

JEH O & C # 105

Senator McCarthy



5:11

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

March 18, 1953

o.c.
TO BE RETURNED
TO MISS GANDY
ROOM 5633

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON ✓
MR. LADD ✓
MR. NICHOLS ✓

X Senator Joseph McCarthy called with reference to the Charles Bohlen appointment and the matter of keeping John Patten Davies on. He stated he was quite concerned regarding this entire picture as there was practically no change and everything was running about the same as it was a year ago. Senator McCarthy wondered whether I could tell him in complete confidence just how bad Bohlen actually was. I told him this, of course, was very hard to evaluate; that we made the investigation and that the request for the investigation was not received by us until after Bohlen was named for the appointment. I stated the investigation was just finished yesterday and the report was sent over to Mr. Dulles at that time.

I told Senator McCarthy that I did not know what Secretary ^{JOHN FOSTER} Dulles said this morning at the meeting or whether he took up the FBI summary. I stated according to what the press said apparently he, Dulles, felt there was no element involving security in our summary. I commented that I guessed it all depended on the viewpoint and how you looked at a thing of that kind; that quite a number of reputable ^{persons} spoke very highly of him and there were some people who had very detrimental things to say about him. Senator McCarthy asked whether I thought he was a homosexual and I told him I did not know; that that was a very hard thing to prove and the only way you could prove it was either by admission or by arrest and forfeiture of collateral. I stated this had not occurred in his case at all as far as we know, but it is a fact, and I believed very well known, that he is associating with individuals of that type. Senator McCarthy thought Bohlen should have been given a lie detector test and I told him that a lie detector was not always accurate. I commented that a particularly hard-boiled individual could probably fool the lie detector and on the other hand a nervous individual might be portrayed in a wrong light. I told the Senator it was very difficult to prove a charge of homosexuality; that he did associate with such individuals and certainly normally a person did not associate with individuals of that type. I stated he has been a very close buddy of ^{CARMEL} Office for many years and he is a well-known homosexual. The Senator was advised that we had no evidence to show any overt act, but he, Bohlen, had certainly used very bad judgment in associating with homosexuals. The Senator stated this was a matter that he was almost precluded from discussing on the Floor; that it was so easy to accuse a person of such acts but difficult to prove. I agreed and stated that it was often a charge used by persons who wanted to smear someone.

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Senator McCarthy then asked me how integral a part of the Acheson machine Bohlen was, and I stated though I had never met Bohlen my own personal reaction was that he was probably very expedient and would adjust to the people he worked for as long as it served his purpose. I indicated I did not feel this was indicative of much strength of character. I commented that Bohlen, of course, was quite high up in the Acheson operation.

Senator McCarthy then brought up the name of Paul Hoffman^X and stated he would like to speak to me about him sometime. He told me that a man by the name of Eric Kohler had appeared before their committee and that he was third in line at ECA. The Senator advised that his committee had sent to us, for the purposes of handwriting analysis, a bunch of correspondence which one of Kohler's boy friends had sent to the committee when he had gotten mad at Kohler. The Senator stated they learned that Kohler was signing the vouchers for the Commission that shipped material in Austria where like material was being shipped out into Soviet Russia. Senator McCarthy then indicated they had an executive session and went into the question of employing a homosexual which he, Kohler, very frankly admitted. The Senator stated he then asked Mr. Kohler if there were any other homosexuals that he had gotten government jobs for and Mr. Kohler objected to the use of the term "homosexual" or the phraseology "unusual moral proclivities" as he felt there was nothing unusual in such activities. I commented that was the fallacy of this type of thinking and it had been too much the thinking of the State Department over the years; that they considered it strictly a personal matter. Senator McCarthy stated he had always had his suspicions of Paul Hoffman and he asked Kohler if Hoffman knew he, Kohler, was a homosexual and Kohler hesitated for quite sometime before replying that he thought he did not know. I commented this was enough to arouse suspicions.

The Senator then mentioned the Ford Foundation^X which Paul Hoffman^X headed and stated he wanted to look into the matter of them spending \$15,000,000 to show how Communists should not be exposed. I commented there were a lot of bad persons in the Ford Foundation and I was greatly puzzled about this whole thing.

The Senator referred again to Charles Bohlen and stated he was going to make a talk on the Floor concerning Bohlen and he wondered if I had any public source information such as from the Daily Worker which he could use. I told him that we had investigated Bohlen from the security and morals angle and that frankly most of the material we got was from the State Department. I indicated we did not go into the analysis of political speeches, and so forth, as that was suppose to be handled by the State Department.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.
John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Room 5744 7-15, 1953

TO: Director
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Gearty
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy
Personnel Files Section
Records Section
Mrs. Skillman

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Gearty	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

See Me For appropriate action

Send File Note and Return

O. Conf. Files
 SENATOR JOSEPH
 File No. 100-100000
 X - Full name of Committee
 R - Full name of Com
 Full name of Edan

Clyde Tolson

etc.

FROM

DO-7

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Mr. Tolson	_____	()
Mr. Ladd	_____	()
Mr. Nichols	_____	()
Mr. Belmont	_____	()
Mr. Clegg	_____	()
Mr. Glavin	_____	()
Mr. Harbo	_____	()
Mr. Rosen	_____	()
Mr. Tracy	_____	()
Mr. Mohr	_____	()
Mr. Winterrowd	_____	()
Mr. Holloman	_____	()
Mr. Sizoo	_____	()
Miss Gandy	_____	()

See Me	_____	()
Note and Return	_____	()
For Your Recommendation	_____	()
What are the facts?	_____	()
Remarks:	_____	()

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

oe.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Belmont _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Gurnea _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Mohr _____
- Mr. Pennington _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

July 14, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON ✓
MR. NICHOLS

Yesterday Miss Jean Kerr, formerly secretary to Senator McCarthy, called to see me and stated that her visit was to be considered as confidential and that the Senator did not know that she was coming to see me. This latter I somewhat doubt in view of the developments in the conversation which followed.

Miss Kerr stated that she was considerably concerned about the situation existent in the Senator's Committee, growing out of the recent Matthews incident, and that she understood that there was a Special Agent by the name of Carr, attached to our New York Office that the Senator would appoint as Chief of Staff if I would agree to it but that I had not seen fit to accede to the request. She wanted to know whether I wouldn't reconsider this matter and either agree to the appointment of Special Agent Carr or suggest someone else who is either in the Bureau or has been in the Bureau who could be appointed to this position.

I told Miss Kerr that I thought there was some misunderstanding as to my position in this matter. I stated it was not up to me to concur or not concur as to whom Senator McCarthy appointed as Chief of Staff of his Committee. I stated it was a fact that Senator McCarthy and Mr. Cohn, counsel for the Committee, had been in contact with the Bureau and had inquired about the availability of Mr. Carr. I stated further that Mr. Cohn had directly contacted Mr. Carr about this appointment. Miss Kerr said she did not know of this last action and did not believe that the Senator knew of it. I stated that this phase was immaterial. I stated that the Senator and Mr. Cohn had been informed that I would not ask Mr. Carr to take the position as Chief of Staff of the McCarthy Committee and that I would neither approve nor disapprove if he took such a position, but it had been pointed out to the Senator that the appointment of an Agent now in the service and engaged upon work dealing with subversive activities would, no doubt, be seized upon by critics of the Senator and of the FBI as a deliberate effort to effect a direct "pipe line" into the FBI and that it would make necessary for the Bureau to be far more circumspect in all of its dealings with the McCarthy Committee should Mr. Carr be appointed.

Roy

all copies destroyed but Tolson's file

Miss Kerr stated that she could see this aspect of the matter and inquired as to whether I would in any way indicate publicly that I disapproved of the Carr appointment should it be made. I told Miss Kerr that I would neither indicate approval nor disapproval of whatever Mr. Carr did should he resign from the Bureau.

She stated she was concerned that the Senator might make a very sudden decision as to the appointment for this position and she feared that he would either appoint Mr. Kennedy, now on the legal staff of the Committee, or assign Mr. Flanagan, also on the same staff, to the position of Director of the Staff. She stated she believed that either of these designations would be unfortunate. I told her I did not know anything about Mr. Kennedy but that I was pretty well familiar with the activities and background of Flanagan and that certainly this Bureau could have no dealings with him, irrespective of what position he might hold.

She stated that she hoped that the Senator might delay taking final action upon this matter and that I might give some thought to suggesting some name or names to the Senator. I told Miss Kerr that I, of course, would keep her request in mind but that frankly I did not know of any advice which I could give to the Senator as to what he should do or as to whom he should appoint.

She inquired of me as to what I thought of Bob ^{Robert E.} Lee who is now with the Appropriations Committee of the House. I told her that Mr. Lee had had a very good record in the Bureau and I believed he had been out of the Bureau long enough so as not to have anyone attach to any such appointment the same suspicion that would attach to an Agent now in the employ of the Bureau. I told her that the only ex-Agent I knew who would be without commitments in the immediate future was former Special Agent Robert Collier, who has been counsel for the Keating Committee but I did not believe he would be available for several months and I doubted whether he would be interested in the position now vacant with the McCarthy Committee.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.
John Edgar Hoover
Director