

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

SUBJECT: ABSCAM

PART 1 OF 2

Exec. AD-Inv.	_____
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Asst. Dir.:	
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Crim. Inv.	_____
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Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

OUTSIDE SOURCE

7/19 0
PUBLIC RESPONSE RE ABSCAM

Feb 3 - 80

Wake up and get going
A job well done?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] *h*

b-6

EX-117
FEB 4 1980

#2

*Wack necessary.
pao/nb*

63-17561-
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6 FEB 7 1980

PROS 2/5
59 AUG 2 1980

[Redacted]
Indiana [Redacted]

b-6

Feb 4, 79

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Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Public Response Re Abscam

Dear Mr Webster

I Love it!

63-17561

your Investagdon of the congress
is the best thing the F.B.I.
has Ever done. I dont think a
of our congressmen are weak But
this should get the rest of them to
clean there acts up. My Pet Peave
is the way Israel has bought land
paid for our ~~ing~~ Congress. Israel
continues to settle occupiad Arab Land
against the wishes of Every country in the
wourd. But Many of our Congressmen
back Israel no matter what they do. I
am positive the Jewish Dollars have
Flowed to ~~senators~~ senators so they must
support Israel. Anyway thank you.

EXP. PROC.

4-38 DE-93

63-17561

FEB 18 1980

FBI

mark wanted
FBI

[Redacted]

rule

February 1980 From

TO

The Director of The F.I.
MR. William Webster

3) Public Response by
Dear Sir: ALSCAM

I want to congratulate you AND
the Federal Bureau of Investigation
ON the recent uncovering of some bad
politicians. Specifically the ones who
thought that they would get some
fast money from some rich Arabs.

I just want you to know that I'm
happy to see our justice system AT
work, AND AS AN American I'm proud to
be A citizen of this country.

I just hope now, that the courts,
if this ever gets that far, will be
harsh to these suppose to have been
servants of the taxpayers.

"Well Done Sir!"

Ack
3/31/80
NB: lmb

Sincerely

1) [Redacted]

N 63-17561-1

DE-60 N-22

4/10/80
FEB 6 1980

Feb 4th, 1980

THE HONORABLE
MR. WEBSTER
DIRECTOR OF THE F.B.I.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Exec. AD Adm.	_____
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Director's Sec'y	_____

Public Response Re
DEAR MR. WEBSTER, HDSCH

I like many concerned citizens
was shocked and dismayed at the latest
revelations of ABSEAN became public, particularly
since it involves so many political leaders
from my home state.

I wanted however to take this
opportunity to let you know that as distasteful
it may be, I commend your agency's courage
and diligence to recognize and take action against
elected officials who betray the trust of
the citizenry that elects them.

Realizing you are extremely busy and
certainly respecting your privacy, I would consider
it a singular honor if I could receive a
personal written reply from you as to your
thoughts how this present conflict will effect
our political process.

In conclusion, may I add again, your
agency through your direction is once again
gained its prominence as one of the great
law enforcement agencies in the world.

Sincerely
[Signature]

60-283000-
2) [Redacted]
3) [Redacted] NEW JERSEY, [Redacted]

EXP. PROC.
40 FEB 11 1980

63-17561-3
4/10/80
FEB 11 1980

February 4 1980

Dear Director Webster

~~Public Interest~~ ADSCAR

With Congress investigating itself and whitewashing the members who were caught red handed dipping in the till or accepting bribes it would be a big mistake on the part of the F.B.I. and the Justice Department to turn over the evidence ^{to ETHICS COMMITTEES} you have collected on the latest bribery case.

Do not short circuit the citizens of our country by letting the Ethics Committees of Congress have information that should be handled by the Grand Jury and our courts

63-17561-5

The Roman Empire fell because of corruption and we must seek out and remove corrupt members of our government

Respectfully 4/19/80

60 MAY 22 1980

b-6

41 4

ack

4/1/80

NB: lmb

NML

to the FBI. ⁽²⁾

I urge that members of both
Parties be tested - so that
nobody can charge selective entrapment
or partisan politics.

And I congratulate you on
filming or video-taping the
activities so that nobody can say
the witnesses are lying.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

17 DIRECTOR

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[REDACTED] b6
N. J. **[REDACTED]**

Feb. 4, 1980

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

public response
re 1/11/80

Dear Mr. Webster,

my congratulations to you and the FBI
for operation Sting! Conduct more of these
type operations - keep federal, state &
local officials in fear of being dishonest!

I'm sure your agents can be
careful to give opportunity - but not to
coerce for entrapment - so that the
officials have a free choice as to whether
to take payments - to refuse them -
or even to report the "offer"

60 MAY 28 1980

(over)

63-17561-7

FEB 8 1980
4/10/80

FBI DDC #410
FEB 8 1980

nm

February 4, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Director:

Public Response RE ABSCAM
It is most reassuring to read and view the efforts of your Bureau as reported on media communications. I speak of operation ABSCAM. To know that these operations are designed to remove or ethically sanction weak members of our representative government through trial and House debate is truly comforting. It underscores my faith in The United States of America as a progressive society dedicated to responsible freedom and decision. Each day, hard decisions face all members of our national legislature. These decisions are to be made by men beyond reproach and to benefit the majority of Americans and not just the powerful few groups which exercise temptation; the kind that people seem to want.

Thank you for your dedication toward supporting the backbone of our representative government, ethics. I personally hope that more operations are planned for the future, an effective program must continue.

Thank you once again.

Respectfully,

1) [Redacted]
2) [Redacted]
3) [Redacted] N. J. [Redacted]

b-6

215
FEB 11 1980
59 AUG 12 1980

*No ack necessary.
In response to his 2-7-80 let. he
was written 2-27-80 thanking
him for views on
Abraham.*

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63-17561-7

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OUTSIDE SOURCE

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PUBLIC RESPONSE RE ABSCAM

7/1/80

4 Feb 80

Dear Sir:

A wonderful job -
Hang them all.

[REDACTED]

EXP. PROC. #48
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7/1/80
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Illegible
no ack
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2) [REDACTED]
3) [REDACTED] N.J. [REDACTED]

Feb. 4, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Webster,

My congratulations to you and the FBI for operation Sting! Conduct more of these type operations -- keep federal, state & local officials in fear of being dishonest!

I'm sure your agents can be careful to give opportunity -- but not to coerce for entrapment -- so that the officials have a free choice as to whether to take payments -- to refuse them -- or even to report the "offer" to the FBI.

I urge that member of both parties be tested -- so that nobody can charge selective entrapment or partisan politics.

And I congratulate you on filming or video-taping the activities so that nobody can say the witnesses are lying.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

/s/ [REDACTED]

COPY:aga

ack
3/21/80
NB:EMB

91

PA-1/10

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[REDACTED]
CALIFORNIA
[REDACTED]

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Director's Sec'y	_____

Public Response Re February 1980

Judge William Webster, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Abscam

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Judge Webster:

The media have brought me the results of the FBI's "high level sting operation" and I would like to make a few gratuitous professional comments, for what they are worth.

The country is suffering from, both, an attack of neurotic selfishness among the population at large and an acceleration of crime. Many people are fond of pointing this out but few point toward the country's leadership as the source of these trends. Moreover, some thirty years ago I met a member of the Mafia who stated very emphatically that much more money was illegally exchanged at government levels than in all of the country's professional criminal ventures. Since government officials are in a position to cover up most of their illicit behavior it is not difficult to believe in the ice berg theory. What I would have to say about political power seekers as a group would take some space but it is obvious to thinking behavioral scientists that political, criminal, and selfish intent overlap considerably.

I believe that the initiative which the FBI took in the sting operation will start to reorient behavior in politics, will give heart to that population sector which is not illicitly inclined, and may start a process toward healing the nation's selfish/criminal illness.

I hope that the initiative taken by the FBI in this small group of singularities will grow into an ongoing program of determination, strength, and vigor. Although the acts which the FBI will be bringing to prosecution are easy to prove there are many criminal malfeasances in government which are of enormous collective impact. They may presently be difficult to prove under criminal statute but even their exposure is valuable. Perhaps, also, the FBI will be able to develop methods by which many acts of criminal malfeasance can be prosecuted.

I thank you in a personal sense also.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Ack
4/1/80
NB: lmb

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P. 10/1/80

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Director's Sec'y	_____

Feb. 5, 1980

Director-FBI
 FBI Building
 Washington, D.C.

public response
re ABSCAM

Dear Sir,

Congratulations to your agency
 on its superb work in the ABSCAM
 operation.

My only question is why
 did you stop? The "Koreagate"
 investigation was a whitewash
 and coverup. I am waiting
 for this new probe to become
 the same.

Disgustingly, more than
 two-thirds of our elected
 officials are cohorts in crime;
 percentage might even

60 MAY 28 1980

EX-100
 FEB 8 1980
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4/10/80
 FEB 9 1980

be higher. To get one is
"to get them all"

Keep up the good work
and please don't let this
turn out to be another
bureaucratic shuffle with
no definite results.

Very truly yours
[REDACTED]

12 DIRECTOR

089.287.4.12

TRUE COPY

6-6

2) [REDACTED]
3) [REDACTED] N.Y. [REDACTED]

Director-FBI
FBI Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,

Congratulations to your agency on its superb work
in the Abscam operation.

My only question is "why did you stop"? The "Korea-
gate" investigation was a whitewash and coverup. I am waiting
for this new probe to become the same.

Disgustedly, more than two-thirds of our elected
officials are cohorts in crime; and the percentage might
even be higher. To get one is "to get them all".

Keep up the good work and please don't let this
turn out to be another bureaucratic shuffle with no definitive
results.

Very truly yours,

/s/ [REDACTED]

6-6

ack
3/31/50
H.B. [REDACTED]

COPY:aga

1) [REDACTED]
2) [REDACTED]
3) [REDACTED]

114

P. [REDACTED]

5 February 1980

William Webster
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover F.B.I. Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Dear Mr. Director:

Public response re ABSCAM

Obviously, I know very little about the ABSCAM investigation. However, due to the noises which have been escaping from Congress since this news became public, I've felt that you and the Bureau may be in need of some public support. This may be considered my part.

Recent history gives one the impression that "white-collar" crime pays very well, indeed.

Illegal activities by our lawmakers is not unusual news. Successful prosecution of these lawmakers, however, is somewhat unusual.

I wish you and your people the very best and I hope that the ABSCAM investigation results in justice for the American people.

Sincerely,

1) [Redacted]
2) [Redacted]
3) [Redacted] Kentucky

b-6
ack 3/31/80
KB:KHS

Q

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EXP. PROC.

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60 MAY 28 1980

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FEB 8 1980

PRD

TRUE COPY

Feb. 6th

Dear Mr. Webster,

This is the first letter I have ever written to
a public official.

I am writing you today because of the great job
you are doing with the F.B.I. You have my admiration
and respect. Don't give up the fight you have so
successfully started.

I feel strongly about this. So many of our elected
representatives are cheating us in so many ways, it is a
disgrace and a great disappointment. People are losing faith
and becoming apathetic. A "what's the use" attitude has been
developing until you started this investigation and now I
truly believe you will have the country behind you.

Good luck and God bless you and your wonderful group
of men.

Sincerely,

/s/ [REDACTED]

b-6

P.S. Until recently I lived on Staten Island and I have
seen plenty which bears investigating.

COPY:aga

ack
3/28/80
NB:Gmb

[REDACTED]
CONNECTICUT

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3)

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1-20-80

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February 5, 1980

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

Public Response

re AbSCAM

Dear Mr. Director:

I would like to express my congratulations and my support for your efforts in this recent investigation of U.S. Congressmen; the so-called 'sting' operation. I have long thought that the FBI had great potential for being used to repress views unpopular to those in power and while I am still in favor of imposing some additional checks and balances on the agency (so that its power can't be easily abused, as in the past) I think that these recent actions will go a long way towards restoring the credibility, impartiality and honor that the FBI has long been lacking. It's too bad that the news leaked out before the indictments could have been issued.

Once again, congratulations, well done!!

Sincerely,

(Signature)

[Redacted Signature Block]

#10 EX-101 FEB 11 1980

b-6

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4)*

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Ne v
Feb 5, 1980

Director of the F.B.I.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Public Response Re AbSCAM

Regarding the current bribery case now in front of the American people. I say CONGRATULATIONS to you and your people. Its about time someone took real interest in protecting the credibilty of our government. My wife and I call on you to keep up the good work. Get rid of the crooks--and I repeat, crooks-- in congress.

We have raised seven children and paid taxes since 1936. We want those taxes to go where they should. Also, we Americans want a honest congress that we can trust in all matters concerning the running our my country. Anyone who profits wrongly deserves just what they get...

Again, we say, GOOD WORK AND KEEP GOING...

Sincerely yours,

(Signature)
Ne v

EXP. PROC.
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60 MAY 28 1980

PPA/lt
53 DIRECTOR'S

California

Feb 6, 1980

~~Private Response~~
Re ABSCPM

Dear Mr. Webster,

As one of the little people in the silent majority, I would like to thank you for your action against the corrupt Congressmen. I am sure much pressure was brought to bear to quash the proceedings and I consider your actions heroic.

I have become increasingly aware of more and more corruption in government, very substantial funds, the Nixon-Agnew crimes, the Korea and Vietnam debacles — wherein government people typically escape with impunity. I personally believe an extremely high % of govt. officials, congressmen, and bureaucrats are on the take and get away with it with impunity, even when caught.

I would like improvement in the future for my children and their children and encourage you with this small voice to continue your investigations of crooked government personnel and hopefully nail them to the wall — they are the real enemies of the country. We desperately need honesty and integrity.

63-17561-19

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60 MAY 28 1980

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EX-100

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Director's Sec'y	

[Redacted]
CONNECTICUT

b-4

Public rep
ABSCAM

Feb. 6th

Dear Mr. Webster,

This is the first letter I have ever written to a public official.

I am writing you today because of the great job you are doing with the F.B.I. You have my admiration and respect. Don't give up the fight you have so successfully started.

I feel strongly about this. So many of our elected representatives are cheating us in so many ways it is a disgrace and a great disappointment.

People are losing faith and becoming apathetic. A "what's the use" attitude has been

60 MAY 28 1980

EXP. PROC.
40 FEB 11 1980

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23 4/1/80

Developing until you started
this investigation and now I
truly believe you will have the
country behind you.

Good luck and God bless
you and your wonderful
group of men.

Sincerely,

b-6

P. A. Vintre recently I lived
on Staten Island and
I have seen plenty which
bears investigating.

Feb 6, 1980

Mr Tolster:

Good for you!! (Referring
public response) ~~WABSCAM~~
~~to Abseam~~

This something our
Country has needed for
a long long time

Hang in there + keep
up the excellent work!

We thank you!!

Citizen [REDACTED]

3) [REDACTED]

4) [REDACTED] no [REDACTED]

ack
3/31/80
[REDACTED]

63-17561-23

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OUTSIDE SOURCE

Mr. Webster:

2-6-80

Congratulations on your departments work in uncovering another series of corruption scandals in the House and Senate.

Congratulations also that it won't be necessary for the Ethics Committee for both branches to conduct trials and hearings of their own over and above the Justice Dept. Everyone that is a sham and more or less a whitewash with no real penalties.

So glad you are back in harness after the politicians almost emasculated FBI and the CIA. Now we can apprehend some Russian Spies and corrupt officials-corrupt unions-officers etc.

1) [redacted]
 2) [redacted]
 3) [redacted] III.
Public response re abscon

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OUTSIDE SOURCE



Chief Mr. William Webster
 FBI--Federal Bureau of Investigation
 9th street and Pa. Avenue--N.W.
 Washington,
 D.C. personal--- 20535

U.S. Postage 10c

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© USPS 1978

- 1) [redacted] respin
- 2) [redacted]
- 3) [redacted] III.

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PAOL [signature]

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 Director's Sec'y _____

OUTSIDE SOURCES

Public Response Re Abscam

Hawaii Special
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 409 Mountain Avenue
 Bound Brook, N.J.
 Founded in 1688

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08801
 FEB 11 1980

ALWAYS ZIP

POST CARD
 Address
 COURAGEOUS MEN
 OF THE FBI.
 Washington, DC.
 20510
 (attn: MR. Webster)
 17 DIRECTOR
 17 FEB 11 '80

108014

*Congratulations
 on your "ABSCAM"
 bag job - you should
 A got them 7 years
 Ago - But now I do!
 My prayers were
 answered - TEL
 Williams to contact
 me if he NEEDS my
 assistance -*

Edm

b-6 DE-50 V-18 63-17561-27X

6 JUL 10 1980

538
 60 JUL 28 1980

*Wauk.
 pao/ast-*

Feb 6, 1980

William Webster

PUBLIC RESPONSE RE ABSCAM

I am very pleased with your ABSCAM investigation. I would like to urge you to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law. I would however like to know why these people were not arrested and subjected to the process of bail like every other citizen.

I would also like to encourage you in your investigation of Senator Cannon of Nevada.

I would also like to remind you that organized crime smuggles 90% of its heroin and cocaine into this country as raw and processed sugar thru the C & H Sugar Co of Martinez, California (Benicia).

68 AUG 11 1980

W-38 SE-83

63-17561-5

I would like to encourage you to step up your efforts

FBI

OVER

EXP. PROC.

NO FEB 12 1980

7115

FEB 12 1980

against organized crime. I believe
you could be doing a lot
more than you are doing.

I hope your recent activities
indicate a more aggressive
attitude on the part of the
H. B. O.

I am beginning to have
renewed faith in the talents
of the H. B. O. and yourself.

I think you should make
yourself and the Bureau more
visible in the future.

Thanking You ⁶⁶

[REDACTED]

FEB 12 1 15 PM '30

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
FBI

CA

FEB 11 1930

DIRECTOR

TRUE COPY

Feb. 6, 1980

William Webster

I am very pleased with your ABSCAM investigation. I would like to urge you to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law. I would however like to know why these people were not arrested and subjected to the process of bail like every other citizen.

I would also like to encourage you in your investigation of Senator Gannon of Nevada.

I would also like to remind you that organized crime smuggles 90% of it's heroin and cocaine into this country as raw and processed sugar thru the C&H Sugar Co of Martinez, California (Benicia).

I would like to encourage you to step up your efforts against organized crime. I believe you could be doing a lot more than you are doing.

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I am beginning to have renewed faith in the talents of the F.B.I. and yourself. I think you should make yourself and the Bureau more visible in the future.

Thanking you

/s/

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Director's Sec'y	_____

63-17561 b-6

Wack
See Bufile
P. H. H. H.

Public Release Re: Abscon

144

[REDACTED] 2/6/80

Mr William Webster,
Director of FBI
Wash, D.C.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

b-6

Dear Mr Webster
Your organization has cer-
tainly sunk to a new all
time low in your en-
trapment of congressmen
and others. Do you realize
that in being a party to
offering bribes you are
equally guilty.

Knowing the conservative
stance of Cong Richard Kelly,
and possibly the other Cong-
ressmen, your maneuver
is purely political 3-11-80
attempting to alienate
support from them. 7-31-80
Your maneuver would
have been unthinkable
during Edgar Hoover's admin-
istration, he would have

EXP. PROC.
36 FEB 8 1980 4-14

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1980

2. been unalterably opposed
to having his FBI organ-
ization used to wreak
vengeance on victims to
to secure a political
advantage over them.

I would wager if it had
been Claude Pepper or
Sam Gibbons or others
of the same liberal stripe
you would never have
been motivated to move
against them. You are
a part of the elite forces
who are strenuously
attempting to socialize-
communize our American
political system.

Your actions in ROSEN
strike to high heaven
and you are guilty of
entrapment & bribery.

May your soul
rest in Hades

b-6

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2) [REDACTED]
3) 2/6/80

Fla [REDACTED]

Mr. William Webster,
Director of FBI
Wash, D.C.

Dear Mr. Webster,

Your organization has certainly sunk to a new all time low in your entrapment of congressmen and others. Do you realize that in being a party to offering bribes you are equally guilty.

Knowing the conservative stance of Cong. Richard Kelly, and possibly the other congressmen, your maneuver is purely political in attempting to alienate support from them. Your maneuver would have been unthinkable during Edgar Hoovers administration, he would have been unalterably opposed to having his FBI organization used to wreak vengeance on victims to to secure a political advantage over them. I would wager if it had been Claude Ropper or Sam Gibbons or others of the same liberal stripe you would never have been motivated to move against them. You are a part of the elite forces who are strenuously attempting to socialize--communize our americans political system.

Your actions in ABSCAM stinks to high heaven and you are guilty of entrapment & bribery.

May your soul rest in Hades.

COPY:aga

ack
nb: xmo
3/10/80
#319

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February 6, 1980

Mass.

Director, FBI
FBI Headquarters
Washington, D. C.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Sir:

Public Response Re: Abscam

I should like to contribute a private citizen's thanks for the Bureau's investigation of Congressmen. I believe that this investigation required political courage and that it was in the behalf of better government.

I am also amused or alarmed at the way Congress has attempted to turn your investigation of them into an investigation of you. How fast they can act when their own skeletons are threatened!

It seems to me that what the FBI needs in this case is the service of a first-rate public-relations agency. Otherwise the dumb-dumbs, who do not understand the significance of dishonest representatives--opportunists and deceivers--will be "blaming" the FBI for one of its most beneficial actions with regard to the democratic process.

Congress has already been busy hamstringing you. You can't afford to let them do more of it. The Lord alone knows what Congress would do if you were caught taking bribes, though it is common, street knowledge that the Congress has been doing this right along.

Sincerely

ab

V-36

As to the "methods" you used, I believe that it is obvious that no honest Congressman, obeying the law, had anything to fear. And I have noted from the MacNeill-Lehrer Report that whenever you could find an honest one, you gave up on him.

66 SEP 8 1981

63-17561-27X3
ack 3/19/80
7-31-81
FEB 8 1981
PPH/kat

February 7, 1980

The Voice of the People
Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Public Response *Re* *ABSCAM*

*Judge Webster -
Thought you may
be interested in knowing
of this support!*

It is disturbing that ABSCAM, like Watergate, is fast becoming a household word, thanks to an overkill by some segments of the news media. The Washington Post, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Walter Cronkite are leading the charge, hurling verbal brickbats at the FBI, accusing them in a familiar scenario of abuses of power in the name of entrapment. It is ironic I think that the Post, the ACLU, Cronkite and their ilk, while suggesting that the victims of ABSCAM are being unfairly maligned in a trial by news media, are at the same time putting the FBI on trial in the media.

I am confident that the majority of the American people agree that neither the victims of ABSCAM nor the FBI should be so maligned.

In the last analysis, it boils down to a matter of accountability. Fortunately, the law enforcement community in this country is strictly accountable to our judicial system for all of its actions. The evidence collected by the FBI in the ABSCAM investigation, and the manner in which it was collected, will eventually be scrutinized by an assortment of admissibility tests prescribed by the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure before it can be used against a single defendant. The evidence must survive all of the pretrial motions, an examination of the trial court and, ultimately, the appellate procedures. These procedures and others constitute full accountability by the FBI for its actions.

To whom are the representatives of the news media accountable? May I submit they should be accountable, in a democratic society, only to the truth as characterized by objective and impartial reporting. ABSCAM suggests that some elected officials and others may have been caught with their hands in the "cookie jar." Ultimately, the admissibility of the ABSCAM evidence will be tested and perhaps weighed by a jury. If the ABSCAM victims feel they are being tried unfairly by the media, the press might be well advised to exercise some restraint and not to compound the problem, as some media representatives and the ACLU are doing by accusing the FBI of entrapment or unethical behavior, when these media representatives are not yet privy to any of the evidence or the details surrounding its collection.

Retired Special Agent In Charge
FBI, [redacted]

Illinois

*Eod. 7-16-
Ret. 2-24-78*

*ack
4/1/80
NB: lmb*

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4/10/80

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63-17561-29

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	

Feb. 7, 1980

Dear Judge [redacted] ^{re: [redacted]}
 Thank you for giving
 the "Bureau" organization
 and guidance and
 congratulations on the
 "Uscam" investigation
 that your agents
 brought into focus.
 God bless you
 all.

Sincerely,

[redacted signature]

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CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE

Feb. 7, 1980

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Sirs: Public Response Re Absam

This letter is to congratulate you (based upon the reports in the Wash. Post and the TV networks) for the astonishingly successful recent "sting" operation in which you helped confirm the belief of many citizens that the U.S. Congress is "a bunch of crooks." The FBI has come a long way since the days of Director Hoover.

I have a suggestion for your next "sting". After renting a suitable residence near Capitol Hill, spread the word that a certain, unidentified Caliph, is temporarily in residence in the U.S. and will pay \$10,000 to sleep with the sister of a U.S. Senator. I can't wait to see how many Senators bring their sisters.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature] Md.

*Wash. wanted,
1/20/80
1/25*

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DE-83

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EXP. PROC. FEB 10 1980

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

February 7, 1980

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Attorney-General Benjamin R. Civiletti
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Civiletti:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Recent public reports of Federal Bureau of Investigation exploits in the so-called "Abscam" affair leave me both incredulous and deeply disturbed. If the charges are true, they constitute a serious and confidence-shattering indictment of several of our elected officials. I am outraged by "influence peddling for cash" engaged in by public officials. Of course, such charges must be proved and past Bureau allegations make me less than certain that they will hold up in an unprejudiced court of law.

My letter, however, comes not to discuss the alleged crimes which have been detailed in the press. My outrage today concerns the scandalous behavior of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. (To be fair, I probably should say "the scandalous behavior of some Bureau personnel or units" but, unless those persons or units are properly and publicly identified, reprimanded and punished, the whole Bureau stands condemned.)

The Bureau's methods seem to me to be clearly illegal "entrapment," worthy of the worst of the McCarthy era's belief that our government organs need to be illegal and unfair to fight illegality and unfairness. The American Civil Liberties Union seems to be entirely correct in its allegations of entrapment in the affair in question.

Further, the trial by press, the divulging of investigatory information to the public media, reminds me of the F.B.I. excesses during the latter years of the J. Edgar Hoover suzerainty. Those days were often marked by what appeared to be a greater concern for the welfare, reputation and public adulation of the Bureau than with any regard for the best interests of the country and the protection of the United States principles of justice such as "innocent until proven guilty." I am, indeed, outraged at the "trial by press." Our traditions and laws do not grant the Bureau any such right even in the face of the acknowledged reluctance of the legislative bodies to police their own members or to guarantee that they behave legally and ethically.

Elected officials are terribly vulnerable to publicly aired allegations as Senator Joseph R. McCarthy so ably illustrated. A politician's career can be destroyed by public charges from official quarters even if those charges do not have a single scintilla of truth to them. Such may be the result of the trial by press in the "Abscam" affair.

DE-80

V-43

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FEB 11 1980

Ack
4/16/80

1/3/80

I find it more than coincidental that many of the best legal minds join many political thinkers and writers of both liberal and conservative persuasions in being terribly upset at the Bureau's behavior in this case. None are condoning the alleged actions of public officials but that is not the primary issue here. The reputation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is at stake. We had thought the "we are above the law" and the character assassination programs of the latter Hoover days, illustrated by the director's vendettas against such people as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were over and gone. Is our F.B.I. returning to that triumphal era? If so, fair-minded, thinking citizens committed to United States constitutional democracy must judge that the Bureau is again becoming one of the more serious threats to our national security and democracy.

I hope my fears are unduly exaggerated. The reputation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice are at stake. I would appreciate whatever you can tell me to explain what has happened and to assure me, with specific and concrete actions rather than glib, general words, that the Bureau is going to operate within the legal and judicial restraints of our American constitutional democratic system.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
New York, [REDACTED]

b-6

ccs: Director William H. Webster
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Senator Harrison Williams
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
New York

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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~~FEDERAL GOVERNMENT~~

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WILLIAM WEBSTER DIRECTOR

DLR FBI HQ

WASHDC

BT

Public Response Re Abscam

YOU HAVE PUBLIC SUPPORT IN YOUR ABSCAN INVESTIGATION. PLEASE DO NOT
BE INTIMIDATED BY THE CONGRESS WANTING TO INVESTIGATE THEMSELVES.

[REDACTED] MO

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Correspondence Sect
JEN TL#

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE

FEB 8, 1980

Public Response Re Abscam

My DEAR DIRECTOR,

THEY SAY CONGRESSMAN KELLY
WAS STUPID TO TAKE \$25,000.
FROM STRANGERS, IN A STRANGE
HOME, AND SHOULD BE FIRED
FROM CONGRESS FROM JUST BEING
DUMB, NOT CROOKED.

NOW, WHAT ABOUT THE F.B.I. -
THEY RENT A BUILDING FOR
ABSCAM. DID THEY CHANGE
ALL THE LOCKS TO KEEP
SOMEONE LIKE THE THEEVING
L.I. NEWS DAY FROM GETTING
INTO THE BASEMENT TO TAKE
PICTURES OF ALL THAT SOPHISTICATED
EQUIPMENT, OR IS THE F.B.I.
LOADED WITH DOUBLE CROSSING
EMPLOYEE WILLING TO SELL YOU
OUT FOR A PRICE 63-1756

SINCERELY

17 FEB 11 1980

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Pps/m

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Mr. W. Webster, Director
FBI
Penn Avenue & 9th St. NW
Washington, D.C.

20535

OUTSIDE SOURCE

February 8, 1980

Public Response RE ABSCAM

Mr. Walter Cronkite
Senator Adlai Stevenson

Gentlemen:

I am perplexed by your attacks on the FBI in connection with the recent ABSCAM disclosures.

Mr. Cronkite: If you are really that concerned with fairness and the civil rights of those exposed, I'm surprised you have chosen not to speak out earlier against the truly questionable tactics employed by your own network's 60 Minutes people in their frequent expose' segments.

Senator Stevenson: Where was your stinging rebuke against the Chicago Sun Times and the BGA when they proved, through their Mirage Bar disguise, that Chicago city inspectors were on the take?

The citizenry of this country have little enough protection against dishonest public servants as it is, gentlemen, without your influential voices being raised in a questionable defense of their constitutional rights when they do get caught.

Could it be that your righteous anger surfaces only when your friends become the targets?

Cordially,

cc: Mr. B. Civiletti, Attorney General
Mr. W. Webster, Director, FBI

5 FEB 13 1980

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*Copy to back necessary
pro/alt*

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

February 8, 1980

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Representative Mary Rose Oakar
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20505

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Representative Oakar:

I read where you consider FBI agents posing as rich Arabs was an ethnic slur to Arab-Americans.

Public Response RE ABS Cam

In your letter you state that Black, native, Jewish, Japanese, Polish, Italian and Hispanic Americans have worn scars of false stereotype and subtle prejudice. We must not forget that just plain Americans were called "ugly Americans" all over the world in the countries where these Americans came from.

Arabs because of the wealth from their oil are naturally associated with plenty of money. I think it is a compliment to America that some Arabs would like to come to a freedom loving country (even if it takes money) and also a compliment that Arabs are rich.

When are the members of Congress going to halt this seperation of Americans by placing so much emphasis on their ethnic backgrounds.

When the playing of the Star Spangled Banner brings at least a slight thrill to a persons' heart maybe even aliens and illegal aliens will become just plain Americans.

I think the FBI has done a real service for the honest "Servants of the people".

No honest Legislator can be entrapped with CASH, that's a bribe.

Sincerely,

Ca.

60 AUG 08 1980

ps Copy to: FBI Director William Webster

7 FEB 18 1980

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February 8, 1980

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Sir,

PUBLIC RESPONSE RE

It was no surprise to read about the bribing of politicians as I am sure it has been going on for a long time. I am glad the FBI did a good job in bringing this news out to the public. We hope they will be brought to justice like everyone else. We put our trust in these people by voting for them only to find out they are not doing a honest job. Their greed overpowers them. There is no excuse for such behavior, so Civiletti should do his job.

ALSCAM

Sincerely,

N.J.

A Concerned citizen

b-6

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Feb. 9, 1980

Public Response Re

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Dear Sir -

ADSCAM

With regard to all the "heros" who say the F B I approached them and they "refused," it is sincerely hoped that you will expose them if they are lying - pro or con. New Jersey pols seem to make mileage on either side of any issue, and we are tired of it. Sick and tired!

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The comments in [redacted] about the hopes of a local investigation would have done your heart good. in the grip of a

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FEB 14 1980

SLX

small group of the kind
of people who do not
waste their time
unless "big bucks" are
involved.

By and large, people
love Alascom. Congratu-
lations, and we deeply
hope it is only the
beginning!

Sincerely, ^{b6}
[Redacted]

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RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
FBI

17 DIRECTOR

MACKEY



63-17561-36

ENCLOSURE

TRUE COPY

Feb. 9, 1980

Dear Sir--

With regard to all the "heros" who say the FBI approached them and they "refused," it is sincerely hoped that you will expose them if they are lying--pro or con. New Jersey pols seem to make mileage on either side of any issue, and we are tired of it. Sick and tired!

The comments in [REDACTED] about the hopes of a local investigation would have done your heart good. We are in the grip of a small group of the kind of people who do not waste their time unless "big bucks" are involved.

By and large, people love Abscam. Congratulations, and we deeply hope it is only the beginning!

Sincerely,

/s/ [REDACTED]

NJ [REDACTED]

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Ack
4/1/80
NB: lmb

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Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

6-6

Pro/wh

California
February , 10, 1980

Judge William H. Webster
Director Of The FBI
Department Of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Public Response
Re Abscam

Dear Sir:

The following is an old saying that in the thirties was quite prevalent among people in show business: "Successful Performers usually know how their work looks from the front." I am , indeed, happy to say that since you became the director of the FBI , the commendable work of your staff looks mighty good from the front. CONGRATULATIONS!

Be assured , kind Sir, I'll be even more happy if one or more of your fine staff exposes the scum whose ill-advised and illicit conspiracies resulted in my wife's death , and caused many other irreparable losses to devolve upon me.

Be further assured that I stand ready , willing , able and anxious to reply to any questions anent the above well attested to and equally well recorded charges.

With kindest thoughts and every good wish for your continued success in bringing to light the nefarious machinations of some of our alleged "pillars of our society," I shall close and look forward in the fervent hope that at long long last the FBI will be so kind as to do for me what really should have been done thirty years ago.

Respectfully yours,

CERTIFIED

No. 0368251

MAIL

60 MAY 28 1980

FEB 5 1981

4/14/80
FEB 10 1980

Exec. AD-Inv.	_____
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Director's Sec'y	_____

2/10/80

Sir:
 O Public Affairs
 Congratulations on
 Operations Abocam By
 rooting out the corrupt big
 fish, you'll help to
 maintain faith in govern-
 ment.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

63-17541-40

14 1980
 4/10/80

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

68

CONFIDENTIAL

EXP. PROC.
 40 FEB 14 1980 #410

62

1) [Redacted]
 3) [Redacted] CA
 4) [Redacted]

Ack
 3/8/80
 NB: Umb

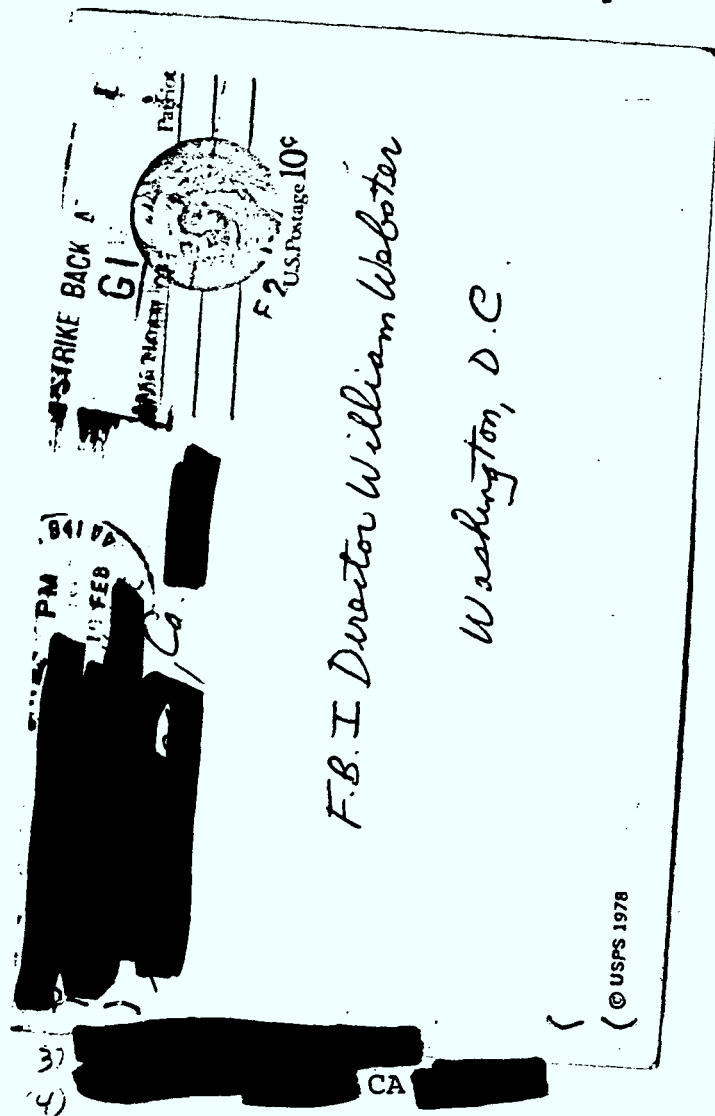
60 MAY 28 1980

2

PA-101

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Director's Sec'y	_____



b-6

EXP. PROC.
40-FEB 14 1980 #410

Ack
3/8/80
NB: Umb

60 MAY 28 1980

nm

2

PA 1-111

Feb. 10, 1980

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Director's Sec'y	_____

FBI/DOJ

F.B.I. Director William H. Webster
J. Edgar Hoover F.B.I. Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

Public Response

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Sir: Re: AbSCAM

I want to commend your agency on a
done.

50b

I find it reprehensible that twenty-four members
of Congress should call for the F.B.I. to apologize
publicly to Arabs throughout the world for
perpetuating "an unjust stereotype" by having
its agents pose as rich Arab sheiks and
businessmen, while totally ignoring Mohammed
Ali's "unjust stereotype" statements that "Zionists
Control America" and "the Jews control the world"
made in his role as President Carter's representative
to Africa.

Obviously they are not really against
"unjust stereotype" statements! I can only
assume all twenty-four Congressmen are
in some way beholden to the Arabs!

63-17561-42

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

4/10/80
6 FEB 15 1980

Ack 4/1/80
NB: 60 MAY 28 1980

EXP. PROC.
FEB 15 1980 #40

nm

912

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Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

2) [Redacted]
 3) [Redacted] Texas
 Feb. 10, 1980

Mr. William Webster - Director
 FBI
 J. Edgar Hoover Building
 Washington, D.C.

Public Interest
Abseam
OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Sir:

Thank you for having the guts to expose the bribery of our elected officials. This has concerned me for many years. It threatens the very foundation of our democracy.

I had given up all hope of ever seeing a change since our congress has the power to pass laws putting themselves above the law. And this they have done.

It will be interesting, but nauseating, to watch how the ethics committees work to sweep this under the rug. I can only hope that your cases are solid enough to get convictions.

Convictions alone will not stop the practice, however. Only the constant vigilance of honorable men like yourself will keep it in check.

Thank you and may God stay by your side.

EXP. PROC. #40
30 FEB 14 1980

ack 3/31/80
MB: [Signature]

63-17561-44
 Sincerely yours,

[Redacted Signature]

cc: President Carter

4/10/80
11 FEB 11 1980

60 MAY 28 1980

3

PAK

PAK

NML

western union

Mailgram



4-003341S040 02/09/80 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP WSHB
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Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON DC 20535

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Public Response
Re Abuse

I'VE JUST FINISHED READING AN ARTICLE WHERE 24 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
HAVE CALLED IN THE FBI TO APOLOGIZE PUBLICLY FOR THEIR ARAB
IMPERSONATION I HOPE THAT I COULD RECEIVE A COPY OF THE NAMES OF
THOSE LAW MAKERS OBVIOUSLY YOUR STAYING OPERATIONS HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT
A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF HEAT ON PEOPLE WHO CAN'T SEEM TO STAND THE
FIRE I JUST WANTED YOUR AGENCY TO KNOW THAT I'M ONE CITIZEN WHO
SUPPORTS YOUR EFFORTS AND LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY

TX

09:43 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

b-6

4/2/80
4/3/80
4/3/80

9

RECEIVED
FEB 11 1980
#40

63-17561-46

60 MAY 28 1980

P3

4/19/80
6 FEB 11 1980

WJG
SIX

PH 10/24

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 Tech. Servs. _____
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 Director's Sec'y _____

2-9-80

PUBLIC RESPONSE RE ABSCAPL
 To whom it may concern, I
 want to congratulate F.B.I.
 for the good work, clear out
 our corrupt politicians who
 never had enough, to fill
 their pockets. do not let
 them get away with it, we
 want to see some justice
 done, get rid of bad apples,
 maybe we can get things done,
 they sure try to cover up,
 surprised at Linellette, who
 side is he on. sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

N.S.
 No address
 59 AUG 12 1980
 10/11/80
 From

6-0
 3-17561-
 715
 7 FEB 18 1980
 46x

EXP. PROC.
 40 FEB 12 1980

Director Wm Webster Feb 9, 1980
Wash. D.C.
PUBLIC RESPONSE RE ABECAM
Dear Director:

Well the sting perpetrator
is known. Just a shyster
Jew with a criminal back-
ground and close ties to the
underworld and a grudge
against Eastern Law-makers
and the owners of the Atlantic
City Casino used you and
your men and taxpayers money
to get even.

Why don't you investigate Las
Vegas where it's known the
owners are Mafia members.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

DE-50

63-17561-46
7115

FEB 12 1980

AUG 12 1980

105

108

AT FEB 13 1980

EXP. PROC.

When I first² heard about the "sting" I thought right away of Jewish involvement because they tried to make the Arabs look bad but I didn't believe the Israeli Lobby in Washington that controls the voting of most of the members on the Foreign relations Committee in favor of Israel, would have the clout to dictate to the S.B.I.!! You helped one vicious minded scoundrel to ruin the names of a lot of good men and used your department and Tax Payers dollars to do it: You should be fired

Sincerely

AT FEB 13 1980

~~EXP. PROC.~~

3
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Pa. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PA

b-6

A concerned old lady who is
sorry she thought it might be
a "Republican" dirty trick. God
help the Palestinians who are
under the Israeli heel.

~~EXP. PROC.~~
4C FEB 13 1980
#40

TRUE COPY

Feb 9, 1980

Director Wm. Webster
Wash. D.C.

Dear Director:

Well the "sting" perpetrator is known. Just a shyster Jew with a criminal background and close ties to the underworld and a grudge against Eastern Law-makers and the owners of the Atlantic City Casino used you and your men and Taxpayers money to get even.

Why don't you investigate Las Vegas where it is known the owners are Mafia members. When I first heard about the "sting" I thought right away of Jewish involvement because they tried to make the Arabs look bad but I didn't believe, the Israeli Lobby in Washington that controls the voting of most of the members on the Foreign relations committee in favor of Israel, would have the clout to dictate to the F.B.I.! You helped one vicious minded scoundrel to ruin the names of a lot of good men and used your Department and Tax Payers dollars to do it. You should be fired.

Sincerely

/s/

Pa.

b-6

A concerned "old lady" who is sorry she thought it might be a "Republican" dirty trick. God help the Palestinians who are under the Israeli heel.

COPY:aga

*Is ask warranted
noncons in Bufiles
P 801/nt
63-17561*

PA

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Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

2)

3)

11.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

2/9/80

The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Be advised that many people who will not take the time to write a letter are rejoicing in the knowledge that the FBI is in the process of identifying our elected representatives who are bribe-taking, worthless bums.

Public Response Re: CIBS can

I have no doubt that the evidence developed by the Bureau is damning, and conclusive as a fish in the milk. Let me congratulate your staff for refusing to release your evidential material to the House "Ethics" Committee, a move which would have been similar to dropping it into a bottomless political pit.

Adlai Stevenson stated in a widely televised interview this week that his Congressional colleagues were being "harassed", "singled-out" and otherwise oppressed by this investigation. It was hard to trust my eyes and ears! This is the son of one of a very distinguished statesman from Illinois, my state!

This letter is meant to convey to you two messages:

- (1) Hooray for you for turning over these rocks
- (2) Keep it up!

CC: Washington POST
New York TIMES
Chicago TRIBUNE
Miami HERALD

SEP 8 1981

Yours Truly

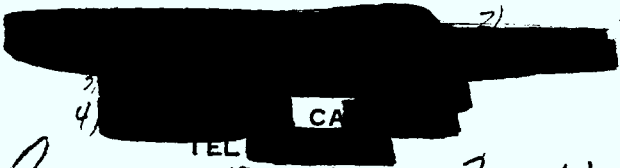
EXP. PROC.
FEB 20 1980

ack
3/18/80
NB: KAD

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6 FEB 19 1980

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Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____


 2-11-80
 Public Response Re AbSCAM
 #13.1.

Washington D.C.

May I heartily commend you for your efforts in securing the Breke tabes.

I think the enclosed cartoon expresses most all our feelings about "entryment".

I used to think the low salaries paid Congressmen 25 years ago was what tempted them - Now it seems the more they get the more they want! More power to you!

ack

4/1/80

MB: lmb

60 MAY 28 1980
 63-17561-11880
 1187

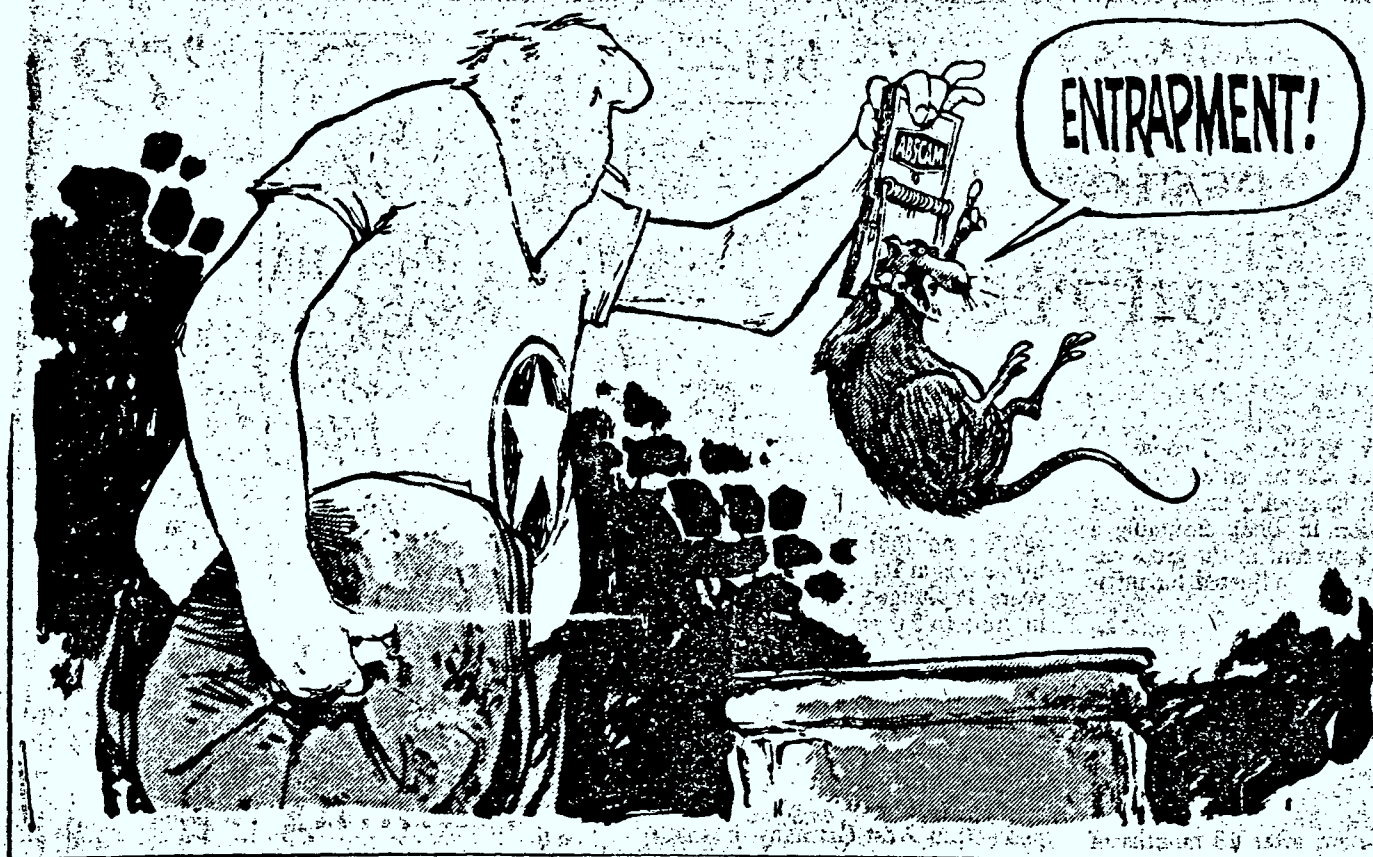
EXP. PROC.
 30 FEB 20 1980
 #40

b6

Prison

11 3

MACIELL/BERCHMOND NEWS LEADER © 1980 CHICAGO TRIBUNE



B6 INDEPENDENT (AM), PRESS-TELEGRAM (PM)/MON., FEBRUARY 11, 1980

INDEPENDENT/PRESS-TELEGRAM

604 Pine Avenue, Long Beach, California 90844 / Telephone 435-1161

LARRY ALLISON
Editor

DANIEL H. RIDDER
Publisher

VANCE CAESAR
General Manager

DAVID LEVINSON
Editorial Page Editor

RICH ARCHBOLD
Managing Editor

DON OHL
Associate Editor

63-17561-48

Public response re ABSCAM

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Exec AD Adm.	
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Exec AD LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
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Crim. Inv.	W
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Off. Cong. & Public Affs.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Off. of Liaison & Int. Affs.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

Dear Sir:

I highly support your recent investigation of Congress-regarding Bubbes. Keep up the good work. For the first time in a long time I'm proud of the F.B.I. for taking on a real meaningful task.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]
Arizona

b6

EXP. PROC.
36 FEB 11 1980
#100
[Signature]

ack
3/28/80
NB: Umb

63-17561-50
4/14/80
23

187
68 MAY 28 1980

5/1
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b-6

[Redacted] Pa [Redacted]

February 11 1980

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per
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direct

Public

RESPONSE

Re
OUTSIDE SOURCE

50 FEB 14 1980
#110

Judge William Webster,
Director
J. Edgar Hoover Building
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Webster:

ABSCAM

(over)

I don't often write anyone, let alone someone I haven't met, but I feel compelled to write you this Abscam stuff. I'm sure you're not pleased with it, but your reasons for displeasure may be different than mine, so I'm writing.

63-17561-52

It may very well turn out to be acceptable to me (the leaks don't help my peace of mind), but the aims of the program bothers me. It almost seems it was just aimed at general human weakness rather than serious public vice. It appears

per
4-2-80
web

your fellows just decided to try to see who can with stand or succumb to some

23 FEB 14 1980 4/10/80

68 MAY 28 1980


PAO/nb/e

fast cash. Some call this entrapment, but I call it scarey. I'm sure I did 100 illegal things last year, but since most of them are in the jay walking category, I really don't worry. This Abscan thing almost makes me feel some paranoia and worry: is someone out there watching? I'm sure it's foolish, but it's not a good feeling to give the country again. I hope I'm wrong about motives, or, if I'm correct, that you change such programs.

Just one more comment, and that is that while I've heard some say the program may irreparably damage the Congressmen's careers, I'm afraid the opposite is true: you may have insured their reelection by causing sympathy. This would be unfortunate if they really are crooks.

Good luck throughout it all.

Yours truly,



b-6

TRUE COPY

February 11 1980

Exec. AD-Inv.	_____
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Director's Sec'y	_____

Judge William Webster
Director
J. Edgar Hoover Building
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Webster:

I don't often write anyone, let alone someone I haven't met, but I feel compelled to on this Abscam stuff. I'm sure you're not pleased with it, but your reasons for displeasure may be different than mine, so I'm writing.

It may very well turn out to be acceptable to me (the leaks don't help my peace of mind), but the aims of the program bother me. It almost seems it was just aimed at general human weakness rather than serious public vice. It appears you fellows just decided to try to see who can withstand or succumb to some fast cash. Some call this entrapment, but I call it scarey. I'm sure I did 100 illegal things last year, but since most of them are in the jay walking category, I really don't worry. This Abscam thing almost makes me feel some paranoia and worry: is someone out there watching? I'm sure it's foolish, but it's not a good feeling to give the country again. I hope I'm wrong about motives, or, if I'm correct, that you change such programs.

Just one more comment, and that is that while I've heard some say the program may irreparably damage the Congressmen's careers, I'm afraid the opposite is true: you may have insured their reelection by causing sympathy. This would be unfortunate if they really are crooks.

Good luck throughout it all.

Yours truly,

COPY:aga

Am/

PRC/nblech

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Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

2) [REDACTED]
 3) [REDACTED] New Jersey
 February 11, 1980

Director
 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 9th and Pennsylvania Avenue
 Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT SOURCE

public response to Abscam

Dear Mr. Webster:

For what it's worth, here is one citizen who supports wholeheartedly your recent "Abscam" investigations.

I feel that public servants have a public trust to uphold and extreme vigilance is required to ferret out malfeasance.

I certainly hope that Congress, as a whole, will continue to support the FBI.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

36 FEB 13 1980
 EXP. 13 1980
 #40

cc: Sen. Bradley and Williams
 Cong. Hughes
 Aryeh Neier, Exec VP, ACLU

6-6

ack
 3/31/80
 2 BIK MO

63-17561-54

4/10/80
 6 FEB 13 1980

[REDACTED]
 N.J.

68 MAY 28 1980

43

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Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

February 11, 1980

Director of F.B.I.
 Pennsylvania Ave.
 9th & 10th North West
 Washington, D.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

public response to Abscam

Dear Sir,

Congratulations! Your agency's investigation of what appears to be crooked Senators and Representatives is to be commended. We sincerely hope that this will be an on-going type of investigation... to the point where the crooks are afraid to except anything which they haven't legitimately worked for.

Why don't we try the oil companies, next?

63-17561-50

Sincerely yours,

*ack 3/3/80
 NB: 16/10*

[Redacted signature block]

68 MAY 28 1980

Yma [Redacted]

[Redacted stamp]

FEB 20 1980

[Redacted initials]

EXP. PROC.
 30 FEB 20 1980
 #40

b-6

PPAOL

↑ 6

nm

OFFICE OF THE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
OF VIGO COUNTY

4) COURT HOUSE - ROOM 45 3)

5) TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47807

812-238-8305

Exec. AD-Inv. _____
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Exec. AD-LES _____
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Tech. Servs. _____
Training _____
Public Affs. Off. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

February 11, 1980

Mr. William Webster
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
FBI Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Webster:

Allow me to congratulate your department on the recently disclosed "Abscam" and "Brilab" operations instituted by your department. As long as these, and other undercover operations, are carried out meticulously to make sure entrapment is avoided, I believe local public officials such as myself, and citizens throughout the United States applaud these types of operations as being most effective tools used in fighting political corruption and organized crime.

It is indeed my hope that no Congressional moves will be exercised to curtail the FBI's undercover operations. Congratulations should go to your department.

Very truly yours,

c: Senator Birch Bayh
Senator Richard Lugar
Representative John Myers
U.S. Attorney Virginia D. McCarty

68 MAY 28 1980

63-17561-58

FEB 14 1980

Exec. AD Adm.	_____
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Director's Sec'y	_____

1) [redacted]
 2) [redacted]
 3) [redacted] N.Y. [redacted] b6

February 11, 1980

Mr. William Webster
 Director
 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Washington, D.C. 20535

OUTSIDE SOURCE

public source re ABSCAM
 Dear Mr. Webster:

EXP. PROC.
 NO FEB 13 1980
 #410

I very much appreciate and welcome the Bureau's investigations of political corruption as in the 'Abscam' cases.

Please accept this communication as an indication of my support for, and confidence in the F.B.I.

Yours very truly, b6

[redacted signature]

63-17561-60

Ack
 3/31/80
 NB: lmb

68 MAY 28 1980

6 MAY 10 1980
 [initials]

[handwritten initials]

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Director's Sec'y	_____

N. J.

February 11, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Webster:

I have been reading with considerable interest of your campaign on the assorted greedy government officials who fell into your trap. Congratulations, you have done a fine service for the public and while those who were caught will scream foul and demand their day in court the simple fact is that they were on the take and they deserve whatever they reap from their greed.

Regardless of what the various lawyers, defendants, sob sisters claim the F. B. I. does have a good image in the eyes of the people and they deserve a pat on the back for their good work. That a man like Harrison Williams would be so greedy for more money that he would sell out the people who placed him into office and paid his good salary just does not make good sense. How much money does a man have to have and how far will he go to satisfy his greedy hunger. The answer lies in your files and the foolish actions those who were placed in a position of trust by the public.

I do fear that your good work will suffer by foot dragging, by compromise on the part of higher ups, by the delaying actions of the lawyers and courts with endless reams of motions to delay justice. Try and uphold the public on this issue and you will gain thanks that will last much longer than any money that the culprits would have gained.

I do hope that you can find some way to extend my thanks for a job well done to your field men for their successful efforts.

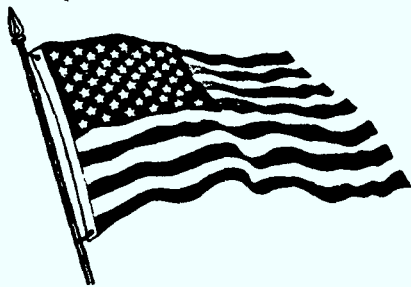
Very truly yours,

Ack
3/31/80
NB: lmb

68 MAY 28 1980

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FEB 11, 1980

OUTSIDE SEAL

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Director's Sec'y	_____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
public response re Abscam
DEAR DIRECTOR,

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK
YOUR AGENCY HAS MY FULL SUPPORT
IN ITS EFFORTS TO REDUCE BURGEON-
ING CORRUPTION IN OUR GOVERNMENT.

[REDACTED]

1) [REDACTED]
2) [REDACTED]
3) [REDACTED]

Ack
3/28/80
NB: lmb

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7/19/80

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68 MAY 28 1980

The ONLY Flag To Which We Pay Allegiance / Either National or International




66 FEB 11 1980
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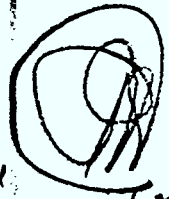
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Public Response Re

WE HAVE SO 11/SCAND
MANY BAD
 BANANAS IN CONGRESS - IF
 YOU DONT COLL THEM - THEY'LL
 ALL TURN BAD


 3)  W.Y.




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Director's Sec'y	___

FBI/DOJ

ATTORNEY AT LAW

ILLINOIS

TELEPHONE

OUTSIDE SOURCE

February 11, 1980

Members of the Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Members of the House of Reps
Washington, D. C. 20515

Gentlemen: *Public Reproach*

I have read with great interest the recent newspaper accounts of the "ABSCAM" investigation, conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and, more than that, selected comments pertaining to the investigation as enunciated by several members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives. As a citizen of these United States and a member of the American public, I think it is time that this matter be put into perspective with reference to middle class America.

It is our sincere hope that our elected representatives in Congress will be, like Caesar's wife, "above reproach". I have observed with increasing distress comments of certain members of our legislative representative body condemning the Federal Bureau of Investigation for conducting what appears to be a very successful investigation involving bribery and corruption with reference to our elected representatives and which may result in further judicial proceedings.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is, by law, charged with the investigation of crimes against the laws of the United States. I know of no federal law that exempts Congress from obedience to the laws of the United States and if members of Congress violate those laws, they deserve to be brought to justice.

I believe that it is time to put this matter into perspective. At the time of Watergate, Congress was most vociferous in endeavoring to bring the judicial arm of our government to the bar of justice and I believe it only fair that Congress should, at this time, commit itself to the doctrine that it must clean its own house.

Hon. William H. Webster, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
9th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20535

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

☒ OFFICE
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☐ OFFICE

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Members of the Senate
Members of the House of Representatives
February 11, 1980
Page Two

This government of ours, if it is to survive, requires a sincere dedication on the part of our elected representatives to the basic tenets of integrity and justice. I do not believe that justice can be served on the basis of favoritism or privilege. More than that, it is time that the investigative arm, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was given credence for doing the job it was designed to do.

All of you gentlemen would be the first to agree that if the Federal Bureau of Investigation had conducted a similar investigation of the executive arm of government, Cabinet officials, members of State government, or for that matter, middle class America, that their efforts would be salutary. My question is why do you wish to be exempt?

I know that we, as Americans, seek integrity in our government. You owe to your electors that responsibility required of you by the United States Constitution. I suggest you remember that fact.

Never in my memory has the public opinion of the Congress of the United States been so low. I believe that it is time for you gentlemen to correct your image in the eyes of the American people.

b-6

Respectfully,



cc: Editor, Washington Post
Hon. William H. Webster, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Hon. Benjamin Civiletti
Attorney General of the United States
Chicago Tribune
Chicago Sun-Times
Time Magazine
Newsweek, Inc.