FBI. Attached is a copy of an article I read in the October 26 issue of the Washington Post magazine in Rudy Maxa's column.

dlw
10

I am planning on coming to Washington within a week or 10 days and would appreciate your looking into this matter on our behalf. Any background information you can provide me about this episode will be greatly appreciated. I will phone you when my travel plans are more concrete. Again, thank you for your cooperation and I look forward to meeting with you when I am in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

b-6

APL/jlk

Enclosure

dlw

63-17561-276X1

3 DEC 18 1980

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JAN 28 1981
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WASH POST 10/26/80

RUDY MAXA'S

Front Page

ABSCAM'S CON MAN PROVIDES DETAILS OF FEDERAL STING

If you're a congressman ensnared in the Abscam scandal, you'll have to stand in a long line to denounce Melvin Weinberg, the self-described con man behind the episode. According to a copy of a book proposal about his life, Weinberg has made a habit of double-dealing, back-stabbing and hustling, beginning with his Bronx boyhood when he stole gold stars from his teacher's desk to show his mother what a fine student he was.

Things went downhill from there. When Weinberg's father went into the window glass business, for example, his helpful son drove around town in a Cadillac, shooting out windows with a slingshot. Dad's business boomed. And for the last three decades, Weinberg has taken his talents around the world, building a reputation that only became generally known when the Abscam affair became public knowledge early this year.

"Mel Weinberg's touch in the Abscam investigation was as apparent as a hammerhead shark in the kitchen sink," claims the proposal for an authorized biography of Weinberg that a Newsday Pulitzer-Prize-winning editor, Robert W. Greene, is writing for publisher E. P. Dutton. "The budget-conscious government investigator cannot think in terms of Dom Perignon coffee breaks, authentic Louis XVI furniture and rented Lear jets as props for an investigation. The government mind tends more to Sears, Roebuck suits, dinner meetings at Schrafft's and discount rooms at the Dixie Hotel... Weinberg made the difference."

Weinberg reportedly made about a \$600,000 difference—the reported cost of a sting that featured yachts, hotel suites, Atlantic City parties and, of course, cases of cash for politicians and their middlemen.

Among the information Greene and Weinberg indicate will be included in the book:

Some politicians were not to be touched. To the frustration of Weinberg and the FBI agents working with



By Lee Dinkelman

him, Weinberg claims, Justice Department officials reportedly ordered them not to pursue leads that might have led to bribe allegations against House



Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill (D-Mass.), Rep. Peter Rodino (D-N.J.), Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) and several other congressmen.

Weinberg promises to reveal details of how he brought con-

gressmen—and not just their middlemen—into the open to accept or at least discuss bribes as government cameras recorded them.

He also tells the story of a front-page newspaper photograph in Philadelphia of a female FBI agent working with Weinberg that almost ruined the crucial Pennsylvania portion of the Abscam sting.

At the same time he was working Abscam, Weinberg ran an unrelated

art theft con for the FBI. In what the book proposal calls "a movie natural," Weinberg convinced three gangsters to exchange a million dollars in stolen art for \$500,000 in cash. The exchange was to follow a ride in the gangster's private plane to an airport whose whereabouts was known only to the mobsters. The FBI, however, followed the plane, recovered the art and arrested the mobsters.

Weinberg, described in the book outline as a "raspy-voiced, cigar-chomping swindler from the Bronx," owed the FBI a favor. Indicted for fraud in 1977, along with a girlfriend, Weinberg pleaded guilty and was placed on probation after promising to work for the FBI should the bureau ever require his services. Shortly thereafter, John Goode, an FBI agent newly assigned to Suffolk County, New York, recruited Weinberg.

Weinberg told the agent, "You gotta go with class. We need a big front, offices, limousines, a private plane—something a little different."

Perhaps not since the CIA plotted in the early 1960s with organized crime figures to murder Fidel Castro has the federal government worked with a confessed crook on such a wide-reaching scam.

But if one mobster had had his way a few years ago, there would have been no Weinberg to mastermind anything. According to Weinberg, a Florida gangster almost threw him out of a hotel window because he'd swindled the gangster's nephew, a Miami lawyer, out of \$8,000. Only Weinberg's desperate invocation of a higher-ranking mobster's name saved him from death. At least a couple of congressmen probably wish the aggrieved mobster had not been so charitable.

Footnote: An editor at E. P. Dutton says a couple of chapters of the Weinberg biography—which the proposal says will enjoy the exclusive cooperation of the FBI agents who worked with Weinberg—are in hand, and could be in bookstores as early as next spring.

This Washington Post Magazine/October 26, 1980

Larry M Harding
Vice President
Editorial Board Chairman

Jefferson Productions Company
Broadcasting
One Julian Place
Charlotte, NC 28208
Telephone 704 374 3500

Exec AD Inv.	✓
Exec AD Adm.	_____
Exec AD LES	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	_____
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Director's Sec'y	_____

FBI/DOJ

November 4, 1980

Mr. William H. Webster, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building
9th & Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20535

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Mr. Webster:

Public Response Reabscam

As my letter of October 21 to you indicated, our Charlotte stations will welcome the opportunity to air a statement from you in response to our October 17/18 editorial entitled "The FBI and ABSCAM."

I realize your busy schedule, but do hope you will agree to present the "other side" of the issue-- thereby enabling our viewers and listeners to form their own opinions and draw their own conclusions from having heard both sides.

If you prefer not to respond, I will appreciate your letting me know as quickly as possible. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Larry M Harding

LMH/b

Enclosure

EXP. PROC.
35 NOV 6 1980

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59 JAN 30 1981

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OFF. OF CONG. & PUBLIC AFFS.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

_____ 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) _____ 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.

1 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):
page duplicated in serial 262X + therefore not processed in this serial.

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
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[REDACTED] FLORIDA [REDACTED]

b-6

1-1

Date: Nov 10-80

Ref: 132B

OUTSIDE SOURCE

United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

Public Response Re Obscam

Att: Mr. Roger S. Young,
Inspector in Charge

Office of Congressional and Public Affairs

Dear Mr. Young:

I acknowledge your letter of October 29th,
setting forth as to where the procedural require-
ments for may be obtained concerning the release
of requested records of the Bureau.

DP

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

b-6

*No ack
reply to
mail
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63-17561-276x3

7 12-17 1980

381
66 FEB 2 1981

Off. of Congl and Pub. Aff.

[Signature]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OUTSIDE SOURCE

[Redacted] Missouri [Redacted]
December 4, 1980

b6

Public Response Re abscom

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Re: Abscam

Dear Sirs:

Those convicted through Abscam may be as guilty as sin, and I hold no brief for them.

However, I protest on principle the FBI in any way tempting a person to commit a crime that he might not otherwise commit.

The FBI has the honorable mission of investigating crime, but never of inducing anyone to commit crime.

I hope that this sort of thing will be stopped and never done again. It is unworthy of us as a nation, and of you as an agency.

Very sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

b-6

(No reply is expected. Thanks.)

DE-22

63-17561-277

DEC 12 1980

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[Redacted]*

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59 JAN 6 1981

Office Response Receipt

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted] Co [Redacted]

Rec 1, 1980

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington DC

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Please note enclosed news &
paper clippings
I deplore the actions which
I consider entrapment.

How awful that our government
should resort to such actions
rather than doing something
constructive! You certainly
did nothing to help President
Carter - what a shame!
13-17561-278

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DEC 11 1980

4-2

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1- [Redacted]

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66 JAN 6 1981
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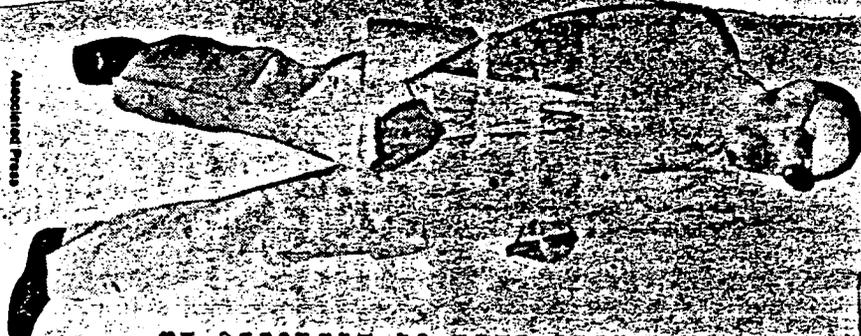
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AP Photo

Abscam profits take the sting out of top con man's situation

S.F. Sunday Examiner & Chronicle, Nov. 30, 1980, Section A Page 13



WASHINGTON — A portly man with a taste for gold neckties and diamond pinking rings pocketed more than \$423,000 — including \$130,000 in "compensation" from the FBI — for masterminding the Abscam "sting" operation that led to the indictments of seven congressmen.

The profits realized by the scam artist, New Yorker Melvin Weinberg, were legally sanctified, while the \$50,000 bribes he handed out have led to conviction of two congressmen. Five more lawmakers are either on trial or awaiting trial.

Weinberg was paid \$80,000 in 1979, the same amount earned that year by FBI Director William Webster, according to court exhibits prepared by prosecutors.

Unlike Webster and most American, Weinberg hasn't paid taxes on any of the \$423,000 plus, he says.

According to court testimony by FBI officials, Weinberg, considered among underworld figures to be one of the country's smoothest confidence-game operators, was paid to use his expertise and connections to design the scam that eventually moved from targeting career criminals to public officials.

Weinberg's biography, which he has sold to a publisher who agreed to a \$90,000 advance, is a hustler's Horatio.

Alger says, it is a tale of a young man who got his start breaking windows in his neighborhood to get business for his father's glass installation company.

At the height of Abscam, New York and Florida in insurance, entertainment and videoing them in a luxurious house in Washington as his FBI associates handed out thick packets of greenbacks.

Weinberg told his victims he was a \$100,000-a-year "financial man" for the Arabs. Playing that role, he wore gold chains around his neck, a thick gold bracelet on one wrist and a \$9,000 French wristwatch on the other. He sported two gold pinking rings, one with "M.W." monogrammed in diamond chips.

Weinberg recently told a jury that he hopes to make more money out of Abscam by selling the rights to his life story for a Hollywood movie.

Included in the \$423,000 directly traceable to Weinberg's role as an FBI informant and consultant on running con operations are hefty federal bonuses, a reward from a private insurance company, advances for his coming book, and other sources.

Here is a breakdown of Weinberg's windfalls:

- Each month from March 2, 1979, until now, Weinberg was paid at least \$3,000 plus expenses by an FBI division known as the Undercover Review Committee.
- A \$10,000 bonus by the FBI for closing his first "sting" case, which involved recovery of several million

dollars worth of paintings stolen from a home on Long Island. He has testified that a private insurance company paid him a \$30,000 reward for turning over the valuable art works, including one by Peter Paul Rubens, a 17th-century Flemish master.

• A \$15,000 advance payment for cooperating in writing a book to be called "The Sting Man" about Abscam. He testified in September that he expected to soon receive another \$45,000 in advances for the book.

• During Abscam trials Weinberg is paid a \$30-a-day witness fee by the Justice Department and prosecutors also pay for his hotel rooms (currently in New York and meals said department spokesman Dean St. Denis.

Weinberg's biggest financial benefit has been a federal court arrangement in Pennsylvania which excused him from paying back \$300,000 he admitted taking from victims, including Las Vegas entrepreneur Wayne Newton and a group of Pittsburgh businessmen. Weinberg testified that he never paid taxes on the \$200,000.

A detailed list of FBI payments to the confidence artist was obtained by lawyers for Rep. John Jenrette, D-S.C., convicted in September of taking a \$50,000 bribe. Jenrette's lawyers obtained the list as part of a courtroom strategy designed with help from civil liberties groups including the National Commission on Law Enforcement, a branch of the Scientology Church.

The list and Weinberg's testimony show that he ran a variety of con games while acting as an FBI informant, including one so successful he sold

the instructions for operating it to other scam artists.

That con game — a scheme where victims put up thousands in "pro-cessing fees" thinking they were getting giant loans from a bogus British banker — inspired Abscam, according to Weinberg's testimony at Jenrette's trial.

The "heistess" — "Lady Evelyn Knight" — would grant the "loans" through a company formed by Weinberg, London Investors Ltd.

The plot worked so well, Weinberg testified, that other con artists paid him fees to use the company for their own scams. In effect, Weinberg turned his scam operation into an underworld franchise.

In 1977, however, Weinberg was convicted of wire fraud and theft of \$200,000 in the scam and became an FBI informant soon afterward. The judge in the Pennsylvania case placed him on probation and did not order him to make restitution, after he became an FBI informant.

The first task Weinberg accomplished for the FBI according to his testimony, was to corner the Long Island art thieves by posing as a fence.

Following that successful "sting," Weinberg changed the name of London Investors to Abdul Evelyn Knight for FBI agents posing as sneaks and mafiosi, and became a full-time FBI operative.

The operation was code named "Arab Scam" and absconded officials — his targets were elected officials — among them the mayor of Camden,

N.J., Philadelphia city councilman and ultimately, six members of the U.S. House and a U.S. senator, Harrison Williams, D-N.J.

In one court session, Weinberg acknowledged that for roughly two years of work, the FBI paid him \$130,000 including expenses.

Between March 2, 1979, and the present, said Weinberg, at one point the FBI paid for his living expenses including hotel rooms, phone calls, meals and clothes. "It even included buying you toothpaste when you would buy toothpaste, wouldn't it?" one of Jenrette's lawyers asked the con artist during Jenrette's trial.

"That is correct," Weinberg answered.

Jenrette attempted to win acquittal by arguing that he was illegally entrapped by Weinberg, who had a financial interest in ensnaring him. An earlier Abscam defendant, Rep. Michael Myers, D-Pa., argued that he did nothing illegal by taking the money because he never did anything for the bribe.

Jenrette and Myers have been convicted Rep. Richard Kelly, R-Pa., Sen. Williams and Rep. Raymond Lederer, D-Pa., are awaiting trial. Reps. Frank Thompson, D-N.J., and John Murphy, D-N.Y., are on trial in New York.

Chicago Tribune

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8172935427 MGM TDBN FT WORTH TX 76 12-12 0210A EST

NB/18

OUTSIDE SOURCE

DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON DC 20535

Public Response Re Abscam

IN REGARD TO ABSCAM; YOUR APPROACH TO LAW AND ORDER IS UNBELIEVABLE. IF YOU CAN'T FIND A CRIME, YOU CREATE ONE. YOU REMIND ME OF A FISHERMEN USING HIS FAVORITE BAIT. BUT, WHO IS MOST WRONG, THE FISH OR THE FISHERMEN. YOUR BAD IMAGE WILL NOT BE ERASED BY THESE STUPID TACTICS. PLEASE GET YOUR HEADS STRAIGHT.

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64 JAN 16 1981

DEC 30 1980

CORRESPONDENCE

OUTSIDE SOURCE

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Pearl Harbor Day

Public Response - RE ABSEAM

Judge W H Webster
FBI
Justice Dept
Room 7 167

Dear Judge Webster - Re ABSEAM
I wish I could take credit for
the following - but I can't.

You can not ever hope or plan
to Bribe a US Congressman
But seeing what the USA
will do unbribed, DE-107 43-17561-280
There is no occasion to

Kind regards

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66 JAN 23 1981

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#103
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~~SECRET~~
DEC 11 1980

b6

S.T.
Dear Sir

OUTSIDE SOURCE

02-15-80

Public Response Re Abseam

Please accept this letter as an expression of heartfelt thanks from a taxpayer for your approval of the ABSCAM operation.

It's a good thing that Congressional approval was not involved because we both know that you certainly would not have gotten it.

Although the operation was long overdue and naturally couldn't catch all the crooks, it most assuredly served its purpose and ought to act as a deterrent. The handwriting is now on the wall for all to see so we can at least hope for the best from now on.

9

V-28 DE-98

63-17561-281

59 JAN 16 1981
63-17561

McWorrey
G. [unclear]
Wilson

Sincerely, 17 DEC 30 1980 166

[Redacted signature block]
Mass. [Redacted]

P.S. Maybe the Mafia is next?

50X

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

December 3 19 80

Congressional Affairs Office
 FBI
 J. Edgar Hoover FBI Bldg.
 10th & Pennsylvania Avenues, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Friends:

The attached communication is sent for your consideration. Please investigate the statements contained therein and forward me the necessary information for reply, returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

Bob Traxler

BOB TRAXLER M. C.
 8th District, Michigan

RCK
 12/17/80
 NB:jw

BT:jw

1-ENCLOSURE

59 JAN 22 1981

~~EXP PROC.~~
 35 DEC 8 1980

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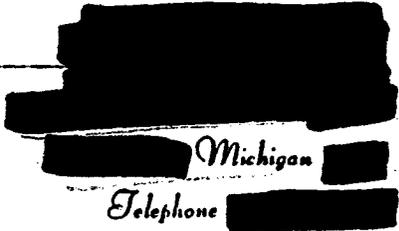
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DEC 22 1980

(Handwritten initials)

(Handwritten signature)

Public Affairs & ...



b-6

RECEIVED

Michigan

Telephone

November 24, 1980

Congressman Bob Traxler
2448 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Traxler:

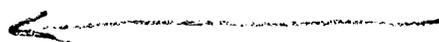
I was listening to a broadcast this morning relative to the ABSCAM situation, the convictions that resulted therefrom and the congressional hearings going on relative to some of these people. The thought occurred to me while listening: Who decided which congressmen would be offered bribes and why did this person decide to pick the congressmen he picked?

It seems to me that this question might be even more important than whether someone was or was not involved in ABSCAM. Is this an effort by someone in the FBI, or someone orchestrating the FBI to force the Congress to knuckle under to the "clout" of the FBI? I would really be interested in your reaction to these questions and I would be even more interested in seeing a resolution introduced calling for an investigation into the questions of "who" and "why" these particular congressmen were offered bribes.

Sincerely,



b-6



DE-104 ENCLOSURE 63-17561-282

From an appreciative Taxpayer and Citizen of this great country.

Atten; Mr. William H. Webster, Director of the F.B.I.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20013

[Redacted] ²⁶
[Redacted] ^{COB.} [Redacted]

Dear Mr. Webster; **OUTSIDE SOURCE**

Public Response - Re Abscam

I believe I speak for millions of Americans when I extend our appreciation, our total support and heart felt thanks for the magnificent work you and your people are doing in behalf of our great nation. You and your organization of skilled investigators have brought back the respect and admiration to the FBI that was lost with the reign of the self-serving Edgar Hoover.

The FBI's great accomplishments with the "ABSCAM" project has lit the "Lamp of Hope" that now something is being done to assure the Tax-payer that the "Elected or Appointed" individual will perform their duties honestly, diligently and to the best interest of our country. Too many individuals enter government service with the prime purpose of using the "Power" of their Office for personal gain believing that the "Political" position gives them license to steal, accept graft and gifts while neglecting the purpose and responsibilities of their office or job. We elect them and support them with our tax dollars believing that they will honestly live up to their promises only to learn later that they betrayed their word and our trust. Such people sell their influence (Government Office) to do favor for another country at the expense of our countries welfare and wellbeing are truly performing an act of "Treason". These individuals be immediately removed from their Government position or Office and never be permitted to be in "Public Service" again. They should also be relieved from their ill-gotten gains with this money being put into a fund to further support the FBI's activities. Further, these wrong-doers should be fined no less than \$10,000.00 plus the court and government costs incurred in proving their guilt. They should also face a minimum of three months imprisonment in a regular federal prison (not a Country Club confinement as exposed and described by Halderman in the Water Gate trial.)

Also, any Judge and/or Attorney that conspire to make a "Sham" of Justice in these cases where incriminating ~~pr~~ evidence exists, regardless of what devious means had to be resorted to, they should be subject to being declared accessories after the fact. Their attempts to make a farce of justice should lead to their "Disbarment" and in the case of the errant Judge, removal from the bench. When relating to the "ABSCAM" trials we believe that the implication of the word "Entrapment" is utterly absurd and ridiculous since there is no other way to catch and expose these "Wrong-doers. I believe that all the honest Americans agree with and support your methods. Keep up the good work. I also believe that the FBI personnel should be well paid as their good service to our country is well worth it.

63-17561-284

Sincerely, [Redacted Signature] *1/15/81*

*ack to check 1/15/81
EST. 69 JAN 19 1981*

b-6

CARLEVIN
MICHIGAN

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 21, 1980

RECEIVED 1
OCT 22 1 17 PM '80
RECEIVED MAIL UNIT
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. Philip B. Heymann
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Dear Phil:

Several months ago, I expressed my very real concerns about the leaks which have characterized the Department's investigation of alleged corruption in the Congress commonly called ABSCAM.

In light of that conversation, I am interested in determining if the Department has, in fact, conducted an internal investigation designed to uncover the source of those leaks and what action, if any, has been taken as a result of that investigation. I would appreciate it if you would supply me with any additional information you might have relative to this subject.

I am raising this issue not only because of my concern about the issue but also because of information which I have had presented to me which suggests that the source of these leaks is known to at least some members of the press.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin

RECEIVED

NOV 5 1980

Office of
Professional Responsibility

d1

*10/22
Carl*

RECEIVED

OCT 22 1980

CRIMINAL DIVISION

RECEIVED

OCT 22 1980

CRIMINAL DIVISION

186-16-406	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
10	OCT 22 1980
GENERAL	
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	
CRIMINAL DIVISION	
Public Integrity Sec.	

*10/30
P.E.H.
C.C.H.*

~~RECEIVED~~

63-17561-284

ENCLOSURE

12-10-80

Sir, Public Response Reabscom
OUTSIDE SOURCE

- Exec. AD-Inv. _____
- Exec. AD-LES _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Insp. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
- Off. of Cong. & Public Affs. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

U
R

I am one American who wants to thank you for the job you have done.

Without the F.B.I and the work you and your men have done for the United States, we would most likely be crime infested and to a danger point as far as a nation.

I congratulate and thank you for ABSCAM, for if your office did not fight that level of

63-17501-287
1/21/81
17 DEC 15 1980

CRIME of the ordinary working citizen

12/22/80
SA
JAN 21 1981
ESP. S&T.

660 OUPRA

40
DEC 15 1980

would be in very deep trouble.

So again thank you and
if you ever need my support,
I'm here.

Thank You

b-6

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] FLORIDA
[REDACTED]

F. B. I.
Director.
Washington. D. C.

December 2, 1980

TSIDE SOURCE

[Redacted], Delaware [Redacted]

Mr. William H. Webster
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Public Response Re Abscam

b-6

Dear Mr. Webster:

I appreciated your reply to my letter to you as to the Abscam business.. and your interpretation of your work. Mr. Webster I say again, it is not the business of our government to set up traps for weak and evil men to seduce them to steal rob or commit crimes.. It is of course a discusting and serious thing that our elected officials cannot be trusted and the moral apmosphere is so low, that one wonders how long can a nation survive in this condition.

To tempt men to sin is evil, wrong and uncalled for in my opinion. As you know one judge decided because of the trap that they are to be freed from this business, the trap of the FBI.

Mr. Webster I am sure that you are aware of a nation honey combed by KGB agents, and the Massaud Israels assasins, and the Iranians running loose and the bombing and killing and assanation that is going on in our land and that ought to be enough to keep all the men and a lot more busy trying to turn the tide and save our land from its ruin. You know as well as I know that KGB agents are in offices in our Government at this very moment for during the Carter days of infamy we have been officially infiltrated by our enemies, and your men know it..we are being betrayed by our own governmen at this moment. And your and my survival is at stake.,Something must change quickly or our nation is lost to a world conspiracy headed uprby prominent Americans.. that you know.

Let us go after them, and preserve the land once blessed of God and honored of men.

V-70
DE-19

63-17561-291

Sincerely Concerned

I am Sincerely Yours

3 DEC 11 1980

[Large redacted block]

b-6

64 FEB 2 1981

Post

No ack Reply necessary. Bull 9/15/80. [Redacted] has written several letters similar to above and no propose would be received in responding to this one.

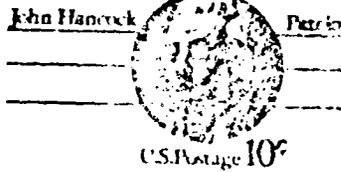
CORRESPONDENCE

OUTSIDE SOURCE

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT IT IS ^{the} ILLEGAL TO TAPE RECORD A CONVERSATION UNLESS ALL PARTIES TO THE CONVERSATION ARE AWARE OF THE TAPING. LAST I KNEW IT WAS LEGAL TO RECORD ANY CONVERSATION AS LONG AS ONE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVERSATION WAS AWARE AND CONSENTING TO THE TAPING.

WHAT IS MY RIGHT TO RECORD? WHY?

Public Response. Re Abscam.



THIS SIDE
OUT TO
RETURN

1-056



Handwritten initials 'JLP' in a circle.

b-6

© USPS 1978 Please return this card w/ your response if any.

63-17561-292

ack 1-12-81
BHM:ldp

15 JAN 16 1981

Orig. inc let returned to com from

246

FEB 9 1981

Do-Button

TREAT AS ORIGINAL

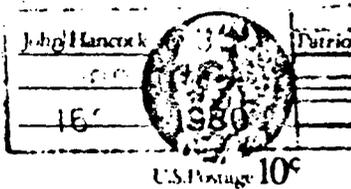
RESPONSE

RECEIVED
CORRES-
FBI

JAN 5 7 05 AM '81

b6

[Redacted]
A.J. [Redacted]



WIRE TAPPING
F.B.I.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

20---

1-052

DO-BA

PLEASE

© USPS 1978

READ, RESPOND, REFOLD, RESEAL, RETURN

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) with no segregable material available for release to you.

Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

EXHIBIT SOURCE

Indiana
January 22, 1981

b-6

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Public Affairs Research Unit
Room 7659
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Public Response Re Abseam

*J
K*

I am a senior law student at the [redacted] Law School and called yesterday concerning information on the Bureau's "ABSCAM" investigation which I need for a paper I am writing for a course. As I related on the phone, the paper will be a general report on how that assignment came about and was handled, step by step.

Compiling the pertinent information and writing the paper has a dual purpose; besides acting as an academic endeavor, it may also give me a little insight into how Bureau activities are handled as I hope to join the Bureau upon graduation this coming May.

The course I am writing this paper is "Organized Crime Control" and my professor, [redacted], suggested that I ask you for all information you may have on ABSCAM, including all testimony given by Special Agents, Director Webster, elected officials and defendants in the actions. In addition to these items, I also would like a copy of guidelines for Special Agents in such "sting" operations, and any responses by the Bureau and the Department of Justice to allegations of entrapment, etc. Included in the information I seek, I also hope to gather figures on the costs for the operation and the up-to-date status on litigation and lastly on the manpower expended by the Bureau.

(Handwritten signature/initials)

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated and I will be more than happy to let you know the progress of my paper as it develops. Of course, I have very little time to put it all together as the first draft is due soon, so I would be grateful if the information could be sent to me at the address printed above as soon as possible, preferably before mid-February. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted signature]

b-6

63-17561-296
Superior

19 FEB 6 1981

ack JVA:peb
2/4/81 FEB 25 1981



KSL Television Station
KSL Radio 1160 Station
Broadcast House
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

MC
OUTSIDE SOURCE

G. Donald Gale
Director of Public Affairs
237-2545 237-2500

Public Response RE Abscam

February 2, 1981

Mr. Roger S. Young
Inspector in Charge
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Young:

Thank you for your letter of December 23 concerning a KSL Editorial.

As you can see from the enclosed editorial, I excerpted portions of your letter in a follow-up editorial. I could not use the entire letter, because it was too long for our format.

We are sure this will give our listeners added perspective about the Abscam project.

We appreciate your concern.

(pm)

Sincerely,

G. Donald Gale, Director
Public Affairs

Donald Gale

GDG/ch

Enclosure

no ack
reply

DE-106

V-30

63-17561-298
Just

17 FEB 10 1981

file

60 MAR 10 1981

KSL . AM . TV
145 Social Hall Avenue
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

another viewpoint

(17-'81)

Subject: ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW
Spokesman: Roger Young, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Broadcast: January 17, 1981

Several weeks ago, KSL criticized the "Abscam" investigation conducted by the F.B.I. In response, Mr. Roger Young wrote from Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters in Washington, D.C. He said, in part (quote):

"... Some crimes, such as public corruption, would rarely be discovered or prosecuted without undercover activity. Both the person offering the bribe and the person accepting it are covert in their criminal arrangement. Since bribery has no traditional victim, except the unknowing citizen/taxpayer, there is no one to come forth and report the crime.

"All of our undercover operations, including Abscam, are targeted toward criminality, not individuals or institutions. The Abscam case began as an investigation into stolen art in New York and from there led to allegations of illegality in the New Jersey casinos. Eventually the trail of alleged criminality led us to national public officials."

F.B.I. Inspector Young continued:

"Undercover operations do not 'cause' crime; they merely provide an opportunity for those inclined to break the law to do so while the government compiles the evidence. By detecting criminals who would have otherwise gone undiscovered, these undercover activities also may discourage similar criminal activity.

"The FBI is committed to using its investigative tools lawfully and aggressively to make the greatest possible impact upon major areas of criminality. We believe that our undercover operations, including Abscam, are an essential element of that commitment."

KSL thanks Inspector Roger Young of the F.B.I. for his comments.

63-17561-298

"Another Viewpoint" was broadcast in response to a KSL Editorial Comment. It may be reprinted only by permission of KSL.

ENCLOSURE

[Redacted]
New Jersey

b-6

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Public Response re. Absecon 2/28/81

Dear Mr. Webster,

Would you please let me know how you decided which members of Congress to strike with the Absecon investigation. Did you investigate all 535?

Would you kindly not have your staff send me a form reply that may not honestly answer my query.

I also intend to discuss this question with Senator Bradley and Congresswoman Fenwick, friends of mine.

Thank you, in advance,

for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

69 MAR 12 1981

EW

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ACK
2/12/81
NB:gn

gg

b-6

10/17



6-6

OUTSIDE SOURCE

February 6th, 1981



Ref: Abscam.

co. [redacted]

Dear Mr. Webster:

Public Response Re Abscam

One wonders if the theory that only a fine line exists between the mental make-up of a crook and a cop, as is maintained by some psychologists, hasn't some merit. And worse, if the lawman encourages a crime!

I know how this sort of thinking insults your dignity & no matter, it's happening in this country.

(blw)

work. see 67c
pages

Cordially

DE-94 63-17561-301



23 FEB 18 1981

66 MAR 1981

CORRESPONDENCE

NR
DOS/FBI

NB
/B

FBI

~~LOCAL SOURCE~~ OUTSIDE SOURCE

February 18, 1981

Public Response Abscam

Dear Mr. Reagan,

I would like to say that I enjoy seeing you on television, and your smile makes me smile!

Enclosed are pictures of you and Mr. Bush taken at the Inaugural parade. I'm terribly sorry that I couldn't get your face that well. I hope you are pleased.

Perhaps you can help me with something that I shall be needing sometime between February and March. I do not know which department this request should be directed to, so I ask you, the person who would know.

I am in the middle of a debate on the FBI operation ABSCAM. If you could send me the majority, or even one of the articles on ABSCAM, I would be deeply grateful.

I think that children in school

ack 4/10/81
NB:ldp

17 APR 14 1981

copy

should know what's going on in the government, for after all, who's going to be our government someday? Again, I would have a better understanding of our government, and so would my classmates.

I liked your speech, I really like your style, and wish you the very best of luck with our economy!

P.S. I like jellybeans, too.

age 12, [REDACTED]

Virginia

Mr. Ronald Reagan
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C.

[REDACTED] Va. [REDACTED]

b-6

m/n
3/...

U.S.

6 Public Response Re abscan

Director Webster
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

[Redacted] CA
Feb. 21, 1971

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Sir,

I am legal.y blind physically but not blind morally or patriotickly.
Thus, I have to tell you that I can not express to you my admiration
and my great feelings from the FBI's "bscan project.
You have certainly made me feel good and improve my morale.
I hope you will continue to go after crime no matter where it is.
Yipee.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

(Handwritten initials)

b-6

No reply is necessary. Just wanted to tell you my support.

[Redacted]
Calif.

DE-111

63-17561-302

15 MAR 1981

CORRESPONDENCE

ack 3/6/81
MW:ldp
64 APR 13 1981

nml

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 11, 1981

Exec. AD-Adm.	
Exec. AD-Inv.	
Exec. AD-LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Insp.	
Intell.	
Legal Coun.	
Plan. & Insp.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Congressional Liaison Office
 9th and Pennsylvania Avenue
 Washington, D.C. 20535

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Dear Friends:

Public Response Re Abscam

Enclosed is a copy of correspondence I received from [redacted]. The letter raises some serious concerns about Abscam. I would greatly appreciate it if you would carefully review this matter and provide me with an appropriate response.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Paul Sarbanes

Paul S. Sarbanes
 United States Senator
 (Maryland)

PSS/ell
 Enclosure

MAR 13 1981
 [Handwritten initials and marks]

DE-47
 V-98

63-17561-304

24
 23
 2 MAR 1981

*3/20/81
 ask
 ask
 b1*

184 APR 7 1981

CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: February 11, 1981

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE: [REDACTED]

TEXT: REGARDING ABSCAM issue

Would like to know if the I.B.P.
feels that the congressmen
involved were chosen at random
to accept the bribe or were they
selected due to their reputations.

WANTS A RESPONSE!

THANK YOU!??

Orinda

63-17561-304

ENCLOSURE

[Redacted]

Ohio

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Public Response Re: Abscam
17, March, 1981

ew

Wm. H. Webster, Director
F. B. I. Headquarters
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Webster,

Attached are some copies which I had photostated and also my letter in response to subject matter.

I know your position on this subject needs no defense but as a former St. Louis resident, I feel this type of an attack, with regard to your judgment, should not go unchallenged.

Best of health to you sir.

[Redacted]

63-17561-306

MAR 31 1981

3- DM ENCLOSURE

NB: ddb
64-1118-271991
man

dept mt
(initials)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ohio [REDACTED]

b.6

March 17, 1981

Regarding the editor's editorial on the FBI which appeared in February 1981 issue, I, as an American citizen, take exception to the editor's remarks concerning ABSCAM. What's your problem, Mr. Editor? Are you trying to make a case of innocence for a congressman who got his hand caught in the cookie jar? A crook is a crook regardless of who he is and I'm grateful for the FBI's handling of the ABSCAM which every citizen I talked to is also in agreement with the end results.

You quote statistics like a supposed authority. Your comments are not germane to the evidence gathered.

Mr. Webster, Director of the FBI, gets my vote of confidence and as far as I'm concerned any elected official who accepts money under any pretense other than his paycheck and legitimate expenses is guilty of the worst kind of crime. Betrayal of the public trust, Mr. Editor, is what most citizens are upset about. Go out on the street and ask the average citizen what he objects to and you will discover that he or she is totally against untrustworthy political people of all levels, and at least Mr. Webster is trying to do something about the problem that we all suspected but no one but Mr. Webster had the guts to do something about. That's more than can be said for Fat Jack.

[REDACTED]
4th Degree

[REDACTED]

b-6

63-17561-306
ENCLOSURE

Columbia

FEBRUARY 1981

FORTY CENTS



63-17561-306

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MAGAZINE

Comment

Do we want a Federal Bureau of Instigation?

FOR many months the American public has been treated to hair-raising drama through the courtesy of a government agency. The curtain raiser has filled many fascinating news segments on television and in the other media.

The drama has all the intrigue of a James Bond movie. The actors are government employees and the broad outlines of the script were prepared by a government agency. The dramatic series is titled ABSCAM.

The production was the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The plot was simple. Dangle cash before elected officials to test whether a \$50,000 payoff will secure some promise of political favor. The soap opera involved the rental of a swank Washington, D.C., home elaborately equipped with secret cameras and recording devices, luxurious hotel suites, a plush 62-foot yacht and an extensive cast including about 100 FBI agents.

The results were anything but complimentary to Congress or comforting to the public which chose certain officials. The televised scenes of congressmen stuffing money into their pockets and using a vocabulary characteristic of X-rated movies was not edifying. It certainly dramatized the danger of electing officials on the basis of charisma and promises rather than on character and performance.

But the entire ABSCAM operation raises serious questions. Should the FBI pour its resources into such an effort? Are there more pressing priorities? Is the whole idea of devising honesty tests for officials and citizens good policy? Does the game approach official entrapment?

The FBI is responsible for enforcing federal laws. It has 7,600 special agents and operates on a budget approaching \$1 billion.

Under longtime director J. Edgar Hoover FBI emphasis was on espionage, bank robberies and organized crime. Since William H. Webster became bureau chief in 1978 it has given prominence to so-called white-collar crime. ABSCAM was part of this new offensive.

But while the FBI was focusing its energies on ABSCAM the country experienced the sharpest rise in crime in four years. The latest annual statistics released by the agency show that crime rose by 9.1%. Violent crime was up 11%. Forcible rape increased by 14.2%; robbery by 12%; aggravated assault by 10.1%; and murder by 9.3%. At the same time arrests for such crimes failed to keep up with the rise in crime statistics. Arrests increased by only 3%. No arrests were made in 75% of the robberies; 86% of the motor vehicle thefts; 85% of the burglaries; 81% of the larceny thefts; 52% of the forcible rapes; 41% of the aggravated assaults; and 27% of the murders.

The rising crime rate is anything but encouraging. A recent report on crime sponsored by A-T-O Inc. painted a gloomy picture of a U.S. citizenry paralyzed by fear. The study was based on interviews with more than 1,000 randomly selected people.

The fear of crime is alarmingly pervasive, affecting the young and the old, the poor and the affluent, men and women, the rural and the urban. This pervasive fear is changing the American people from an open, gracious and generous society into a closed, distrustful and constricted society, according to the study.

In view of the alarming increase in violent crime and the dreadful effect this is having on society, why does the official federal agency instituted to fight crime spend its resources on ABSCAM escapades? Should the bureau instigate as well as investigate crime?

U.S. District Court Judge John P. Fullam has said "No!" to the last question and has overturned the conviction of two ABSCAM victims. Two members of the Philadelphia City Council were found guilty of extortion by a federal jury. But Fullam, who presided at the trial, reviewed the verdict and overturned it. He declared the FBI had overstepped the bounds of propriety. "The evidence establishes entrapment," he stated.

"No one who has viewed the videotaped evidence in this case would avoid feelings of distress and disgust at the crass behavior the tapes revealed. The jury's verdict represents a natural human reaction to that evidence.

"But, in the long run, the rights of all citizens not to be led into criminal activity by governmental overreaching will remain secure only so long as the courts stand ready to vindicate those rights in every case."

Whether or not the judge's decision will be sustained on appeal remains a question. Some current instructions to the jury define entrapment as an instance in which law-enforcement officers have "induced or persuaded an unwilling person to commit an unlawful act." But these instructions also point out that "where a person is predisposed to commit an offense — that is, ready and willing to violate the law — the fact that government agents merely afford an opportunity for him to do so does not constitute entrapment."

The whole question of tempting people into crime is touchy. One point is how big should the temptation be. In ABSCAM the cash bait apparently was limited to \$50,000. And some individuals indeed refused the bait. But suppose it were raised to \$100,000. Then to \$500,000. Then to \$1 million. Perhaps to \$10 million. An old maxim says: If a man resists temptation it generally is not because he is strong but because the temptation is weak. Is it really in the public interest for the government to run a testing lab to see how much temptation citizens can withstand? Do we want a Federal Bureau of Instigation?

Another delicate issue is who should be selected for the government temptation tests. The FBI insists that the ABSCAM victims fell naturally into its net because they had underground reputations for accepting bribes. But once the enticement pattern is set it easily could be steered toward political opponents. This has become the standard procedure in totalitarian regimes.

Temptation started in the Garden of Eden when Satan dangled the "apple of knowledge" before Eve. In the Lord's prayer Christians plead with their Heavenly Father not to be led into temptation. It would seem that a government, allegedly concerned with human rights, could grant citizens the same favor and not dangle before them the alluring apple conceived by the evil genius of hell.

63-17561-306 Elmer Von Feelt

Exec. AD-Inv.	
Exec. AD-LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Plan. & Insp.	
Rec. Mgnt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

CA

b-6
C. J. [Signature]

OUTSIDE SOURCE

April 12, 1981

Dear Sir, Public Response Re

For sometime I have had bad feelings regarding the FBI's role in Abscam but Mel Weinberg's interview on 60 minutes has convinced me how much Tony Amrozio's involvement and the sponsorship of the FBI really stinks.

I had been a long time and strong believer in and supporter of J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI. I greatly respected your investigators ... their courage, their values, their education, their belief and support of our system.

Unfortunately, I have never believed in entrapment and especially when an organization such as yours has so many more constructive things to do to protect our America and our people.

After seeing Mr. Amrozio in earlier coverage and an admitted swindler like Mr. Weinberg trading his involvement with your FBI, I cannot begin to tell you how disappointed and disgusted I feel toward your men, your friends and your Bureau.

Whoever masterminded this case did you more harm than you will ever realize. If he worked for me he'd be fired. What you did is as lowly as those you entrapped. In my opinion the FBI will never overcome this misjudgment.

F. [Redacted]
59 JUN 26 1981
Washington, D.C.

b-6

#40
5/10/81
D. PROO
APR 20 1981

Make a wanted
bulletin show picture
identifiable
one. [Redacted]
C.

66
CURSIDE SOURCE

[REDACTED] NY

Public Response Re Abscom

Dear Sir,

I wish to congratulate the F.B.I. on your investigation of Abscom. This investigation should be done on a regular basis.

This is a sure way of removing all crooks from government.

Thank you. 63-17561-309

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

ack 5/13/81
MN:ldp

nmf

CORRESPONDENCE

EW

OUTSIDE SOURCE

cam
/3

Public Response to Abseam

b-6

To Jeffrey Mater: Phack / N/S/28
 I would like to obtain some
 general information regarding
 the ABSCAM probe, including the
 FBI's motivation, intent, and
 choice of congressional targets.
 Your attention to this matter is
 immensely appreciated. My
 address is on the following side →

(Handwritten initials)

[Redacted]
 [Redacted]
 Indiana
 [Redacted]

ack
 6-2-81
 CAM:msb

63-17561-311

JUN 2 1981

64 JUN 24 1981

0000/cam
 JUN 3 1981

(11)

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Cam
3

FBI - Indianapolis to Moscow

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] INDIANA
[REDACTED]

b-6

RECEIVED
CORRES. FBI
MAY 28 9 55 AM '81

Thanks much!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Indiana
[REDACTED]

ack
6-2-81
CAM:msb

63-1750-311

64 JUN 24 1981

JUN 2 1981

[REDACTED]

copy/cam

OUTSIDE SOURCE

May 3, 1981

William H. Webster,

Director, FBI
Washington, D.C.

NB
14

Public Response to ABSCAM
Dear Mr. Webster,

The night before Christmas of 1776, General Washington made final preparations to cross the Delaware River and attack the Hessian garrison that was holding Trenton, New Jersey. The General's last field order before retiring for the night was; "Make sure an American stands guard tonight!"

The Abscam political corruption trials would have delighted General Washington. Can't we hear him saying "Make sure the FBI hangs in on this ⁶³⁻¹⁷⁵⁶ ~~this~~ ³¹ investigative project. Entrapment? Call it what they may, ST but it was for the same reason ~~we~~ attacked Trenton. They were the enemy to our better cause." ST

Respectfully,

[Redacted signature block], Pa.

JUN 26 1981

[Redacted address block] Pa. [Redacted]

b-6

5/12/81
ack
NB: oaky

tl

OUTSIDE SOURCE

INDIANA

Public Response Re AbSCAM 5-11-81

Please send me whatever information you are allowed to release on ~~the~~ the ABSCAM investigation:

- (1) How selected--
- (2) Total number of investigations
62, 61, 57
- (3) Criteria for selection.

Thank you,

[Redacted]

b6
b7c

ack 5-21-81
NB:ldp

63-17561-314X

17 MAY 27 1981

159 JUL 8 1981

OCRA



From the desk of

int 26
b-6

[Redacted]

July 16, 1981.
OUTSIDE SOURCE

guy

~~Williamson Non-Suitor~~
To the F.B.I. Abseam Congressional
Investigators:

Public Rep. cc + William
Congratulations on the way you

handled the investigations and
courtroom proceedings. Your actions
were in the highest tradition of
justice and you are to be commended.

It is only with a large degree of
regret that I ~~write~~ this, due to
the high regard that I place upon
the other members of Congress?

DE 105 63-17561-315

MAY 22 1981

[Redacted]
Again, congratulations.

[Redacted]

Sincerely yours,
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

b-6

87

[Redacted]

63-0-[Redacted]

[Redacted]
phone: [Redacted]

64 JUL 1 1981

Thank. See [Redacted]
and [Redacted]
CPA/uk

89415 WSH

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

10

WU INFOMASTER
ICS IPMWGWC WSH

1-030364A154 06/03/81

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ZCZC 12111 06-03 1028P EDT WESTERN UNION

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OUTSIDE SOURCE

1-029239C154 06/03/81

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10184 NL TDMT PARKERSBURG WV 25 06-03 0735P EST

PMS 4-062539S154 1936 3044851364

DIRECTOR OF FBI, DLR

WASHINGTON DC

Public Response to Abscam

Rsch Corres
Tour 9/Sept
Rm 7222 T1 #245

AS TAXPAYERS WE WANT TO THANK YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE FOR A JOB WELL
DONE RELATIVE TO THE ABSCAM KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK SINCERELY

2120 EST

NNNN

2148 EST

West Va. per telephone directory

89415 WSH

Ack

6-10-81

246

ES 64 JUN 25 1981

63-17561-316

17 JUN 12 1981

Occa/es

file

Public Response RE: Abscam

OUTSIDE SOURCE 5/81



From the desk of

[Redacted name]

mm
1

Gentlemen -
Enclosed is copy of 2 pages
of endorsements for your
action on the ABSCAM inves-
tigation.

(Handwritten initials)



I thought you would be
pleased to know that many
people, as do I, agree that
"you can not entrap an
honest man!!"



6-6

F. E.

7 Wash -

6

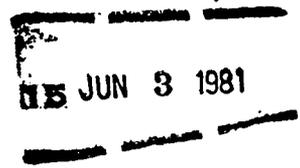
2

Just keep up the good
work - Thank you

[Redacted signature]

631756-319

ack 6-1-81
MND
331



ocpa
mm

Mail

ABSCAM and Temptation

As one who served for over 35 years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I am shocked at the February editorial, "Do we want a Federal Bureau of Instigation?"

You allege entrapment by FBI agents but do not mention that the entire activity in ABSCAM was approved and constantly monitored by high officials of the Department of Justice and by FBI Director William H. Webster, himself a former federal judge. You cite one instance where U.S. District Judge John P. Fullam overturned two convictions for alleged entrapment of ABSCAM victims, but you do not list the other ABSCAM cases.

I feel the FBI should pursue vigorously white-collar crime in order to prosecute corruption by public officials wherever it rears its ugly head. Experience has shown how difficult it has been legally to root out and prosecute successfully such corruption and, therefore, new approaches such as "sting programs" by law enforcement are necessary. They have been very successful and in most instances have withstood court challenges.

Your editorial touches on the legal definition of entrapment and notes that where a person is predisposed to commit an offense, the fact that government agents merely afford him an opportunity to do so does not constitute entrapment.

Common sense says that a public official imbued with honesty and integrity has but to say "No" when offered a bribe.

Your editorial alleges that while the FBI was focusing its energies on ABSCAM, the country experienced its sharpest rise in crime in four years. You do not tell readers that the FBI does not have jurisdiction over local crimes such as rape, robbery, assault, murder, etc., unless the crime occurs on a government reservation. Your censure in this connection should be directed to appropriate local authorities, not the FBI.

Kenneth J. Haser
Bethesda, Md.

I just have finished your February Comment and found it most interesting.

But I still don't have an answer to something you brought up.

A jury of 12 good men and women listened to the evidence in a case, lasting some weeks. With all 12 in agreement, a verdict was presented to the judge, who overturned the findings and reversed the verdict. Why should so many people lose their valuable time on jury duty, when a judge has the final say?

William E. Roche
Java Center, N.Y.

As a former special agent of the FBI I disassociate myself from the views expressed in the February issue with regard to the FBI.

The article is an insult and affront to the FBI and all of its employees, both past and present. The record of the FBI in its service in the law-enforcement field and in its contributions to the internal security of our country speaks for itself.

Joseph M. Wysolmerski
McLean, Va.

As an FBI agent I disagree with the February Comment.

In ABSCAM, every precaution was taken to ensure that "entrapment" did not occur. You speak of temptation and its evils. Yes, the FBI offered temptation. It is the proper role of the FBI to offer "temptation" in an investigation such as this. There was probable cause to offer that temptation. However none of the congressmen has established sufficient probable cause for accepting it.

Possibly the proper role of the FBI would be to prosecute burglars and robbers and ignore the "fences" who encourage thefts by buying stolen property. I disagree with that hypothesis, just as I disagree that the FBI should act as an ostrich and ignore allegations of congressional misconduct, which have a greater impact on our moral fabric.

William P. Lawler Jr.
Savannah, Ga.

No member of Congress or the president of the United States should use the defense of "entrapment." Any member of the Senate, House of Representatives or the White House should be arrested and punished if he

accepts an illegal bribe regardless of the circumstances.

One representative arrested in the ABSCAM operation was Richard Kelly from Florida. I voted for him. I hope he goes to jail. To think that a man who represents me would take an illegal bribe for any amount of money or for any gain causes me to believe that there is no hope for our form of government. I say more power to the FBI. I hope that it weeds out every rotten apple in the entire government operation.

Wilson C. Stober
Dunedin Beach, Fla.

The president of United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers International Union and editor of our monthly union magazine, the Voice, has asked me to write for permission to use in our magazine your February 1981 editorial, "Do we want a Federal Bureau of Instigation?"

It is a fine editorial and we would be very pleased if you would let us reprint it.

Patricia H. Strand
Managing Editor, The Voice
Norridge, Ill.

After learning some members of Congress were accepting bribes for political favors, I am happy the FBI had the courage to root them out and cause them to be brought to trial before a jury of their peers, which convicted every one of them.

Attempting to smear the FBI for the crime wave in America is a distortion of the purpose of the FBI, which is charged with investigation of selected federal laws and cannot go charging off investigating what it desires.

J. H. Murphy
Savannah, Ga.

Time and money were well spent on the ABSCAM case, because the people caught had reputations for accepting bribes. The morality exhibited by our elected officials influences the morality of the general public and young people in particular. We safely can assume an officeholder is elected for his promises and integrity, not for his dishonesty and greed. By accepting a bribe an elected official is betraying the trust of the people who elected him and hurts all, including honest politicians, by destroying faith in government.

Dan Bruggeman
Thief River Falls, Minn.

63-1756-319

The individuals convicted in ABCAM did willingly involve themselves in a situation that is contrary to U.S. laws and contrary to the basic rules of right and wrong.

Who tempted them is actually irrelevant, be it the FBI or Satan himself.

For those truly in tune with the Lord, it is not the temptation that is all powerful, but the knowledge of right and wrong.

If it is not the right of the FBI to check on the honesty of lawmakers, then who will do it?

P. A. Burek
Wausau, Wis.

ABSCAM, which exposed the weak and greedy trash that has infiltrated Congress, was a breath of fresh air to those who still believe in honesty, integrity and the moral values instilled by our forebearers.

The members of Congress involved in ABCAM were elected to represent their constituents in the legislative process, not to engage in monetary and moral gymnastics for personal gain. What's the difference whether the FBI used entrapment or some other law-enforcement device? A crook is a crook, and how his "intent to commit" is exposed, should be a secondary consideration.

George M. Burchfield
Huntsville, Ala.

White-collar crime has become so pervasive for politicians and businessmen that it is destroying belief that our society is fundamentally fair and just. A society cannot endure which teaches its people through constant and powerful examples that corruption is to be expected and actions in the public interest are for the naive. In this way, white-collar crime is more damaging than violent crime.

If these criminals are successful in convincing the courts that ABCAM operations constitute entrapment they will succeed in making white-collar criminals immune to prosecution. Such immunity encourages crime of all types, and is far more devastating to our society than last year's 11% increase in violent crimes.

Martin C. Gizzi
Camp Springs, Md.

Any U.S. congressman or other high elected official who willingly takes a bribe is a real criminal and should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law because he violates public trust.

White-collar crime demands different investigative techniques by law-enforcement officers than a street robbery, for instance. I am appalled by the suggestion that the FBI instigated criminal activity. The FBI provided only the opportunity for suspects to make the first move.

The American people are ripped off more each year by white-collar crime than by all the street robberies put together. I hope the FBI and other law-enforcement agencies continue their work of ferreting out the crooks in government and prosecuting them.

Phillip R. Wiser
Alpena, Mich.

A crook is a crook regardless of who he is and I'm grateful for the FBI's handling of ABCAM. Any elected official who accepts money under any pretense other than his paycheck and legitimate expenses is guilty of the worst kind of crime, betrayal of the public trust.

FBI Director Webster is trying to do something about the problem that we all suspected but no one but Webster had the guts to do something about.

Earl W. Kurish
Centerville, Ohio

All the ABCAM targets were over 21 and elected officials who should have high standards and be irreproachable. I think the FBI did a very good job in getting rid of these undesirables before they sold us down the drain.

Edward J. McGlone
Bellmore, N.Y.

Having served some 35 years in law enforcement, I thought most knowledgeable Christians were aware that crime will not be reduced merely by arresting and imprisoning the "bums," those on booze or other drugs, the poor and mentally disturbed. These and other rejects of a godless and uncompassionate secular society commit over 50 percent of the crimes of violence in this country.

Greed and materialism, such as exhibited by our congressmen, nurture the growth of crime. No amount of money, no increase in the number of policemen alone will reduce crime. Crime will not be reduced without a change in the morality of our society.

Is there anyone who does not suspect that these congressmen and their associates would have taken the "30

pieces of silver" from sources other than the FBI? Are they fit to govern us, to pass our laws? Should we send the "skidrow bums" to prison for lesser crimes and absolve those in high places on mere legal technicalities?

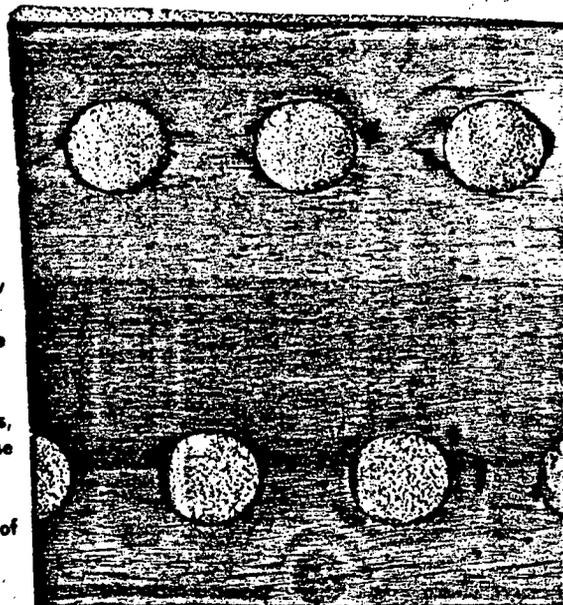
John C. Moe
Lolo, Mont.

In ABCAM temptation was not dangled in front of ordinary citizens but of officials who got where they are by portraying to be above the ordinary in intellect, creativity, character and integrity. They are to set an example. If we can excuse such "above ordinary" citizens from temptation, then should we not excuse him who finds temptation in a pretty girl to be raped, an expensive sports car to be stolen, a bank to be robbed or a feeble, elderly person to be mugged? If a government official is not strong enough to resist temptation why should anyone resist?

Mary B. Maloy
Maywood, N.Y.

In regard to the question of citizens being entrapped: You cannot entrap an honest man.

E. W. Bergquist
Houston, Texas



ENCLOSURE

Connecticut
United States of America

nt
5
b-6

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

May 18, 1981

OUTSIDE SOURCE

United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Public Response Re: Abscam

UX

Dear Sirs

I am requesting information as to whether you people were involved in the ABSCAM cases since this criminal action did take place in the U.S.A. I am slightly confused as to why the Central Intelligence Agency was involved in this case since they are supposed to operate only outside of the United States. If possible, I would like to have information on what the F.B.I. dealt with during the case in question as also why the C.I.A. was involved in the first place. Your prompt reply would be appreciated.

103-11561-321

JUN 9 1981

Sincerely

[Redacted signature area]

NCK
6/4/81
NB:4U

L to

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 24, 1981

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Roger S. Young
Office of Cong. and Public Affairs
Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building
Washington, D.C. 20535

Public Response Regarding Abscam

Dear Mr. Young:

I have recently received a telephone inquiry from a constituent [redacted] regarding the justification for the ABSCAM investigation, under what authority the FBI was acting, and how the FBI selected which Congressmen to target. I would appreciate an explanation of this matter as soon as possible.

Nchoe

(Handwritten initials in a circle)

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

b-6

Sincerely,

(Handwritten signature of James K. Coyne)

James K. Coyne, M.C.

JKC/js/f

V-83

DE-1056 3-17561-323

JUL 10 1981

*ack 7-8-81
NB:ldp*

507104 1981

(Handwritten initials)

[REDACTED]

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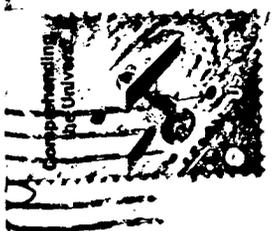
OUTSIDE SOURCE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ny

Public Response Re: abscon

william webster
fbi building
wash, dc 20535

(Handwritten initials)



dear sirs

I would like to congratulate you on your recent success in Abscam. I find that sounds and cries of entrapment was totally stupid and completely without reason. Public officials, congressional members, are supposed to be in a high trust position. I furthermore believe more of this should be done, also in the areas of drug dealing and mob control of restaurants.

20535

ACK
8-7-81
[Handwritten initials]

V-30

cancel

63-117541-325

DE-14

MMMMMMMMM sincerely yours

[REDACTED]

6-6

59 AUG 24 1981

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Best

b-6

[Redacted] Mass [Redacted]

27 July 1981

Public Response - Abscam

Mr William Webster and Staff
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

ABSCAM

Gentlemen

I applaud you for your Operation ABSCAM, with you one hundred and one percent. Who but the ones in question should express criticism of your organization for uncovering those so-called leaders who aren't so clean. Wish it could have been broadened to uncover them all, but those who were caught willing to aggrandize themselves by foul means will serve to alert any other prospective types of that ilk.

My desire is for CLEAN GOVERNMENT, CLEAN AND HONEST LEADERS. We in my family were raised to respect authority, to look up to and respect our leaders. I neither look up to nor respect the unworthy. Would you look up to dirt?

The term "entrapment" has been and is being used by and for them in defense of their dishonest moves. I say this: an honest man cannot be trapped into stealthily stuffing his brief case with ill-gotten cash. He may be trapped into keeping the appointment, but upon learning the premise that goes with the promise, the honest man would lose no time telling them to get lost.

Jam

Not to create more in the way of bureaucracy, but we can surely use more of this type of "oversighting" and "overseeing" -- and I can't think of a better organization to do it than our Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Sincerely

[Redacted signature]

b-6

*ACK
8-7-81
TB:ju*

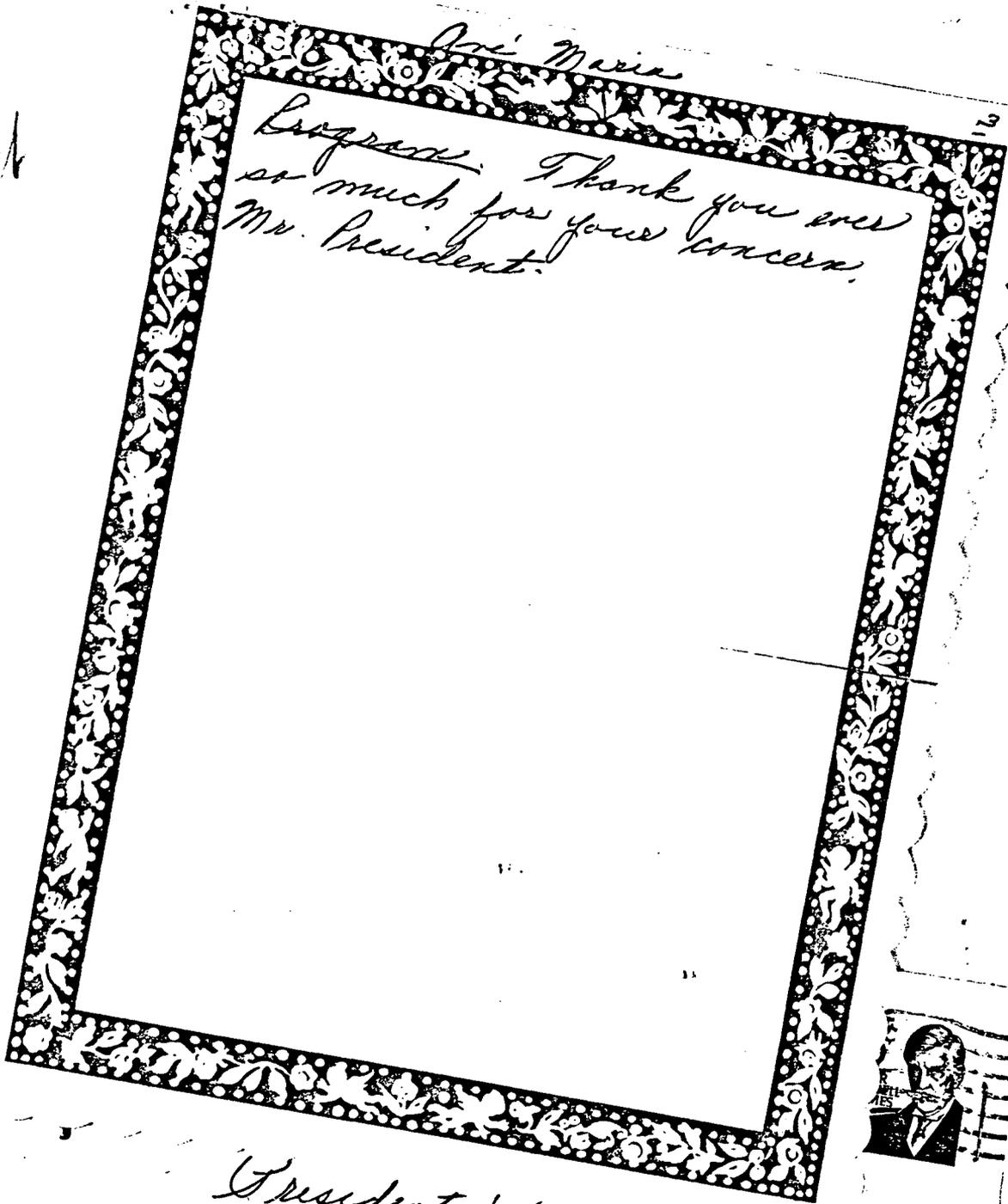
63-17561-327

3 AUG 12 1981

246
AUG 27 1981

CORRECTION SERVICE

JK



10
M

President Ronald Reagan
White House
Washington, D. C.

Please forward.

ACK
NB: km

SEP 29 1981

3281

SEP 14 1981