

[REDACTED]
CALIFORNIA

10/4

b6

May 17, 1982

Public Response Re Abscam

Mr. William H. Webster
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20249

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Mr. Webster:

I was appalled to read of the dismissal of criminal charges against former Representative Richard Kelly by United States District Judge William Bryant.

I am sure this action will create an unfavorable impression upon the youth of the country who had seen the television acceptance of money.

May I suggest that the following notice be placed in the halls of Congress:

"All members of Congress convicted of accepting bribes will be censured. All members of Congress found soliciting and accepting bribes will face expulsion."

Keep up the good work. Almost everyone I have spoken to is on your side.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

63-17561-511

b-6

17 JUN 11 1982

ENCLOSURE

ACK
ESH

CORRECTION



A1
At

On Ju
struck i
punish
require
was ser
possibil
mute th
instruc
quire ti
could a
decision
viction
sentenc
The
of the R
the Los

The
dictabl
ics of t
Chief J
ly an e
the m
the for.
confere
The
govern
alized
said th
on crin
Let
this ca
the res
let us l
who ex
The
the del
port t'
Sim 21

62-1161-215

ENCLOSURE

Cam
1

May 16, 1982 b-6

[REDACTED] Ill.
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Webster, OUTSIDE SOURCE

I write to tell you, that I feel the F.B.I.'s performance in "Abscam" was correct & above reproach. The recent action of Judge William Bryant is amazing. If there is anything that is revolting & repulsive it is the action of Judge Bryant. There is no logic or reason behind his action. Indeed, an investigation of Judge Bryant would be warranted.

I have wrote a furious letter to Judge Bryant telling of my disgust at his action. Sadly, I do know that this is an exercise in futility. But, I hope it will ease my sense of outrage.

In closing, I say, I hope you continue with additional investigations as "Abscam". To put the fear of God into these corrupt politicians.

Sincerely Yours,
[REDACTED]

63-17561-51
JUN 8 1982
COMM-FBI

Exec. AD-Inv.	_____
Exec. AD-LES	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Servs.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

[Redacted] SC [Redacted]

OUTSIDE SOURCE

May 19, 1982

Mr. William Webster
FBI Headquarters
Washington, DC

Public Response
AbSCAM

Dear Mr. Webster:

This letter is in objection to ABSCAM and any other operations which require questionable or wrong practices in order to perform.

It appears that you do not understand the basis of "right" and "wrong" in what I read that you say on the issue. There is ONLY ONE BASIS and that is what God has laid down CLEARLY in the Bible. God is the Source of all genuine JURISPRUDENCE and all else being nothing but lexiprudence--a system of laws not strictly JUST.

LAW never made any man right, good, just, honest, honorable, nor holy or any other term one might use for goodness or righteousness. Law can only show how vile and bad one is. Law can set a standard for what one thinks "good" is but can never make one good nor just, etc.

To understand that bribery is wrong demands that it not be used nor coercion of any kind nor encouragement to "edge" a person into it just to convict that one. If it is wrong for an individual it is wrong for any branch of government to use it. That applies to breaking and entering, adultery, lying, stealing, or any other thing judged wrong for any individual. To use a prostitute to accomplish your ends is just as wrong as prostitution is according to GOD. Now that is where the standard rests.

God never authorized the use of sin to stop sin. Men have theorized all kinds of things. But that has and does lead to some strange perversions in human history. The "justice" exercised in Murbourgt trials was not consistant in its execution of the judgements resulting. You walk into the same trap.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

PS: It is painful to write. Please pardon absence of signature.

(OVER PLEASE)

ENCLOSURE

Handwritten signatures and initials

OFF. of Cong. and Public Affs.

3-17561-518

MAY 23 1982

PPS: I enclose two leaflets which ought to interest you if you will consider that there is a very fine line which defines where government has no right to interfere. That line is defined in preference to the First Amendment and not by any other considerations.

This school does not consider me a friend. I am forbidden to enter its campus. However, when I came out of the coma in October 1980 it was a BLACK preacher from this school who had been regularly visiting me in the hospital. That is some discrimination isn't it? He was the only preacher who regularly visited me and brought a Bible with him to read to me.

Would you please tell me who is to decide what religious convictions a person has a right to hold and practice? Did it ever occur to you that one's practice is inevitably the outward reflection by action of their religious convictions? there is NO OTHER WAY. Any belief which is not practiced is not a belief.

When did the Constitution ever permit a government body to decide what is the right of a person to believe/practice? Did it ever occur to you that without the Law of God there had never been any basis for any law which is just? All of the legal systems of history have reflected God's law to the direct degree in which God was able to operate thru that government. Every government which rebelled against the Godly principles folded and it shall ever be. God never changes and He alone has a STANDARD which is reliable and right.

My Friend, might I suggest that you get yourself a Bible and begin with all seriousness to find out what law is and how it is to be upheld? It can never originate in the mind nor ways of Man. But every system of government is a direct reflection of its religion--religious convictions. That which you are reflecting is most vile. How then can it produce GOOD?

You would continue the degeneration of law and good government by your present course of actions.

Sincerely again,

[REDACTED]

b-6

The Greenville News, January 17, 1982
Copyright, 1982, Universal Press Syndicate.
Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

Reagan's blow for freedom bounces back



James J.
Kilpatrick

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration struck a blow for freedom on a recent Friday by restoring tax exemption to private schools and freedom of association — in its summary revocation of a pernicious ruling of the Internal Revenue Service.

Four days later, the president took it all back.

Decision No. 1 evoked loud howls of protest from blacks and whites so loud that Mr. Reagan uncharacteristically sacrificed principle to politics. He announced decision No. 2.

The effect of decision No. 1 would have been to restore tax exemption to various private schools and colleges. Decision No. 2 would have taken away that exemption from all those institutions back in jeopardy.

By way of background: For many years the Internal Revenue Code has contained a section known as 501 (c) (3). The language would seem to most of us too clear to require judicial interpretation. The section reads: "No part of the net income of any institution organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, testing for public safety, literary, or educational purposes."

Notice that the sentence is in the disjunctive. That penultimate "or"

"charitable" in terms of the "public policies" of the United States. The third step was to declare racial discrimination in violation of public policy. The fourth step was to revoke the exemption certificate of any institution that the IRS found guilty of discrimination.

The pending matter of Bob Jones University provides a specific example. The Greenville, S.C., institution, founded in 1927, is a pervasively religious establishment.

Nevertheless, the IRS revoked its certificate. The university sued for damages. The IRS, in its decision, stated: "The university, through Jones, is dedicated to the teaching and propagation of its fundamental religious beliefs." Every course is taught according to the Bible. Prayer is a constant practice. Every faculty member must be "born again." Religious discipline is required of every student. Every faculty member must be "born again." Religious discipline is required of every student. Every faculty member must be "born again." Religious discipline is required of every student.

One of the university's religious beliefs is that the Bible forbids interracial marriage. The IRS, in its decision, stated: "The university, through Jones, is dedicated to the teaching and propagation of its fundamental religious beliefs." Every course is taught according to the Bible. Prayer is a constant practice. Every faculty member must be "born again." Religious discipline is required of every student. Every faculty member must be "born again." Religious discipline is required of every student.

tax exemption.

IRS Backs Down by Dr. Bob Jones III

After eleven years of titan combat with the IRS for its tax-exempt status, Bob Jones University is having tax exemption restored through a surprise move by the Justice Department.

On the afternoon of January 8—a red-letter date in the school's history that will never be forgotten—the government filed a document with the Supreme Court asking that the judgments of a lower court against the University be vacated. The IRS has decided to remove from its books the revenue rulings on which it had based its unfavorable action toward the University and has extended promises of an immediate restoration of tax-exempt status.

This unexpected and unprecedented move drove God's people to their knees again—this time in thanksgiving for the intervention of God's hand in the affairs of men—and drove the liberals to anger and dismay. They have had their way in America for so many years, through so many administrations, that they were hardly prepared for this setback and responded like children had had their candy taken away.

There are three important truths I believe the Lord would have Christians remember as a result of what He has done.

First, God has let it be known to the nation that He is still on the throne. In response to the prayers of His people, He restored our tax exemption—not through the legal brilliance of any attorney nor

IRS Backs Down

by
BOB JONES III
President
Bob Jones University
Greenville, South Carolina 29614

© 1982 Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina 29614.
A pre-publication copy of an article scheduled to appear in the
March 1982 issue of *Faith for the Family*.

(C) UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

The Issue

Is Religion, Not Race

Guest Editorial
The Washington POST
Sunday, January 24, 1982

GREENVILLE, S.C.—In ancient Rome, every man was required to worship the emperor by placing a pinch of incense on the fire burning upon his altar. If he refused, he lost his life. Is Congress ready to pass a law requiring religious compliance with modern Caesar's social aims and enforced by loss of tax-exemption? President Reagan's proposed bill, which would tax the religious practice of many, seems to do just that. It would make Congress the judge of what is acceptable religious belief. Religion that affirms allegiance to the social gospel of civil rights (and when the time is "right," women's rights, homosexual rights, etc.) would become America's national religion. Upon all other religion it would exact a penalty.

It all began so well. The Reagan administration should be cheered, not cursed, for its Jan. 8 decision restraining the IRS from further playing the tyrant. Every American who loves his freedom of religion breathed more easily when the Justice Department announced on that day restoration of tax-exemption to Bob Jones University. That action righted a wrong that had existed for 11 years. Eleven years is an eternity for a beleaguered, independent Christian institution of limited resources that accepts no federal funds and exists only to help young people live lives that honor Jesus Christ. A nation that is founded on "justice for all" should applaud Reagan's desistances, which ended a grave injustice.

Of far more significance than BJU's personal struggle is the nightmarish possibility that a bill spawned by headline-grabbing extremists might pass in Congress without significant alteration providing for specific and strongly worded protections for religious freedom. Fervent Americans must ask their national legislators to resist all efforts that would pressure them into hasty passage of a bill that reeks of hysteria.

No social issue is worth delivering this nation into the place where religious belief is subordinate to government censorship. Should that occur, those who strongly disagree with BJU's beliefs have as much to lose as we do—the right to practice their faith without having it put through the sieve of government acceptance. Who is to say what belief will be attacked next by a special law? Religion by its very nature presupposes a certain discrimination. Black Muslim religion is primarily for black people. Orthodox Jews require men and women to sit on opposite sides of the temple. Catholics deny women seminary admission. Are those people and others, such as the Mormons, going to let Congress legislate a state religion by taxation of offensive beliefs? I pray not. I think not.

The BJU case, which was pending in the U.S. Supreme Court, was not about discrimination or segregation. It was a religious case. BJU has a racially integrated student body and educates its students without discrimination. Notwithstanding, BJU was met head on by the IRS tax "club." The IRS was acting illegally. Now Congress is about to act unsconstitutionally by making a law respecting an establishment of religion.

I am optimistic about Americans. Most of them love freedom too much and are too independent to allow the outburst of radical hysteria—which brought the White House to the frenzied production of an ill-advised bill—to rule their will, paralyze their pens and enslave their churches. They must let their U.S. representatives know that this proposed legislation is intolerable without major alteration.

The people of America who mandated Ronald Reagan into office, believing his promise that he would get government off their backs, are betrayed by his legislation. He has listened to the voice of his enemies. Now his friends must plead with him and with Congress not to place worse oppression on them through legislation that is overtly hostile to religious rights.

The present bill would make enforcement of taxation retroactive to July 9, 1970, the exact date the IRS began discriminating against BJU. Why is Congress being asked to take dead aim on this religious, non-federally funded institution? Do they want to make this institution an extinct species? America's laws take better care of birds, animals and fish. Is protection from discrimination for blacks only? Are BJU's beliefs to be declared illegal while Congress grants tax-exemptions and federal funding to abortion clinics that murder babies every day? What kind of perverted sense of values and morality do we have up there?

Our confidence is in the Lord Jesus Christ, the high King of heaven. Who holds the hearts of rulers in His omnipotent hand. And His sovereignty is able to turn congressional hearts to our deliverance and to that of the nation.

The writer is president of Bob Jones University.

KILPATRICK

Bob Jones and taxman

By JAMES J. KILPATRICK
Of The Washington Star

WASHINGTON — For the past 10 years the Bob Jones University of Greenville, S.C., has been fighting a battle with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The battle is about to go into a decisive round. It is a fight that concerns every one of us.

For the record, the university is a fundamentalist religious institution, founded in 1927, now headed by Dr. Bob Jones III. It has a current enrollment of 6,300 and a teaching staff of roughly 1,000.

The government has not challenged the pervasive role of religion in the university's life. Nearly half of the students are studying for the ministry or preparing to teach in Christian schools. Every teacher must be a born-again Christian who must testify to at least one saving experience with Jesus Christ. Prayer is a continuing prohibition. Worldly amusements are prohibited, including dancing, use of tobacco, movie-going and listening to jazz or rock music.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals did not dispute a trial court's finding that "A primary fundamentalist conviction (of the university) is that the Scriptures forbid interracial dating and marriage. . . . These beliefs, supported by the university's interpretation of the Bible, 'are genuine religious beliefs.'"

Now we come to the heart of the matter: Is such a religious institution, holding such beliefs, a religious institution under the Tax Code? The IRS says it is not. The government's

and do what we can through the American system of government "by the people" and impose our wishes upon our representatives.

When you finish reading this article, please pick up pen and paper and write to the two U.S. Senators from your state and to the Congressman from your district, letting them know that, whatever legislation is drafted as a result of Mr. Reagan's request to tax institutions that practice racial discrimination, specific limitations must be placed upon the taxation of religious convictions.

The freedom to practice their religion was the motivating factor that brought our forefathers to America. They came to escape state-imposed restrictions upon religion in Europe and England. Many of those valiant God-fearing men and women hazarded their lives, their families, and their sacred honor for the freedom of religion. Surely we can give a few minutes and a postage stamp to a letter pleading for our freedom. One million letters are needed. A copy of each letter written to a representative should be sent to President Reagan so that he will understand the sentiment that exists. Not only should you write but you should also engage every friend you have to do the same. Please accept this as your personal contribution to the cause of your Lord and become modern "sons and daughters of liberty." May God help you to do it.

proposed legislation does not have built into it specific safeguards protecting religious freedom, this country will be turned into something our forefathers never envisioned. It was the desire for religious freedom that drove men and women to these shores in the first place. No Christian and no freedom-loving man can tolerate legislation that selects certain religious convictions to be penalized through taxation.

It is unthinkable that Congress would allow itself to become entangled with religion to the extent of passing legislation to restrict the free exercise thereof. Your letter to your U.S. Senators and Congressmen deploring that possibility is needed. If legislation without religious protection is drafted denying tax exemption to organizations practicing racial discrimination, where does this leave many Hasidic Jews, Black Muslims, etc? It is not necessary to agree with their religious beliefs or with Bob Jones University's beliefs regarding interracial dating to see the violation of First Amendment protections in such legislation. If Congress can get away with taxing some religious beliefs, the intoxicating effect of that successful invasion of First Amendment Rights will open the door to government control of religion and to the establishment of religious beliefs acceptable to the Congress.

When our government seeks to restrict the inflow of foreign-made goods into the American marketplaces, it puts an import taxation upon them. Now government, wanting to restrict certain religious beliefs, may seek to tax them.

We must rise up in protest of that possibility

position is that unless Bob Jones University formally renounces these "genuine religious beliefs" and abolished its doctrinal position on interracial marriage, the university cannot qualify for tax exemption.

For the university, the issue is very nearly an issue of surviving or perishing. The code provision that deals with the exemption is tied directly to the provision that deals with the deductibility of contributions to religious institutions. If the government prevails, the university could be liable for more than half a million dollars in back taxes. Worse still, without a certificate of deductibility, the contributions which the university depends would be heavily affected. You will surmise correctly that Bob Jones receives no direct federal aid of any sort.

But the issue now being urged upon the U.S. Supreme Court has implications that reach far beyond this fundamentalist campus in South Carolina. Implicit in the government's position is the government's power to abridge the freedom of religion. In his petition for Supreme Court review, William B. Ball, the brilliant Pennsylvania lawyer whose First Amendment victories have gained national renown, contends that "all religious institutions in the United States are potentially threatened" by the government's line of reasoning in the Bob Jones case.

That line of reasoning, to state the matter mildly, is bizarre. The Tax Code accords exemption and deductibility to organizations operated exclusively for "religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes." The IRS contends that the word "charitable" applies to all the subject institutions; no institution is "charitable" if its racial views violate public policy; the public policy of the government approves interracial marriage; therefore, Bob Jones is not charitable and does not qualify.

This is incredible. The government is contending, in effect, that the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of religion must yield to a bureaucratic determination of "public policies." Churches and religious schools must conform to IRS decrees or face the punitive consequences. An Orthodox Jewish school, by extension, would have to recruit students and employ staff solely on racial criteria. How can this be?

It probably will be Oct. 1987 before the Supreme Court announces whether it will hear the university's appeal from the adverse ruling in the circuit court below. Meanwhile, perhaps Congress can be alerted to the whole affair. Mr. Reagan's pending tax bill has something for everyone. It would be a blow for liberty if the bill were amended to provide something for fundamentalists who believe in popular beliefs.

(C) Universal Press Syndicate

The Morning Call, July 7, 1981

Copyright, 1981, Universal Press Syndicate. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

The action of the Justice Department on January 8 restored to Bob Jones University its tax-exempt status. That brought hysterical opposition from civil rights activists who claim that Bob Jones University is a racist institution and that Mr. Reagan was favoring racism.

Bob Jones University has a multi-racial student body. All races are treated equally. There is no discrimination here.

Mr. Reagan, under the pressure of racist extremists, presented Congress with a bill that is the beginning of the end of religious freedom in America. The bill was drafted in order to make Bob Jones University a "sacrificial lamb" and thus remove the charge of racism from the President's tarnished reputation.

The bill in its present form is an abomination and affects the religious freedom of all people. It would give the IRS legal authority to harass all Christian organizations—to do what they have been doing illegally for years. An alternative bill is being drafted by concerned legislators and deserves the support of everyone who loves religious freedom.

The battle is just beginning. It is a time for all Christians and religions of every sort to awake and arise to watchfulness and aggressiveness. The thought of anyone's having his religious convictions singled out for taxation is intolerable. It is not necessary to agree with someone's religious practice in order to want it protected. Legislation that can single out certain kinds of religious conviction for governmental discrimination and taxation can do the same for others. If the

through the justice and wisdom of any court, but by His sovereign choice. The heart of the king is still in the hand of the Lord to be turned whithersoever He will (Proverbs 21:1).

Second, God's Word is still true whether we can see it being fulfilled or not. I confess that for eleven years I have searched for understanding of Proverbs 16:7 which says, "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." So why were our enemies not at peace with us? Did our ways not please the Lord? Or did that verse not mean what I thought it did?

No court forced the IRS to be at peace with Bob Jones University—God did through a turn of events that our attorney tells us has never happened before in the history of jurisprudence, so far as he knows. On the eve of the Supreme Court hearing, our adversaries dropped their case, admitting that for eleven years they had been acting illegally, without any legislated authority from Congress to remove our tax exemption.

Third, the battle for the faith is never won in this world. Christians must not take religious freedom for granted. The civil rights extremists are doing their utmost to make this appear to be a civil rights case. It is not and never has been. It is a religious freedom case. Bob Jones University's dating policies, which preclude interracial dating and marriage, were not on trial. Our right, as a religious institution, to practice our religious beliefs under the First Amendment without the penalty of taxation for those beliefs was on trial.

May 3, 1982

SC [OUTSIDE SOURCE]

MF
William H. Webster
FBI Headquarters
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Webster,

Public Response
Re Abscam
I read of your letters encouraging you to keep cleaning things up and not to let anyone stop you. This letter is all for cleaning things up but there is a right way and a wrong way.

There never was a man who could not be edged into wrong doing one way or another. You surely know that and if you do not you are in the wrong job.

If bribery is wrong, it is wrong for government to use it or cause it to stop it. There are and always have been better ways than you are using. Anyone can impugn a man's character. You ought to be encouraging people to do what is right, not tricking them into wrongdoing.

Perhaps I do not make myself clear. ABSCAM is not only unAmerican, but it is ungodly and wrong all the way around.

You have the credit of bringing the Nation and its agencies to an all time LOW, Sir.

Perhaps it would be well for you to reconsider some of those who have gone on before you "doing their thing" and justifying it, only to get it in the neck before they were brought down in public scrutiny and judgement.

I am sure you must know that you can find all kinds of people who will encourage you to do your thing the way you want, but what of the horrendous consequences* - - -to YOU? And the Nation?

The cat can turn the barrel for awhile but- - -. All I can do is write you. I am for it only in the right way. You will regret it.

Sincerely,

adk NB:ddb 6/4/82

MR. WILLIAM H. WEBSTER

F B I HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON, DC

Florida

5-14-82

lets the abscom participants go free.
as sophisticated as crime has become,
our people in law enforcement have
to become more creative to combat it.

As a man I respect very much
and have complete trust in, I wish
you could explain to me why this
happens. are politicians excluded from
our laws?? I know your time
is very valuable, but could you send
a letter explaining this to me.

Thanks,

FL.

6-6

P.S. - Please acknowledge receipt of this letter if you
don't give it to the President.

37

FBI

[Redacted]
Florida

UNCLASSIFIED

5-14-82

President Reagan, Public Response to Abscam

I am 26 years old and I live in Orlando, Florida. I have grown up in an environment of corruption and crime, with an understanding that our "system" would prevail. It seems now that this is not the case. That is why I am writing you.

To me, it would seem that the people I help elect to make laws, should set examples on conduct and how we should abide by those laws. But after Watergate and now Abscam, that doesn't seem to be the case. Why can the people I have put my trust in, commit a crime and be set free?

I see no wrong in the method the F.B.I. used to expose the crime, but I feel its terribly wrong that our "system"

JUL 7 1982

[Handwritten signature]

JUL 7 1982

[Handwritten note]

May 13, 1982

NR
9

0

DOJ

President Reagan,

FBI

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Sir,

1111-R 1111-R 1111-R 1111-R

62 Please, for the sake of this country, demand the U.S. District Attorney to investigate the Fed. judge who said the F. B. I. has no right to use certain means to catch crooks such as Rep. Kelly of Fla. and Williams and the whole Abscam bunch, If they have not the power to do any thing needed to catch these thieves of money hungry public officials, then do away with the F. B. I. and use the money where it is needed. Get these crooks out of Government, for the sake of our children, grandchildren, and our country.

Sincerely

(Signature)

b6

[Redacted signature block]

Fla.

63-17541-519X1

12 JUL 30 1982

ACK
7-23-82
MD:AW

(Signature)

expa
7/27/82

Exec AD Adm.	_____
Exec AD Inv.	_____
Exec AD LES	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Servs.	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

FBI/DOJ

kentucky telephone

William Webster
Director of FBI
7176 J. E. Hoover Bldg.
Ninth & Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

May 18, 1982

Public Response Re ABSCAM

District Judge William B. Bryant
United States Court House
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Sir:

OUTSIDE SOURCE

I couldn't read the entire article about the "U.S. judge" who threw out the Abscam conviction. It made me too angry. I went out to cut the grass and the more I thought about it the angrier I got. I decided to write the jackass!

The F.B.I. did a magnificent job. I believe in catching crooks any way and every way possible. Especially the crooked sons-of-bitches who were elected to represent the public and are supposed to be Trustees.

Representative Richard Kelley probably wasn't "recruited from a seminary", but more than likely, he was an attorney who couldn't make it in private practice. He was greedy enough to be willing to accept a bribe. He was caught and he should pay the penalty.

V-101 DE-101 63-17561 - 521

It is meat-headed judges like you who don't penalize the criminals that are the main cause of the great increase in the crime rate. It is too bad you got your seat for life and that the public can't throw your ass off the bench you disgrace.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

KY

MAY 24 1982

cc: President Ronald Reagan
Attorney General William French Smith
Representative Gene Snyder
Director of F.B.I William Webster
Chief Justice Warren E. Burger

Off. of Cong. and Pub. Affs.

*copy
No ACK Warranted
can
6-9-82 wf*

2 34 AM '82

01

The Honorable William Webster, Director.
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
9th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Judge Webster:

I just want to briefly reassure you that I support your fresh image and new emphasis on white-collar crime at the FBI 100 percent plus. And ABSCAM was an extraordinary example of a very fair and constitutional method of achieving these noble goals.

However, in regard to Judge William Bryant's recent ruling on former Rep. Kelly (R-Fla.), I really feel like making a special trip to Judge Bryant's office and then read to him, word for word, your superior overview of ABSCAM's over-all thrust that appeared in the April 19, 1982 issue of The Los Angeles Times (a big smile). But on a serious note, please continue to not let anyone stop your extraordinary ABSCAM type FBI methods.

Very truly,
[Redacted] May 16, 1982

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Public Reg. Rec

Re: [Redacted]

.....IN YOUR APPEAL TO A HIGHER COURT OF U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE WILLIAM BRYANT'S RECENT RULING ON ABSCAM AND FORMER REP. RICHARD KELLY (R-FLA.).

63-17561-522
ack Mndob 6/15/82

5 JUN 16 1982

PA

53 JUL 15 1982

May 17, 1982

Mr. Wm. Webster

FBI

Constitution Ave. + 10th St, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20530

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Sir,

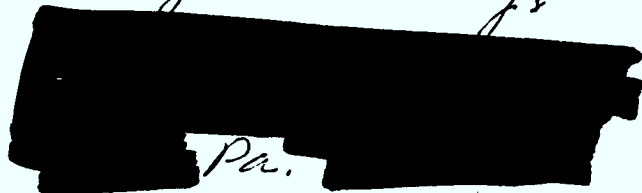
I believe in giving credit where credit is due, so, I want to commend you for your stand on the Abcam investigation.

Congressmen, yielding to bribes, proved their vulnerability to greed and dishonesty - not the proper action for public servants. Their kind we do not need in Congress, representing us.

Don't stop!

63-1761-524

Yours truly,

 Pa.

ACK

6-17-82

MM:ju

JUN 10 1982

53 JUL 15 1982

CORRESPONDENCE

Exec AD Adm. _____
 Exec AD Inv. _____
 Exec AD LES _____
 Asst. Dir.:
 Adm. Servs. _____
 Crim. Inv. _____
 Ident. _____
 Insp. _____
 Intell. _____
 Lab. _____
 Legal Coun. _____
 Off. Comp. & _____
 Public Affs. _____
 Rec. Mgnt. _____
 Tech. Servs. _____
 Training _____
 Telephone Rm. _____
 Director's Sec'y _____

Hal Gulliver

Abscam Probe Carefully Handled

This gets around to Abscam and crooked members of Congress and the handling of the FBI investigation, but let us begin with Diogenes.

Diogenes is no longer with us, alas.

He was the first cynic. That is, he was the founder, in the fourth century B.C., of what came to be known as the sect of the Cynics. There are good stories about him, some no doubt apocryphal. He supposedly asked only one boon of Alexander the Great, that the ruler of much of the known world at the time please stand out of his light. He was sold into slavery once and was asked what his trade was. Governing men, was the reply. He got to Athens once and Aristotle made reference to him. His nickname was "The Dog." He was known as a man of wit whose specialty was the espousing of conventional wisdoms, to the occasional discomfort of the establishment of his day.

The best known story about Diogenes, apocryphal or not, was that he sometimes went abroad in the land even in daylight with a lantern in his hand "in search of an honest man."

The FBI, with its Abscam operation, went in the opposite direction, in search of dishonesty.

There was no lantern, but there was a phony sheik, an FBI informant, who seemed prepared to

offer thousands of dollars to members of Congress for special favors.

You can't swindle an honest fellow, the old saw goes, only someone who is greedy enough to think he is swindling you.

That, in brief, is the story of the FBI Abscam investigation.

It comes to mind because of a couple of things. One judge has overturned one of the Abscam convictions, on the basis that somehow the whole thing was improper. Two former staffers in the U.S. attorney's office in Newark, N.J. — Edward Plaza and Robert Weir Jr. — testified to the House Judiciary subcommittee that they believed the FBI had behaved improperly in pursuing members of Congress on that Abscam front.

Now, there are a couple of things that need to be said.

First, a question of improper action by the FBI should be a proper arena of careful scrutiny. The very notion, as the implication has it, that any law-enforcement agency is somehow unscrupulously trying to entrap anybody (member of Congress or not) is genuinely outrageous. Let the facts be known. The judge's decision in the one case will be examined carefully and no doubt appealed.

Second, let us also examine for a moment what we are actually talking about.

Members of Congress are a pretty sophisticated bunch when it comes to political money. They also understand that there is a clear distinction between campaign contributions and funny-money payoffs. Just about any member of Con-

gress willing to hold out his hand for a bribe, unhappily, can find someone willing to pay a bribe for this favor or that.

Yet there is nothing ambiguous about the difference, say a campaign contribution from someone who indeed may ask a favor and a straight payoff for some improper action.

The FBI Abscam investigation was handled with careful regard for these considerations. Nobody got a congressman drunk, or put a gun to anyone's head, or anything remotely of that nature, in order to ask something improper. The members of Congress who offered to take the bucks did just that; they offered to take moneys in a clear context of being willing to do something they otherwise would not do. Cash money, mind you, not anything likely to be reported for taxes or on any campaign list of contributions.

What we are talking about is not a hard distinction to make. U.S. District Judge George C. Pratt, incidentally, examined the objections raised by Mr. Plaza and Mr. Weir when he upheld seven Abscam convictions last year. The judge observed that these two had acted almost to obstruct the investigation, that they were apparently "jealous," to use the judge's word, of the people heading the federal strike force running Abscam.

Let that be. The real point is that there is a difference between the crooks in public office and the great majority, the honest ones who probably have their own money problems but don't take bribes. It is a brutal cruelty even to pretend there is no distinction.

The Washington Post _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The Chicago Tribune _____
 The Los Angeles Times _____
 The Christian Science Monitor _____
 Atlanta-Constitution 4-A

Date 6.4.82

Page 19 FBI/DOJ

ENCLOSURE

63-17561 -

For Mr. Webster

[REDACTED]
Md.

May 19, 1982

Senator Charles McC. Mathias
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Senator Mathias:

The selection of yourself to head the investigation of Abscam suggests that the inquiry will be both adequate and fair. Nothing done in Government should be of such a nature that it cannot bear the full light of day.

I was in Florida when Judge Bryant's ruling in the Kelly case became known; the press reaction in both Miami and Orlando was noticeably mixed.

It may have been entrapment even though this defense did not prevail in the earlier cases but whether legally entrapment or not, the FBI served the public interest in revealing that there were people in the Congress so venal, or stupid, as to be caught up in a situation such as that.

So I commend the FBI and recommend that this type of investigation continue.

It will, of course, be of interest to learn how the particular Members came to be involved; there must be more behind the "selection" than has thus far appeared.

As I have written in previous letters urging expulsion, The Congress is the organ of Government in which many place their highest trust. To undermine that confidence is a most serious disservice to the Nation. Any Member whether legally guilty or not who is so lacking in judgment as to become involved in predicaments such as were filmed in Abscam, is totally unfit to be a part of that Body.

JUN 21 1982

So I urge the Congress to continue surveillance of its Members in whatever manner may be most effective. And when found wanting as with those identified by Abscam, I would suggest they not be allowed to resign - but that they be ushered formally and officially to the eastern portico and there be firmly and publically pushed out onto the street.

Sincerely yours,

cc: Senator Paul S. Sarbanes
Rep. Michael D. Barnes
others

[REDACTED]
Maryland

FO 111

F451

20/5

✓
1112
FBI
Washington, D.C. 20537

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Public Response
FBI
Washington, DC 20537

Gentlemen:

I am against the overturn of Senator Kelly's conviction.
If Senator Kelly is allowed to go free because
undercover agent was used in ABSCAM, then all
the convictions of dope smugglers and welfare frauds
who accepted money or goods from undercover agents
should have their convictions overturned, *which no one wants.*

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Montana

Montana
Per Telephone
Div. mm

Ack 18
6-19-82
MNigw

63-17561-578

25 JUN 21 1982

OUTSIDE SOURCE

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
F.B.I.
WASHINGTON D. C. 20036

June 14, 1982

Dear Sir,

I agree with the enclosed article and I'm sure the whole nation wonders why a Federal Judge turned the entire procedure into a mockery. This Judge seems to favor the wrongdoers. We and the Teacher- Nurse Club believe and we quote John Mengo...." The Justice Department has no recourse but to appeal Judge Bryant's decision." We ask, Should not this Judge be removed from the Bench? Does this not create more wrongdoers?

Sincerely yours

DE-45

VI11

1- ENCLOSURE

JUN 23 1982

JUN 15 1982

Abscam guilt reversal assailed

DEAR EDITOR:

I was completely dismayed by U.S. District Court Judge William Bryant's recent decision to overturn the Abscam guilt of former Rep. Richard Kelly (R-Fla.).

After all the convictions of other political figures in Abscam trials, this federal judge has opened a new can of worms for the defense attorneys who are involved in appeals for their clients. In other words, if Kelly and his cohorts are granted new trials, based on the disclaimer of entrapment, all the other cases will be reopened for the same plea. This will nullify the entire scam, heap additional expense on the courts and tend to undermine the judiciary system.

The public has vehemently voiced its protests against the actions of untrustworthy lawmakers. Jurors who sat in on the cases have rendered their decisions based on videotapes. What more do we need to convince us of their guilt? One single judge like Bryant decides to make a mockery of the entire procedure. There goes the confidence of the people. How often must we be subjected to the feeble statements of corrupt officials who claim that they have done nothing wrong to be ashamed of?

The virtue of politicians should be tested while holding a public trust. If they are not greedy, or weak, they have nothing to fear. But when they reach out for dirty money, from any source, and stuff it into their pockets, they deserve to be stung.

The Justice Department has no recourse but to appeal Judge Bryant's decision.

John Mengo,
Iselin

63-17561-530
ENCLOSURE

Response Regarding

OUTSIDE SOURCE

1/6/82
NLS

Fed. Bureau of Investigation, Folks: May 16. 1982
U.S.A. F.B.I., Person In Charge: Wish you success, In
continuing Case against ex. former Rep. Richard Kelly.
He is a disgrace. found guilty of Bribery + Conspiracy.
I believe this is the donkey who said, he took the money
to investigate the investigators who were investigating
him. "Ripley" would have liked to have that one, so it would
be at the top of his list. all time list, "Strange Sayings."

The Tape Showing Kelly Taking the money
with the help of no one. It is the same deal used by
our Banks, taking pictures of the crooks, holding up the Banks,
With out the Pics. there would be no convictions and
no banks. would have to close doors, No protection NO help.

I can't believe what has happened to our Justice
System and most of all I can't believe Judge William
B. Bryant, Saying importuning Kelly after he had
rejected their initial bribe offers. I look at this way.

Kelly. as all crooks, look for is a bit of time, like checking
out the one who offers the money, for what ever. Then after
a bit of pushing, accept after stalling a bit. like I said
Pics. Shows he needed no help to take and carry away the
offered money. While you are at it. Check the Judge.

to many acting like would be dictators, Question
Since when did they take over running, United States of
America. Hang in there, our great, F.B.I. Investigators.

Don't let "Kelly" get off. He will only write a book
to down grade all of you "Super Guys" in the Federal
Bureau of Investigation. Don't lose this one. We have the
Criminals in Control now. U.S.A. must turn it around. God Bless.

ACE
BKK:msb
6-21-82

CORRESPONDENCE

Cheers to F.B.I.

and our Great Pres. Reagan + Nancy.

Good luck and God Bless

all F.B.I. Guys. + Pres. Reagan + Nancy.
thanks very much to all.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] California.

b-6

Thank Pres. Reagan. and all
who, killed the "Metric System". Dead, Dead,
Now that is the only "Great U.S. American"
free way to go. Not "Metric" but free.

Can you believe selling in "Metric", 1st. Down, 3 yds. for the T.D., to win the money.

We are an Independent free Government.

Let us all keep it that way.

No one world Government. for U.S.A.

I pray our F.B.I. 'will help' to keep ~~the~~

all U.S.A. Citizens free. Thanks Guys.

Wish you all of F.B.I. the best.

You are needed. We know that don't we,

Chow.

28 NOV 65 4 02 AM

184

58880

DEATH

[REDACTED]

California

b-6

2861 AMB

Abscam conviction overturned

I no believe no way.
Judge cites FBI's 'outrageous' techniques against Rep. Kelly

By Robert Pear
 New York Times News Service

*Herold Examiner
 L.A. California 5-15-82*

WASHINGTON — A federal district judge yesterday overturned the Abscam conviction of former Rep. Richard Kelly, saying that the government had used "outrageous" techniques to induce the congressman into accepting a \$25,000 bribe.

Judge William B. Bryant said that agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation should have stopped importuning Kelly after he had rejected their initial bribe offers. Instead, the judge said, they persisted in applying pressure to the Florida Republican until he finally accepted the cash and stuffed it into his pockets.

The government, in effect, was "testing the virtue" of Kelly when there was no reason to suspect his virtue, Bryant said, adding that the government had exceeded the outer limits of "fundamental fairness."

"Law enforcement exceeds its bounds when it manufactures crime and creates criminals," the judge said in his 25-page opinion.

Bryant granted Kelly's request for a judgment of acquittal, overruling the guilty verdict returned by a jury on Jan. 26, 1981. Kelly had been convicted of bribery and conspiracy after a seven-week trial. He was the only Republican among the seven members of Congress convicted on charges arising from the FBI's investigation of political corruption.

When federal agents and informers first approached Kelly, Bryant said, "no one in the government had even the remotest suspicion about the existence of any prior, ongoing or imminent criminal activity of this type." In other words, he said, "there was nothing to trigger traditional law enforcement activities until the government made its overtures."



Richard Kelly: Induced into accepting \$25,000?

Sure in Hell didn't need help to carry away
 "Government agents, hard about the business of corrupting public officials who are free of suspicion, essentially subvert our government, and on its face this presents an unwholesome spectacle," Bryant declared. "This is particularly true with respect to the way in which Kelly was handled."

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Kelly reacted somberly yesterday to the reversal of his conviction, saying the FBI "did a super good job of snookering everybody."

"I think the whole episode is a very serious situation as far as the country is concerned. We need the FBI. We need to believe in the FBI," he said.

"The most astounding thing is that they simply didn't have any evidence at all ... it was all created by the FBI," said Kelly.

ENCLOSURE

63-17561-531

S
DOT

mm
9

FD

AREA CODE
TELEPHONE

CALIFORNIA

b-6

May 17, 1982

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

OUTSIDE SOURCE

THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President: Public Response Re: ABSCAM

It was with shock and dismay that I read that U.S. District Judge William Bryant threw out the Abscam bribery conviction of former Representative Richard Kelly. Mr. Kelly's statement that the FBI took "advantage of a Congressman in trouble financially" is beyond belief. It seems to me that just because Mr. Kelly was "in trouble financially" does not excuse him from accepting a bribe from whatever source. By his actions, it is clear that Mr. Kelly is a crook and would have taken money from any bribe-payer no matter what the source. It just happens, thankfully so, that the bribe was offered by the FBI and they were able to expose the dishonest congressman.

Mr. Kelly seems to say that it is all right to take a bribe as long as you have turned it down twice. The judge, who apparently agrees with Mr. Kelly, makes a mockery of the judicial system in the United States and leaves the door open for anyone, whether it be an official of the government or a private citizen, to accept illegal money if they are financially in trouble. If this type of justice is allowed to continue, I believe that the values which we were all instilled with will be destroyed and the country will disintegrate along with them. It is important that justice be served however we must have judges who will uphold the law rather than make their own law by allowing criminals who are obviously guilty go free.

Very truly yours,

b-6

63-17561-531X

12 JUL 2 1982

W

delivered
mm:bi
6-24-82
7-1-82

8/1/82

mm
8

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Texas [REDACTED]

b-6

SM

May 26, 1982

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Mr. William Webster
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building
Washington, D.C. 20535

Public Response
Re Lib Cam

Dear Mr. Webster:

Please be advised that you have the wholehearted support of this citizen with respect to any efforts you may make to uncover any corruption in any branch of government. I certainly hope the Justice Department will not relent in its prosecution of the legislators caught by the Abscam investigation through whatever level of appeal is necessary.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]

ML
(D)

b-6

[REDACTED]

63-17561-531X1

cc: The Honorable Jim Collins
The Honorable John Tower
The Honorable William French Smith

6 JUL 2 1982

W
ACK
mm:dar
7/1/82

8/1/82
CORRESPONDENCE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

May 27, 1982

U.S. Senator Alan Cranston,
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators

Public Response Re. ABSCAM

I deeply appreciate your taking time out of your busy schedule to answer my letter of 3-12-82. May I advise you that Emile is a man's name? Emille or Eally is the female's name.

Believe me Senator, I've read your statement to your fellow Senators in it's entirety several times. I have no intentions of taking your statement, word for word, sentence by sentence, or paragraph by paragraph to point out your inconsistencies.

Throughout your statement you deplore Harrison Williams' acts, yet you feel expulsion is to great a penalty for a crime, as you put it may later be overturned or dismissal of the indictment on due process grounds. You also state, "Even though some Senators tended to doubt the appropriateness of expulsion no Senator might speak against expulsion." Had someone inadvertently walked into the meeting with a tray full of cheese he would have been tromped to death. No doubt these are the so called Senators that applauded Williams and his wife after he had resigned. I think mice is too flattering a name for them.

If you think the average person would have felt censuring Williams was enough of a penalty, you are marching to a different drummer boy than the rest of us.

Your entire statement is full of inconsistencies. In the beginning you list three separate wrongs then on page two you say, "If he did."

Both you and Senator Inouye feel Williams was entrapped by the FBI yet you say a reversal of his conviction would in no way exonerate him from censure for conduct improper for a U.S. Senator. Come, come, Senator that statement is comparable to, "She is a little bit pregnant." He is either a crook or he isn't. You can't have it both ways.

In your lengthy statement you castigate the FBI for their choice of Mel Weinberg and Angelo Enrichetti as go betweens. That old saw, "It takes a crook to catch a crook" held good in this case. Do you honestly think the FBI would have used those two crooks as bait if they could have successfully used Norman Vincent Peale or Billy Graham?

ABSCAM didn't make crooks out of Williams, Thompson, Murphy, Kelly or Lederer. It merely brought these closet crooks out in the open. This wasn't a group of naive, gullible, callow bumpkins fresh from the back woods. These are veteran politicians with years of experience behind them.

Off. of Cong. & Pub. Aff.

Let ask 7-6-82 RSY:ms

From the people I've talked to their feelings about HUSCAM in general and Williams in particular I got the feeling that all the honesty and integrity exhibited by both Houses could be, "Shoveled up a wildcat's nose with a pitchfork."

The taxbreak congress gave themselves didn't enhance the picture at all.

[REDACTED]
Pa. [REDACTED]

b-6

Dear Mr. Young;

This is a carbon of the letter I sent Senator Cranston after getting a reply to the first letter I sent. His answer was single space $5\frac{1}{2}$ pages long on sheets $13\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{4}$. I would imagine you have a copy of his statement or you can get one if you want it.

Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule to answer my first letter.

Yours truly;

[REDACTED]

b-6

DOT
OUTSIDE SOURCE

b-6 013

FL

May 14, 82

The White House
Washington D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President, Public Response Re [redacted] FBI

I just finished reading that U.S. District Judge William B. Bryant dismissed all Criminal Charges against Rep. Richard Kelly in regard to the [redacted] case. It turned my stomach to think that a judge would do such a thing. ~~As~~ You expect the people of our country to live by the laws of the country, then you let a man like Kelly go free, to collect a government pension for the good work he has done.

This sure is a poor example for your people, and a insult to the F.B.I.

b-6

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington D. C. 20500

Yours truly
63-17561-531X3
[redacted]

ack 7-23-82

1002

[Signature]

JUL 28 1982

copy

32
DOJ

MM
14

[REDACTED] N.J.

b-6

17 May 82

FBI

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Mr Reagan-

The recent case of the overturned
Conviction of that Crook Kelly from Fla.,
Makes my stomachretch. The
Courts and liberal-Communist judges
will be the downfall of the Country.

In this case there was a "Smoking
Gun" - the TV Tapes showing that crook
Kelly taking money and stuffing it
into pockets - What else do you need?

You Cant Corrupt an honest man -
This has serious implications - which
means that Crooked politicians can
now steal with impunity ?? You must
remove that Federal District Judge Bryant
from the bench - He is dangerous

62-1111-531X4

12 JUL 23 1982

ACK 26
7-25-82
M.D. gw
SEP 13 1982

1466142

b-6
over
[REDACTED]

Kelly ruling casts doubt on FBI's Abscam tactics

From page A1

no prior indication of corruption by Kelly to embroil him in the investigation; that Kelly had rejected the bribe money when it was first offered; and that the bribe offer was tied to the promise that the "sheiks" would make substantial legitimate investments in Kelly's district.

Bryant, in addition to granting Kelly's post-trial motion of dismissal, ordered new trials for Kelly's two co-defendants, Eugene C. Chuzio, a Longwood, Fla., businessman, and Stanley Weisz, a Smithtown, N.Y., accountant.

Within hours, the Department of Justice said it will appeal the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

"We feel that Judge Bryant is seriously wrong in this decision. The acquittal of Mr. Kelly will be appealed vigorously in the full expectation that the original verdict will be reinstated," a department statement said.

Kelly never was sentenced and has not spent time behind bars.

Similar motions for dismissal have already been rejected in the cases of five other former members of Congress, all Democrats, who were tried in New York. They are former Reps. Michael J. Myers of Pennsylvania, Thompson, Raymond Lederer of Pennsylvania, John N. Murphy of New York and William. Former Rep. John W. Jenrette, D-S.C., who was tried in Washington, is still awaiting a decision on his motion for dismissal.

Dump that Judge Bryant — He is a menace to society —

63-1111-531X4

ENCLOSURE

Kelly case casts doubt on Abscam

Combined Wire Services

WASHINGTON — The federal government is heading into court again to defend the legality of the FBI's famed Abscam investigation after a judge overturned the conviction of a Florida congressman caught in the corruption probe.

U.S. District Judge William B. Bryant's decision to free former Rep. Richard Kelly, R-Fla., does not directly affect the fate of the other five former House members and former Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr., D-N.J., who resigned from the Senate March 11. They are appealing their own convictions.

However, lawyers for Williams and former Rep. Frank Thompson Jr. of New Jersey say dismissal of the charges against Kelly could help their cases.

Both lawyers said they would read the decision carefully.

"We look forward to examining the decision in the Kelly case because of the many significant issues raised by Abscam," said Williams' lawyer, George Koelzer, in a statement released through his New Jersey law office.

Frank Askin, who is representing Thompson on appeal, said he felt, "Abscam is unraveling and I believe this is a piece of the erosion of the prosecution."

Government sources who preferred not to be identified acknowledged that Bryant's ruling that the FBI's investigation had exceeded both the limits of the law and the "concept of fundamental fairness" is bound to intensify criticism of the law enforcement agency.

Kelly's conviction in January 1981 on bribery and conspiracy charges attracted particular attention because he was the only Republican among the seven lawmakers convicted and be-



RICHARD KELLY
Elated over conviction reversal

cause of the dramatic videotape, exhibited at his trial, showing him stuffing bribery money into his pockets. Another singular aspect of Kelly's case was his defense that he was in fact conducting his own investigation of the bribery scheme in which he was implicated.

Judge Bryant, who had presided at the trial, conceded that he had been "disappointed and chagrined" at watching Kelly shoving \$100 bills into his pockets. And he characterized Kelly's defense as "bizarre" and "nearly farcical." He acted on his authority to overturn a jury's guilty verdict.

Nevertheless, in a 25-page opinion released yesterday, Bryant contended that the goal of "testing the virtue of members of Congress ... appears to have been the sole objective of the (Abscam) operation."

Bryant emphasized that there was

See KELLY RULING, page A2

Doubt ctics

Bryant is serious. The appeal will be expected to be reinstated," said.

enced and has ars.

dismissal have in the cases of ers of Congress, re tried in New Reps. Michael inia, Thompson, Pennsylvania, York and William W. Jenrette, n Washington, is on his motion

Dump that Judge Bryant — He is a menace to society —

63-17511-531X4

Exec. AD-Adm.	_____
Exec. AD-Inv.	_____
Exec. AD-LES	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Servs.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

[REDACTED]
KS

b-6

MF

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Public Response Re Alcom
Dear Mr. Webster:

I just finished reading this item by Jack Anderson, and it made me angry.

I just want you to know how the general public feels, and I have many friends who agree. We enjoyed the Alcom & thought you were smart to plan it. We think Williams & Riley should have been punished for what they did - & we resent the fact that Williams gets white House benefits, like free haircuts etc. especially when I have to mail in a big amount of money every 3 mo. to pay my income tax - I am a widow

Please keep up the good work.

Sincerely -

[REDACTED]

JUL 2 '87

1 ENCLOSURE

47

b-6

CORRESPONDENCE

100-113006 7/1/82 104

[REDACTED]



ABSCAM facts, fictions

WASHINGTON — There are many weasely ways to slink away from a perpetuation like ABSCAM, but the FBI has taken none of them. Its stubborn chief, William Webster, has offered no apologies, no excuses, no regrets over the FBI's undercover tactics.

On the contrary, he strode into a House hearing room, head high, with the aplomb of a man who moves familiarly in a world of marble floors, lofty ceilings and cut-glass chandeliers. ABSCAM, he insisted, had been carefully planned, meticulously executed and strictly controlled.

The truth is that ABSCAM was sloppy, sleazy and largely out of control from start to finish. My associates Jack Mitchell and Indy Badhwar have reviewed the sworn testimony and picked out the FBI's misstatements. Some examples:

FICTION — The FBI relied on the likes of convicted swindler Mel Weinberg and bagman Joseph Silvestri to recruit politicians who might take bribes. Webster swore that the judgments of Weinberg were carefully evaluated at high levels before approval was given to go after the unsuspecting politicians.

FACT — Undercover meetings with public officials were often set up and secretly videotaped, without the Justice Department's approval. Not until four to six weeks afterward, would a proper authority usually see

the taped scenes and receive the prosecution proposals.

On one occasion, Webster authorized a last-minute substitution of victims. Silvestri wanted to bring Sen. Larry Pressler, R-S.D., to a clandestine meeting and offer him a \$30,000 bribe that had been approved earlier for Rep. William J. Hughes, D-N.J. Neither legislator succumbed to the FBI's siren song.

FICTION — The ABSCAM investigators would not pursue members of Congress, the FBI insisted, until after "reasonable suspicion" of wrongdoing was established.

FACT — The ABSCAM agents constantly misled the prosecutors by giving false information to justify their investigations. For example, the investigators claimed that Sen. Harrison Williams, D-N.J., had already taken a \$100,000 bribe before he was targeted for ABSCAM. This was a deliberate FBI lie to allay the prosecutors' concern over the "reasonable suspicion" requirement.

FICTION — The undercover activities were closely monitored, swore the FBI. Accurate transcripts supposedly were kept of the informants' conversations to make sure they didn't con the FBI or otherwise deceive.

FACT — Great numbers of such conversations were never recorded. The transcripts that were delivered to the Justice Department often were out of sequence and as much as 18 months late. Weinberg and his FBI supervisor, Tony Amoroso, were especially reluctant to tape their conversations. In several instances, transcripts were falsified.

FICTION — The FBI assured Congress that undercover informants were carefully screened to ensure their reliability. They were allegedly then given thorough instruction in such legal areas as entrapment and were kept under regular surveillance to make sure they didn't get out of line.

FACT — Government officials admitted under oath that neither chief prosecutor Thomas Puccio nor Weinberg's FBI handlers knew what the convicted swindler was doing or even where he was at times. The top

Justice Department official directly in charge of ABSCAM was neither briefed about Weinberg's shady background nor shown a copy of his voluminous criminal record. Meanwhile, the guileful Weinberg easily manipulated his FBI watchdogs; they had little control over him.

FICTION — The FBI claimed its "safeguard policies" assured that ABSCAM targets were fully aware of the criminal nature of the undertakings they were invited to join. No one was to be brought to an undercover meeting unless he was prepared, in Webster's words, to "make up-front promises that would violate their legal trust."

FACT — The FBI's own videotape and transcripts reveal that Weinberg was assuring congressmen they wouldn't actually have to perform the acts they were supposedly taking money for doing. In some cases, it was evident that the targets had no idea what the undercover meeting was all about. In other cases, the victims clearly were seeking legitimate financing. Then, as a precondition to the loans, they were told to bring in some politicians.

FICTION — The bureau was always careful to protect innocent third parties and would usually shut down an operation if such persons were threatened with irreparable financial harm.

FACT — Several respectable businessmen were ruined when an FBI con man roped them into a crooked scam for his own profit. The FBI learned of the swindle but lied to the victims to keep the ABSCAM "cover" from being blown.

FICTION — Any respectable congressman should have detected immediately that the ABSCAM stingmen were engaged in shady doings, the FBI contends.

FACT — The FBI went to elaborate lengths to create a legitimate front for ABSCAM. A phony bank account was even established at the prestigious Chase Manhattan Bank, which assured inquirers that the FBI's phony sheik was worth millions.

United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

6-1-82 Speaking the public mind

Where to write

Speaking the Public Mind
Kansas City Star
1729 Grand
Kansas City, Mo. 64108

(Letters must include the writer's signature, work and home telephone numbers, and address, although the telephone numbers and street address will not be published. All letters will be verified before publication and are subject to editing for length and clarity.)

All kept silent

Poor Richard Kelly is now a victim. He should sue the FBI for tempting him, for making a criminal of a good ol' congressman.

U.S. District Judge William Bryant has thrown out the jury verdict in the conviction of Mr. Kelly and dismissed the indictment. It is "outrageous" to this judge that a person of power should be tempted. It's not fair; how can the brotherhood of deception cover up, claim forgetfulness, and deny what is seen and

heard? Where are the fun and games when we see an absolute? Devious minds do not know how to cope with absolutes. How can we have a fair trial if there's no defense? Throw it out!

Why did none of these lawmakers approached in the Abscam case notify law enforcement officials immediately upon being asked to use their government powers to aid a "client" for money? Do they not consider this an attempt to subvert the integrity of our democratic process? Is this too much the usual order of the process—lobby contributions, speech fees, free vacations, interest-free loans? This was not new ground, just new friends, and thus the prudent caution. It goes to prove again, "Old friends are the best and most trustworthy."

We have a law that obvious child abuse must be reported by certain professionals. Should not judges, wardens, lawyers, police and especially those who enact laws which govern the conduct of America be held responsible to quickly report any attempt to influence their judgment and power with reward?

Ken Wutke

Holden, Mo.

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

OUTSIDE SOURCE

8 June, 1982

Chief, Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Please forgive me for forgetting your name, I am somewhat embarrassed about same.

The purpose of this letter is, however, to commend you and your men on the fine job you all did on ABscam. I simply cannot see why Federal Judge Bryant, has exonerated one man there, saying, "The F.B.I., had no business in the matter". Who is this Judge to almost say in other words that our shady representative are above the law. Or to really prove that there are two standards of justice in this country. We know there is, but must a Federal Judge prove there is.

To permit these crooked representatives involved in the ABscam incident to go free, would render our Constitution invalid, basically because of the much referred to term, Taxation without Representation, can be overlooked for the very people who are to uphold the laws, rather than simply get rich on crooked schemes in office. The Judge in my opinion should be involuntarily retired or just plain dismissed. His decision will only cause the convicted representatives to ask for a retial. In doing so, he will void what the highest Law enforcement Agency in the country's fine image to say the least.

Now, if the F.B.I., cannot be authorized to check on dishonest representatives, then who should. These men represent the country. The F.B.I., represents the upper most part of our judicial system. Sir, if everyone in the country reads the Constitution, they will learn that all U.S. Taxapayers are forced to violate the 5th Amendment, by incriminating themselves, due to our tax system, we digested that. Now amendment #17, states that we will pay taxes for the betterment of the country, would exonerating the convicted representatives give the American people the continued faith in our governmental way of running this fine country. Please keep your dignity in what the letters, "F.B.I." stand for. Too, please never publish photo's or names of your F.B.I., members. This was always a no, no. Keep up the good work.

Respectfully

Exec. AD-Adm.	
Exec. AD-Inv.	
Exec. AD-LES	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Inspection	
Intell.	
Laboratory	
Legal Coun.	
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Servs.	
Training	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

EXP. PROC.
38 JUN 11 1982

JUN 11 1982

CORRESPONDENCE

ACK
ESH:dae
7/1/82

N.Y.

[Redacted signature block]

FBI

37
DST

mm
28

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

June 7, 1982

President Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20510

OUTSIDE SOURCE

President Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20510

Public Response

Dear President Reagan:

Attached please find a copy of a letter which I have written in reply to a previous comment that I had mailed to Senator Cranston.

Let me reiterate my deep concern about the emphasis on honesty required from elected officials. The same rules of law have to apply to every citizen of this country irregardless of the status of politician or prostitute, etc.

If an elected representative uses an office to enrichen himself by bribery, thievery, crookery, or otherwise, he has no right to hold that office. That which happened to Senator Williams, Jr. was deserving of his actions.

Very truly yours

[REDACTED]

(6)

2-6

1-ENCLOSURE

63-17561-537

7 JUL 7 1982

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

June 7, 1982

b-6

Senator Alan Cranston
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Bldg., Room 229
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cranston:

I thank you for replying to my letter which I mailed to you concerning the expulsion of Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr. I do not share your viewpoint on this matter. You may call it entrapment or whatever you like. The fact remains that Mr. Williams has accepted a bribe. Let's face it, many a common prostitute is entrapped by local vice squad. Why shouldn't similar entrapment apply to disreputable politicians.

Let's face it, Dear Senator, Mr. Williams, Jr. is not a crook because he took the bribe. To the contrary, he took the bribe because he is a crook.

If it takes the Department of Justice and the F.B.I. undercover operation to keep you people in the Senate honest, I am all for it. Before the law you politicians deserve the same treatment, respect and scrutiny as we other common citizens including your petty shop lifter, prostitute, murderer, etc.

I consider the action of the Department of Justice a totally different matter than you politicians taking a bribe. If it is that easy to lead a Senator into temptation then let's not have him represent the common man.

Very truly yours

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
cc: President Ronald Reagan ✓
Senator Hayakawa

b-6

RECEIVED

17561-534

May 28, 1982.

Abscam Problem

In an article in the Philadelphia Sunday Inquirer of May 23, 1982, Mr. Tom Fox, of the Inquirer Editorial Board, claimed that FBI agents used shameful, outrageous and deceitful charlatan subterfuge to frame holders of public office into entrapment calculated to bring about an image of wrongdoing. In the name of simple truth, this insolent condemnation of the FBI needs correction.

There were continuous reports over a number of years about the existence of corruption among public officials, at times in collusion with known criminals. The FBI was specifically established to discover, track down and prevent criminal activities from all sources without the exclusion of anyone. To find out if public officials were really as susceptible to corruption as was indicated by the reports, the FBI decided to test the integrity of some randomly selected public officials. In constructing the Abscam test, the FBI agents performed their prescribed functions. The test demonstrated convincingly that some public officials were highly susceptible to corruption.

Since the Abscam case rests upon the single word "entrapment" which is utilized analogously with the trapping of animals, the word deserves explanatory consideration.

In trapping an animal, a completely enclosed cage with an open trap door is set up. To entice the animal into the cage, an appetizing piece of food is attached to a trigger mechanism which closes the trap door as soon as the animal takes a bite of the food. The frantic effort to escape is futile and the animal is trapped.

Suppose the cage is equipped with a freely hanging door on hinges in back of the cage which can be pushed out from the inside of the cage. In the effort to escape, the animal quickly discovers the hanging door, pushes it out and escapes. That animal certainly was not trapped.

Suppose, however, that the animal enjoys the food so much that it does not make an effort to escape and remains in the cage until the trapper comes around and makes the hanging door immovable. The animal now is trapped, not by the trapper but by choice of self-entrapment.

The FBI did set up a test trap, not the kind from which there was no escape but one with the equivalent of the freely hanging door so that an easy escape was provided. The public office holders had every opportunity to escape the trap by exposing immediately the bribe transaction. But they preferred to take the chance of self-entrapment in the hope that the underhanded deal might not ever be discovered and they kept the bribe money.

Obviously, if the word entrapment is to be used, it must be recognized as self-entrapment and the "victims" must blame themselves for their difficulties and not the FBI.

63-17561-
ENCLOSURE

542

6
b

June 27, 1982

Mr. William H. Webster
Director of FBI
9th Street and Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Webster:

In the past, FBI activities were not always beyond reproach. But in the Abscon case the FBI quite simply carried out their responsibilities. As a result of the demonstration of how easily public officials can be enticed into corruption, in the future, public officials will resist much more firmly their tendencies to participate in criminal activities for personal gain. In this the FBI is rendering a valuable service to our country.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

So far as I know, the Philadelphia Inquirer refused to print my response to the abusive and grossly unfair article of Mr. Tom Fox. The Inquirer editors ignored my communication and made no response whatever. As I see it, the editors exercised their power of journalistic censorship.

Sincerely,

63-17561-542
ESH:DJ
6-2-82

ENCLOSURE

3 JUL 7 1982

Off. of Cong. and Pub. Aff.

We feel United States District Judge William B. Bryant's overturn of the bribery conspiracy conviction of former Representative Richard Kelly, in the so-called ABSCAM case, was improper and once again reveals the attitude of Appeals Court Judges in our present judicial system.

Their decisions consistently lean heavily toward reversals of guilty verdicts; not withstanding the fact the accused was found guilty by a jury who worked diligently and often through long periods of time to bring in a JUST VERDICT. Whatever happened to accountability and responsibility for one's criminal acts?

Contrary to Judge Bryant's assertion about the FBI; we believe he and Judges like him are "Loose cannon rolling around the deck of our criminal justice system." No doubt, Senator Harrison Williams ABSCAM conviction will also be overturned, due to Judge Bryant's action. Our belief is that our Congressmen above all, should be beyond reproach setting an example for all to follow.

SIGNATURES

Roscoe Tanuchi
879 LINDEN DR. SANTA CLARA CA.
95050 RETIRED POLICE SGT.
SAN JOSE POLICE DEPT

James H. Albani, Pharm-D Pharmacist 39 Washington St.
Tony Adrian, Liquor Store Manager 59 Washington St. Santa Clara, CA 95050
Ramon T. Gonzalez, Barber 65 Washington St. Santa Clara, CA 95050
Bob Zanker, Barber 1011 Santa Clara St. Santa Clara, CA 95050
M. H. Kaliterna, Property Mgmt. 848 College Ave. SC. 95050
Mary B. Foley - Industrial Medicine Coordinator 1662 Merrill Rd. SC. 95050
James Leonard, Medical Assistant 393 Union Ln. SC. 95050
Robert M. Mickin, Medical Asst 19091 Maymar Ave 95050
Dr. Raymond, Physician 75 S. 17th San Jose 95111
Marcia Menon 301 Willow Hill Ct.
Los Gatos, CA. 95050
1318 Keplerng Ct.
S. J. 95118

Janet Hoffman
Joanne Hunter, Medical Records Administrator 72 Brookside Ave
Henry Brinkhoff - Industrial Med. Asst. Coord. 72 Brookside Ave
Jacob S. Oman, Et. Promotive Engr. 885 Linden Dr. SC. 95050
Larry Huer, Testify appt. 870 Linden Dr. Santa Clara, CA 95050
Donald C. Barnett, College Instructor, 5379 Leona Ave., San Jose, California 95124
Tate Gipton - 4950 Cherry Ave #20, SJ, CA 95118 - (Admin. Asst.)
Morton S. Price, Roofer - 863 Linden DR. SC. 95050
Philip C. Brown, Pharmacist 39 Washington St. Santa Clara, CA 95050
Edna E. Wright 900 Linden Dr. SC. 95050 Realtor
Leandra M. Wright 900 Linden Dr. SC. 95050 Realtor
Vernonda D. Snooks 886 Helmer 95050 (Retired Teacher)
Margaret D. Spines - 60 Linden Drive - Santa Clara CA 95050
Ralph B. Kuth 50 Washington St. Santa Clara, CA 95050

Ronald Hanton, 1995 Park Ave San Jose - ARBEI
Cecil F. Amerine, 56 Linden Drive Santa Clara, CA 95050
Michael McDonald, 36 Linden Dr. Santa Clara, CA 95050
Gayle L. McDonald, 56 Linden Dr. Santa Clara, CA 95050
Frank C. Calkins, 6150 Monterey St. Santa Clara, CA 95050
Cynthia Lerdan, 3291 Leigh Ave. San Jose, Calif. 95124
N. Douglas Gold, 1623 FAIRBOROUGH Av. S.J. 95125

June 3, 1982

UNCLASSIFIED SOURCE

Roscoe Fanucchi
879 Linden Dr.
Santa Clara, Cal. 95050

Dear Mr. Webster,

When I read the news account of U.S. District Judge William Bryant's overturn of the conviction of former Rep. William Kelly in the so-called ABSCAM case, I was filled with dismay and anger, so I took it upon myself to initiate a formal protest.

I contacted a cross-section of people in the community with whom I discussed this issue. They were in accordance with my feelings and signed the protest.

None of these individuals are connected with a law enforcement agency.

I am a former Police Sergeant with the San Jose Police Department and have recently retired after thirty two (32) years of service.

I hope this protest will serve notice to certain individuals in government employ that we will not tolerate actions demonstrated by Judge Bryant.

Respectfully,

Roscoe Fanucchi
Roscoe Fanucchi

RC:lc

Attachment

William Webster
Director of FBI
JE Hoover Building
9th and Pennsylvania Ave
Wash. DC 20535



5 JUL 7 1982

COPIES
CORRESPONDENCE

ACK
1-1000

151

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.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

1 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):
duplicate of enclosure to serial 544

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
63-17561 serial 544X enclosure

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

10-R
505

June 3, 1982

Roscoe Fanucchi
879 Linden Dr.
Santa Clara, Cal 95050

P 316 697 P 316
CERTIFIED
REGISTERED
MAILED

FBI
NHC

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Mr. President,

Public Response Re ABSCAM

When I read the news account of U.S. District Judge William Bryant's overturn of the conviction of former Rep. William Kelly in the so-called ABSCAM case, I was filled with dismay and anger, so I took it upon myself to initiate a formal protest.

I contacted a cross-section of people in the community with whom I discussed this issue. They were in accordance with my feelings and signed the protest.

None of these individuals are connected with a law enforcement agency.

I am a former Police Sergeant with the San Jose Police Department and have recently retired after thirty two (32) years of service.

I hope this protest will serve notice to certain individuals in government employ that we will not tolerate actions demonstrated by Judge Bryant.

Respectfully,

Roscoe Fanucchi

Roscoe Fanucchi

879 Linden Dr.

RC:lc Santa Clara, Cal 95050

Attachment

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

JE-67A

No ack
See letter to Fanucchi
63-19561-544X
7/2/82
BROOKLYN
FBI

RECEIVED

17 JUN 25 1982



Rm 5030

MF

10-R
505

MF

FBI

53
203

(Care of) [redacted] CA [redacted] CALIFORNIA [redacted] TELEPHONE [redacted]

1- [redacted]
Dear President Reagan

OUTSIDE SOURCE

I am disgusted with the decision of the Federal Judge who reversed the conviction of Congressman Kelly, and the mood in Washington that the F.B.I. is in the wrong and acted improperly in the Abocam investigations. The comment that their job is to catch criminals not to create them or test the morality of lawmakers is sickening.

As far as I am concerned if there is no other way of ferreting out the slimy grafters in government then the efforts of the F.B.I. ought to be applauded and given a clear go signal. Just the fact that there might be some check on honesty in serving the public, would serve most helpfully. Just as the highway patrol suggests keep most of us from excessive speeding ⁵⁴⁷ sure the knowledge that the very and graft are not unobserved would aid greatly in keeping the amoral few a little more honest. This matter should not escape your attention it deserves to be clarified at the top level.

ACK
ESH
7/15/82

64

Victims Tell House Panel of Losses

Ask Protection From Effects of FBI Undercover Operations

By RONALD J. OSTROW, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—A San Diego businesswoman tearfully pleaded with a House Judiciary subcommittee Thursday to come to the aid of innocent third parties who suffer from FBI undercover operations.

"Please don't let this happen to other people," said Brandy Troche, who testified that she and her husband, Bill, lost their interior design business after giving their money and trust to Joseph Meltzer, an FBI informant who was running his own bogus operation on the side.

"If you can't trust the FBI, who can you trust?" Troche asked,

struggling to stifle her sobs.

She was one of six witnesses who recounted similar experiences involving Meltzer, who was convicted in 1980 of using his detailed knowledge of the FBI's undercover Abscam operation to swindle businessmen in an offshoot of the scheme.

Turned Over Money

Meltzer claimed to represent Abdul Enterprises Ltd., which sought to invest Arab capital in new or expanding U.S. enterprises. The business operators, usually after checking on Abdul Enterprises with a man they believed to be an officer of Chase Manhattan Bank, turned over to Meltzer sums of "earnest money" ranging from \$5,000 upward.

Meltzer was a convicted confidence man who the FBI consulted in setting up its Abscam operation, which eventually led to the conviction of seven members of Congress for accepting bribes from FBI undercover agents posing as Arab sheiks.

At the same time that Meltzer was assisting the FBI in the Abscam investigation, he was running his own illegal operation, the one that the six business people say they fell victim to.

The six witnesses told the House subcommittee Thursday that they never received investment funds that Meltzer told them would be forthcoming from his Arab friends. In some cases, the witnesses said, they even traveled to airports and waited fruitlessly for Arab planes that never appeared with the promised money.

The witnesses, most of whom were experienced businessmen, told

of gaining confidence in Meltzer through telephone conversations and correspondence with a man they knew as John M. McCloud, Abdul Enterprises' "chairman of the board."

McCloud, according to Rep. Don Edwards (D-San Jose), the subcommittee chairman, was in reality FBI special agent Jack McCarthy, a key figure in the Abscam case.

Charles C. Francis, a spokesman for Chase Manhattan Bank, declined comment on the testimony, saying that it would be inappropriate because of possible or pending litigation.

"We are satisfied that any actions which Chase might have taken were appropriate," he said.

Francis would neither confirm nor deny that Michael Elzay, who most of the witnesses said they contacted at Chase Manhattan, works for the bank. However, a telephone operator at Chase Manhattan accepted a call for Elzay. The phone was not answered.

Testimony Planned

An FBI spokesman also declined comment, noting that FBI Director William H. Webster is scheduled to testify before the subcommittee April 29.

Troche and other witnesses said they gained faith in Meltzer when he would call them to complain within hours after they attempted to check him with FBI officials.

Joel B. Chasen, an Aptos, Calif., advertising executive, told of the collapse of his highly publicized efforts to buy the San Jose Earthquakes soccer club with money that he said Meltzer had promised to provide.

Chasen, who said he lost his vice president's position with Concept Industries, Inc., over the incident, estimated that his experiences with Meltzer cost him \$75,000. He said it also cost him "emotional depression, . . . family disturbance and the loss of confidence, integrity and respect in my industry and community."

"You have done a service by

coming forward," Rep. Henry J. Hyde (R-Ill.) told the witnesses. "You may feel betrayed by your country, but the last chapter hasn't been written."

"We have to know to what extent the FBI cooperated with Meltzer," Hyde said. "Did their (the FBI's) conduct amount to being accessories? What did they know and when did they know it? I don't want to leap to conclusions."

Edwards told the witnesses that they had "made a huge impact on all of us. When the United States government is somehow involved in doing great damage to the fabric of your lives, it must be especially devastating," Edwards, a former FBI agent, said.

I do not understand why the F.B.I. would involve itself with known con-men, as it did with Weinberg, in the ABSCAM deal, or this jerk. It is certainly not furthering the fine image it has held for years. Certainly it produced convictions in ABSCAM, but at what cost to itself? Weinberg, a man who fleeced hundreds of people over the years, perhaps thousands, with his con-games, gloats over his latest victims, while free to fish our southern waters. Yes, crime does pay, doesn't it? I have always held the F.B.I. in the highest esteem, and have counted some of its men my friends. Why plan crimes though? I am against such close working arrangements with criminals, unless it is to trap

Yes, I have known of crooked politicians ever since living near Jersey City during the rule of Frank Hague. I have deplored such activities. Yet, there are other ways to catch them, rather than cook up schemes with crooks.

6-6

63-17561-5

Mr. William H. Webster, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20635

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Public Response Re Alimony

MF

[REDACTED]

b-6

Ack
7-9-82
AB:gu

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Calif

63-17561-549

5 JUL 13 1982

1- ENCLADRE

[REDACTED]
California

COPY TO DIRECTOR

Mr. William Webster,
Director
FBI
Washington, D.C. 20500

Wisconsin

June 22, 1982

OUTSIDE SOURCE

The Honorable William Bryant
Judge
Federal Court
Constitution Avenue & Marshall Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Dear Judge Bryant:

Public Response Re ABSCAM

I am writing to strongly condemn your recent actions in overturning the ABSCAM conviction of former Representative Richard Kelly. Your statement that "law enforcement exceeds its bounds when it manufactures crime and creates criminals" is absurd. Just what do you think undercover police work is? Your statement and ruling would preclude law enforcement officers from using decoys in the solutions of crimes such as rape and mass murder.

Representative Kelly has admitted taking the money, and his claim that this was part of his own investigation is just plain bull! He should have known that if he was conducting an investigation, he should do it with the advice and consent of law enforcement officers.

Your ruling is not only outrageous, it is dangerous.

By way of a copy of this letter, I am applauding FBI Director William Webster's commitment to the ABSCAM type investigations in the future.

Very truly yours,

EJB:ksh

cc: The President
FBI Director William Webster
American Conservative Union
Citizens for the Republic
The Heritage Foundation
NCPAC

63-17561-551

11 JUL 19 1982

cc: [unclear]

ACK
CAM: [unclear]
7/15/82

82 9 M

Pa.

June 17, 1982

Dear Senator Specter:

Thank you for responding to my letter concerning the FBI inquiry into former Senator Harrison Williams. I appreciate hearing your opinions on the propriety of the senator's activities. However, that was not the person I wrote to you several months ago.

My questions concern the ABSCAM investigation itself. How were these officials chosen? Who made the selection of officials? Were you investigated? These are questions you must know the answers to.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours, V6

62-17561-553

ENCLOSURE

United States Senate

Public Response Re Abscam

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

JUL 6 1982

Respectfully referred to:

Congressional Liaison
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Constitution and 10th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20520

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

Arlen Specter

Arlen Specter

U.S.S.

Form #2

GPO : 1981 O - 75-237

63-17561-553

JUL 27 1982

Occaled

1/11/1
ack. ESH:ddb
7/21/82
orig returned to Hon. Arlen Specter

June 29, 1982

OUTSIDE SOURCE

62
Mr. William Webster
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building
9 and Pennsylvania NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Webster,

Public Response Re Prison

The purpose of this letter is to express the feelings of myself and my friends that the FBI should continue its sting type operations to weed out the corruptible public officials. We would like to indicate that we feel that the entrapment defense should not be allowed for public officials.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

b-6

cc Senator Alan Cranston
cc Senator Charles Mathias Jr.
cc Representative Don Edwards
cc William French Smith

(157)

63-17561-555

[Redacted block]

INGLEWOOD, CA 90314
PM
29 JUN 1982

16 JUL 28 1982

ACK 1661
MNI: dwe
7-22-82

CORRESPONDENCE

6-6 N.Y. 20
OUTSIDE SOURCE

July 12, 1982

Op. Public Resp. re ABSCAM
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment upon the recent criticism of the Bureau over the conduct of ABSCAM. It seems as though political corruption is so deeply ingrained in the fabric of our society that our legislators and our judiciary can find only sympathy and compassion for their colleagues who have been caught with their hands in the cookie jar. Rather than to condemn these thieves for stealing, they accuse the Bureau of chicanery. Perhaps it is because they are so vulnerable themselves and so susceptible to graft that they empathize with their colleagues who have been snagged by a brilliant investigative tactic.

These greedy criminals are not poor people stealing to buy bread for their family. They are prominent and successful attorneys, affluent in comparison to their constituents, who feel in some way that payoffs are a fringe benefit that comes with their protection. They have betrayed the trust and confidence of those people who put them in office, and they are totally deserving of whatever shame, disgrace, and punishment that befalls them. 63-17561-500

I cannot manage to work up any sympathy for a corrupt politician who cries "foul" at the Bureau because he was approached while he was having financial difficulties. I raised five kids while working as a cop, and when I was in "financial trouble", I went out on my day off and laid brick, salvaged junk, refereed athletic events - whatever it took to make ends meet. It was not beneath my dignity to get my hands dirty to feed my kids and to pay my bills. Better to dirty my hands with honest work than with tainted money.

AUG 2 1982

COPIES TO [unclear]
6-6

N.Y.

As a police officer, I was taught how to act when I was approached with a bribe offer. My obligation was to report it to my superiors, get wired up, and make a bribery case against the person offering the bribe. I don't see the slightest problem in the tactics employed by ABSCAM. Everyone of those people who were "enticed" or "tempted" had the legal and moral obligation to make known the bribe offer, and to cooperate in the apprehension of the bribers. They are all attorneys and lawmakers - they can't claim ignorance of the law. What's being overlooked here by the supporters and sympathizers of these corrupt officials is the fact that if these criminals were so readily agreeable to snatch up payoffs to misuse the power of their offices, how many of them succumbed to previous offers? How many bribes had they and their colleagues accepted prior to ABSCAM? How common was this practice, that the Bureau saw fit to use this, or any investigative tactic, to cope with the problem? I'm sure we have seen only the very tip of the iceberg; and I think it is a sad commentary that in so few cases, did our elected officials have the integrity to report the bribe offer.

What we are seeing now is lawyers rallying to the support of other lawyers, out of a misplaced sense of loyalty to one another, much as corrupt cops in New York were often supported or protected by other policemen in a spirit of distorted fraternalism. Perhaps, the attitude we are seeing is a "there but for the grace of God go I" phenomenon - a sad commentary on the ethics of our legal profession.

As a criminal justice professional and an experienced investigator who has worked "Sting" operations, I strongly urge you to continue with some variations of your ABSCAM tactics. You are not at fault for using such tactics. The cries of "fight fair" are answerable by a response of "report bribery attempts". For you to abandon these tactics because of the bitching and wailing of a vocal minority of lawyers and their supporters would mean that you have allowed them to intimidate you. To desist now, is to admit that you were wrong, and you were not; on the contrary, I would continue to use this tactic as effectively as possible, particularly now. It was our experience in New York that as fast as we shut down one of our "Operation Fence" or "Sting" operations, we opened up a new one. Damned if we didn't lock up many of the same thieves the second time around that we did

in the earlier operation. And of course, the criminals we arrested cried and hollered "low blow" because of our tactics. A thief is a thief is a thief - whether he is a junkie burglar in blue jeans or an attorney in an Eagle suit. Your job is to lock them up. They are the criminals, not us; but being attorneys, they know that often the best defense is a good offense. Don't let them back you down. Congratulations on a brilliant investigative coup. Go get more of them now, while they think they've got you on the defensive. You have my best wishes for continued success!

Fraternally,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6-6

OUTSIDE SOURCE

N. Y.

July 27, 1982

Judge William H. Webster, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
9th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Judge Webster:-

Following Response to Abscam
It is disturbing to me to note the trend of the investigation by Congress of the Abscam convictions. This seems to be another case of unwarranted support for the defense, in this case meaning the convicted members of Congress. One is inclined to wonder about the zeal of going after the F.B.I. in the Abscam cases, because other members of Congress were caught and convicted by juries, of wrongdoing.

Enclosed is a photo copy of a letter from me to Judge Bryant of the D. C. District Court, which sets forth my point of view, for your review. Please note the fourth paragraph. As someone has said, seldom are rabbis, priests or clergymen, in a position to testify for the prosecution, against criminals of various kinds!

As a citizen and taxpayer, I urge you to present the Abscam successes as being for the public good, as against Mr. Neal's efforts to prove that the F. B. I. are the guilty ones.

63-17541-42
I think and like to believe that there are many besides myself who have been pleased and encouraged that members of Congress have been caught and convicted, even tho it reflects poorly on them as elected officials. The Abscam successes, if upheld and supported should be a deterrent to keeping members of Congress from going astray!

Best wishes to you and Mr. Guccio and his able associates.

Gratefully,

000: NB: ddb 8/4/82

ENCLOSURE

[REDACTED] N. Y.
(1) June 28, 1982

Honorable William B. Bryant
Federal District Court
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Bryant:-

This is a letter that I intended to write sooner, but the contents are still relevant in spite of the delay.

I was surprised and dismayed to read in the press about your decision to overrule the bribery conviction of former Representative Kelly of Florida. It was shocking to read that you described the tactics of the F. B. I. in the Abscam case, as "outrageous", and intimated that law enforcement officials had manufactured crime and created criminals.

As a believer in our established trial by jury, I find it troubling to have a single judge overrule a verdict of twelve jurors. This seems to be another example of the judiciary being too favorable to defendants.

You refer to the dubious character of a government witness in the Kelly case. Surely, you can't always expect, as a witness, an upright and much respected citizen, to be an example of righteousness! Often, it takes someone of shady character to help in the conviction of one accused of wrongdoing.

Many of us have been encouraged and gleased by the conviction of government officials and representatives who have betrayed their trusts in the Abscam cases. This is good news amid so much bad news of crime and wrongs, in the public press.

It is significant that your decision in the Kelly case, is at odds with the decisions of other Federal District Judges, in the several Abscam cases. One is tempted to believe (as often is charged) that the District of Columbia Federal courts are composed of judges who lean too far in favor of defendants and those of a liberal point of view.

I hope and believe that your decision will not be sustained.

Respectfully,
[REDACTED]

13-17561-562
ENCLOSURE