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May 12, 2014

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.  
THE BLACK VAULT



FOIPA Request No.: 1244175-000  
Subject: ESTES, BILLIE SOL

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions:

Section 552		Section 552a
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> (j)(2)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1)
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(2)
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(E)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(3)
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(F)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(4)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(4)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(8)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(5)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(5)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(9)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(6)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(6)		<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(7)

34 pages were reviewed and 29 pages are being released.

Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:

- referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.
- referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

In accordance with standard FBI practice and pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. § 552/552a (b)(7)(E)/(j)(2)], this response neither confirms nor denies the existence of your subject's name on any watch lists.

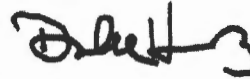
For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S. C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions.

You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's eFOIA portal at <http://www.justice.gov/oip/efoia-portal.html>. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,



David M. Hardy  
Section Chief  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosures (2)

In response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted to Records Management Division in Winchester, VA, enclosed is a processed copy of FBI Headquarters file 29-HQ-28704, serials 245, 246, 247. This request was negotiated down per the letter sent to you on December 24, 2013.

This material is being provided to you at no charge.

## EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1244175-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 5

- Page 2 ~ b6; b7C;
- Page 3 ~ b6; b7C;
- Page 4 ~ b6; b7C;
- Page 5 ~ b6; b7C;
- Page 6 ~ b6; b7C;

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X Deleted Page(s) X  
X No Duplication Fee X  
X For this Page X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
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July 1, 1965

JUL 1 4 19 PM '65  
REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI

BY COURIER SERVICE

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Curran

*JRM*

Honorable Marvin Watson  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

This is with reference to the case involving Billie Sol Estes. Information was received that a tape recording had been made in late January or February, 1965, which contained an indication that Estes had attempted to bribe Federal jurors. The tape recording has been obtained and furnished to the Department of Justice. It has been determined that there is information in the tape that may be of interest to the President.

The voices of the following individuals have been identified on the tape: [redacted] all friends of Estes, and [redacted]

[redacted] made the following statements: (1) he has a letter written from Lyndon Johnson to [redacted] of Commercial Solvents Corporation. (This corporation was the New York firm which extended Estes several million dollars in credit); (2) he understands that Mrs. Johnson has a big "chunk" of Commercial Solvents.

MAILED 4  
JUL 1 1965  
COMM-FBI

b6  
b7C

The President is aware that allegations of a connection between members of the Johnson family and Commercial Solvents have been made previously. All such allegations have been investigated, and no proof of any such connection has been found.

29-28704-5846

At this time at the request of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, we are going to interview [redacted] who allegedly attempted to approach the Estes jurors. Previous investigation of similar allegations could not substantiate the charge on the basis of information available.

b6  
b7C

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

TWC:imt (8)  
NOTE: [initials]

REC 33

Sincerely yours [signature]

See Rosen to Belmont memorandum 6/30/65, captioned "Billie Sol Estes."

JUL 6 1965

JUL 15 1965  
MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

*Handwritten initials and signatures*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Belmont *RB*

DATE: June 30, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen *AR*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Curran

SUBJECT: BILLIE SOL ESTES  
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF  
STOLEN PROPERTY

## PURPOSE

A tape recording has been obtained in connection with the Estes case which mentions the FBI, President Lyndon Johnson and his wife. The recording was allegedly made in late January or February, 1965. The Department has been furnished a transcript of the tape which deals with a possible attempt by Estes to influence the Federal jury which found him guilty on April 15, 1963. Department has now requested an investigation limited to one interview. A confirming letter to the Department is attached as well as a letter to the White House and an airtel with instructions to the field.

## BACKGROUND

Shortly after the trial of Billie Sol Estes in Federal court, as a result of which he was sentenced to 15 years on April 19, 1963, we received information that one [redacted] friend of Estes, contacted four Negro jurors. Investigation was instituted to determine if there was an Obstruction of Justice violation. This matter was completely investigated and the results furnished to the U. S. Attorney's Office and to the Department of Justice but no prosecution was authorized. Estes is presently in Federal prison serving the 15 year Federal sentence.

b6  
b7c

On May 27, 1965, [redacted] a close personal friend of Estes, advised the El Paso Office that [redacted] had been interviewed concerning an attempt by Estes to bribe the jury and that the interview had been taped. At the request of the Department of Justice (confirmed by communication June 3, 1965) we obtained the tape. The voices are not always sufficiently audible to make a complete transcription possible. The laboratory prepared the best possible tape transcription which has now been put into a written transcription by personnel of the El Paso Office who were familiar with the voices involved.

*44-28104-5850*

*SP*  
**0 JUL 19 1965**  
*313*

Enclosures (3) *AR*  
TWC:imt (7)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr, Belmont  
RE: BILLIE SOL ESTES

ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE FBI

[redacted] in the transcript stated that he had been shown statements taken from the jurors by the FBI, that the FBI Agents offered him a bribe and gave him a high letter of recommendation to the local sheriff. The Department and U. S. Attorney were advised by communication dated June 18, 1965, that these allegations were completely false. We have secured an affidavit concerning the falsity of these statements from Special Agent [redacted] of the El Paso Office who was present at all interviews with [redacted]

b6  
b7C

Another affidavit from an Agent\*who has since been transferred is being obtained. Special Agent Willard D. Wharton who participated with Special Agent [redacted] on one interview has since retired and is presently traveling. No further action concerning the affidavits is contemplated until after [redacted] is reinterviewed.

STATEMENTS CONCERNING PRESIDENT JOHNSON

The voices of the following individuals appear on the tape: [redacted] a close personal friend of Billie Sol Estes; [redacted] another personal friend of Estes; and [redacted]

b6  
b7C

[redacted] makes the following statements:  
(1) he has a letter written from Lyndon Johnson to [redacted] of Commercial Solvents (Commercial Solvents was the large New York based firm which supplied Estes with fertilizer and extended him several million dollars in credit); and (2) Lady Bird has a big chunk of Commercial Solvents.

Allegations of a connection between members of President Johnson's family and Commercial Solvents have occurred frequently, have been investigated and no proof of any connection has been found. The White House has been previously advised of results of investigation of these allegations.

GENERAL CONTENTS OF THE TAPE

[redacted] according to his statements on the tape, which are vague, indicates he did attempt to bribe the jury but was unsuccessful. He makes one very pertinent statement "there were two of the, two of the fellows, that I was pretty close, actually took the money."

b6  
b7C

\*SA [redacted] - 2 -

CONTINUED- OVER



Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: BILLIE SOL ESTES

He then states that they gave the money back. It is presumed from the context although he does not actually name the individuals who took the money as being jurors that they are. He also states he can try to obtain statements from jurors that they were pressured by the judge and/or FBI.

There is a discussion of Estes' friendship and assistance to Ralph Yarborough (Senator from Texas). This connection between Yarborough and Estes was the topic of much newspaper publicity and was thoroughly investigated and reported. [redacted] also makes a statement that one of "Billie's" best personal friends was [redacted] and that Estes claimed to be the fall guy for Commercial Solvents.

Although the recording covers 148 pages double space, there is much general discussion set out ranging from trial proceedings and ability of counsel to the effectiveness of tablets for curing a cold. Many lines reflect garbled conversation without meaning or consist of one word. The only items of interest to the Bureau are those set out above.

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b7c

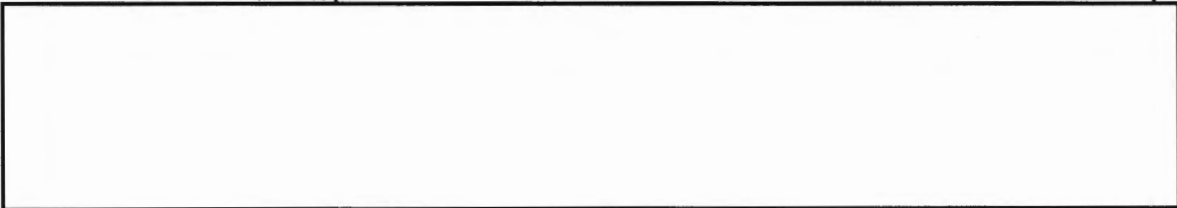
#### ACTION

(1) Even though the allegations concerning a connection between Commercial Solvents and Lyndon Johnson have previously been investigated and the White House advised of the results, a letter to the White House setting forth this information in the tape is attached. The letter points out that at the request of the Department we are going to interview [redacted] who allegedly attempted to approach the Estes jurors. It is pointed out that our previous investigation of similar allegations could not substantiate the charge on the basis of information available.

(2) The Department and the U. S. Attorney's Office have been furnished a copy of the transcript and the tape. A letter is attached to the Department of Justice confirming their request for a limited investigation and the field is being instructed to make certain that in reporting the investigation that they specifically point out that it was limited at the request of the Department of Justice.

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: BILLIE SOL ESTES

(3) Airtel is attached instructing the El Paso Office to initiate a limited investigation consisting of a reinterview of [redacted]



b6  
b7C  
b7E

*R*   *JMM*   *✓*   *RS*   *RS*   *TC*   *J*  
*OP.*  
*D*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Dallas, Texas  
February 19, 1965

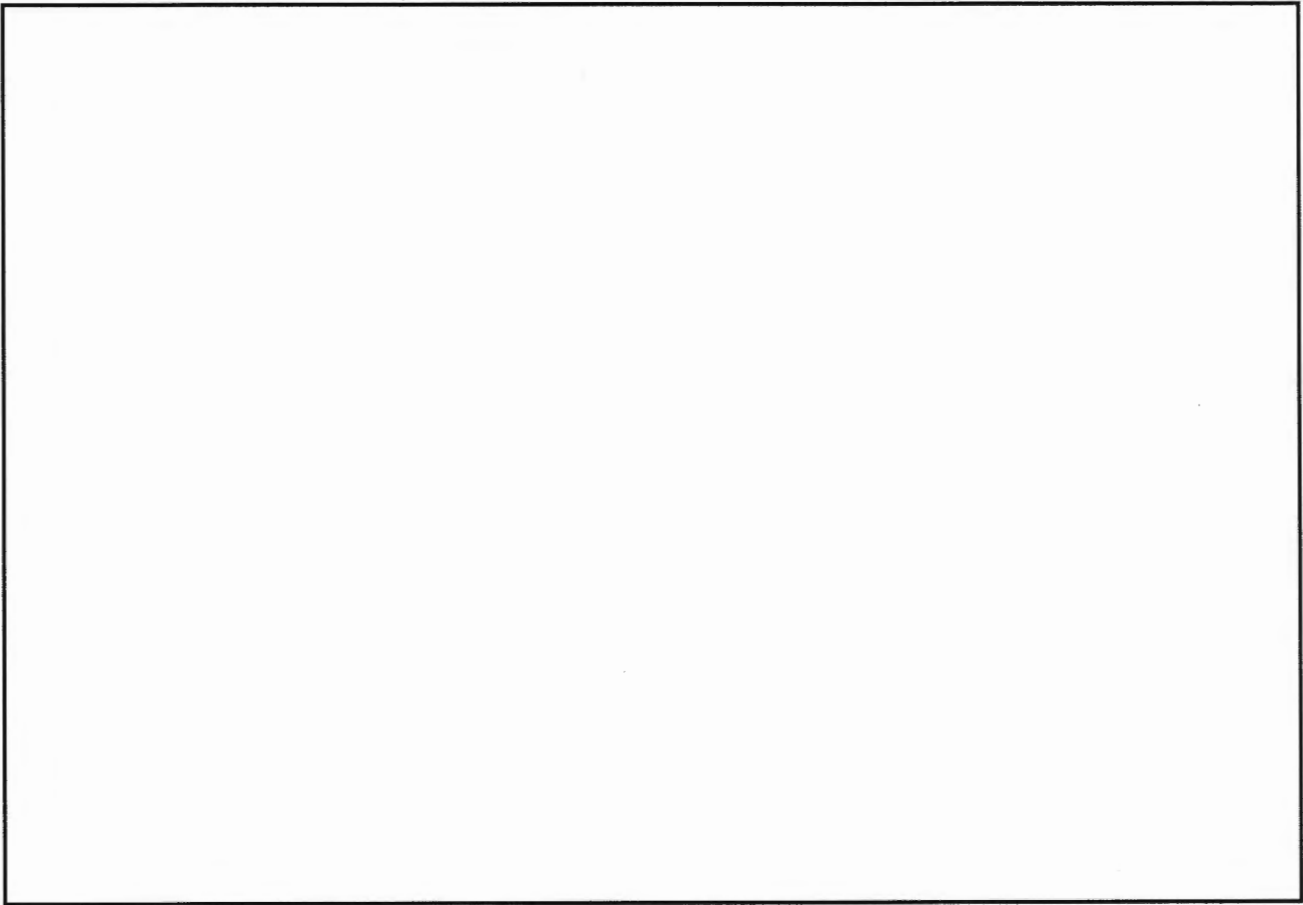
BILLIE SOL ESTES

On February 18, 1965, a confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past and who is an acquaintance of Billie Sol Estes, advised one [redacted]

[redacted] with residence at [redacted] [redacted] contacted him at Abilene, Texas, on February 18, 1965, claiming he was on a "mission" designed to get Estes out on bond and "off the hook" on all charges currently pending against him by indefinite delays.

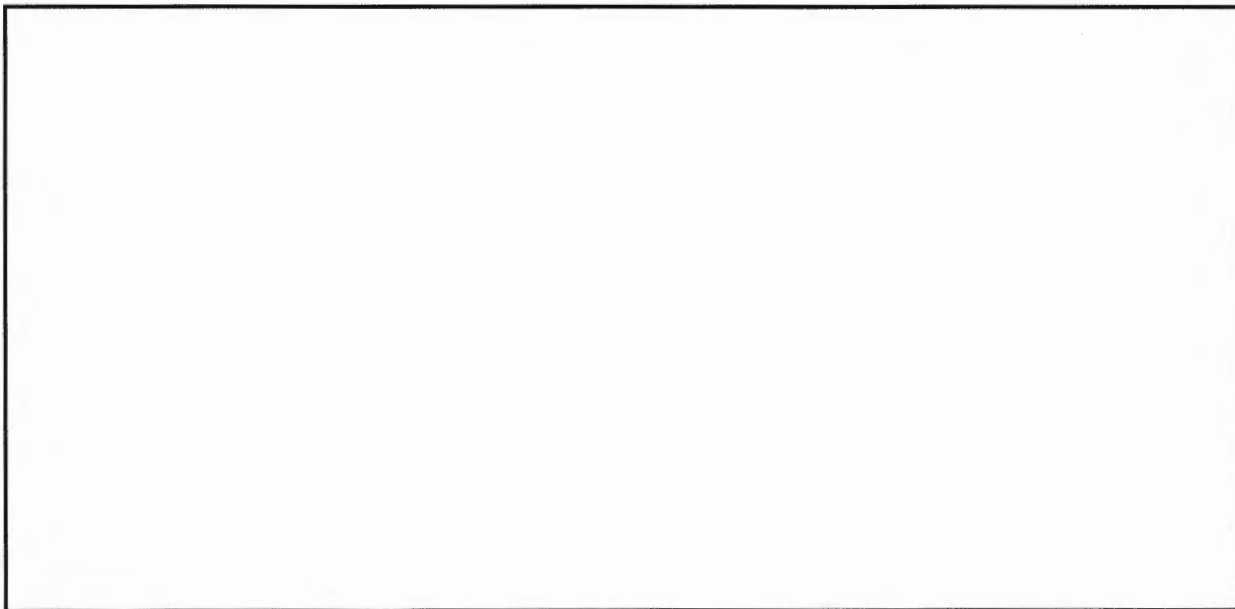
b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C  
b7D



44-20704-5155  
100-1

Re: BILLIE SOL ESTES



b6  
b7C  
b7D

[redacted] told this source he is returning to Johnson City and Austin, Texas, on February 20 and 21, 1965, for the purpose of conferences with [redacted] supra, and thereafter planned to be back in Abilene, Texas, on February 22 for another meeting with [redacted] also



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b7D

Source stated [redacted] was not previously known to him prior to this contact and, therefore, could not comment on the veracity of the information contributed to him above. [redacted]

[redacted] did identify himself as being [redacted] of [redacted]  
[redacted]

b6  
b7C

Re: BILLIE SOL ESTES

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

The Attorney General

February 25, 1965

27-28704-5786

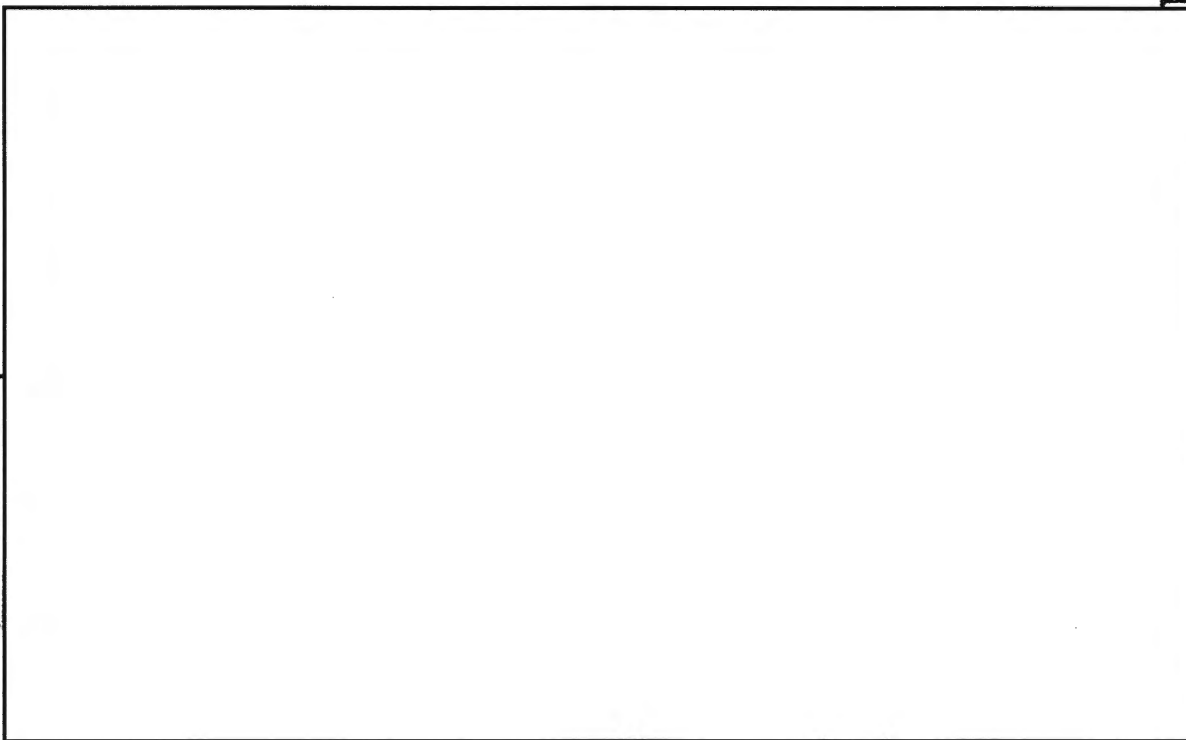
Director, FBI

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Curran

BILLIE SOL ESTES

Information has been received from a confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, that efforts are being made to obtain Estes' release on bail through instructions from President Johnson and Governor John D. Connally of Texas.

One  furnished our source with the following information:



REC'D-READING ROOM  
F B I  
FEB 25 9 32 AM '65

b6  
b7C  
b7D

MAILED 2  
FEB 25 1965  
COMM-FBI

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

TWC:imt  
(9)

NOTE: See memo Rosen to Belmont, 2/24/65, same caption,

TWC:imt

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

U. HENRY

The source stated that  was not previously known to him and he could not comment on the veracity of the information.

*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
 RSB  
 J  
 J  
 J

REC 67  
EX-112  
27-28704-5786

The Attorney General

The above is being furnished for information and has also been furnished to the White House by letter to the Honorable Marvin Watson.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Belmont *MB*

DATE: February 24, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen *AR*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Curran

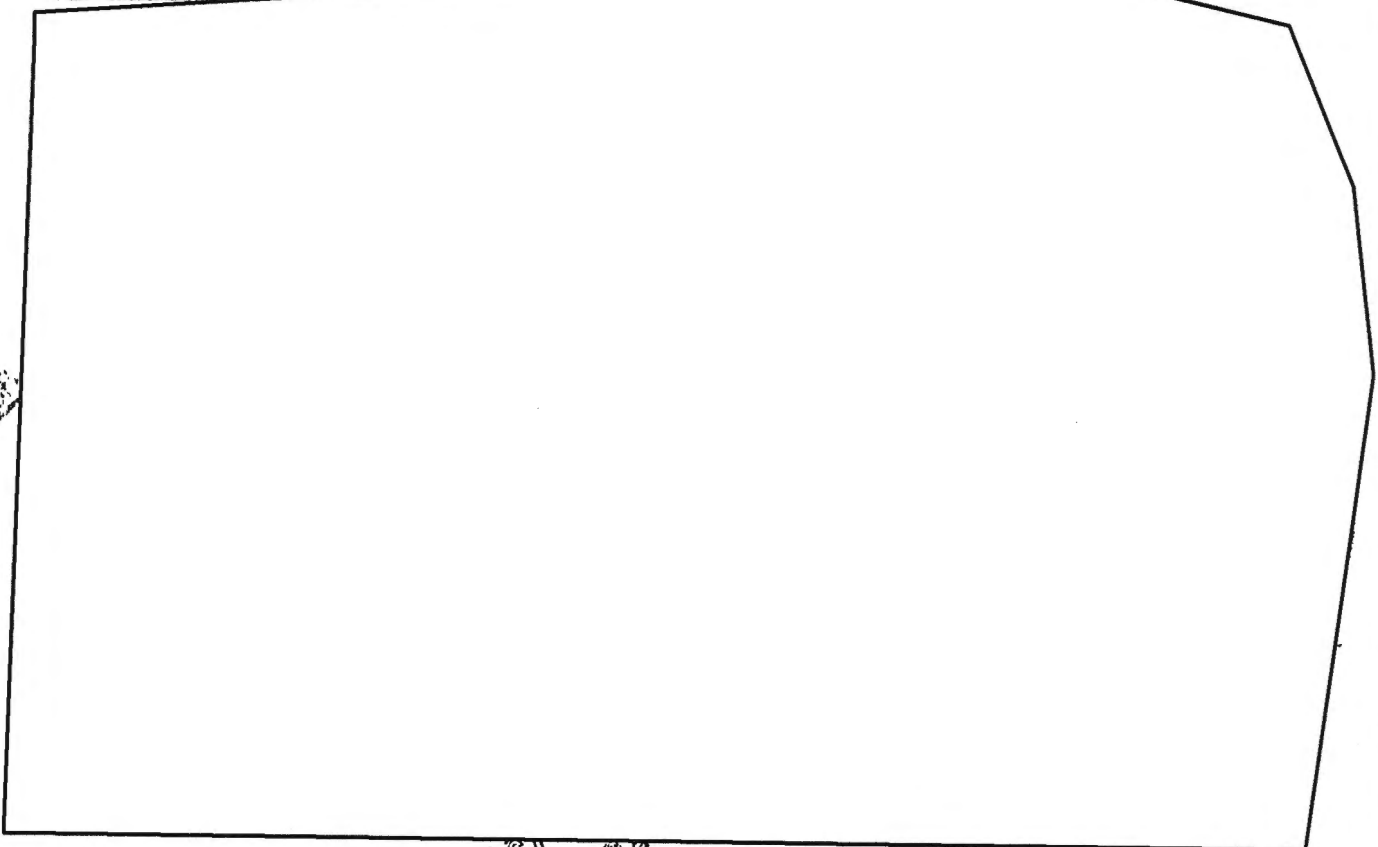
SUBJECT: BILLIE SOL ESTES

*Curran*

## PURPOSE

This is to advise that an allegation has been received to the effect that President Johnson and Texas Governor John B. Connally working through other individuals are attempting to get Estes out on bond and "off the hook" on all charges currently pending against him.

## BACKGROUND



*121*

Enclosures (2) *REC-61* *2-28-65* MAR 1 1965

TWC:imt  
(7) *imt*

*File*  
CONTINUED - OVER *to TC*

b6  
b7C  
b7D



Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: BILLIE SOL ESTES

BUREAU FILES

Bureau files show Mr. [redacted] Johnson City, Texas, as an attorney and ranch owner friend of Lyndon Johnson. The Director met [redacted] at the time of a speech by the Director at a Meeting of the United Fund of Austin and Travis County, Texas, November 9, 1959. Correspondence was cordial.

b6  
b7C

ACTION

We have previously conducted extensive investigation based on rumors of a connection between President Johnson and Estes with negative results. In view of the nature of the information received [redacted] there are attached letters to the White House and the Attorney General setting out the material attributed to [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

*[Handwritten notes and signatures]*  
A ✓ RS  
OK  
Q RB  
J. Edgar Hoover

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Belmont *albo*

DATE: October 15, 1964

FROM : A. Rosen *Ru*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Curran

SUBJECT: BILLIE SOL ESTES -  
[redacted]

[redacted] friend of Estes, advised us that [redacted] through [redacted] advised Estes that he would receive a full pardon if Senator Barry Goldwater became President. [redacted] advised that he therefore arranged a meeting which was subsequently attended by [redacted] Estes, [redacted] and one of [redacted] employees. At the specific request of the White House we have interviewed [redacted] a "New York Journal American" writer.

b6  
b7C

[redacted] was interviewed on October 1, 1964, by Agents of the Newark Office. [redacted] was cordial and friendly, but stated he would limit the extent of his statement concerning the work he had done in the Estes case because of the professional relationship involved. Throughout the interview [redacted] refused to identify the individual who employed him to investigate the Estes matter. During the interview a discussion was had with [redacted] concerning his leave of absence from the "New York Journal American" in order to clarify the purpose of this leave. [redacted] stated that the "New York Journal American" was trying to discourage the leave of absence and he was about ready to agree when the "Goldwater" assignment came up. At this point [redacted] paused momentarily then stated "Oh boy, I am not very bright today." He followed with a comment to the effect that he did not wish to discuss the matter further because of professional ethics.

b6  
b7C

In summary, [redacted] admits arranging and attending the two meetings, denies obtaining any specific information, and confirms the statement that Estes said he had information and documents secreted in the "mountains" which Estes would not further identify. With reference to the alleged offer of a pardon, [redacted] said that Estes inquired as to what consideration he would receive for furnishing information he had hidden. [redacted] stated that he told Estes he [redacted] had no authority to make any offers or deals.

b6  
b7C

At the conclusion of the interview, [redacted] said he had been very sorry he had taken this special assignment. He refused to elaborate further other than to say his own personal political feelings were in direct opposition to this assignment, and he had taken the assignment only as another job.

Enclosure

TWC:imt

(7)

EX 110

REC-10

29-28704-5803

CONTINUED - OVER

17 APR 9 1965

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont

RE: BILLIE SOL ESTES - [redacted]

b6  
b7c

ACTION

(1) Noting that [redacted] who has served time in prison, and [redacted] differ as to whether or not [redacted] made an offer in behalf of Goldwater, we are attempting to locate a public stenographer who was the only other person present when [redacted] allegedly made the offer. [redacted] has stated he did not recall her name; [redacted] could not identify her. We are attempting to check airplane records which might help in this regard, but if not we plan to recontact [redacted]

(2) [redacted] and [redacted] were advised by letter of the results of the interview and that we were going to recontact [redacted] concerning the stenographer.

(3) Detailed memorandum attached.

✓ TC TRIS  
8

*A* *Jan*  *J*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (29-38704)

DATE: 4/6/65

FROM : SAC, EL PASO (72-26) (P)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

*Bilsol*

Enclosed are two copies of a memo dated 4/2/65, from SA [REDACTED] to the SAC, EL PASO, which is self-explanatory.

b6  
b7C

Basically, this memo sets forth that [REDACTED] an attorney [REDACTED] El Paso, Texas, complained to SA [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] another attorney with offices at [REDACTED] had informed [REDACTED] another attorney with offices at [REDACTED] that the FBI was about ready, "to close the door" on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] described [REDACTED] as his associate and boss. [REDACTED] was of the opinion that [REDACTED] had obtained his information from an FBI Agent in the El Paso Office.

For the information of the Bureau, an effort was made on 4/2/65, to interview [REDACTED]. It was determined at that time that [REDACTED] was out of town and would return to El Paso on 4/6/65.

On 4/6/65, [REDACTED] was interviewed by ASAC JAMES J. MIDDLETON and SA [REDACTED] at the El Paso FBI Office. [REDACTED] categorically denied that he had advised anyone that the FBI was about ready, "to close the door" on [REDACTED] and furthermore, that he had not visited the FBI Office.

[REDACTED] stated that he had advised [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] might be in trouble; however, he had no definite information as to what kind of trouble in which

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COPIES  
1  
2

② - Bureau (Enc  
1 - El Paso  
JMS:shd  
(3)

ENCLOSURE  
289

REC-11

29-28704-580

6 APR 8 1965

ST-105

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



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EP 72-26

[redacted] might be involved. [redacted] explained that he had been talking to U.S. Probation Officer [redacted] [redacted] who advised him that [redacted] may be in trouble with the Federal Government. However, according to [redacted] [redacted] did not mention the specific nature of the trouble, nor did he mention any specific agency.

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[redacted] stated that he would immediately return to his law office and set the record straight with both [redacted] [redacted] We also recontacted [redacted]

The above is being furnished to the Bureau for information in case [redacted] should make any inquiry of the Bureau in the future.

SAC, EL PASO (72-26) (P)  
PERSONAL ATTN.

4/2/65

SA [redacted]

[redacted] - Complainant

On the afternoon of April 1, 1965 while boarding the elevator in the U. S. Court House, SA [redacted] met [redacted] attorney, with offices at [redacted] and he requested to talk to SA [redacted] confidentially outside of the building. SA [redacted] and [redacted] left the elevator and on the San Antonio Street steps to the U. S. Court House he advised SA [redacted] of the following:

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[redacted] stated that during late January, 1965 while DILLIE SOL ESTES was in the El Paso County Jail, he received a call from ESTES and after going to the jail ESTES advised him that he would appreciate it very much if he, [redacted] would show [redacted] and their children to the El Paso County Jail in order to visit him. [redacted] stated that ESTES made this request inasmuch as it is a rule of the El Paso County Jail that if an attorney is present, the visit may take place in a room. However, if an attorney is not present the visitor must talk with the inmate through jail bars.

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[redacted] stated that he agreed to do this and told Mr. ESTES that he, [redacted] would be leaving town, however, if he was not available at the time [redacted] and the children arrived, the request could be made of his associate [redacted]

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[redacted] continued that [redacted] met with DILLIE SOL ESTES in the El Paso County Jail on several occasions in late January, 1965 inasmuch as he, [redacted] had to go to Washington on business. He advised that for

4-El Paso

[redacted]:mad

(4)

1-5104

some reason unknown to him [redacted] came over to the El Paso FBI Office where he spoke to an unknown agent. [redacted] stated that he does not know why [redacted] did this but may have felt that the FBI would be interested in any and all persons conversing with BILLIE SOL ESTES in the El Paso County Jail. [redacted] said that in any event [redacted] allegedly came over to the El Paso FBI Office and spoke with an agent and that this FBI agent told him that the FBI had conducted an investigation of [redacted] that developed considerable information and were about ready "to close the door" on [redacted]

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[redacted] advised that he was very disturbed over this matter and that the information had been passed on to his associate and boss who is [redacted] and as a result, his own position with his law firm is in jeopardy.

[redacted] stated that it is hard for him to believe that any FBI agent would reveal confidential information from the files of the FBI. He stated that he has no reason to doubt [redacted] and since [redacted] said he talked with an FBI agent and learned this information from an FBI agent he felt that it was probably true. [redacted] stated that he does not have any idea as to the identity of the FBI agent with whom [redacted] spoke here in El Paso. He stated that he was aware that it was not SA [redacted] inasmuch as he had asked [redacted] this question. He stated that [redacted] does know who he spoke to or at least could furnish a description he felt certain.

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SA [redacted] told [redacted] that he was unaware that [redacted] had visited the FBI Office and further that to the best of SA [redacted] knowledge has never met [redacted]

EP 72-26

[redacted] stated that he would very much like to know whether or not [redacted] did visit the El Paso FBI Office, however, SA [redacted] advised him that he was not in a position to furnish him this information.

The name of [redacted] was developed as a [redacted] for that matter El Paso file 72-26. This is a jury tampering type case in which grew out of the BILLIE SOL ESTES trial here in U. S. District Court in El Paso.

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SA [redacted] told [redacted] that he was not at liberty to furnish him any information and as a matter of fact was not in possession of any information pertinent to his inquiry but that he would pass his complaint on to the SAC.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Dallas, Texas  
October 17, 1964

BILLIE SOL ESTES

The investigation reported herein was concerned with identification of a public stenographer who reportedly accompanied [redacted] from Dallas, Texas to the Terminal Airport, Midland-Odessa, Texas on January 28, 1964, where [redacted] is said to have talked with [redacted] of Pecos, Texas.

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Attached are the results of interviews with

[redacted]

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

1-3704  
ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Belmont *AB*

FROM : A. Rosen *Rosen*

SUBJECT: BILLIE SOL ESTES

DATE: October 22, 1964

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Belmont

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. Shroder

1 - Mr. Curran

## PURPOSE

This is to recommend that the attached letters be sent to Special Assistant to the President Moyers and Acting Attorney General Katzenbach furnishing the results of our reinterview with [redacted] on October 20, 1964.

## BACKGROUND

This matter concerns a meeting between [redacted], a writer for the "New York Journal American," [redacted] a close friend of Estes, and [redacted]. We have previously advised [redacted] and Katzenbach of information concerning this meeting. Our previous letter stated that we planned to locate and interview [redacted] an itinerant farm hand, because [redacted] had stated that [redacted] claimed to be a personal friend of the President, to have seen him many times with Estes and to have pictures of Estes and the President together.

## ACTION

The attached letters to [redacted] and Katzenbach set out the results of the interview with [redacted] in which he denies making any such statement. [redacted] refers to a rumor that Estes and Mr. Johnson met in Midland, Texas. The letters show that we were aware of this rumor and that Mr. Johnson previously refuted the allegation.

[redacted] stated that on one occasion when he asked Estes if he had been in contact with Mr. Johnson, Estes replied that he had not but had been in contact with one of Mr. Johnson's aides. It is pointed out that our files show contacts between Estes and [redacted] assistant to Mr. Johnson. [redacted] had advised us that he handled routine inquiries from Estes but was never asked to do any favors for Estes.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the attached letters be sent.

Enclosures (2) sent 10-23-64

TWC:imt (7)

58 OCT 30 1964

ENCLOS

REC-44 29-28704 5705  
18 OCT 27 1964

*Handwritten signatures and initials:* [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear]

*Handwritten notes:* 58 OCT 30 1964, 29-28704 to TWC

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
DeLoach	_____
Wasper	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
Evans	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: October 20, 1964

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Curran

SUBJECT: BILLIE SOL ESTES

## PURPOSE

This is to advise that the allegation that [redacted] a New York writer, offered Estes money and a pardon on behalf of [redacted] is not corroborated by two people present at the meeting where the alleged offer was made. [redacted] and a public stenographer have both been interviewed with negative results concerning such an offer, which [redacted] the third person at the meeting, said was made.

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## BACKGROUND

[redacted] who was on leave of absence from the "New York Journal American" is presently a "special features series writer" for the "Journal American." We have ascertained that [redacted] had two meetings for the purpose of determining whether any persons in the Government were assisting or had assisted Estes in carrying out his fraudulent schemes.

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[redacted] a close friend of Estes, and [redacted] were present at the meeting at which [redacted] alleges [redacted] promised that Estes would receive a full pardon if Senator Barry Goldwater became President. [redacted] was interviewed, and while cordial and friendly, stated he would limit the extent of his statement concerning the work he had done in the Estes case because of the professional relationship involved. With reference to the alleged offer of a pardon, [redacted] said Estes inquired as to what consideration he would receive for furnishing information and that he, [redacted] told Estes that he had no authority to make any offers or deals.

The results of our interviews with [redacted] have previously been furnished by letter to [redacted] Mr. Katzenbach. They were advised that we would attempt to identify the public stenographer whom [redacted] were unable or unwilling to identify. The [redacted] has been located. She stated she was present at the meeting with Worsham and [redacted] did not record the entire conversation but only parts of the conversation as instructed by [redacted]. She said that [redacted] claimed to be a personal friend of President Johnson and to have seen him many times with Estes and claimed to have pictures of Estes and the President together. [redacted] stated there was

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Enclosures

TWC:imt  
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CONTINUED - OVER

58 OCT 30 1964

EX 109

18 OCT 27 1964

*sent 22-64 REG-44*  
*29-28704 5706*  
*29-2470*  
*6TV*

*Custom  
10/17/64*

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

OCT 17 1964

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

*Chapman*

*Chapman*

FBI DALLAS

1012 PM CST URGENT 10-16-64 FLL

TO DIRECTOR, EL PASO, WFO, NEWARK

FROM DALLAS (58-188) 5P

BIL SOL. RE DALLAS TEL TODAY CONCERNING EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY  
STENOGRAPHER WHO ACCOMPANIED [REDACTED] TO MIDLAND-ODESSA, TEX.,  
JANUARY TWENTYEIGHT, LAST.

STENOGRAPHER IDENTIFIED AS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
EMPLOYED BY EVANS BUSINESS SERVICES OPERATED BY HER SISTER,  
[REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

WHOM ARE SUBJECTS IN BUFILE EIGHTYSEVEN DASH, SEVEN FOUR ZERO  
NINE FIVE, [REDACTED] AKA DASH FUG., ET AL, UFAP DASH  
BOGUS CHECKS, OKLAHOMA CITY ORIGIN, DALLAS EIGHTYSEVEN DASH ONE  
TWO ZERO SEVEN ONE. ABOVE FILE APPEARS TO INDICATE [REDACTED] WAS  
DUPE OF [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] WAS DUPE OF HER SISTER IN  
ASSISTING [REDACTED] IN PREPARATION OF FICTITIOUS CHECKS.

REC-44 29-28704-5707

18 OCT 27 1964

[REDACTED] IN INTERVIEW DECLINED TO GIVE SIGNED STATEMENT  
STATING SHE DID NOT FEEL CERTAIN ENOUGH OF ALL OF HER FACTS TO

END PAGE ONE

*t/c DL REP  
10-17-64  
TWC:mont  
cc: Curran*

TWO COPIES WFO

PAGE TWO

EXECUTE STATEMENT. ADVISED ORALLY, CONFIRMED BY HER SISTER, THAT [REDACTED] CALLED EVANS BUSINESS SERVICES AND DISCUSSED USING STENOGRAPHER. ON SECOND OR THIRD CALL, [REDACTED] STATED HAD CHECKED THE AGENCY OUT AND FOUND THEM RELIABLE, THAT HIS WORK WAS VERY CONFIDENTIAL. [REDACTED] WENT TO [REDACTED] ROOM ONE NIGHT, DATE NOT RECALLED, TOOK SOME DICTATION, SUBSTANCE NOT RECALLED, FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR. [REDACTED] WANTED HER TO RETURN NEXT NIGHT, BUT SHE WAS ILL. SHE DID RETURN THE FOLLOWING NIGHT TO [REDACTED] ROOM, TOOK SOME DICTATION OVER TWO AND ONE-HALF HOUR PERIOD, SUBSTANCE OF COMMUNICATIONS NOT RECALLED.

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[REDACTED] ON SECOND NIGHT OF DICTATION HE NEEDED SOMEONE TO TAKE NOTES ON A CONVERSATION WITH A MAN FROM PECOS, TEX., WHOM HE WAS TO MEET AT MIDLAND, TEX., AIRPORT. [REDACTED] STATED PURPOSE WAS TO GET INFO UNIDENTIFIED MAN HAD CONCERNING PRESIDENT JOHNSON. [REDACTED] INDICATED HAD RECEIVED TIP THIS MAN WOULD BE GOOD PERSON TO CONTACT. [REDACTED] SAID HE HAD TALKED TO THE PECOS MAN BY TELEPHONE, BUT THE MAN WOULD NOT DISCUSS THE MATTER AT HAND BY PHONE, INSISTING ON THE MEETING.

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[REDACTED] STATED ACCOMPANIED [REDACTED] BY PLANE TO MIDLAND-ODESSA AIRPORT AND RETURNED ON SAME DATE, EARLY SIXTYFOUR. [REDACTED] MAN  
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

RECALLED AS [ ] WAS WAITING AT AIRPORT AND DROVE HER AND [ ] TO HOWARD JOHNSON'S RESTAURANT TWO OR THREE MILES AWAY WHERE THEY STAYED FOR PERHAPS TWO HOURS. [ ] STATES SHE DID NOT RECORD IN SHORTHAND ENTIRE CONVERSATION OF [ ] AND RECALLS VERY LITTLE ABOUT CONVERSATION. [ ] WOULD SIGNAL TO HER b6 b7C WHEN HE WANTED PARTICULAR PARTS OF CONVERSATION RECORDED AND WOULD HAVE [ ] REPEAT STATEMENTS FOR HER BENEFIT.

[ ] REPRESENTED HE WAS WITH "GOLDWATER INTERESTS", ALSO HAD HIS OWN COMPANY AND WAS WORKING WITH GOLDWATER CAMPAIGN ALONG THE LINES OF HIS OWN BUSINESS. [ ] TOLD [ ] HE WANTED ALL b6 b7C INFO CONCERNING ASSOCIATION OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND ESTES, THAT FACTS WOULD NOT BE BROUGHT OUT UNTIL AFTER CONVENTION, PRESUMABLY REPUBLICAN. [ ] CLAIMED TO BE A PERSONAL FRIEND OF PRESIDENT AND TO HAVE SEEN HIM MANY TIMES WITH ESTES, CLAIMED TO HAVE PICTURES OF THE TWO TOGETHER.

[ ] WANTED [ ] TO SIGN SOMETHING, BUT [ ] DECLINED INDICATING FEAR OF A "BULLET" STATING HE MIGHT BE SHOT LIKE SOME PERSON HE NAMED, NAME NOT RECALLED. [ ] RECALLS THERE WAS CONVERSATION ABOUT SOME LADY "WHO HAD ALL THE MONEY" WHICH WAS "BEHIND ESTES". THERE WAS CONVERSATION ABOUT TV STATIONS OWNED BY  
END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

MRS. JOHNSON. [ ] STATED DESIRED TO HAVE [ ] ARRANGE MEETING WITH ESTES IN ORDER TO GET "EVIDENCE" FROM ESTES REGARDING HIS CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENT.

[ ] STATED [ ] AGREED TO CONTACT ESTES AND ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH ESTES FOR [ ] STATES SEVERAL NAMES OF OTHER PERSONS WERE MENTIONED, BUT SHE DOES NOT RECALL SAME AND DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY REMEMBER NAME OF SENATOR YARBOROUGH BEING MENTIONED.

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[ ] STATED AT CONCLUSION OF CONVERSATION IT WAS AGREED [ ] WOULD CONTACT [ ] TO DETERMINE WHETHER MEETING WITH ESTES ARRANGED, THAT [ ] FEARED HIS TELEPHONE MIGHT BE TAPPED AND SAID WHEN [ ] CALLED, HE [ ] WOULD CALL [ ] BACK FROM ANOTHER TELEPHONE. UPON RETURN TO DALLAS, [ ] ACCOMPANIED [ ] TO HOTEL ROOM, WHERE HE HAD HER DICTATE FROM HER NOTES TO HIM WHILE [ ] TYPED ON TYPEWRITER. THEREAFTER [ ] TOOK HER NOTES WHICH HAD BEEN MADE ON A TABLET WHICH HE HAD PROVIDED. SHE HAS NOT SEEN OR HEARD OF [ ] SINCE.

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ALTHOUGH [ ] PAID CASH FOR HER SERVICES ON FIRST TWO NIGHTS, HE ASKED HE BE BILLED FOR HER SERVICES FOR MIDLAND-ODESSA TRIP. HE HAS BEEN BILLED BUT STILL HAS NOT PAID FIFTY DOLLARS DUE.

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

IT WAS IMPRESSION OF AGENTS THAT WHILE [ ] SISTER IS MENTALLY ALER, [ ] IS SOMEWHAT DULL. THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR INDICATION SHE WAS WITHHOLDING INFO, BUT RATHER THAT SHE ATTACHED LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE TO THE CONVERSATION AND SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSED. SHE PROFESSED NO RECOLLECTION OF ANY PROMISES [ ] ASKED [ ] TO RELAY TO ESTES IN RETURN FOR INFO CONCERNING ESTES-JOHNSON CONNECTION.

LETTERHEAD MEMO WILL FOLLOW.

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END

WA JR

FBI WASH DC\*

EP DRH

FBI EL PASO

NK PLS REPEAT FIRST THREE LINES PAGE FOUR, GARBLED OK

~~MRS. JOHNSON. [ ] STATED DESIRED TO HAVE [ ] ARRANGE MEETING WITH ESTES IN ORDER TO EXXX GET "EVIDENCE" FROM ESTES REGARDING HIS CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENT.~~

OK MIN PLS

NK AFW

FBI NEWARK

TU@





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

202 U.S. Court House  
El Paso, Texas 79901  
October 21, 1964

BILLIE SOL ESTES

On October 19, 1964, [redacted] was interviewed at the Ramada Inn East, El Paso, Texas, at which time he advised that he has never told [redacted] nor the public stenographer used by [redacted] that he was a personal friend of the President; that ESTES was a personal friend of the President; or that he had, or had ever seen, a photograph of ESTES and the President together.

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[redacted] advised that shortly after ESTES was released from jail on bond, there was a rumor going around Pecos, Texas, that when ESTES was released, he had flown to Midland, Texas, in his private airplane and that his plane had landed in Midland at approximately the same time as a plane, carrying President JOHNSON, landed in Midland. The rumor had it that someone, at that time, had taken a photograph of the President and ESTES together.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] had asked him if he had heard this rumor, and he stated that he had told [redacted] that he had heard the rumor. [redacted] advised that [redacted] then asked him if he would try to run this photograph down and get him a copy. [redacted] stated that he agreed to try to get a copy of the photograph for him.

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29-28704-5714

~~29-28704-5714~~  
ENCLOSURE

BILLIE SOL ESTES

[ ] advised he had made inquiry in Pecos, Texas, regarding the rumor and the photograph and had contacted [ ] a reporter for the local Pecos newspaper, and she had advised him that she had also heard this rumor, but had been unable to verify it and had never seen any photograph of President JOHNSON and ESTES together.

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[ ] advised that he may have mentioned to [ ] having met LYNDON JOHNSON, but denied ever claiming to be a personal friend of the President. He stated that he met LYNDON JOHNSON "during the forties", when he, [ ] traveled all over Texas for a drug firm. He stated that anyone who traveled extensively in Texas during this period of time stood a very good chance of meeting LYNDON JOHNSON and that there was nothing unusual in this.

[ ] stated that it is possible [ ] may have met LYNDON JOHNSON, but he did not know whether or not ESTES had. He stated that he had heard [ ] mention President JOHNSON's name on one occasion; and when he asked [ ] if he had been in contact with President JOHNSON, [ ] replied that he had been in contact with one of the President's aides but did not mention which aide.

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b7C