

REC-25

October 11, 1967

105-49865-45

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Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of October 5th, together with its enclosure, and certainly appreciate the interest which prompted you to advise me of your idea concerning a means of identifying stamps. Since investigations involving the thefts of stamps are handled by the Postal Inspectors and not by the FBI, you may wish to furnish your suggestion to The Honorable, The Postmaster General, Washington, D. C. 20260, for his consideration.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 19  
OCT 11 1967  
COMM - FBI

NOTE: Bufiles disclose two prior outgoings to correspondent, last outgoing [REDACTED]

No referral of his current letter being made to the Post Office Department in view of the postscript appearing on his letter of 10-5-67.

HRH:mlb (3)

*[Handwritten signatures and initials: "V. [unclear]", "J", "T. B. A.", "D"]*

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP-10/SLM

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 26 1968

FBI NEW ORLS

TELETYPE

10-50 AM 2-26-68 URGENT DAO

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

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM NEW ORLEANS

MELVIN M. BELLI; MISCELLANEOUS.

RE NO TEL CALL.

THE SATURDAY MORNING EDITION OF THE TIMES-PICAYUNE  
 NEWSPAPER, FEBRUARY TWENTYFOUR, LAST, PAGE THIRTEEN, CONTAINS  
 AN ARTICLE BY DON LEWIS BASED UPON LEWIS' INTERVIEW OF BELLI AT  
 ANTOINE'S RESTAURANT IN NEW ORLEANS. THE ARTICLE IS  
 CAPTIONED, "FAMED LAWYER BLASTS HOOVER" WITH A SUBCAPTION  
 "BELLI CALLS FBI DIRECTOR 'FATUOUS OLD DICTATOR'". THAT  
 PORTION OF THE ARTICLE CONCERNING BELLI'S STATEMENTS ABOUT THE  
 DIRECTOR IS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS:

"SAN FRANCISCO ATTORNEY MELVIN M. BELLI FRIDAY NIGHT  
 CALLED FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DIRECTOR J. EDGAR  
 HOOVER 'A FATUOUS OLD DICTATOR' AND CHARGED THAT HOOVER  
 'HAS SET UP A LITTLE STORM TROOP EMPIRE.'"

"BELLI, THE MAN WHO DEFENDED JACK RUBY WHEN HE  
 WAS TRIED IN NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR FOR MURDERING LEE HARVEY  
 OSWALD, WAS INTERVIEWED AT ANTOINE'S RESTAURANT, SEVEN  
 ONE THREE ST. LOUIS.

END PAGE ONE

REC 67

105-49865-46

EX-105

11 MAR 1 1968

*See Jones to Bishop  
 memo 2/28/68  
 Belli, 8/8/68  
 11.68*

57 MAR 8 - 1968

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2 TAP/ltm

## PLAYBOY PANEL

(continued from page 58)

agreed mainly to disagree with the other panelists about not only the nature of, the reasons for and the consequences of the current crisis in relations between the police and the public, but also what to do about it. He shares the conviction of many law-enforcement officials throughout the country that recent Supreme Court rulings in the civil-liberties field are handcuffing the police in their efforts to maintain law and order in the face of what FBI and metropolitan police figures indicate is a national crime wave of unprecedented dimensions. Neither he nor the other panelists, however, agree with those who feel that the police should be given carte-blanche authority to "stop and frisk" any citizen in the streets, to enter and search any home without a warrant, to use wire taps, hidden microphones and cameras, peephole surveillance, lie detectors and other such constitutionally controversial devices in order to stem this alleged crime wave.

Citing such abuses as police brutality, illegal invasions of privacy and unethical interrogation procedures, other panelists felt that police power—far from being inadequate to cope with crime, which they denied is on the upsurge—has already exceeded its rightful authority and, in some cases, even the bounds of the Constitution, and must therefore be abridged rather than expanded. As a deterrent to such violations of individual rights, several members of the panel recommended the establishment of civilian review boards empowered to investigate complaints of improper law-enforcement practices and to enforce appropriate disciplinary action. Feeling that such boards would serve only to further frustrate the police in the performance of their duty, Professor Inbau and Judge Leighton thought that police departments should be allowed to police themselves via internal investigative agencies. It was suggested, finally, by Mr. Pemberton, Judge Leighton and Dean Lohman that the quality of law enforcement must be improved by adopting training programs for police recruits that would include schooling not only in the best modern techniques of police work but in the scope of civil liberties and the limitations of their own authority.

Though your assessments of the problem, and the solutions you've suggested for it, have been widely divergent, we feel that the light and heat generated by this exchange has helped not only to confirm the complexity of the crisis but to clarify the issues involved—and to point the way toward understanding

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Filter out tars, juices, nicotine with Medico's scientific 2 1/4" disposable Filter with 66 baffles. Draw in clean, flavorful smoke—increase your smoking enjoyment. Medico is crafted only of selected imported briar. Nylon bits guaranteed bite-proof. Relax—smoke a Medico.

For beautiful color catalog, write Medico, 18 E. 54th St., N. Y. 22, Dept. A16. Please enclose 10¢ for handling.



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\$6 TO \$20

Illustrated  
GOLD CREST  
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(light café finish \$9.00)

10 for 10¢  
Also  
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Ventilator  
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Prices higher outside U.S.A.

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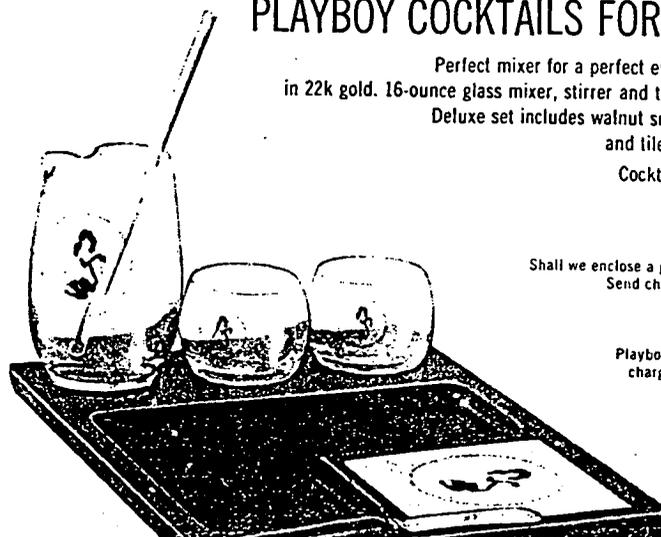
stir her to romance

## PLAYBOY COCKTAILS FOR TWO SET

Perfect mixer for a perfect evening. Emblazoned in 22k gold. 16-ounce glass mixer, stirrer and two cocktail glasses. Deluxe set includes walnut snack tray with knife and tile for cheese cutting.

Cocktails for Two Set, \$5  
Deluxe Set, \$15  
Both prices ppd.

Shall we enclose a gift card in your name?  
Send check or money order to:  
PLAYBOY PRODUCTS  
919 N. Michigan Ave.  
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"THE SIXTY-YEAR-OLD ATTORNEY SAID THE ONLY REASON THE FBI DIRECTOR HAS BEEN REAPPOINTED TO HIS POST IS BECAUSE 'HE HAS HAD SO MUCH ON PRESIDENTS THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO KICK HIM OUT'.

"THEY KNEW THAT IF HOOVER WERE REMOVED FROM OFFICE HE WOULD COME BACK TO HAUNT THEM THROUGH SPEECHES AND BOOKS WITH EMBARRASSING CONTENTS," BELLI SAID.

"SOURED LONG AGO

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

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

"BELLI SAID HE IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF ATTORNEYS WHO HAVE HAD FBI AGENTS CHECKING INTO THEIR PAST."

NEW ORLEANS INDICES CONTAINS NO IDENTIFIABLE REFERENCES RE DON LEWIS. THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO CONSIDER WRITING  
END PAGE TWO

DON LEWIS AND SETTING HIM STRAIGHT REGARDING THESE VICIOUS CHARGES MADE BY BELLI AGAINST THE DIRECTOR.

END

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FBI WASH DC

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FEB 28 11 28 AM '68

FEB 28 15 44 PM '68

CO: Mr. Bishop

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Bishop *[Signature]*

DATE: 2/26/68

FROM : M. A. Jones *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
CRITICISM OF DIRECTOR  
AND FBI

**CONFIDENTIAL** *[Handwritten initials]*

## BACKGROUND:

Our New Orleans Office advised that the 2/24/68 issue of the "Times-Picayune" newspaper in that City contains an article based on an interview of Melvin Belli by Don Lewis. According to this article, Belli described the Director as "a fatuous old dictator" who "has set up a little storm troop empire." Belli continued, according to this article, by repeating a number of hackneyed and unsupported criticisms of the FBI.

Our New Orleans Office suggested that the Bureau might consider writing Don Lewis and setting him straight concerning the vicious charges made by Belli against the Director.

6-18-80  
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TAP/CPM  
REASON: FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 2-26-88

## INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

Belli, a San Francisco attorney, is considered one of the most notorious charlatans of the legal profession. He feeds on publicity and has provoked much controversy by his repeated attacks against the FBI as well as a number of other prominent national officials and institutions.

His criticisms, as reported by the "Times-Picayune" are nothing but cheap, undocumented, slander against Mr. Hoover and the Bureau. There is nothing new in this most recent attack which is simply a restatement of wild allegations he has repeatedly made during the past several years to any newspaper, radio or television outlet that would give him an audience.

EX-105 REC 67 105-49865-47

It will be recalled that Belli served, for a time, as defense attorney for Jack Ruby who shot and killed assassin Lee Harvey Oswald in 1968. This was strictly a grandstand performance which produced little toward the defense of his client.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

JHC:db (8)

CONTINUED - OVER

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
*[Handwritten notes and signatures]*

M. A. Jones to Bishop memo  
RE: MELVIN M. BELLI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

*C CONSULTING WITH CIA*

We have no information identifiable with Don Lewis. However, we have enjoyed very favorable relations with the "Times-Picayune".

OBSERVATIONS:

*b7(c)*

Belli relishes controversy and his repeated accusations against the Director and the Bureau have received scant public attention. For this reason, it is not believed desirable to approach the "Times-Picayune" in an effort to rebut his charges.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

*AM*

*[Signature]*

*I concur. ✓*

*TEB*

*ds  
ms*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2-28-68

Airtel

REC 67

105-49865-47

6-105

To: SAC, New Orleans

From: Director, FBI

MELVIN M. BELLI  
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Reurtel 2-26-68, concerning interview of captioned individual which appeared in the 2-24-68 issue of the "Times - Picayune" newspaper.

Belli's accusations against the FBI in referenced interview are similar to those he has repeatedly voiced to other news media in recent years. In view of Belli's penchant for controversy, no useful purpose would be served by writing Don Lewis for the purpose of rebutting these unfounded charges.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAG/...

NOTE: See M. A. Jones to Bishop memo of 2-26-68, captioned "Melvin M. Belli, Criticism of Director and FBI."

JHC:nls/jma (7)

MAILED 19  
FEB 28 1968  
COMM - FBI

REC-9 BISHOP  
FBI

FBI  
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FEB 28 1968

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- Room

57 MAR 8 1968

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

FBI

Date: 2/26/68

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

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS  
 SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI  
 MISCELLANEOUS

*Handwritten:* Bishop on  
 M.A. Jones  
 Lenzel  
 Sable

Re New Orleans teletype to Bureau, 2/26/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau is the original and one copy of an article which appeared in the Times-Picayune Newspaper of New Orleans, dated February 24, 1968, page 13.

3 Bureau (Enc.  
 2 - New Orleans  
 RER - cst  
 (5)

**ENCLOSURE**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 DATE 5/21/81 BY 6-12-80

EX 101

REC 29

105-49865-48

FEB 28 1968

**CRIME RESEARCH**

2 C. C. Bishop

**XEROX**  
 MAR 12 1968

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

7 ( ) MAR 19 1968  
 Special Agent in Charge

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Tamed Lawyer Blasts Hoover

## Belli Calls FBI Director Fatuous Old Dictator

By DON LEWIS

San Francisco attorney Melvin Belli Friday night called the Federal Bureau of Investigation director J. Edgar Hoover "a fatuous old dictator" and charged Hoover "has set up a little command troop empire."

Belli, the man who defended James Earl Ray when he was tried in 1964 for murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, was interviewed at Spaine's Restaurant, 713 St. Louis.

The 60-year-old attorney said the only reason the FBI director has been reappointed to his post is because "he has had so much support from presidents that they didn't have the guts to kick him out." They knew that if Hoover were removed from office he would come back to haunt them through speeches and books with "barrassing contents," Belli said.

**SOURD LONG AGO**  
Belli called Hoover "utterly and completely vicious" and said he started "to go sour on him long ago when I saw how the FBI agents were of their director."

"FBI agents on the witness stand have lied many times," Belli said. "They go with the guy who brings 'em," Belli said, "and they're not going to testify against their chief."

Belli said he is one of a number of attorneys who have had FBI agents checking into their st.

Turning to District Attorney Garrison's probe of the Kennedy assassination, Belli said: "I was close to Ruby and I don't think he (Garrison) knows anything."

"What he's got, I don't know," Belli said. "I'm waiting like the rest of the world to see," he said.

"If he falls flat on his face," Belli said. "I'll be the one guy

to say he had the guts to try and he had the right to try to investigate the assassination."

Belli termed Garrison "a very good friend of mine" and "a terrific trial lawyer."

"Garrison is an honest man and I would be a character witness for him anytime," he said.

### BACKS COMMISSION

Belli said, however, that he still accepts the Warren Commission findings that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed President John F. Kennedy.

"I'll believe it until Garrison can prove to the contrary," he said. "I'm still receptive, but he hasn't convinced me," Belli said.

Commenting on the continuing attempts of Clay L. Shaw's attorneys to get a change of venue for their client, Belli said: "I think New Orleans is like San Francisco—the people in the two cities are the most tolerant in the world."

"If I were a defense lawyer," Belli said, "I wouldn't want to move the trial."

### FORMER CLIENT

Referring to his former client, Jack Ruby, Belli said: "He was a status seeker... a climber who wanted to belong to society."

Belli said flatly: "I think the guy was nuts."

The California attorney said Ruby told him that "he did it (killed Oswald) for Jackie and the kids. This was Ruby's rationalization for the act," Belli said. "This is absolutely not true."

Belli described Ruby as a "psychomotor epileptic" and said "what turned him on" were television strobe lights in the basement of police headquarters in Dallas, Tex.

"When the lights came on," Belli said, "they brought about his seizure" and Ruby shot Oswald.

Oswald was shot and fatally wounded Nov. 24, 1963.

Belli described District Judge Joe Brown, who presided over

Ruby's tempestuous trial in 1964, as "a warrior with a big heart and a great personality."

Belli said, however, that Brown "never claimed to be a great lawyer. He should never have presided over the trial," Belli said.

Ruby received the death sentence in Judge Brown's court but the conviction was later reversed. Judge Brown died Tuesday following a heart attack. Ruby died of cancer Jan. 3, 1967.

Belli, who has been conducting a running feud with the American Bar Association, said: "The ABA doesn't like me because I don't belong to the establishment."

"I'm a member of the ABA," Belli said, "and since they've tried to kick me out, I wouldn't quit for the world."

The California attorney has just returned to the United States from Vietnam after writing a series on military justice for a wire service and has written a new book, "The Law Revolt."

As to how he would do in court against Raymond Perry Mason fame, Belli said: "I'm afraid I wouldn't do very well — he's a client of mine."

Belli leaves New Orleans at 9 a. m. Saturday to attend a meeting of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers in Boca Raton, Fla. He was the first dean of the organization and one of the founders.



Photo by The Times-Picayune.  
**MELVIN M. BELLI**  
Blasts J. Edgar Hoover

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

PAGE 1

SECTION 1

TIMES PICAYUNE

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-12-80 BY SP2TAP/CPM

Date: 2-24-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: GEORGE W. HEALY

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

Character:

AFO

or

Classification: 89-

Submitting Office: N.O., LA.

Being Investigated

XEROX

MAR 12 1968

105-49865-48

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[Redacted]

Dallas, Texas 75206

6-6-68

- MR. TOLSON ✓
- MR. DELOACH ✓
- MR. MOHR ✓
- MR. BISHOP ✓
- MR. CASPER
- MR. CALLAHAN
- MR. CONRAD
- MR. FELT
- MR. GALE ✓
- MR. ROSEN ✓
- MR. SULLIVAN
- MR. TAVEL
- MR. TROTTER
- MR. JONES
- TELE. ROOM
- MISS HOLMES
- MRS. METCAL
- MISS GANDY

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am enclosing a clipping from our paper.

I am an admirer of you and your dedication to  
your office for a very long time in your life. I  
resent very much the remarks made here.

This also went out over the Radio.

Sincerely,

b7C

<sup>0</sup>  
Melvin Belli

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[Redacted]

Dallas, Texas 75206

6-6-68

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

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
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Mr. Sullivan	_____
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Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am enclosing a clipping from a paper. I am an admirer of you and your dedication to your office for a <sup>very</sup> long time in your life. I resent very much the remarks made here.

This also went out over the Radio.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

37 JUN 10 1968  
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ENCLOSURE

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# 'I Was Wrong,' Says Belli Calling Dallas 'City of Hate'

Melvin Belli, flamboyant California lawyer who unsuccessfully defended Jack Ruby in a murder trial here four years ago, has expressed a tinge of regret about all the unkind things he's had to say about Dallas.

Belli appeared on KRLD radio's "Comment" program Wednesday. During the free-wheeling, wide-ranging discussion, Belli came close to apologizing for scathing Dallas when the jury convicted Ruby and sentenced him to death for killing Lee Harvey Oswald.

**THE VERDICT** was returned on Saturday, and Belli thundered to newsmen that communion wine should curdle in Dallas churches the following morning. He termed Dallas a city of hate.

In front of the microphones, the gray-haired lawyer who gained fame in tort, rather than criminal, cases seemed much more mellow than he did four years ago.

"The city was trying to protect its image, and it was wrong to call it a city of hate," Belli admitted. He spoke of Dallas' "local patriotism" and said that was one factor which induced the Ruby jury to convict him.

He maintained Ruby never should have been tried in Dallas and repeated previous claims that the jury did not pay heed to expert medical testimony.

**STILL TALKING** about the verdict, Belli told interviewers, "Some things went on in the jury room that still haven't been divulged." He refused to elaborate, however, mysteriously hinting that he would reveal jury improprieties at a time of his own choosing.

The shooting of Sen. Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles apparently was the incident which prompted Belli to reconsider his indictment of Dallas. He said California and all of America should feel shame for the shooting.

When the time comes to try the suspect in the successful attempt on Kennedy's life, Belli said, the court should grant a change of venue so the trial will not be near the scene of the crime. Otherwise, he said, there will be a difficulty in finding jurors who did not see or who do not have knowledge of the crime.

Also taken under discussion was Monday's Supreme Court opinion prohibiting imposition of the death penalty by a jury from which persons opposed to capital punishment have been excluded.

"This is the end of capital punishment," Belli said. "With jurors who won't vote for the death penalty, you won't have capital punishment."

Of the high court itself, he commented, "The Supreme Court is making law that's more in context with the times."

**OF INCREASING** crime, he insisted, "We have more crime because we have more people."

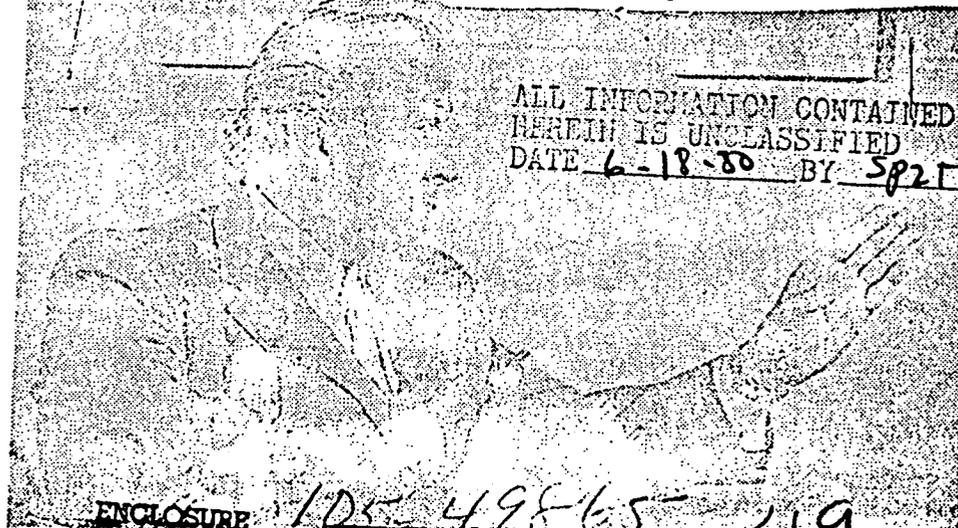
He challenged the validity of FBI crime statistics and said of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover: "Get that bum out of there. He's been in too long."

Belli said Supreme Court decisions do not coddle criminals, as charged by critics.

"Warren was a DA himself," he noted of the chief justice.

Even Vietnam came into the conversation. Belli mentioned that he recently toured part of Vietnam under Defense Department auspices and said the United States is involved in the war there because of "ineptitude."

"We just got sucked in," he said.



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2 CAP/EA

ENCLOSURE

Melvin Belli ... Dallas is not "city of hate" after all.

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June 12, 1968

REC 11 105-49865-49

b7c [redacted]  
Dallas, Texas 75206

b7c Dear [redacted]

I have received your letter of June 6th,  
and want to thank you for forwarding the newspaper  
clipping from your local paper. I am most grateful for  
the interest and support you expressed and hope our  
activities will continue to merit your approval.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

b7c

NOTE: [redacted] wrote to the Director in August  
1967, [redacted]

MAILED 7

JUN 12 1968

COMM-FBI

AWT:lvc  
(3) JWC

REC-D at 2:00  
FBI

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

62 JUN 19 1968

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-12-80 BY SP2/PLM

FBI

Date: 6/19/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

[REDACTED] b7c

Enclosed herein is a news clipping from the London "Daily Mirror", 6/19/68. It will be noted that this is a scurrilous, unwarranted attack upon you which is deeply resented by and is offensive to all personnel of this office.

I recall that [REDACTED] visited the United States a few years ago and you saw him at that time. Unfortunately, under our procedure, the file pertaining to this visit has been destroyed in accordance with existing Bureau instructions.

[REDACTED] telephonically contacted me this morning, referred to the enclosed news item, expressed tremendous indignation and said that he wanted to do a counter-attack article. He said in order to give his counterattack article impact, he would appreciate it very much, if possible, if he could see you. He plans to be in the U.S. the latter part of August or early part of September. He said he would furnish me his exact itinerary when known.

[REDACTED] In connection with the preparation of a counter-attack [REDACTED] stated he would appreciate if the Bureau could send him some information for study at this time.

[REDACTED]

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
- 1 - Liaison (direct)
- 1 - London

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

105-49865-  
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CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TPP/SEM  
REASON: FCIM II, 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 6-19-88

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61 JUL 12 1968

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson	_____
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Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

DATE: 6-25-68

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : Mr. Bishop

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: **[REDACTED]**  
REQUEST TO DO ARTICLE  
COUNTERING MELVIN M. BELLI'S  
CRITICISM OF DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND:

The Legat at London has forwarded a copy of an article by Melvin M. Belli which appeared in the 6-19-68 issue of the London "Daily Mirror." The article is typical of the scurrilous and offensive attacks which Belli has launched against Mr. Hoover over the years. Belli traces the growth of the FBI and completely distorts the Director's 44-year administrative career. The thrust of Belli's article is that Mr. Hoover has been in power too long, and that because of it the FBI is a threat to "precious American freedoms."

**[REDACTED]**

INFORMATION IN BUFILES CONCERNING BELLI:

Belli, a San Francisco attorney, is considered one of the most notorious charlatans of the legal profession. He is a professional publicity hound who provokes controversy to gain attention. In this pursuit, Belli has consistently slandered the Director as well as a number of other prominent national officials and institutions.

The article by Belli appearing in the London "Daily Mirror" is simply a restatement of the wild and unfounded allegations Belli has aimed at the Director over the years through newspapers, radio and television medias.

Enclosure *sent* 6-26-68

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Bishop - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan - Enclosure

JHC:jar (10)

6-19-68  
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REASON FOR EXT. 1-2.4.2  
DATE OF REVIEW 6-25-88

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CRIME RESEARCH

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Jan

Jones to Bishop memo  
RE [REDACTED] b7C

Belli, it will be recalled, served for a time as defense attorney for Jack Ruby, who shot and killed presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. This grandstand performance of Belli's produced little defense of his client but a great amount of publicity.

Typical reference to Belli in Bufiles discloses that in 1941, he sent greetings to the Soviet Union in support of its Red Army; in 1949, he protested the conviction of 11 American Communist leaders:

[REDACTED] CONSULTING WITH CIA

INFORMATION IN BUFILES CONCERNING [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7C

OBSERVATIONS:

[REDACTED] b1

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter enclosing a summary of FBI accomplishments for the past 60 years, be sent to Legat, London. The enclosed information is all public source material, which has previously been furnished to certain friendly news sources.

TEB  
CONFIDENTIAL  
[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Special Agent

June 26, 1968

Director, FBI

105-49865-

b7C

[Redacted]

*Br...*

*pr*

Reurairtel, 6-19-68.

Enclosed is a copy of a summary of FBI accomplishments during its 68-year history which you may furnish to [redacted] while the Bureau encourages a factual presentation to the English public of FBI accomplishments, particularly by a reporter of the caliber of Mr. Hastings. It is felt that publication of such an article late this summer would have little impact as a direct rebuttal of the Belli article in the 6-19-68 issue of the London "Daily Mirror." In view of this, as well as Belli's well-known penchant for publicity by controversy, it is believed that Hastings' article should not be specifically designed as a counterattack to Belli.

For your information, the Belli article in the "Daily Mirror" is typical of the scurrilous and unfounded charges he has directed against me for a number of years. Belli thrives on publicity and his technique is to invite controversy to obtain it. Although he has regularly gained exposure of his views through newspaper, radio and television media, his attacks against me have received scant public attention or support in the United States.

b7C

You may inform [redacted] that I will be happy to see him should my schedule permit and I am in my office when he visits Washington. Advise me promptly when his itinerary becomes available so that consideration may be given, consistent with my own commitments, to arranging an appointment.

Enclosure

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

JEC:jar  
See Note... next page...

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2 TAP/KM

MAILED 24  
JUN 27 1968

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b7c

NOTE: See Jones to Bishop memo, 6-25-68 captioned [REDACTED]  
Request to do Article Countering Melvin M. Belli's Criticism of Director.  
No copy of enclosure for Legat is being maintained in file since it  
represents public source material which has previously been furnished  
to select news contacts.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

*John*  
*Walt*  
*10/10/68*

DATE: 10/10/68

*Brangan*

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-68303)

SUBJECT: MELVIN BELLI  
SM - C SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

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

Copies of the above are also enclosed for the information of the San Francisco Division.

[redacted] has been thanked by separate communication for his interest in bringing this matter to the attention of this office.

- 2 - Bureau (Encls. 2) (RM)
  - 1 - San Francisco (Encls. 2) (RM)
  - 2 - Los Angeles
- PFT/mmc  
(5)

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-13-80 BY SP2TAG/cam

REC-25 105-49865-50

EX 106

OCT 14 1968

INT/SEC

76 OCT 15 1968

*D.W. DeLoach*

*R*  
*U*

October 7, 1968

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
1340 West 6th Street  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Sirs:

In reading a South African newspaper which a friend had sent me, I came across the enclosed article, and due to its very derogatory nature, I thought perhaps you might be interested in it.

I think it is regrettable that a man such as Mr. Belli, who professes to be an advocate of the law, shows so little regard for the truth, and such a proclivity for untruths as is evidenced by this distorted and egregious piece of journalistic trash. Likewise, I feel that an article such as this, which is outstanding only for its crass inuendos, and which would most likely remain unpublished by responsible persons in this country, should be fostered on the peoples of other countries who are not in a position to recognize its falsehoods.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

b7c [REDACTED]  
Los Angeles, California 90041

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAM/Edm

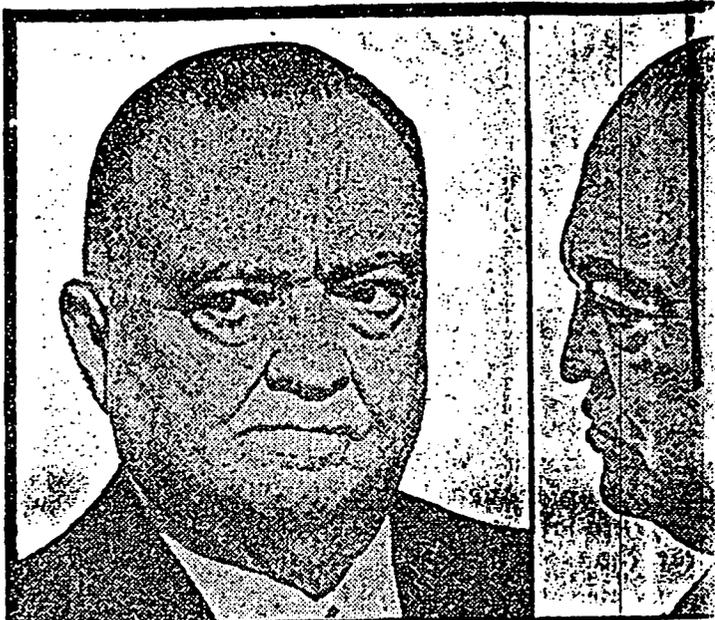
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ENCLOSURE



by  
**MELVIN  
BELLI**

SAN FRANCISCO attorney Melvin Belli is one of the top trial lawyers in the United States. He defended Jack Ruby during the early stages of Ruby's trial for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald.



**J. EDGAR HOOVER**

EYES: Dark  
HAIR: Black—greying  
HEIGHT: 6ft.  
WEIGHT: 180lb.  
AGE: 73

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face; barre  
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eyeglasses

**THE arrest and return to the United States of James Earl Ray, the F.B.I.'s latest Public Enemy No. 1, offers Mr. J. Edgar Hoover the opportunity for a memorable and long-overdue act of public service.**

He should resign on this note of high triumph and depart. Such a chance may not come his way again.

Mr. Hoover has sat too long at the head of an organization which many ordinary citizens and lawyers believe is a threat to the precious American freedoms, unless it and its leader are carefully controlled.

A mystifying failure to achieve (except about once a decade) anything that could justify the F.B.I.'s vast cost and influence seems to be one of the bureau's two most consistent traditions.

The other, of course, is its institutionalized hero-worship of the director.

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

But it is doubtful whether two wily old Washington hands like Humphrey and Nixon would be so rash. President Johnson, who claims to be one of Mr. Hoover's few close friends, personally extended his career (and salary of \$12,600 a year) past the compulsory retirement age of 70.

**Prayers**

**PRAYERS** for Mr. Hoover's retirement have, for a generation, been offered in low voices along the corridors of power.

Popular fare on the subject of Mr. Hoover is a masterfully orchestrated stream of propaganda and statistics that has preserved almost without

change the portrait he painted of himself in the bad old days.

His style is pure Bonnie and Clyde, born in the times when his boys (G-men) was the melodramatic tag would stake out the "baddies" and wait for the boss to arrive, in his camel-hair coat and slouch hat, for the ritual slaughter.

Had Ray, armed as he was, had the misfortune to be apprehended in the United States, there might have been one of those ghastly and scandalous scenes that are so much a part of the Hoover legend. He could have been despatched in the kind of merciless slaughter that gave the F.B.I. John Dillinger as a patron saint.

Dillinger, a bank robber of the 1930s (and not to anyone's certain knowledge a killer) was finally cornered after a series of hideout fiascos by Mr. Hoover's men and informally executed in a Chicago street. His death mask still greets callers to the Director's office.

**Mandarin**

**THE** Dillinger story, inflated out of all relation to reality typifies the self-advertisement Mr. Hoover has used to reach the pinnacle of power from which he now looks down; an unassailable mandarin of civil service.

However, he prefers to remain in seclusion, knowing that the image is more powerful than the reality. Besides, there are too many wrinkles to show.

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

Since it was his obsessive belief then that he and his men were saving America from communism—even as it is today, when the Communist Party of the United States is cemented together only by the subsidies of F.B.I. infiltrators—he probably took Lenin's death as a suitable omen.

The F.B.I. had been created 16 years before. After Congress had specifically refused to authorize a special detective force for the Department of Justice, the Attorney-General of the time secretly created one while Congress was in recess.

President Theodore Roosevelt persuaded the lawmakers to accept this *fait accompli*, despite protestations about secret police. The *faits*, when odd jobs that did not fall in the province of other Federal agencies. DATE 6.18-80

Of these "white slavery" was the most glamorous. Its first chief embraced it as a suitable "menace" as fervently as Mr. Hoover later hounded communism.

During this period, the F.B.I. had a virtual licence to pry into

private lives, and it stuffed its files to overflowing.

During the First World War the worst fears of the bureau's opponents were realized when it led vigilante raids on suspected draft dodgers. Some 60,000 Americans were dragged off the streets by armed men and detained without a shred of legal authority.

Not until 1919 was Hoover associated with the Bureau of Investigation. He became, at the impressively early age of 24, head of the General Intelligence Division of the Justice Department.

Only two years earlier he had joined the department as a £504-a-year clerk with a brand-new law degree. This was a predictable niche for someone of his background. His father was a low-ranking public servant, his mother the niece of a Swiss *casinier*, a typical Washingtonian.

There were two children older than John Edgar, all devout Presbyterians and dutiful scholars. Master Hoover himself taught at Sunday school, sometimes proudly attired in the

ENCLOSURE



# J. EDGAR HOOVER

**DESCRIPTION:** Full, florid face; barrel-chested; broken nose; dresses conservatively; wears eyeglasses for reading.

ate lives, and it stuffed its to overflowing.

During the First World War worst fears of the bureau's agents were realised when it vigilante raids on suspected dodgers. Some 60,000 Americans were dragged off the streets by armed men and detained without a shred of legal authority.

Not until 1919 was Hoover associated with the Bureau of Investigation. He became, at the impressively early age of 34, head of the General Intelligence Division of the Justice Department.

Only two years earlier he had joined the department as a 24-year clerk with a brand-new law degree. This was a desirable niche for someone of his background. His father was a low-ranking public servant, his mother the niece of a prominent Washingtonian.

There were two children older than John Edgar, all devout Presbyterians and dutiful scholars. Master Hoover himself fought at Sunday school, sometimes proudly attired in the

uniform of his high school cadet corps. The distinctive broken nose was gained in a church baseball game.

His father died in 1922, and until his mother followed in 1938, John Edgar lived at home. Even now he lives in a small Washington suburban house, alone save for a housekeeper. Apart from an occasional day at the races, his main recreation is gardening.

## Unsavoury

**T**HE first task of the General Intelligence Division was to organise a wave of raids and deportations among aliens in the panic that gripped America after the Bolshevik Revolution.

Hoover directed these with zeal and a staggering lack of concern for fundamental rights or legal niceties.

The experience commended him to President Warren Harding, and, then only 26, he was appointed Deputy Chief of the F.B.I. This was led by Warren's crony, William Burns, head of a

private detective agency with less than savoury reputation.

There followed a shameful period in which the F.B.I. accumulated a grubby record of strike-breaking, frame-ups and corruption. Political hacks exchanged favours with it. Agents searched the private offices of Congressmen and breached their mail.

Mr. Hoover — an honest man and a true professional whatever his failings — recorded that he contemplated resignation. But he held on, and, at the same time, mounted a shattering attack on the Ku Klux Klan, which was then becoming a national menace.

This was a truly praiseworthy accomplishment, but it is something he has never equalled.

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

The F.B.I. under Hoover preferred to concentrate on gory, headline-grabbing gun battles with gangsters of the depression years, who could just as easily have been dealt with by local police.

Indeed, the local police usually did all the leg work, then were forced to watch the G-men walk off with the credit. Even Dillinger was turned in to the Chicago police by an informant.

## "Red menace"

**I**N the wartime and post-war years, when the "Red menace" was the enemy, the F.B.I. did more to intimidate genuine liberals than could ever be balanced by the capture of a few spies.

The two areas in which a national police force could have been most effective remained virgin territory: rackets and rule by the mob. They still flourish, although the names of every top mobster, his property and organisation, are common knowledge.

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

Until very recently, prosecutions under Civil Rights legislation have been token. Mr. Hoover never saw fit to exert the formidable machinery of the F.B.I. on behalf of deprived citizens.

Dr. Martin Luther King

had no illusions about where Mr. Hoover's sympathies lay, nor those of the many fellow Southerners among his agents.

This year the director has already given Congress its annual fright, warning that communists infest the Black Power movement and the anti-war protest groups.

Congress, as always, voted his budget without demur. It was more than \$145-million with which to maintain 16,251 personnel.

## Law revolt

**A**MERICA is currently undergoing a law revolt. The Supreme Court, in a series of enlightened decisions, has limited the powers of the police and broadened the rights of suspects to bring the practice in all of the United States in line with those basic guarantees that have always existed under British law.

Capital punishment, long abandoned by the rest of the civilised world, is also being edged out. A virtual moratorium exists on the spectacle of the public abattoir.

Mr. Hoover has spoken out against these important, progressive steps. In the rapidly-changing, humanitarian Sixties he remains a lowering, implacable figure of the heartless Thirties.

Not the least of his shortcomings is the conformity and humourless moulding imposed upon the idealistic young lawyers who become F.B.I. agents.

FBI

Date: 10/22/68

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

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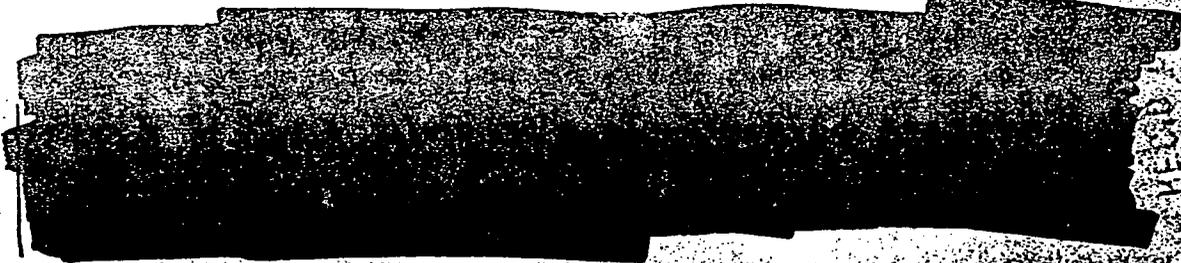
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AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: SAC, MOBILE (62-0)  
 RE: MELVIN BELLI  
 RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

On the evening of 10/21/68, MELVIN BELLI appeared on WALA-TV Channel 10, Mobile, Ala., in connection with his appearance before the student body at Spring Hill College, which was also scheduled for the evening of 10/21/68. BELLI was interviewed by DICK DARBY, Director, who made available a transcript of his remarks.



A transcript of BELLI's interview with Mr. DARBY is enclosed for the interest of the Bureau.

Also enclosed is an article which appeared in the 10/22/68 issue of The Mobile Register which contains BELLI's

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 1 - Mobile  
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 EX 100  
 105-49865-51  
 OCT 25 1968

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 DATE 6-12-86 BY SP2 TM/...

C. S. Bishop

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

*Uma*  
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

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Per \_\_\_\_\_

NOV 12 1968

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4 paper article BELLI makes reference to the Director.  
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PAGE'S LAWYER HERE. World...  
...subject in a Press Register interview in Mobile...  
...High School. His speech was sponsored by the Student  
Government Association, headed by Jim Page.

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

Page 1B  
The Mobile Register  
Mobile, Alabama

Date: 10/22/68  
Edition: Final  
Author: Frye Gaillard  
Editor: Fallon Trotter

Submitting Office: Mobile

Being Investigated

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 6-19-96 BY SP2TRP/Edm

105-47105-51

ENCLOSURE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Noted Trial Lawyer In Mobile For College Address

# Belli Not Shy Politically -Or Otherwise

By FRYE HILLARD  
Register Staff Reporter

Meivin Belli is not a shy man. The famed trial lawyer has definite views on a wide variety of subjects, and he doesn't care who knows what they are.

For example, there is no ambiguity in his feelings about Republican presidential candidate Richard Nixon. He can't stand him. "There is no such thing as the new Nixon," Belli told the Press Register Monday. "It is just a case of Trickier Dick." "To know Nixon is to distrust

him," Belli continued. "Those who know him distrust him most of all."

Third party presidential candidate George C. Wallace is also on Belli's blacklist, although the lawyer regards him more highly than Nixon.

"I'd rather have Wallace than Nixon (as president)," Belli asserted. "At least we know where he stands. We know he is no good, and we know how to handle him."

The internationally known attorney said Vice President

Hubert Humphrey is his choice for president. But he said Humphrey should cut himself loose from President Johnson's "umbilical cord."

"Johnson's presidency has been a horrible experience for the country," Belli elaborated. "There will never be another Southern president any time soon because people will remember LBJ came from the South."

#### GREATEST THREAT

Belli said he views organized

crime as the greatest threat to law in America. "Hypocrites like J. Edgar Hoover have attempted to dupe the American people with catch phrases about crime in the streets," Belli maintained. "Hoover knows the extent of organized crime and who the leaders are, and yet he won't crack down."

The attorney charged that Hoover has criticized the U.S. Supreme Court because "he wants to use the lash" on people accused of crimes.

"He doesn't realize that

prisons have a front and a back door," Belli added. "People are supposed to go out as well as come in."

Belli views recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions concerning arrest and evidence as positive steps toward the rule of law in the United States.

He said he believes the decisions have created "The Law Revolution" (the title of his next book) which makes this "the age of the trial lawyer."

(Page 8, Col. 5, BELLI)

# Belli

"The position of the trial lawyer is this—he is more important than doctors, priests or the president," Belli asserted. "He safeguards liberties and freedom."

"It doesn't matter who is elected president," he added. "Whoever it is will not be able to undermine America's legal institutions. We lawyers will not let them."

Belli was scornful of statements by Wallace that he would alter directions of rulings by the Supreme Court. "Wallace knows he can't curb the power of the court. He's an intelligent man. He knows the principal of judicial review goes all the way back to Marbury vs. Madison (a landmark court ruling handed down when John Marshall was chief justice early in the 19th century.)"

The attorney explained that he felt "crime in the streets" will cease to become a serious problem.

He said he views it primarily as a manifestation of "anger on the part of the black man."

"Really it goes back to the Civil War," Belli continued. "We are finally coming to a national shakedown after the war, but we are coming through it beautifully."

Belli has offices in San Francisco, Tokyo, Rome and Frankfurt, Germany. One of his partners in the Frankfurt firm is another famed American lawyer, F. Lee Bailey.

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

He said he views Rubin as "an ebullient young rebel" who acts on his own "with no direction from any foreign power."

Burr, according to Belli, has absorbed a great deal of legal knowledge through his role as attorney Perry Mason.

Belli himself hopes to absorb a little acting ability from some of his clients. He says he will

play a role in an upcoming movie about his life.

In the movie, he will play a dishonest insurance broker.

The attorney was in Mobile Monday for a speech at Spring Hill College. His appearance was sponsored by the Student Government Association, the same group which will sponsor a debate between LSD advocate Timothy Leary and a medical doctor Nov. 11.

10  
11  
12 Mr. Darby: Mr. Belli, the nation became quite aware of you  
13 during your defense in the Jack Ruby situation.  
14 Today, in this election year, law and order has become a  
15 major issue. Most of the people think it has gotten com-  
16 pletely out of hand. As a defense attorney, how have the  
17 new Supreme Court rulings affected you, sir?

18  
19 Mr. Belli: Well, they haven't affected me as much as they  
20 have affected everybody who has ever wanted  
21 protection for the man on the street. We are not coddling  
22 criminals, we are protecting the accused. The thing that  
23 bothers me is the hypocrisy -- worrying about all this crime  
24 in the streets, so called, when all the big boys, all the  
25 gangsters, all the Mafia, all the rest of them -- there is  
26 nothing being done about them at all. And we know who they  
27 are -- Edgar Hoover knows who they are -- and if he'd stop  
28 talking about the little fellow in the streets and applying  
29 the law so heavily and go after some of the Mafia and the  
30 black hand boys I think he'd do a hell of a lot more for the  
31 good of this country than all these bleatings about the  
32 Supreme Court. I think he's one of the most unpatriotic  
33 individuals in America today with his criticism of the United  
34 States Supreme Court at snide commencement day addresses.

35  
36 Mr. Darby: If you had the opportunity to make one predic-  
37 tion regarding law and order, what would you  
38 say?

39  
40 Mr. Belli: I'd say the Supreme Court's going along the way  
41 it is regardless of who is the President. I  
42 would think that our country would go along the way it is  
43 regardless of who is the President because the most important  
44 man in the country today is not the President of the United  
45 States, he's the trial lawyer and I think that your future  
46 depends upon the trial lawyer to protect your rights. I  
47 don't care whether your Governor is going to be President,  
48 or whether Mr. Nixon, whom I don't like, is President, or  
49 Mr. Humphrey. Regardless of who he is going to be, the per-  
50 petuation of our institutions is in the hands of the trial  
51 lawyer and he's a damnably important individual in this  
52 country.

53  
54 Mr. Darby: Thank you very much, sir.

55 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
56 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
57 DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2TAP/CA

58  
59 105-49065-51  
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61 ENCLOSURE  
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FBI

Date: 10/28/68

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

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (62-0)

RE: ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ H. W. GILL, aka  
Mrs. Elsie C. Gill  
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS) *b7C*

*Major [unclear]*

Attached is newspaper article which appeared in the Sunday, 10/27/68, issue of the Mobile Press Register, Mobile, Ala.

Mrs. H. W. GILL is identical with Mrs. HARRY W. (ELSIE C.) GILL, 10 Houston St., Mobile, Ala. 36606. She is Corresponding Secretary for the Forum for the Republic, before which group ASAC JOHN M. REED spoke on 9/12/68. (See Mobile letter, 9/4/68)

Mrs. GILL's comments are in connection with MELVIN BELLI's recent visit to Mobile. This article was sent to the Bureau by airtel dated 10/22/68.

Mobile files contain no derogatory information concerning Mrs. GILL. She is known to be a staunch supporter of the FBI and of the Director, as evidenced from the attached letter, and it is recommended that a letter be directed to her.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc 10)
- 1 - Mobile
- JMR:gre
- (4)

ENCLOSURE 10

REC 46

*Secret to Mrs. Gill on 10/21/68 copy 105-49865-52*

*NOV 1 1968*

*W.H. [unclear]*

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CORRESPONDENCE

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Approved: *[Signature]* Special Agent in Charge

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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**Belli And Hoover**

The Editor,

Dear Sir: Although a reporter described Mr. Melvin Belli, recent guest speaker to Spring Hill College here, as a "famed trial lawyer," one feels inclined to question the man's wisdom and his knowledge of his government's department of law and order, by reason of his public statements concerning our chief of the FBI.

When this reportedly famous wizard on the finer points of the law, intimates that J. Edgar Hoover is a hypocrite and is delinquent in his duties concerning the problem of rising crime in our nation, he evidently is woefully lacking in knowledge as to what the assignment of the Federal Bureau of Investigation really is.

By orders of our federal government, it is Mr. Hoover's job to get the facts in cases coming under federal jurisdiction, and to locate the culprits; after which he is equally duty-bound to turn his findings over to the Department of Justice. Thus, Mr. Hoover's job is primarily one of investigation and of the apprehension of the offenders; and his record in this line of duty is magnificent and above reproach.

Should Mr. Hoover undertake to prosecute the case or to insist on seeing to it that proper punishment is administered, he would indeed be overstepping his bounds.

Therefore, in view of this state of affairs, it is not only unjust but also indicative of extremely poor judgment in midst of the present crisis in our land for this Mr. Belli to criticize our wonderful chief of the FBI.

MRS. H. WY GILL  
10 Houston St.  
Mobile

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

Page 6-A  
Mobile Press  
Register,  
Mobile, Alabama

Date: 10/27/68  
Edition: Sunday  
Author: Mrs. H. W. Gill  
Editor: Fallon Trotter  
Title: "Letters to the Editor"

Character: 62-0  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Mobile  
 Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

105-49865-52

Mobile, Alabama  
October 2, 1968

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

Editor  
Mobile Press Register  
Mobile, Alabama 36602

*Copy*

Dear Sir:

Although a press reporter has described Mr. Melvin Belli, recent guest speaker to Spring Hill College here, as a "famed trial lawyer", one feels inclined to question the man's wisdom and his knowledge of his government's department of law and order, by reason of his public statements concerning our Chief of the FBI.

When this reportedly famous wizard on the finer points of the law, intimates that J. Edgar Hoover is a hypocrite and is delinquent in his duties concerning the problem of rising crime in our nation, he evidently is woefully lacking in knowledge as to what the assignment of the Federal Bureau of Investigation really is.

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Should Mr. Hoover undertake to prosecute the case or to insist on seeing to it that proper punishment is administered, he would indeed be over-stepping his bounds.

Therefore, in view of this state of affairs, it is not only unjust and un-patriotic, but it is also indicative of extremely poor judgement, in midst of the present crisis in our land, for this Mr. Belli to criticize our wonderful Chief of the FBI. Such mouthings are bound to bring comfort to the communists, the dupes, dopes and their fellow travellers in our nation.

If our "famed trial lawyer" is really concerned about crime in America, let us suggest that he aim his criticisms at the real basis of our problem - a Supreme Court and a U.S. Attorney General who consistently decide in favor of the enemy.

Patriotically yours

*Mrs. Gill*  
Mrs Gill 105-49865-3

cc: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

Mrs. H. W. Gill  
10 Houston Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36606

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6-18-80 BY SP2/TAP/90m

18 OCT 25 1968

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# THE MOBILE REGISTER

MOBILE, PRICHARD, CHICKASAW, ALABAMA, TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 22, 1968

Noted Trial Lawyer In Mobile For College Address

## Belli Not Shy Politically Or Otherwise



**WORLD-FAMOUS TRIAL LAWYER HERE**—World-famous trial lawyer Melvin Belli expounds his viewpoint on a wide variety of subjects in a Press Register interview in Mobile Monday. Belli was in the Port City to address the students of Spring Hill College. His speech was sponsored by the Student Government Association, headed by Jim Page.

By FRYE GAILLARD  
Register Staff Reporter

Melvin Belli is not a shy man. The famed trial lawyer has definite views on a wide variety of subjects, and he doesn't care who knows what they are.

For example, there is no ambiguity in his feelings about Republican presidential candidate Richard Nixon. He can't stand him. "There is no such thing as the new Nixon," Belli told the Press Register Monday. "It is just a case of Trickier Dick." "To know Nixon is to distrust

him," Belli continued. "Those who know him distrust him most of all."

Third party presidential candidate George C. Wallace is also on Belli's blacklist, although the lawyer regards him more highly than Nixon.

"I'd rather have Wallace than Nixon (as president)," Belli asserted. "At least we know where he stands. We know he is no good, and we know how to handle him."

The internationally known attorney said Vice President

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Hubert Humphrey is his choice for president. But he said Humphrey should cut himself loose from President Johnson's "umbilical cord."

"Johnson's presidency has been a horrible experience for the country," Belli elaborated. "There will never be another Southern president any time soon because people will remember LBJ came from the South."

**GREATEST THREAT**

Belli said he views organized

crime as the greatest threat to law in America. "Hypocrisies like J. Edgar Hoover have attempted to dupe the American people with catch phrases about crime in the streets," Belli maintained. "Hoover knows the extent of organized crime and who the leaders are, and yet he won't crack down."

The attorney charged that Hoover has criticized the U.S. Supreme Court because "he wants to use the lash" on people accused of crimes.

"He doesn't realize that

prisons have a front and a back door," Belli added. "People are supposed to go out as well as come in."

Belli views recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions concerning arrest and evidence as positive steps toward the rule of law in the United States.

He said he believes the decisions have created "The Law Revolution" (the title of his next book) which makes this "the age of the trial lawyer."

(Page 8, Col. 5, BELLI)

# Belli 10/27/68

From Page 1

"The position of the trial lawyer is this—he is more important than doctors, priests or the president," Belli asserted. "He safeguards liberties and freedom."

"It doesn't matter who is elected president," he added. "Whoever it is will not be able to undermine America's legal institutions. We lawyers will not let them."

Belli was scornful of statements by Wallace that he would alter directions of rulings by the Supreme Court. "Wallace knows he can't curb the power of the court. He's an intelligent man. He knows the principal of judicial review goes all the way back to Marbury vs. Madison (a landmark court ruling handed down when John Marshall was chief justice early in the 19th century.)"

The attorney explained that he felt "crime in the streets" will cease to become a serious problem.

He said he views it primarily as a manifestation of "anger on the part of the black man."

"Really it goes back to the Civil War," Belli continued. "We are finally coming to a national shakedown after the war, but we are coming through it beautifully."

Belli has offices in San Francisco, Tokyo, Rome and Frankfurt, Germany. One of his partners in the Frankfurt firm is another famed American lawyer, F. Lee Bailey.

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

He said he views Rubin as "an ebullient young rebel" who acts on his own "with no direction from any foreign power."

Burr, according to Belli, has absorbed a great deal of legal knowledge through his role as attorney Perry Mason.

Belli himself hopes to absorb a little acting ability from some of his clients. He says he will

play a role in an upcoming movie about his life.

In the movie, he will play a dishonest insurance broker.

The attorney was in Mobile Monday for a speech at Spring Hill College. His appearance was sponsored by the Student Government Association, the same group which will sponsor a debate between LSD advocate Timothy Leary and a medical doctor Nov. 11.