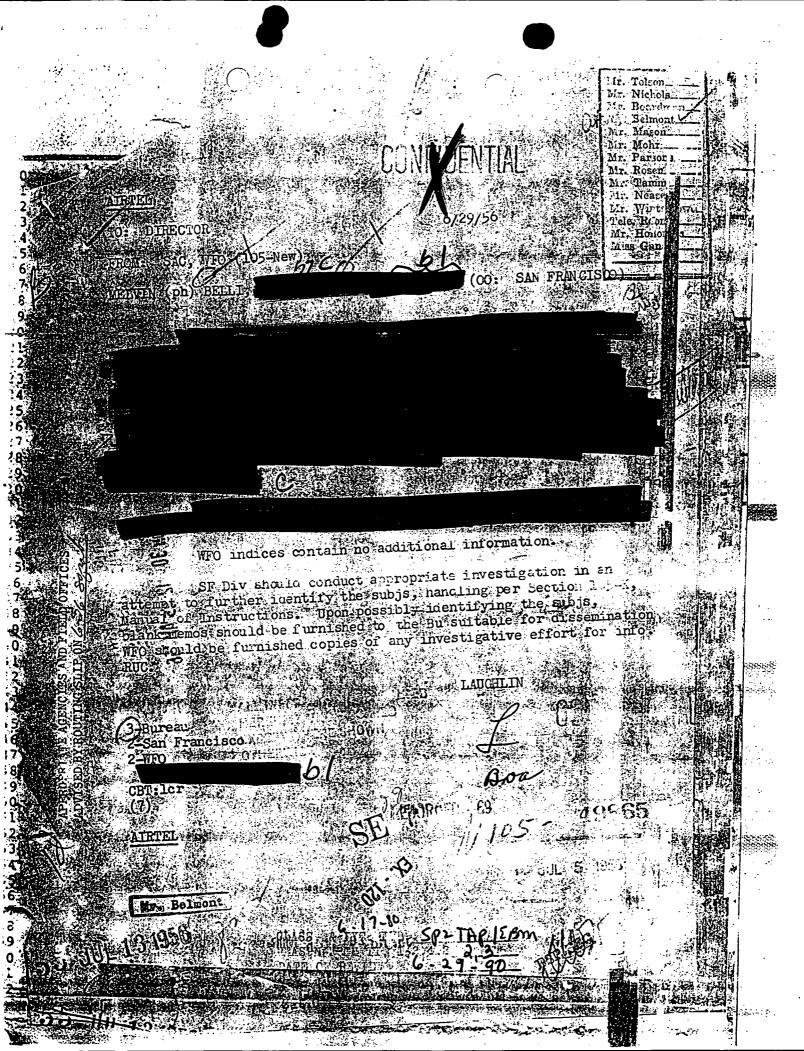
JN 9-10

Questioned typewriting appearing on Ql and Q2 was not prepared with the typewriters used in preparing Kl through K3.

By communication dated October 7, 1964, Mr. H. M. RAY, United States Attorney, Northern District of Mississippi, advised that after reviewing the investigative reports in this matter it was his opinion that no further investigation is necessary and that the matter should be closed. Mr. RAY advised that he would not authorize prosecution of the unknown subject even though his identity would be determined.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Ma: Bolmer fac. Mason UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Mr. Mohr. Mr. Parson: Mr. Rosen. Mr. Tamm. Mr. Neaso. Mr. Winter Transmit the following XXXXXXX message to: July 5, 195 Tele. Roc n TO. DIRECTOR, FEI Miss Gandy FROM SAC, San Fyancisco (105-4626). SUBJECT: CHANGED to Sureau, 6/29/56, entitled "MELVIN (PH) MELVIN M. MELLI, well known San Francisco attorney with offices at 240 Stockton Street, member of bar since 1933. Married third wife, JOEY TURNER, at San Francisco, 5/3/56. On 3/9/51, hame appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar. "Daily People's World" (DPW) newspaper, 9/22/49, contains names of number of persons and name MERVIN BELLI, protesting prosecution of 12 Communist leaders. DPW newspaper, 11/6/41, contains names of number of persons and name MELVIN M. RELLI sending greetings to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7th, the Russians Independence Day. Blank memo will be submitted. 3 Bureau (AM REG.) 1 WFO (Info.) (AM REG.) 1 San Francisco SJE: fdl 🎏 😁 ME 16 1958 Spootal Agent in Charge

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SAC, WFG (105-18134) Above is being furnished for information of Bureau and San Francisco. San Francisco (105-4626) (info) (RE) CLASS C -17-80
REASON OF REVIEW 1-17-90 INDEXED - 14 *24 JUL 13 1956

ice Memorandum • united stalls government DATE: July 10, 1956 San Francisco (105-4626) Re WFO airtel to Bureau, 6/29/56 and San Francisco airtel to Bureau, 7/5/56. Enclosed herewith is a blank-memorandum as requested by No recommendation is being made to interview MELVIN M. BELLI or his wife when they return from their trip to the USSR. (Encls. 4 \$2 Bureau (REG.) 1-WFO (Encl. 1) (REG.) INDEXED - 47 /



cheral Bureau of Investigation United States Department of Iustice San Francisco, California

July 10, 1956

The September, 1955 San Francisco Telephone Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELLI, Attorney, with offices at 240 Stockton Street, telephone CA 1-0316, residing at 1228 Montgomery Street, telephone YU 2-2146.

The 1955-1956 San Francisco City Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELLI, occupation lawyer, with offices on the Tenth Floor of 240 Stockton Street, and with a home address of 1228 Montgomery Street, Apartment 8.

新疆,在1988年,1988年,1988年 The 1956 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELLI, born 1907, admitted to the bar in 1933. The directory lists that he is a member of the American Bar Association, attended the University of California, receiving a BA and LL. B Degree, and having offices at 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper issue of July 3, 1956

6-17-30 DATE OF ALVIEW 7-10-90

105-49865-4

FNCLOSURE



Section II, page 1, column 1, reveals Attorney MELVIN BELLI, counselfor Japan Air Lines and recently married, would leave during the week of July 3, 1956 for Europe via Scandinavian Air Lines.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper issue of May 4, 1956 revealed MEIVIN BELLI, attorney and writer, married on May 3, 1956 a former air line hostess, JOEY TURNER, in San Francisco. MEIVIN A BELLI, according to the article, formerly was married to BETTY. BALLANTING and divorced in 1951, having four children. He married TONIANICHOLS, a former stenographer, and they were divorced in March, 1955.

appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P.O. Box 2225, San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argyle, Los Angeles 28, which appealed to members of the bar to oppose California Senate Bill SB1666, which would impose upon every member of the California Bar and every candidate for admission the requirement that a test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing law.

The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of September 22, 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist trial."

"San Francisco, Sept. 21

"A group of prominent Bay Area residents, headed by Attorney VINCENT HALLINAN, protested the prosecution of the 12 Communist leaders to ALBEN BARKLEY during the vice president's visit here......

"The group wrote BARKLEY that they wanted o see him for the purpose of protesting the actions of the United States government in prosecuting persons for the expressions of opinions."

Communist leaders in New York; and consider the action against them the sad reflection upon the level to which our American concepts of free speech have declined.



LUNI WENTHE

""We desire to solicit your aid to combat procedures under which an existing system can employ the coercive forces of the government to preserve itself from criticism or change."

"Members of the group which also sent a strongly worded protest against the trial to Attorney General J. HOWARD MC GRATH, included in addition to HALLINAN: MERVIN BELLI, attorney:

The "Daily People's World" is a West Coast Communist newspaper.

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of November 6, 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4, contained an article entitled: "Bay Area Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7."

"San Francisco, Nov. 5

"Prominent Northern Californians are sending greeting to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7, the Russians' Independence Day, in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany, today announced the Russian-American Society to Aid USSR and Great Britain to Defeat Hitler Fascism.

"Religious leaders, city officials, educators, liberals and progressives were circulated with the following message:

"We Americans admire your courage and determination in your fight against Hitlerism.

"On November 7, your Independence Day, we wish to convey to you our message of greetings and deep conviction that your heroic struggle will end in final victory over the dark forces of fascism."



Signing the message of greetings, with modifications in some instances, were: ".....MELVIN M. BELLI, attorney......

The Russian American Society, Inc., has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

COMPONITAL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

, Office Lydollow Willowill. • United States GOVERNMENT	
DATE: December 14, 185	6
1. FROM M. A. Johes V	
30 man 3cmat.	1 2 4 3
4 SUBJECT: No. 1 P2 15.	A.
6 MELVIN-BELLI	1324
ATTORNEY, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA CALIFORNIA Room CALIFORNIA	om
O ALUNT UNCLOSURED GO	
PURPOSE:	
To set forth derogatory information concerning captioned	
6 response to your request.	
PLASS: & EXT. BY Sp2TAP/Gam— 8EASON-FCIL III. 12.4.2 9ATE OF REVIEW: 12-14.90 DETAILS ALCOMOLOGY	
DETAILS ALCOHOL	Paris
There are frequent references in Bufiles to Belli, in his capacity as an attorney for various clients. Belli was the attorney in 1947 for compaining	
explosion on July 17, 1944, at the United States Naval Ammunition Denot B.	
Chicago, California. When Special Agents interviewed one of his clients, this client voluntarily mentioned that Belli had asked that he be allowed to file this	
William the and that she had signed a contract that Belli would receive about 20.	
per cent of any money paid by the Government to her. Later Belli wrote the Department and the Special Agent in Charge, San Francisco, accusing Special	
concerning his practices. SAC Kimball personally contacted Political interrogations	1/1
this matter. Belli admitted he was concerned that the FBI might be investig ting him since he was at that time being investigated by a private investigated	
employed by the Maryland Casualty Insurance Company in connectio with	
CC - Mr. Nichols, with conv of enclosure	
Enclosure — Period & De 26	62
61 JANEA DEC 27 DEC 27 1956	
Contraction of the second of t	und and f

Jones to Nichols memorandin

December 14, 1956

a \$100,000 suit which a client of his had filed against that company. insurance company refused to settle and reported to the California Ea Association that Belli was unethical in soliciting his clients and furthe that he had been unethical in obtaining signatures to a fee contract. (62-82613-24)

with

5 6 7 8

The San Francisco Examiner" of October 9, 1956, reflects that Belli was the attorney for the children of an individual who had deeded a ranch worth \$200,000 to an attorney. The children were alleging that this gift was a hidden donation to the Communist Party and that undue influence had been brought to bear upon their father. (100-388561-A)

Attached is a blank memorandum containing public source material regarding Belli.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.



Re: Melvin Belli. Attorney San Francisco, California The September, 1955, San Francisco telephone directory listed Melvin M. Belli, attorney, with offices at 240 Stockton Street, le YU-2-2146. The 1955-1956 San Francisco city directory lists a Melvil M. Belli, occupation lawyer, with offices on the Tenth Floor of 240 Stock of Street, and with a home address of 1228 Montgomery Street, Apartment The 1956 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a Melvin M. Belli, born 1907, with admission to the bar in 1933. Belli is a member of the American Bar Association and attended the University of California receiving the E.A. and LL.B. degrees. The "Daily People's World" newspaper, issue of November 5, 1941, page 1; columns 2, 3 and 4; contained an article entitled "Bay Area Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7.1; San Francisco, Nov. 5 "Prominent Northern Californians are sending greetings to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7. the Russians! Independence Day, in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany, today announced the Russian-American Society to Aid USSR and Great Britain to Defeat Hitler Fascism. "Religious leaders, city officials, educators, liberals and progressives were circulated with the following message: "We Americans admire your courage and determination in your fight against Hitlerism. ENCLOSURE IEH:ih

"On November 7, your Independence Day, we wish to convey to you our message of greetings and deep conviction that your heroic struggle will end in final victory over the dark forces of fascism."

instances, were: "..... MELVIN M. BELLI, attorney....."

The Russian American Society, Inc., has been designate by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (105-49865-4)

The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of March 19, 1947 under the caption "Defendants Linked In Night Club Suit" reports the following information:

"Attorney Melvin Belli and his wife were joined as defendants yesterday in a suit for recision of a contract for the purchase of Fong's Iroquois Village, Redwood, City night spot.

"The action was filed in San Mateo
County Superior Court by S. J. De Sanders
and Robert Dupret, owners of a Redwood
City cigar store. Their complaint asserted
they entered into the agreement last December and attempted to withdraw several days
later but that Belli refused to return a
\$2,000 down payment." (62-82613-18)

The "Daily People's World" newspaper, issue of September 2 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist trial."

"San Francisco, Sept. 21

"A group of prominent Bay Area residents, headed by Attorney VINCENT HALLINAN, protested the prosecution of the 12 Communist leaders to ALBEN BARKLEY during the vice president's visit here.....

"The group wrote BARKLEY that they wanted him 'for the purpose of protesting the actions of the United States government in prosecuting persons for the expressions of opinions.

"We refer particularly to the prosecution of

Communist leaders in New York, and consider the action against them the sad reflection upon the level to which our American concepts of free speech have declined.

"We desire to solicit your aid to combat procedures under which an existing system can employ the coercive forces of the government to preserve itself from criticism or change.'

"Members of the group which also sent a strongly worded protest against the trial to Attorney General
J. HOWARD MC GRATH, included in addition to HALLIN IN:
MERVIN BELLI, attorney;

The "Daily People's World" is a West Coast communist

25

26

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 1045

On March 9, 1951, the name of Melvin Belli, San Franci o, appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P. O. Box 2225, San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argyle, Los Angeles 28, which appealed to members of the bar to oppose California Senate Bill SE1868, which would impose upon every member of the California Bar and every candidate for admission the requirement that a test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing law.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper, issue of May 1, 1958, revealed Melvin Belli, attorney and writer, married on May 3, 1956, a former airline hostess, Joey Turner, in San Francisco. Melvin Belli, according to the article, formerly was married to Betty Ballantine and divorced in 1951, having four children. He married Toni Nichols, a former stenographer, and they were divorced in March, 1955.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper, issue of July 3, 1956, Section II, page 1, column 1, reveals Attorney Melvin Belli, counsel for Japan Air Lines and recently married, would leave during the week (July 3, 1956, for Europe via Scandinavian Air Lines. (105-49865-4)

The Grievance Committee of the California Bar Assoc tition may have additional information concerning Belli.

Office Memorandum . United States Government . Mr. Tolson DATE: December 17, 1956 FROM L. B. Nichols Last winter, Fulton Lewis, Jr., confused Pearl Wanamaker, State-Director of Education, with a communist. He-made a prompt correction and thought that the matter was all over. On Friday he told me that suit had been filed against him in Yakima, Washington, by an attorney named Peter Tonkoff and that suits will also be filed in 50 other cities through a Melvin Belli, who is connected with the National Association of Compensat Attorneys. Lewis stated that Belli had written a book "Ready for Plaintiff published by Henry Holtes Company; that the suit has no merit and it looks 1 this is a sharp trick on the part of lawyers to really ruin him as the expense and harrassment of defending 50 suits will be considerable. He is naturally trying to find out something about the attorneys. I told him that I didn't know whether we had anything, but would check. A summary is enclosed. LBN: hpf cc - Mr. Boardman Mr. Belmont DEC 31 1953

26

Offic	e Memora	ndum ·	UNITED STA	LES GOVERN	IMENT
то :	Mr. DeLozen	SI SI	ECKET	DATE: Septembe	r 1 1450
0 FROM	M. A. Jones			يُرُ	2 c dn Le mont Le goach
3 subject:	MELVIN M. BI	ELLI			uird ioni
5	ATTORNEY	O, CALIFORNIA	À		ter Sullivan Room
8	Re my n	nemo dated 8-28	-59.		M. Whan
le le keep a		ector has instru	ted that our Sa	n Francisco Off	ice Me
24 record	. Attached is a	brief letter to Sa	ın Francisco wi	th appropriate	, O
26. COAS	1 171/16-1				
29 3 30. /					
33 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4					
9		Ā		All little	
RECON	MENDATION:		and the second of the second	UZZIMIO USO N	GUALLE STATE
5 Franci	That the sco Office.	attached letter o	f instructions b	e sent to the Sa	n a
8 Enclose	ire suit 9-	CLASS. & EX	17-80 MY SPZ TAP	EAM TO	
1	Belmont	DATE OF REV	9-1-90	 105=21491	/
5 HEH:st	e 5/m		RELEGIE	23 . SEP 3/1050	
(6) ×	eccord was		EX-111	THE WAY	
0	SEP 9 1980	SACR	ET C		
A. S.	Market Market State of the Stat		The state of the s		

Office Memi. anaum UNITED ST. ES GOVERNMENT Mr. DeLoach August 28, 1959 SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI ATTORNEY SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA BACKGROUND: The attached newspaper clipping from "The New York Times" August 25, 1959, reflects that Attorney Melvin M. Belli, a San Francisco trial lawyer, introduced West Coast mobster Mickey Cohen at a seminar on legal tacti during the current American Bar Association convention. Cohen was introduced Professor O'Brien" expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases. The Direc noted!'What do we know re Belli?" The current Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a Melvin M born 1907, admitted to the Bar 1933. He is associated with the law firm of Belii Asi and Gerry, 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California. SYNOPSIS 1 RECOMMENDATION: REASON-FORM IT DATE OF LLVIEW None. For information. The Daily People's World," communist newspaper, of November 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4 contained an article entitled "Bay Area

Jones to DeLoach Memo Re: Melvin M. Belli

2:2 ?3

25

77.

8 ! 29

30.

11.

.9 .0

-1

Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7.". This article reflects that a group of prominent Californians, including Belli, sent greetings to the Soviet Union in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany. This message was sent by the Russian-American Society, Inc., which has been designated bethe Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (105-49865-4)

In 1947, Belli was the attorney for complainants against the Government in connection with injuries arising out of the great explosions on July 17, 194 In connection with these suits, Belli accused Special Agents of the FBI of harassing his clients and making insulting and unethical interrogations concerning his practices. He later admitted that he was concerned that the FBI might be investigating him since he was being investigated by an insurance company in connection with a \$100,000 suit which a client of his had filed against that com lany The insurance company reported him to the California Bar Association for his falleged unethical practices. (62-82613-24)

The "Daily People's World" newspaper, issue of September 22, 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist trial," which reflects that a group of San Franciscans protested the prosecution of twelve communist leaders to Alben Barkley. The group included Belli.

ConsultING

Why was of the charled ont ! H

On March 9, 1951, the name of Melvin Belli, San Francisco, appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P. O. Box 2225, San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argvle, Los Angeles 28, which appealed to members of the bar to oppose California Senate Bill SB1666, which would impose upon every member of the

c /

Jones to DeLoach Memo Re: Melvin M. Belli

California Bar and every candidate for admission the requirement that a test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing law.

The "San Francisco Examiner" of October 9, 1956, reflects that Belli was the attorney for the children of an individual who had deeded a ranch worth \$200,000 to an attorney. The children were alleging that this gift was a hidden donation to the Communist Party and that undue influence had been brought to bear upon their father. (100-388561-A)

Belli was reported to be leaving his wife on July 3, 1956, for 105-49865-4)

The Los Angeles Office advised in April, 1959, that Mickey Collin was believed to have hired Belli as attorney for stripteaser Candy Barr. (63-4296-26-361)

advised that he was associated with Belli.

In August, 1949, Belli, described by a Los Angeles newspaper as "King of Torts," was described as the attorney for Mickey Cohen in a suit charging Cohen with assault upon Chief Federal Narcotic Agent Howard Chappell. (92-3156-A)

SAC, San Francisco

September 1, 1950

Director, FPI

MELVIN M. BELLI ATTORNEY

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

As you may be aware, Melvin, M. Belli, a San Colonization total afformation the American Bar Association convention recently concluded in Miami Beach, Florida. Cohen was introduced as 'Professor O'Brien," an expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases. Belli and Cohen have regarded this incident as humorous, but, of course, this type of humor is in extremely poor taste.

Belli has an extremely questionable record, and your attention.

Belli has an extremely questionable record, and your attention.

1 - Mr. Belmont

NOTE: See Jones to DeLoach memo dated 9-1-59 captioned as above.

公本等级等等的基础,不是这种"人"是这种的"人"。

HEH: (7)

MAILED 19
SEP - 1 1959
COMM-FRI

gauto (g

ECEMEN E 6

25 9 1 22 14

63 SEP 1 1 1959

1810

Mobster's Lecture Embarrasses Bar

Special to The New York Tines. MIAMI BEACH, Aug. 24-Leaders of the American Bar Association were fuming today over an appearance by Mickey Collen West Coast mobster at a solution of legal tactics.

Cohen turned up at the semi-nar yesterday." He was intro-duced as "Professor O'Brien," angespert on tax evasion and ther criminal cases

Hegithow and why he got sion for nours. Things did not get any simpler when local deentives guestioned him, about murder in Chicago, As to the murder, Cohen denied all. The yictim was Fred Evans; a one-time gangster whotwas shottim Chicago last Saturday—while Cohen was lysting that dity.

now when they are zoing to sulfeemebody, cohen told reporters after his talk with the

detectives.
As for the seminar that turned out to baye no official connection with the American Association, which is hold-its annual convention here. Cohen came here at the intation of Melvin M. Belli

an Francisco trial lawyer. For the last ten years Mr Belli has, conducted a private one day seminar on trial tactics

Interesting Guests

Bellise explained it today that he isually produced odd and interesting guests at his seminars. This year's choice was: Cohen, whom Mr. Belli re-cently defended in Los Angeles against a charge of assaulting a policeman After one mistrial Cohen pleaded guilty and was lined \$200

ined \$200. Sit was supposed to be a secret

"That's nothing unusual."

Cohen said. "They know I'm paid nothing, not even travel have been carried away when so coming a lot of times before I expenses. He said Cohen had brought the A. P. A. into the know I'm going."

mude the trip as a favor in repicture.

oing."

made the trip as a favor in repicture.

Cohen flew into turn for Mr. Belli's handling the "Mick town and told everyone that he assault case without fee. "Mick likes to be inter-town and told everyone that he assault case without fee." "Mick likes to be inter-was going to the Fontainebleau Some 600 lawyers paid \$10 viewed." Mr. celli told a re-Hotel to 'lecture the Bar As-leach to attend the seminar Mr. porter today. When he gets mahembatic covies of Bellisaire cost of instruct a gorgone.

Our copplication covies of Bellisaire cost of instruct a gorgone.

Our copplication covies of Bellisaire cost of instruction of the covies covies of the covies covies of the covie

cathe said prepared material last year, said his organization was consared at having been in

50995

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IN UNUSASSIFIED

DATE 6-17-80BY SLIVE CO.



SI was supposed to be a secret UNEXPECTED GUEST: Mickey Coben addresses law-be. Cohen, but both the newspapers and the police knew in Cohen was invited to speak by Melvin M. Belli, right.

was a mul Mr. B. declared no sentino hiogor Cche

suma bi He no:

avored his joke "Yeair, pert advice." who orce se prison term by evasion.

He said he i vice'l gave out

I wish now here quote mes on to Introduced by sominar to "Profe

Cohen clipped stool bear d the He was wrinkle-p. of s:

TIMES

UNITED STATES GOV morandum Mr. Malone H. L. Edwards MELVIN M. BELLI ATTORNEY SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA By memorandum dated 3/9/60 Edwards to Mr. Malone, I set. oforth-information re the American Bar Association's (ABA) Iplans to oust Belli from the ABA because of his many cheap unethical practices. 2review of Bufiles was made as a result of an article in "The New York Times" of ³⁸-25-59 which indicated that Attorney Melvin M. Belli, a San Francisco trial laver, introduced West Coast mobster Mickey Cohen at a seminar on legal tactics during the annual ABA meeting at Miami Beach. Cohen was introduced as "Professor O'B en;" 27 expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases. Of course, Belli's seminar had so econnection with the ABA and the ABA protested his cheap trick which led the public to 29think otherwise. The Director noted, "What do we know re Belli?" The current Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a Melvin M. born 1907, admitted to the Bar 1933. He is associated with the law firm of Bel's Ashe and Gerry, 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California. Enclosure - Mr. DeLoach (sent direct) GLASS. '- Mr. Belmont (sent direct) 105-49865 KWW:jss__(5)

Memorandum to Mr. Mohr Re: Melvin M. Belli 105-49865

The San Francisco Office was alerted by Little dated 9-1-59 in accordance with the Director's instructions but to date they have not replaced any additional information. In view of the contemplated action of the ABA is felt that the San Francisco Office should review its files and public sour material for any additional information re Belli. Upon receipt of same, further consideration will be given and appropriate recommendations will be made.

RECOMMENDATION: That the attached letter of instructions be sent to the San Francisco Office.

MIL



SAC, San Francisco 3/14/60 ELVIN M. BELLI PRORNEY SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA Rebulet 9/1/59. You are instructed to review your files and other perlinent public source material re above-captioned individual and submit any available data to Bureau by 3/21/60. Insure that any information furnished is precisely identified as public source or otherwise, and where it is public source, furnish complete citation. - Mr. DeLoach (sent direct) - Mr. Belmont (sent direct) DATE OF REVIEW Based on Malone to Mr. Mohr memo, 3/7/60 Re: Mel San Francisco, California KWW:jss.

Office Memorandum · UNITED STREES GOVERNMEN Mr. Mohr Director, FBI 3/18/86 Parsons Mr. Belmont SAC, San Francisco (105-4626) Mr. McGu Mr. Rosen MELVIN M. BELLI SUBJECT: Mr. Tan.m ATTORNEY Mr. Trote Mr. W.C.S SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA Tele. Room Mr. Ingrai ReBulet 3/14/60. Miss Gand Enclosed, herewith, are the original and three copies blind memorandum re BELLI. As set forth in letter to the Bureau from San Francisco Office dated 3/21/47 captioned "SS E. A. BRYAN, SS QUINAULT VICTOR PORT CHICAGO CASES, ADMIRALTY MATTER, " with reference to DELLI charging Bureau Agents with harrassing his clients, it will be no in that regard, after being interviewed in this matter by Agents this office and learning that Agents were not investigating him, he stated that he, BELLI, would withdraw his objections. It was during that interview of BELLI as set forth in that letter dated 3/21/47 that BELLI mentioned that he had received information that he was being investigated by a private investigator who was in the employ of the Maryland Casualty Insurance Company in connection with BELLI's ethics in handling a suit for a client against the Marylan Casualty Insurance Company. As file information does not reflect that it was substantiated, this matter is not being set forth in the blind memo. りクレ 2)Bureau (Encl.-4) I San Francisco JBD; ekk

22

23

25 26

CONSUMING with CIA

The newspaper items mentioned in the memorandum were obtained through the library of the "San Francisco Examiner," a newspaper published at San Francisco. The items were clippings filed in envelopes; where the clipping was from the "San Francisco Examine it only bore a date stamp of the date of issue from which clipped where the item had been clipped from another newspaper, it had be stamped with the name of the newspaper and the date of issue only

Information with reference to the articles from "Life," "Time" and the "Saturday Evening Post," national magazines, were secured from the San Francisco City Library.

MRSMelvin M. Belli Attorney

San Francisco, California

oey Belli Ne MyRNER

The 1959 San Francisco City Directory reflects that Melvin M. (Joy T.) Belli resides at 1228 Montgomery, Apartment 8.

The 1953 San Francisco City Directory listed Belli as a lawyer with office at 240 Stockton Street and his wife was listed as Joy T. Belli and his residence was given as 1228 Montgom y, Apartment 8. SAN FRANCISCO, CANT

The current (September, 1959) San Francisco Telephone Directory lists Melvin M. Belli of the law firm of Belli, Ashe and Gerry as having offices at 722 Montgomery Street, San Francisco.

The 1960 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists Melvin M. Belli, attorney, San Francisco, California, born 1907, admitted to Bar 1933, member of the American Bar Association and having graduated from the University of California with B.A. and LL.B. degrees.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper, a newspaper published daily at San Francisco, issue of May 4, 1956, revealed Melvin Belli, attorney and writer, married on May 3, 1956, a former air line hostess, Jocy Turner, in San Francisco. Melvin Belli, according to the article, formerly was married to Betty Ballantina and divorced in 1951, having four children. He married Toni Nichols, a former stenographer, and they were divorced in March, 1955

The 'San Francisco Examiner" issue of May 1, 1959, had an item with reference to separate maintenance suits filed by Joy Belli against Melvin Belli and Melvin Belli against his wife, Joy Belli.

The "San Francisco Examiner" had a copy of a press release in its files dated January 9, 1959, at San Francisco issued by "Belli Seminar Foundation, 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco California," for release January 12, 1959. According to the release, as part of a nation-wide series that has been widely acclaimed, the San Francisco Lawyers Club would sponsor a Belli Seminar Foundation lecture by internationally famed

kecago Division

26

35

38

10\2

18

50 51

28

105-49865-10

ENCLOSURE.

BEST COPY AVAILABL

San Francisco attorney Melvin M. Belli on January 17th at the St. Francis Hotel (San Francisco). The release stated Mr. Belli would discuss trial and substantive law, criminal and civil law, trial and tort trends, procedures, vior dire, and opening statements through final argument and appeal. According to the release, Belli would also discuss modern damages, medical problems and would show autopsy film. The release described "The Belli Seminar Foundation" as a charital energy organization for the perpetuity of postgraduate legal education lectures and that Belli lectures were free to law students and medical students, doctors, judges, and professors. The release states further as follows:

: 6

. 8

∴9 20.

? J-

22

25 26

27.

29

30 ⋅

31

14

?5

39

10

;1

12

4.3.

15

16

18

49

50

51

52

53

56 57 "Belli, called 'The King of Torts,' was recently elected chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Academ of Trial lawyers at a meeting held at Coronado. He is past of that organization and past President of the National Association of Claimants Compensation Attorneys.

"Particularly noted for being a pioneer in the use of dentastrative evidence, Belli is equally regarded as an author of
numerous books, which includes "Modern Trials," 'Ready for the
Plaintiff,' 'Modern Damages,' 'The Adequate Award' and 'Tria'
and Tort Trends.' His latest book, 'Life and Law in Japan,'
deals with the Girard case which developed international legal
and political interests."

"Time" magazine (published by Time, Inc., 540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois) issue of January 26, 1959, page 23, has an article about Melvin M. Belli under the caption "The Law" and subtitled "Plaintiff's-Counsel." The article described Belli as a recognized, if not the revered, leader in the phenomenal field of U. S. law - personal injury. It is set forth that Belli's most noteworthy contribution to tort trials is the use of "demonstrative evidence." It set forth that Belli would take his skeleton named "Elmer" into the court room and show the jury by expert's testimony exactly where the plaintiff broke a bone. A photograph of Belli with the skeleton appeared with the article.

The "Time" article mentioned some of Belli's cases. Among those included were one for victims of the defective polic vaccine distributed by California Cutter Laboratories in 1955 and one for relatives of victims of the nation's worst air crash - the collision of two airplanes over Grand Canyon on June 30, 1956. It also mentioned that Belli had pending in Louisiana a case against two cigarette manufacturers and the it had been filed on behalf of a woman whose husband died clung cancer. The last subheading of the article is caption.

"Shyster or Savant." The article mentioned under this heading that most legal observers agree that for many years personal injuries were not adequately compensated in the courts. Many of these same observers now believe that Belli has led the trend too far in the opposite direction and, moreover, they shrink from Belli's techniques. The article quoted Belli as stating, "I am regarded as either shyster or savant. There is no middle road for me."

Belli was described in the "Time" article as fifty-one you of age, thrice married, twice divorced.

Ther San Francisco Examiner issue of April 1, 1959, had an item listing Molvin Belli as representing Mae West in a \$50,000 suit against a local night club (San Francisco) performs who billed herself as "the one and only 'Diamond Lil'."

25

26

:0

15

18

19

The "Saturday Evening Post" (published by the Curtic Publishing Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) issue of April 11, 1959, contains an article captioned "Medicine's Legal Nightman by Milton Silverman, beginning on Page 13. In the first part of that article is set forth information about Melvin M. Belli, year-old San Francisco attorney, nationally known for his suitagainst doctors for medical malpractice.

stated on April 23, 1959, that Mickey Cohen and two other individuals arrived in Las Vegas on April 23, 1959, from os Angeles, California, by automobile. He stated that they were accompanied by an individual giving—the name of "Mel" Belli, an attorney from San Francisco. They appeared at the Clark County Sheriff's Office where Cohen was required to register as an ex-felon. Mr. Belli stated at that time Cohen was in Las Vegas transacting some legal business and also to discuss a golf tournament to be held at Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn hotel golf course.

The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of April 28, 1959, sets forth, under the caption "Belli Plans Plea for Stripper in Dope Case," information that San Francisco attorney Melvin Belli announced yesterday he would champion the cause of Las Vegas stripper Candy Barr, a comely girl friend of gambler Mickey Cohen, convicted of possession of marijuana. The item stated that Belli, reached by telephone in Las Vegas, said, "This is a gross miscarriage of justice. I have definitely taken up her case and we're going to the U.S. Supreme Court with it."

The article stated that Cohen said he made the arrangements for Belli to defend Miss Barr. Cohen was quoted, "I made connections for Candy. I am not paying the bill. But I okayed the credit on it. She'll pay him when she's able."

According to the article, Belli insisted, "This has not in to do with Cohen. I agreed to take her case after talking with her Friday and Saturday." The news item further set for that Belli said, "She is caught right in the middle of a political deal. She doesn't use narcotics or sell it and she was deliberately framed by narcotics agents." According to a news article, a jury in Dallas, Texas, convicted Miss Barr of possession of marijuana last-year. Her fifteen-year prisonentence was upheld in January by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

The "San Francisco Chronicle," a daily newspaper publishe at San Francisco, issue of July 6, 1959, captioned "Belli Asked Limit for Lawyers Fees." It stated that Melvin Belli, San Francisco attorney, had recommended to Governor Edmund G. Brown (Governor of California) for regulation of lawyers' fees in personal injury cases rather than creation of a California Automobile Accident Commission. Belli, a special in personal injury cases, was quoted, "Lawyers charge too much fees in personal injury cases such as automobile accidents should not go over forty per cent. I charge one-third. Bome charge as much as fifty per cent."

"San Francisco Examiner" issue of August 24, 1959, contained an article captioned "Mickey Slated for Belli Seminar." The article is dated Miami, August 23rd, and stated that Mickey Cohen arrived in Miami on August 23rd and, after questioning by Miami detectives, he was permitted to go to a Miami Beach hotel where he was scheduled to address a trial seminar. The seminar was to be put on by attorney Melvin Belli, San Francisco trial lawyer, who defended Cohen last week on a charge of assaulting the chief of the Federal Narcotics Bureau in Los Angeles. The news item stated the seminar held in conjunction with the University of Miami Law School attracted attorneys across the nation. A seminar spokesman said the meeting was not connected with the giant American Bar Association convention starting there on Monday.

In the "San Francisco Examiner" issue of August 25, 1950, it was set forth in an article that Melvin Belli, top trial lawyer from San Francisco, had introduced Mickey Cohen as Professor O'Brien at the American Bar Association convention in Miami Beach. The article stated that Cohen, as Professor O'Brien, lectured to the unsuspecting lawyers as a

The state of the s

"professor" on income tax. The article stated the Association did not think it was funny and an Association spokesman said that it was obviously an attempt to use the American Bar Association for a private promotion, according to the news item. The news article quoted Belli as follows: "If they can't appreciate that part of the program, then the whole Bar Association has lost its sense of humor." Belli was further quoted that he was sorry Cohen had appeared before the convention.

The "San Francisco Examiner" on August 25, 1957, had an article captioned "Belli Sees Fair Trial for Girard." The it had a dateline of Tokyo, August 24th, and by-line of "By Melv Belli; Special to the Examiner." The article was about the trial of the people of Japan against Specialist, Third Class, William S. Girard.

The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of August 26, 1957, has an article by Belli with reference to the Girard trial. This item has a dateline of Maebashi, Japan, August 26th.

; 2

Also, the "San Francisco Examiner" of September 10, 1957, had an article by Belli datelined Tokyo, September 9th, with reference to Japan's civil suit customs.

The "San Francisco Examiner" issues of October 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29, 1959, contained items mentioning Melvin Belli as attorney for Beverly Addland, teen-aged protege of the lat Errol Flynn, movie actor who died at Vancouver, British Columbia, in October, 1959.

The "San Francisco Examiner" of November 17, 1957, had an article that a Yuba City (California) peach farmer bequenthed a \$300,000 estate to three San Francisco lawyers with a provision that it be used to "educate people in the process of democrac." The article set forth that the estate was bequeathed to attorneys George Andersen, Norman Leonard and Richard Gladstein who had often defended members of the Communist Party. According to the article, attorney Melvin Belli declared he would contest the will on behalf of the dead man's widow, son and daughter.

The "San Francisco Examiner" of December 8, 1957, datelined Marysville (California) contained an article that attorney Melvin Belli had filed action for the son and daughter of a person by the name of Long. The news item set forth that according to the action Andersen induced the father "through fraud a lunder influence" to will all but \$13,500 of the estate to Andersen and his law partners, Horman Leonard and Richard Gladstein.

The "San Francisco Chronicle" issue of October 9, 1956, had an item that attorney Melvin M. Belli was charged in the Municipal Court (San Francisco) with failing to pay \$176.00 in overtime wages to two secretaries. The "San Francisco Chronicle" of October 20, 1956, had an article on the same This article stated that a couple of former secretari had hailed Melvin Belli into court on charges he failed to pay their evertime for the last two weeks they worked for him The charge was described as a misdemeanor.

San Francisco, California, Police Department arrest record cards Nos. A28055 and A28056 reflect that Melvin Belli of 1228 Montgomery Street was arrested on the morning of September 19, 1956, on warrants issued on complaints of two individuals charging violation of 216(a) of the Labor Code. He was released immediately on \$100.00 bond in each of the two cases. The records of Municipal Court, Department No. 11, San Francisco reflects that Belli was acquitted of these charges in each call for violation of 216(a) of the Labor Code on December 12, 195 The action numbers in the Municipal Court are 9327 and 9329.

The "San Francisco Chronicle" issue of March 15, 1955, ha angitem captioned "Belli Joins Battle to Save Chessman's Nev Manuscript." The article read that attorney Melvin Belli catapulted himself into the Caryl Chessman case yesterday wire charges that confiscation of the condemned convict-author's latest book is an attempt at thought control worse than the treatment of prisoners in the Dark Ages. The article stated that Belli, well-known trial lawyer had offered his services without fee to Chessman's Sacramento (California) counsel, Rosalie Asher, who accepted his association in the case. was further set forth that attorney Asher was scheduled to appear before Judge Michael J. Roche of the Federal District Court at San Francisco to argue an injunction to prevent the destruction of Chessman's newest manuscript. It further mentioned that this was another phase of Chessman's six-year battle to escape San Quentin's gas chamber.

"San_Francisco Examiner" of May 10, 1955, in an item captioned "Chessman's Book Suit" set forth that attorney Melvin Belli, on behalf of Miss Asher, had filed suit in Marin County (California) Superior Court, asking the court to order Warden Harley O. Teets, Director of Correction (California) Richard McGee and others to release Chossman's latest book "Trial and Ordeal" to attorney Asher.

- 6. -

32

23

25 26

77.

284

: 5

39

10

:5

18

19

52

53

56

25

50 5L

"Life" magazine (published by Time, Inc., 540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois) in an issue of October 18, 1954 beginning on Page 71, contains an article by Robert Wallace captioned "The King of Torts." The subheading reads "Melvin Belli's court room props and his pyrotechnical oratory have reaped big awards for his clients and himself while revoluting the practice of personal injury law."

On March 9, 1951, the name of Melvin Belli, San Francisco, appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P.O. Box 2225, San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argyle, Los Angeles 28, which appealed to members of the Bar to oppose California Senate Bill SB 1666, which would impose upon every member of the Calfornia Bar and every candidate for admission the Requirement that a test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practing law.

The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of September 2, 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communitatial."

"San Francisco, Sept. 21

22

.23

24 25 26

27

? 5

12

15

18

50

53

"A group of growinent Day Area residents, headed by Attorney Vincent Hallinan, protested the prosecution of the 12 Communist leaders to Alben Barkley during the vice president's visit here.....

"The group wrote Barkley that they wanted to see him 'for the purpose of protesting the actions of the United States government in prosecuting persons for the expressions of opinions.

"'We refer particularly to the prosecution of the Communist leaders in New York, and consider the action against them the sad reflection upon the level to which our American concepts of free speech have declined.

"'We desire to solicit your aid to combat procedures under which an existing system can employ the coercive forces of the government to preserve itself from criticism or change.'

"Members of the group which also sent a strongly worded protest against the trial to Attorney General J. Howard McGrath, included in addition to Hallinan: Mervin Belli, attorney;.....

The "Peoples World, formerly the "Daily People's World is a West Coast Communist newspaper.

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive O

The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of November 6, 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4, contained an article entitle "Bay Area Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7."

"San Francisco, Nov. 5

25

"Prominent Northern Californians are sending greetlings to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7, the Russians' independence Day, in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany, today announced the Russian American Society to Aid USSR and Great Britain to Defeat Hitler Fascism.

"Religious leaders, city officials, educators, liberals and progressives were circulated with the follow-ing message:

"We Americans admire your courage and determination in your fight against Hitlerism.

convey to you our message of greetings and deep conviction that your heroic struggle will end in final victory or the dark forces of fascism.'"

Signing the message of greetings, with modifications in some instances, were: ".....Melvin M. Belli, attorney...."

The Russian American Society, Inc., has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The "San Francisco Chronicle" issue of October 9, 1939, contained an article captioned "Belli named to U. S. Bar Rights Committee." In this article it is set forth that Melvin Belli. San Francisco attorney, had been appointed to the Committee on the Bill of Rights of the Junior Bar Conference of the American Bar Association. The Committee, according to the article, would concern itself with a comparative survey of the Bill of Rights as appears in the basic law of the states.

Iemorandum

•		•		
ro	:	Mr.	Malone W.	DATE:

H. L. Edwards

2

. 3

.: 2

3

24

25 26

29

?0 11

35

12

:3 14

15 16

17

:8

19 50 51

53

57

59

SUBJECT: MELVIN M

ATTORNEY AT LAW SAN FRANCISCO

Misspul (7

8/9/60

Del. auch

C. Stillivan

of the Training Section received in the mail a circular indicating that Melvin M. Belli of San Francisco is scheduling the 10th Annual Belli Seminar at Washington, D. C., Sunday, August 28, 1960. 8:30 a. m. to 11:00 p. m. at the Presidential Arms. This is the day before til opening of the American Bar Association's 83rd Annual Meeting. A copy of Ris circular is attached and indicates that this seminar will emphasize medical specialties not heretofore discussed at prior forensic medicine and medico-ligal seminars. On the law side, the seminar will consider the various agencies and courts and specialized practices that every lawyer should know about.

Belli is, of course, well known as being a notorious publicity -seeker.

It will be recalled that at the Annual ABA Meeting, 1959, at Miami Beach, Belli embarrassed the ABA by bringing Mickey Cohen and setting up a seminar to run concurrently with the ABA Meeting and some of the newspapers erroneously reported that Belli was a part of the ABA Convention. Of course the ABA promptly indicated he had no connection whatsoever.

has told me in the past that he has been trying in every way possible to "make a case" which would justify ousting Belli from the ABA for weshical practices although Belli is apparently smart enough to stay within the ethical rules. 67C

On 8/4/60 while spending some time in Washington with I informed him of the proposed Belli Seminar. This was complete news to but he was very anxious to get it because he said he will now alert the Public

	sor it accurace ne build ne i		. •
Relations Staff at the ABA C	Center so that when they h	ave their preliminary br	efine
of the press prior to the for	thcoming Annual Meeting.	they will be able to cla	fv
in advance the fact that Bell	i has no connection in his	seminar with the ABA. M	. etiç
	EX 109 SEC CO	1.	
ACTION: SURE	REG- 68 /		, (°)
OSU	•	E. T	•
Information	\sim 1.	020	: