

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TDQ:AGS

August 3, 1934.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON.

For record purposes, please be informed that [redacted] in Mr. Stanley's office telephoned and stated that [redacted] wanted to know if the correspondence that passed between Senator Norris and Mr. Stanley concerning the charges made against Special Agent J. R. Green was in the Division's file in view of the fact that they were unable to locate it in their office. I informed him that under date of July 23, 1934, the Director addressed a memorandum to Mr. Stanley enclosing a memorandum prepared in the Division concerning an interview had with Mr. Green but that the original correspondence relative to this matter must be in the Department files. I further informed him that if they were unable to locate it, I would gladly take the necessary steps to furnish them with additional copies.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

Respectfully,

T. D. Quinn.

AUG 7 - 1934

56-158-11
AUG 2 1934
TOLSON

Re

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

2 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): Same as Serial 8

☐ For your information:

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

56-158-12

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

FROM

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

TO

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Mr. Nathan	()	<i>Green</i>
Mr. Tolson	()	
Mr. Clegg	()	
Mr. Appel	()	
Mr. Baughman	()	<i>Wes</i>
Mr. Coffey	()	
Mr. Cowley	()	<i>Blue</i>
Mr. Edwards	()	
Mr. Egan	()	<i>Wes</i>
Mr. Lester	()	
Mr. Glavin	()	<i>Wes</i>
Mr. Quinn	()	
Mr. Rorer	()	<i>Sattlem</i> <i>in</i>
Mr. Tamm	()	
Inspector	()	
Unit	()	
Secretary	()	<i>Interrogation</i>
See me	()	
Prepare Reply	()	
For Your Information	()	
Note and Return	()	<i>Wes</i>
File	()	

Remarks:

Re Green & Weiss.

J. B. [Signature]
Wes

Green
 Telegram answers
 matter -
 Surprised that
 Senator would make
 such a charge - Mutual
 friends endorsed
 thought horror would
 feel that investigation
 was made by a friendly
 Cordell and Green
 served in legislature in
 1919 - Knew Cordell
 in 1913 when G. was
 Asst Sec of Senate
 J. F. A. Nathan. End

OFFICE OF

OFFICE
 Mr. Nathan
 Mr. Tolson
 Mr. Clegg
 Mr. Appel
 Mr. Baughman
 Mr. Coffey
 Mr. Glavin
 Mr. Ladd
 Mr. Nichols
 Mr. Rosen
 Mr. Tracy
 Mr. Carson
 Mr. Egan
 Mr. Gurnea
 Mr. Harbo
 Mr. Hendon
 Mr. Jones
 Mr. Quinn
 Mr. Nease
 Mr. Tamm
 Inspector
 Chief Clerk
 Secretary

See me
 Prepare Rep
 For Your Inf
 Note and Re
 File

Remarks:

Walter Lock - Editor of
writes for Lincoln Journal

~~was~~ P.C. + Lonsbury St.
were friends of Norris who
introduced Green.

Frank Thompson was a friend
(Lincoln Club) of Norris who
Green mentioned all of
these names to Norris.
at time of his interview.
so he would know Green
and could make inquiries
about him.

May 8. arrived at 7⁴⁵ am
rent a room at Keystone
Hotel - knew Senator

Green -
telegram
matters -

Senator would
such a charge
friends either
thought Norris
felt that in
was made to

Cordell and
moved in Aug
1919 - Knew
in 1913 with
Asst Secy

J. F.

over -
bought
interview
- Cook
can, not
the time
as to anyone

all of

entirely

everyone's
trust

suspicious attitude -

Stayed in room -
practically all day (except
for meals). Did not go
to - the night before ~~last~~ ^{but}
time he has been in in - Cook
that has not gone.

not in to his
office on that ~~date~~
occasion.

The only place
saw Harris go to at
Keystone Hotel - apppt
made as Harris came out
of breakfast room. Harris
arrived in about on how

W
we
but

the
at

so
hr
bb

ls
10

On mezzanine floor -
talked to Horns about
on her - Did not interview
Eugene Elson in m^{rs} Cook
on this occasion, nor
did I or at any other time
mention matter to Eugene
or m^{rs} Cook.

Never heard of
White & Co -

Accusations entirely
unfounded -

Did not have anyone
violated trust

super
to
for me
to be
make
but he

at
office
address
The

saw him
Key Stone
made as
of breakfast
made in a

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TD:ACS

October 3, 1934

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON.

b7c

Please be informed that [redacted] in Mr. Stanley's Office telephoned and wanted to know if there were any further developments with regard to the allegation made by Senator Norris relative to the conduct of Special Agent J. E. Green, stating that the last information they had received was a memorandum from the Director dated July 23rd, transmitting a copy of a memorandum prepared in the Division concerning an interview had with Mr. Green regarding this matter.

I informed him that there had been no further developments with regard to this case.

b7c [redacted] called again and requested a copy of Mr. Hoover's memorandum to Mr. Stanley dated July 23rd together with the memorandum transmitted therewith. This went forward to Mr. Stanley today.

Respectfully,

T. D. Quinn.

RECORDED

INDEXED

OCT 4 - 1934

56-153-13

TOLSON

FILED

OCT 4 1934

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

October 3, 1934.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WILLIAM STANLEY,
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

167c
In pursuance of the telephonic request of
[REDACTED] of your office today, I am transmitting to
you herewith a copy of my memorandum addressed to you
under date of July 23rd, together with the enclosures
referred to concerning allegations made against Agent
J. R. Green of this Division by United States Senator
Morris.

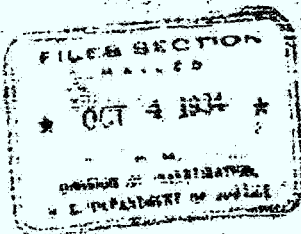
Very truly yours,

RECORDED

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Encl. #785893.

1 copy



56-158-14
OCT 10 1934
[Handwritten signature/initials]

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

EAT-eg

October 9, 1934.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

On October 1, 1934, [REDACTED] in Mr. McMahon's office called me by telephone and requested that he be furnished with an additional copy of the memorandum sent to Mr. Stanley under date of July 23, 1934, relating to certain allegations of Senator Norris to the effect that Special Agent J. H. Green had extracted certain documents from Senator Norris' safe. b7C

I contacted [REDACTED] on Wednesday, October 3, 1934 and advised him that a copy of this memorandum would be sent to him but ascertained that on the same date Mr. Quinn had transmitted a copy of this memorandum to [REDACTED]

E. F. Tamm

1 copy.

RECORDED

INDEXED

56-158-15

OCT 9 1934

OCT 10 1934

WILLIAM STANLEY
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Department of Justice
Washington

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Baughman	✓
Chief Clerk	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Edwards	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Keith	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. Quinn	✓
Mr. Schilder	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓

December 18, 1934.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER

Re: Letter of December 12 to the Attorney General
from Senator Norris, concerning the latter's
papers and documents, etc.

I do not think any further correspondence
is necessary. Unless you disagree with me, we shall
consider the matter closed.

William Stanley

William Stanley
The Assistant to the Attorney General.

12/27/34
JAN 20 1935

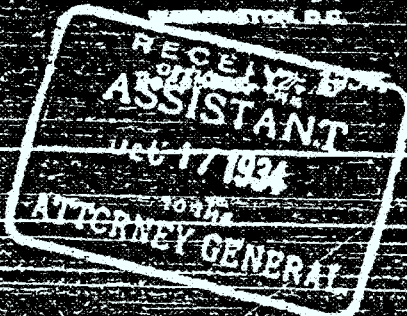
Mem for the Director
12/27/34
W.S.

56-158-16
JAN 20 1935
RECORDED
INDEXED
FBI

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

W/K



*Stanley
Horse*

To Mr. [unclear] further [unclear] HSC

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

I wish to thank you for your letter of October fifth. I was sick when I first returned to Washington and was confined to my room for about a week. In the meantime, I have been so busy with work I have had on hand, that I have not had time to give attention to my correspondence. In trying to clean up my desk, I have just reached your letter.

I am of course sorry that the investigation which you have had made does not disclose anything of value. I am at a loss to know just what has happened to all my papers and documents, which were stolen from my safe. I know, of course, that Mr. Green had come to Nebraska, and that he was sent there by the then Attorney General of the United States. I recall distinctly in his interview with me, he exhibited letters written by me to the Attorney General. I knew also that Gaston B. Means, who was formerly connected with the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, had testified in court that he had been airted at one time to look up my record with a view of finding something upon which might be based a threat which would perhaps keep me from some of my activities. This same man, while in the penitentiary in Florida, at one time told a newspaper correspondent the same story. Although the correspondent, when he returned to Washington, told me what Means had said, I gave but little attention to it, because of the source from which it came. I knew Mr. Means' reputation for truthfulness was not good. I knew, also, that my office in Washington had been entered without my consent or knowledge, and that on one occasion, at least, my correspondence had been stolen. I charged this up to the unfortunate and disagreeable things which frequently happen to any man in public life, where unscrupulous persons are attempting

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12/12/38

to blackmail him - but when I found my safe had been robbed
and every paper in it had been stolen, including some
responses which were valuable to me but of no intrinsic
value to others, I decided to try to find out, if I could,
the guilty parties in this case.

I advise you as in your letter that Mr. Green
placed this investigation which he was making with me in
confidence - this statement is unsworn. I never made any such
statement and know nothing about it, and he will be sure to
know this.

From account of Green, the matter is being
handled with.

Very truly yours,

Gustav

Honorable Homer S. Cummings
The Attorney General
Department of Justice.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

WAS:TD

December 27, 1934.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Keith	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Schilder	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	

Reference is made to the letter from Senator G. W. Norris, dated December 12, 1934 and addressed to the Attorney General. Particular reference is made to the following statement in that letter:

"I notice you say in your letter that Mr. Green claims this investigation which he was making was made at my request. This statement is unfounded. I never made any such request and knew nothing about it, until he called to see me at McCook, Nebraska."

An effort was made to locate a copy of the letter of the Attorney General dated October 5, 1934, addressed to Senator Norris, to which Senator Norris refers in his letter, but no copy of this letter could be located in the Department's file. It is noted that the investigation which Special Agent Green was conducting at the time Senator Norris alleges he removed papers from his safe (Senator Norris' was in the case entitled Robert H. Lucas, Corrupt Practice Act, Division File 56-158. That investigation was instituted as a result of two letters addressed to the Attorney General by Senator Norris dated March 23, 1931 and April 14, 1931, which pointed out that Mr. Lucas was probably guilty of the Corrupt Practice Act. Presumably the Attorney General's letter of October 5, 1934, addressed to Senator Norris, made reference to his letters pointing out that the investigation was originally instituted at the Senator's request. There is nothing in the Division file to indicate that Special Agent Green ever stated to Senator Norris, or any one else, that he had instituted the investigation at the request of Senator Norris. It is noted that at the time Special Agent Green interviewed the Senator, he stated that he had been instructed by the Department to meet to him and secure all facts and information he might have with reference to the matters contained in his letters of March 23 and April 14, 1931 to the Attorney General with reference to the violation of the Corrupt Practice Act by Robert H. Lucas.

JAN 23 1935

RECORDED

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56-158-16

JAN 20 1935

Without having access to the letter which was addressed to Senator Norris over the Attorney General's signature on October 5, 1934, it can not be definitely determined as to just what Senator Norris has reference to in the above quoted statement from his letter. There is, of course, the possibility that he may have misinterpreted the Attorney General's letter.

Respectfully,

A. A. Smith

A. A. Smith

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

February 1, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON.

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Baughman	
Chief Clerk	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Edwards	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Keith	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Schilder	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

b7c
For record purposes, please be informed that [redacted] in Mr. Stanley's office telephoned with regard to the interview had with Special Agent J. R. Green concerning the allegation of Senator Norris that Green extracted certain papers, documents, and an insurance policy from the Senator's safe. He stated that a letter had been received from Senator Norris in response to a letter from the Department, in which letter the Senator stated that he had never requested the instant investigation. [redacted] wanted to know if this was a fact.

I called his attention to the memorandum of the Director prepared on July 3, 1934 addressed to Mr. Stanley with particular reference to the third and fourth paragraphs appearing on pages 1 and 2, which stated we had furnished him with the information he desired to have.

Respectfully,

T. D. Quinn
T. D. Quinn.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

MAR 16 1935

56-153-17
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 11 1935
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TOLSON

RECEIVED

March 6, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
RE: ALLEGATIONS OF THE SENATOR GEORGE W. MORRIS

In response to your request of March 3, 1940, information is being set forth herein relative to the circumstances upon which an allegation was made by the Honorable George W. Morris, United States Senator from Nebraska, in a letter of June 25, 1934, to the Honorable John F. Cordell, McCook, Nebraska, a copy of which communication was furnished by the Senator to the then Attorney General, Homer S. Cummings, to the effect that Special Agent Joseph R. Green had during 1931 removed, or caused to be removed from the office safe of the Senator certain of the latter's personal documents.

At the request of Mr. Eugene Pettis, Assistant Attorney General, this Bureau on May 1, 1931, instituted an investigation concerning possible violations of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act of 1925 and an endorsement statute involving Robert R. Lucas, the Executive Director of the Republican National Committee, on the basis of a complaint originally made by the Honorable George W. Morris to the Attorney General by letters of March 23, and April 14, 1931. Senator Morris, in his original communications to the Attorney General, charged that Lucas had violated the Federal Corrupt Practices Act (Title 2, Section 246, United States Code), by failing to make a proper entry in his personal expenditure report filed with the Clerk of the Senate on December 15, 1930, of a printing expenditure item of \$1,257.27, incurred during October, 1930, billed on November 10, 1930 and paid by Lucas on January 2, 1931. Morris further claimed that Lucas had used funds of the Republican National Committee as collateral for a personal loan of \$1,000.00. He stated that the latter's action constituted the basis of an endorsement action. It should be noted that Morris defeated Lucas in the 1930 Senatorial election in Nebraska, in what the Republican described as a "hard struggle intensely conducted against great odds, against contribution from those representing special interests and those using all imaginable guile and dishonest methods".

RECORDED

INDEXED

56-158-18
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
MAR 10 1940
RECEIVED

Memorandum for
the Director

- 2 -

March 5, 1930

Special Agent Joseph R. Green, whose application for appointment as an Agent had been discussed by Senator Norris, was assigned to handle this investigation. Upon a specific instruction of Mr. Dohs, who was handling the matter for the Department, Agent Green first interviewed Mr. Lucas on May 4, 1931, concerning the charges made by Mr. Norris. Mr. Lucas admitted the facts related above with respect to the printing expenditure item, but stated this procedure was a general practice and not considered improper under existing statutes. He denied having used funds of the Republican National Committee as collateral for the personal loan referred to by the complainant. On the day following this original interview, Mr. Lucas retaliated by referring to the disclosure that Senator Cutting of New Mexico contributed \$1,000 to Senator Norris for use in the latter's primary campaign. He further contended that Norris had in connection with this primary campaign treated expenditures incurred before the election, which were not billed nor paid for until after the primary, in a similar manner as had Mr. Lucas in the election of 1930.

Mr. Dohs then requested Agent Green to interview Senator Norris to obtain complete information in his possession relative to the matters complained of by him. It was determined that Senator Norris was then at his home in McCook, Nebraska, where he would be available for interview. Agent Green departed from Washington, D. C., on the afternoon of May 5, 1931, arriving in McCook, Nebraska on the morning of May 8, 1931, where he immediately registered at the Keystone Hotel, despite his knowledge that he would leave town the same evening. He purposely registered at this hotel in order to avoid meeting Mr. McCook, Nebraska any of his personal acquaintances. Shortly after registering at the hotel, Green determined that Senator Norris was also registered there. He arranged to interview Senator Norris on the morning of this date, beginning at approximately 9:30 A. M., and continued to interview the Senator for approximately one hour. At the end of Agent Green advised the Senator he had been instructed by the Department to request all facts and information in his possession with reference to his letters to the Attorney General in connection with the charges made by him concerning Mr. Lucas. Senator Norris at first stated there was nothing further to say other than

Memorandum for
the Director

- 3 -

March 6, 1940

that the information contained in his letter and in the report of the Senate Committee on Expenditures in Connection with the War Department had disclosed, in his opinion, a plain violation of law. Agent Green then informed Senator Norris of his interview with Mr. Lucas, where- in the latter made a countercharge with respect to the receipt by Senator Norris of the contribution from Senator Cutting. Senator Norris construed the disclosure of Lucas' countercharge to constitute a threat by the Department that he, Norris, should drop the instant charges against Lucas. He further charged that Agent Green had come to investigate him, rather than to investigate the violations by Mr. Lucas.

Immediately after concluding the interview with Senator Norris, Agent Green returned to his room in the Layton Hotel, remaining there throughout the day, with the exception of the time when he was out of the hotel for luncheon and dinner. Green states he did not contact any other person in McCook, Nebraska on this occasion, mentioning he did not even go to the Sheriff's office, where he is well known. Agent Green departed from McCook, Nebraska, on May 2, 1931, at 11:00 P. M., for Washington, D. C. The results of the above interviews with Mr. Lucas and Senator Norris were furnished to the Department in report form, and no further request for investigation in the matter was received by the Bureau.

By letter of June 25, 1934, addressed to the Honorable John F. Connelley, McCook, Nebraska, a copy of which communication was directed to the then Attorney General, Homer S. Cummings, by the complainant, Senator Norris advised Mr. Connelley of the loss of certain insurance policies and other personal property, which he believed he had previously maintained in a safe that had been located in the office occupied by Mr. Connelley and the Senator in McCook, Nebraska. He stated, "The only clue I have is that the Department of Justice sent to McCook a detective, who was interested in finding out, or discovering something which might be used as a 'pull' to limit some of my political activities. Now I do not think that he himself went into the safe. My own idea is that he employed someone to do this and to have this person bring him everything that was in my safe so that he could examine the papers and see whether there was anything there that he desired." In this communication Senator

Memorandum for
The Director

March 6, 1949

Morris further intimated that he considered certain followers of the Hoover administration might have sought personal information concerning him which might be used to his political embarrassment.

When the Bureau was advised of the receipt of the Department of this letter, Special Agent Green was interviewed concerning the allegations made by Senator Morris. Agent Green emphatically denied he took any papers from Senator Morris' safe, pointing out that he was not in the office of Senator Morris, if the latter had an office at McCook, Nebraska, and further he was not in Mr. Cordell's office on the occasion of this visit. He further indicated he had personally known Mr. Cordell since 1913. Agent Green, in addition, stated he did not employ any person to assist him in this investigation in any manner whatsoever, and most assuredly did not employ anyone to take any papers or other documents from any safe which might have been used by Senator Morris, or any other person.

The facts developed above are not a statement of evidence upon which to base an assumption that Special Agent Joseph E. Green, or anyone acting for, or in the Bureau's behalf, participated in any endeavor to remove private documents belonging to Senator Morris from his office safe, or any other place in McCook, Nebraska, or elsewhere, in 1931, or at any other time prior or subsequent thereto.

It appears that the Attorney General and Senator Morris were fully informed of the results of this particular inquiry.

George W. Harris

94-4-4514

GORDON DEAN

SPECIAL EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Department of Justice
Washington

March 1, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Attention: Mr. Tamm

There are attached 10 copies of press release covering
exchange of letters between Senator Norris and Attorney General
Jackson.

Gordon Dean

Gordon Dean

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. J. E. McGuire	✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm	✓
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

RECORDED

94-4-4514-1X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1 OCT 19 1940
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON [initials] EICHOHL

EXCL. C

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 1940

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Department of Justice today made public the attached correspondence between Senator George W. Norris and Attorney General Robert H. Jackson.

94-4-4514-1X

February 22, 1940

Honorable Robert H. Jackson
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Jackson:

It is with considerable hesitancy that I write you upon the subject of the activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have heard so many complaints of the activities of this Bureau that it has seemed to me I ought to write you regarding them.

I have made no attempt to investigate the various charges I have heard, but from what I have heard, from sources I believe to be reliable, I cannot help but reach the conclusion that there is some well-grounded fear that the activities of this Bureau are overstepping and over-reaching the legitimate objects for which it was created.

I have also heard considerable complaint as to the treatment which has been given by this Bureau to persons arrested, tending to humiliate prisoners unnecessarily, often to prevent them from pursuing the ordinary means and methods which, it seems to me, under the Constitution ought to be open to everyone who is charged with a crime. These complaints have been so widespread and some of them have been given such publicity that you are perhaps as well aware of them as I am, and know better than I would know whether the legitimate rights and liberties of any of our people have been frustrated and denied.

For example, it has been alleged and given considerable publicity that in Detroit quite a number of persons were arrested and handcuffed together, and their pictures taken in this condition. As I understand it, the charge against these people was that they had assisted men to enlist in the Loyalist Army in Spain. They were not criminals; there was no reason to believe that any of them would try to escape. They were not charged with an offense that had any odium attached to it, and yet they were treated as if they were well known to be criminals of the lowest type. This treatment of any citizen has a tendency to coerce him, to break him down, to disgrace him unnecessarily, and is, it seems to me, indefensible. About this same time, other similar arrests were made in other cities of the United States.

If these reports are anywhere near the truth, such conduct on the part of officials of the Federal Government, it seems to me is entirely inexcusable.

I understand you have dismissed many of these complaints in the Detroit case.

According to my understanding, this Bureau was created and exists only to investigate violations of law, and its activities ought to be confined, in my judgment, to the respectful treatment of citizens. It does not contemplate the inhuman treatment of them, or excuse it, especially when the people affected are well known not to be outlaws or criminals. Certainly the Government of the United States cannot afford to be given to third-degree methods, inflicted upon men and women, known not to be criminals, and, particularly, when they are charged with an offense which has no odium attached to it.

I fear the activities of this Bureau, covering as they do the entire country, are going to bring into disrepute the methods of our entire system of jurisprudence.

At the same time, Mr. Jackson, I do not wish to interfere with any legitimate activity in which this Bureau may be engaged. I think it has done some good work. As the head of the Department of Justice, however, it seems to me you cannot afford to permit the activities of any of your subordinates, or of any of the Bureaus under your control, to pursue methods which are inhuman and brutal. As I see it, the activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation should be confined to the apprehension and arrest of persons charged with crime, and the methods pursued ought to be such as not to bring the Department of Justice into disrepute.

It seems to me the former Attorney General, Honorable Harlan F. Stone, now Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, stated the case concisely and fully when he said on May 15, 1924:

"There is always the possibility that a secret police system may become a menace to free government and free institutions because it carries with it the possibility of abuses of power which are not always quickly apprehended or understood. The enormous expansion of federal legislation, both civil and criminal, in recent years, however, has made a bureau of investigation a necessary instrument of law enforcement. But it is important that its activities be strictly limited to the performance of those functions for which it was created and that its agents themselves be not above the law or beyond its reach.

"The bureau of investigation is not concerned with political or other opinions of individuals. It is concerned only with their conduct and then only with such conduct as is forbidden by the laws of the United States. When a police system passes beyond these limits, it is dangerous to the proper administration of justice and to human liberty, which it should be our first concern to cherish. Within them, it should rightly be a terror to the wrongdoer."

I hope you will not misunderstand my motive in writing you this letter. I have no other interest except to see that the laws of our country are properly enforced and the activities of its officials and officers kept within the bounds of civilized government. I am writing you only because it appears to me you could well investigate the activities of this Bureau, and, if you deem proper, curtail such activities as do not come within the limitations set forth in the above-quoted language of the then Attorney General, now Associate Justice, Mr. Stone.

Sincerely yours,

G. W. NORRIS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED ^{b6}
DATE 3-31-92 BY 8123 [REDACTED]
FOIPA# 296147

4/4/41

Since the where abouts of serial # 1 has not been ascertained
this temporary file is being made to take care of the loose mail.

COPY OF ABSTRACT # 1 found below (incoming abstract)

94-4-4514-1

8/3/40

C. W. STEIN, SAC
Omaha, Nebraska

RE: GEORGE NORRIS

Adv. that on Aug. 1. conferred with WALTER JOHNSON, Atty Gen
of Nebraska at Lincoln in conn. with police conference
held in Lincoln; in course of visit Johnson brought up name
of Sen. GEORGE NORRIS of Nebraska, stating he was involved
in questionable election some years ago in Nebraska; RUTH
[REDACTED] Johnson's Assistant, stated he had information via
the grapevine that Sen. Morris was going to make attack on
Director & Bureau several weeks prior to time attack was
made; Mr. Clark expressed admiration for work of Bureau.

tolson nichols: Hendon 8/8/40 am rc

EAT:

Personal and
Confidential

December 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DISPATCH NO. 8123

DATE 3-31-92

I have been advised from a confidential source that Senator Norris has been secretly working for some time compiling data which he contemplates using in making an attack upon me personally and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the near future. Senator Norris has been secretly compiling data and has conducted personally a review of all of the Attorney General's Annual Reports going back to 1911 for the purpose of building up a background for his attack. I thought you would be interested in knowing of Senator Norris' contemplated program.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director

RECORDED

94-4-4514-2

RECEIVED	DEC 1942
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	

EAT

~~Personal and~~
~~Confidential~~

December 2, 1940

DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY 8123

3-31-92

Dear General Watson:

I wanted to advise you that information has reached me from a confidential but reliable source that Senator Norris will shortly make a public attack upon me personally and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For some time Senator Norris has been personally and secretly engaged in the compiling of data and material for use in this attack. Senator Norris' research has extended to a personal review of all of the Annual Reports of the Attorney General as far back as the year 1911 for the purpose of obtaining background data for this attack. I thought you would be interested in knowing of Senator Norris' proposed program. I will furnish you with any additional information which reaches me upon this subject.

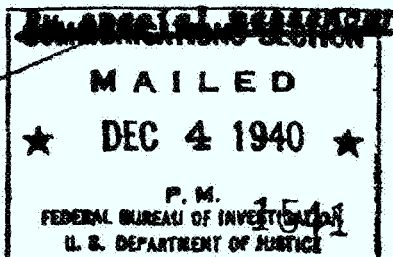
With assurances of my highest esteem,

Sincerely,

J. Edgar Hoover

DEC 4 5 21 PM '40

RECORDED & INDEXED



Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

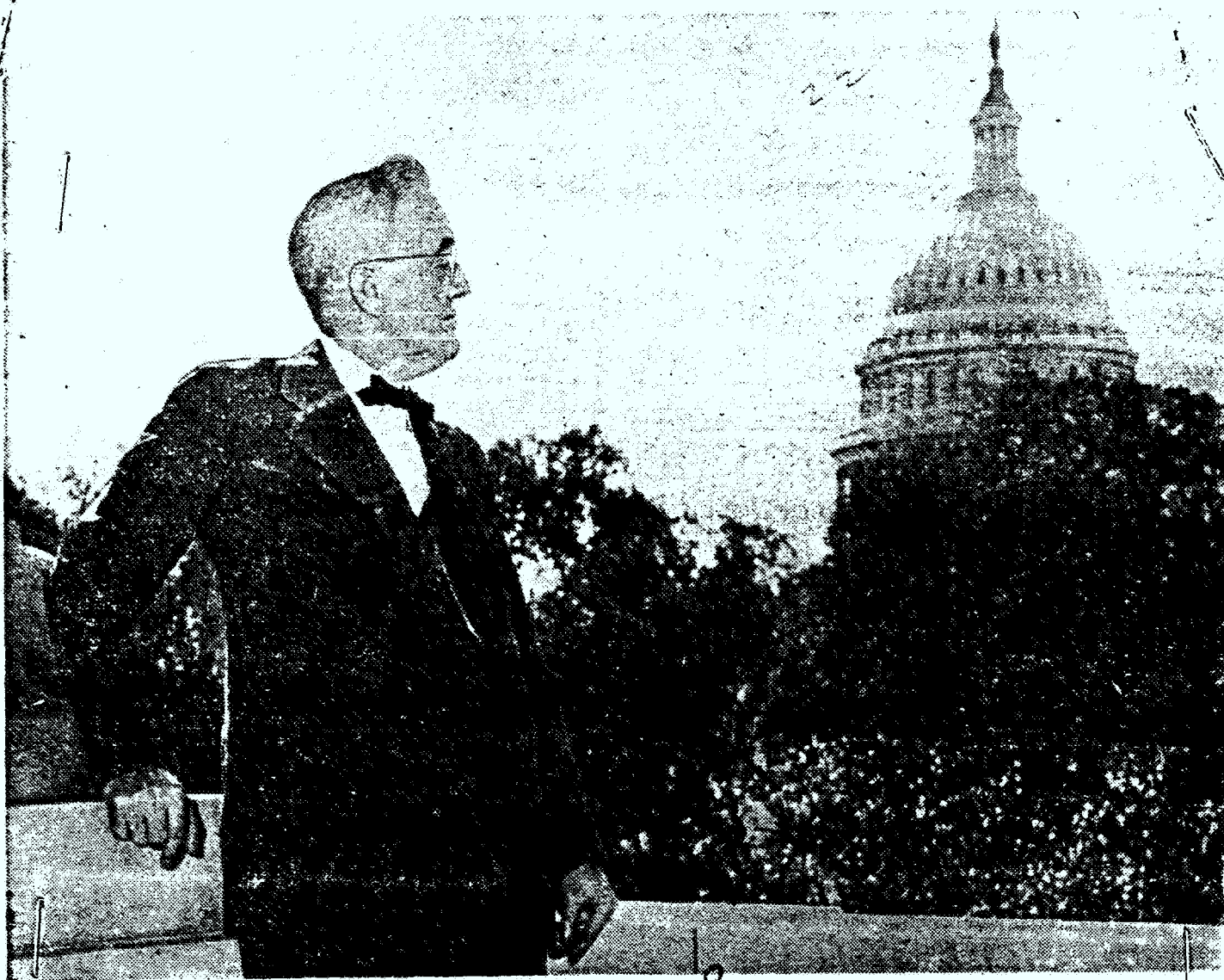
94-4-4514-3
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
86

Mr. Tolson ✓
 Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
 Mr. Clegg ✓
 Mr. Glavin ✓
 Mr. Ladd ✓
 Mr. Nichols ✓
 Mr. Rosen ✓
 Mr. Tracy ✓
 Mr. Carson ✓
 Mr. Coffey ✓
 Mr. Hendon ✓
 Mr. Kramer ✓
 Mr. McGuire ✓
 Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓
 Mr. Nease ✓
 Miss Gandy ✓

*It makes all the difference
 as to whose side is struck!*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 3-31-92 BY 8123

66



HIS FIRST POLITICAL DEFEAT—Veteran Senator George W. Norris, of Nebraska, was sad yesterday as he gazed at the Capitol Dome, under which he had served his State and country for 40 years. He said Nebraska has "repudiated all of my efforts" by electing Kenneth S. Wherry, Republican, to take his seat.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-31-92 BY 8123

b6

Norris Supports FDR For '44 Re-Election

Ex-Senator George W. Norris, in a signed article for the United Press, yesterday urged the re-election of President Roosevelt for a fourth term.

"I think President Roosevelt has done a very good job of conducting the war," the venerable Independent progressive said, "and unless some outstanding man comes along who would be able to do an equally good job, I think we should elect Roosevelt next year if the war is still on."

"I would be for any man who could do the job of carrying on the war as well as Roosevelt, but I see no such man now."

What would be the effect on our allies, our enemies if we should repudiate Roosevelt and his policies in the midst of war?" he asked.

The ex-Senator expressed worry over the attitude of "some Republicans" who seem to be moved "primarily by an attitude of hate toward the Administration." He wrote that "some of our people seem to be moved by an overdose of partisanship" and indicated that they were threatening national unity.

A foe of America's participation in the League of Nations, he hailed the Moscow Conference decisions and the Senate resolution endorsing them. Explaining his changed attitude on international cooperation, he said that no one was trying to conquer the world during the first world war, as Hitler and the Japanese are trying to do today, nor did anyone carry his conquests to the "extremes of enslavement to which Hitler and the Japanese have carried theirs."

This is a clipping from
page 4 of the

DAILY WORKER

Date November 9, 1943

Clipped at the Seat of
Government

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-31-92 BY 8123

66

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Boardman	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Sizoo	✓
Mr. Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Holloman	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

October 21, 1955

Mr. Nichols:

In 1943, the Library of Congress was presented the complete papers of the late Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska, who you will recall was extremely critical of the FBI in connection with the Detroit Spanish Loyalist Recruiting Case in 1940.

The collection of papers of Senator Norris is available for public review in the Manuscript Unit of the Library of Congress and must be reviewed in the Manuscript Unit, Room 3005 of the Annex Building.

Unless you feel otherwise, I will send someone up there to review these papers to determine, if possible, exactly who had contacted Norris in connection with the Detroit Case. If we can definitely show with whom he was in contact and then determine the background of these individuals, I believe it will be possible to show that "Commies" had hoodwinked him.

M. R. Jones

I think we should do this to use in
RECORDED-29 the history.

EX-126

94-4-4514-5
16 NOV 17 1955

I think OK

57 NOV 21 1955

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: November 28,
1955

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: PAPERS OF THE LATE SENATOR
GEORGE W. NORRIS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-31-92 BY SP23 [redacted]
FOIA # 296,147

GEORGE W.

with reference to your inquiry about obtaining the papers of the late Senator Norris, I wish to advise that his papers consist of approximately 100,000 items. Norris died in 1944. He was in the House from 1902-1912, in the Senate from 1912-1943. All of his papers were given to the Library of Congress (N. Y. Times 9/26/43, p.36, col. 6). His papers are located in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, Room 3005, Annex, and they must be reviewed in that Division.

Knowing the Library of Congress as he does, [redacted] feels it would be most difficult to obtain Norris' papers, or any portion of them, for review in the Bureau, without the approval of the Chief of the Manuscript Division, two of his superiors and possibly the Librarian of Congress.

You will recall that [redacted] was assigned to assist the Library of Congress officials in their search for \$50,000 worth of Walt Whitman's manuscripts which were stolen between 1941-51. [redacted] learned during the course of his contacts with the Library of Congress officials at that time, that none of the subordinate officials were willing to make a final decision on anything, particularly where original manuscripts were involved. They wrote endless memoranda on the questions raised by [redacted] and would voice no opinion until the word came down from the top.

[redacted] feels that any request he might make for any portion of the Norris' papers should be made directly to Mr. David C. Mearns, Chief of the Manuscript Division. He would probably have to get the approval of the following officials before he could make a decision:

Deputy Chief Assistant Librarian - Lucile M. Morsch
Chief Assistant Librarian - Vernon W. Clapp
Keeper of the Collections - Alvin W. Kremer
Librarian of Congress - L. Quincy Mumford.

It would mean that each time portions of the papers are borrowed it would be the subject of a separate memorandum; and would be a matter of permanent record to prove what papers were borrowed and to insure that these particular pages were returned. All of the officials are security conscious since the loss of the Whitman papers. They want to be in a position to trace every future loss, therefore, they are overly cautious.

BMS:mcc
(4)

10 DEC 19 1955

Memorandum to Mr. Nichols

November 22, 1955

We tested the precautions taken in the Manuscript Division by sending one of our employees over to look over the Norris papers. It was found they were considered "Restricted," therefore, the person using them filled out a form giving full information about employment, name of agency, supervisor or teacher, what use is to be made of the material, whether any portion is to be published, on infinitum. The person must then produce personal identification and follow two pages of rules under the eye of a guard in the room where the material is used. [REDACTED] b7E

OBSERVATIONS:

During the time [REDACTED] was working with the Library on the Walt Whitman manuscripts theft, he pointed out loop-holes in their security system in the Manuscript Division and suggested a tightening up of security and a detailed written record of the use of every manuscript by every person using or handling it. This has been worked out to perfection by the Library of Congress. We can hardly circumvent the prescribed rules at present. If we borrow any portion of the Norris papers it will become a matter of written record. b6

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) It is recommended that Agent [REDACTED] call Mr. David C. Mearns, Chief, Manuscript Division to ascertain if there is any way to borrow portions of the Norris papers on a confidential basis. b6

(2) If the above proves fruitless, then we will try to get them on loan, a few at a time, knowing a record will be made of such loan.

(3) [REDACTED]

I think we should follow #3. Altho there is a calculated risk. [REDACTED] b7E

I recommend we drop the matter [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

1249 L.