



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington 25, D. C.

January 22, 1953

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~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Honorable Sherman Adams  
The Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Adams:

In accordance with your request,  
there is attached a summary memorandum of the  
inquiries made on Robert Cutler.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

*J. Edgar Hoover*

Attachment

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE  
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,  
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2014-034, document no. 1  
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: May 24, 2016



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IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO  
FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

January 22, 1953

ROBERT CUTLER

I. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA.

A. Birth Data.

Robert Cutler was born on June 12, 1895, at Brookline, Massachusetts, the son of George Chalmers Cutler and Mary Wilson Cutler, both having been born at Bangor, Maine.

B. Education.

He was a student at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, from September, 1912, to June, 1916, at which time he received a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude. During the academic years of 1913-1914 and 1914-1915 he held the John Harvard Scholarship and in 1915-1916 the Harvard College Scholarship. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and was also very active in extra-curricular activities, which included membership in various clubs and societies and the office of Class Poet.

From September, 1919, to June, 1922, he attended Harvard Law School, graduating with a Bachelor of Laws degree, cum laude, finishing first in his class. He was on the Editorial Board.

He received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from Trinity College in 1943, Norwich University in 1948, and Northeastern University in 1949, according to "Who's Who in America," which also indicates Mr. Cutler to be the author of two books entitled "Louisburg Square" and "Speckled Bird," both novels which were commented on favorably by the press in 1917 and 1923, respectively.

C. Admission to Legal Practice.

Mr. Cutler was admitted to practice law on September 22, 1922, according to records of the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Boston. He is a member in good standing of the Bar Association of the City of Boston, no complaints ever having been received against him. He was admitted to practice before the Federal Bar in Massachusetts on December 7, 1926, being in good standing.

D. Military Service.

Mr. Cutler was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Officers Reserve Corps, August 10, 1917, and promoted to

First Lieutenant on April 2, 1918, serving overseas from June 28, 1918, to August 1, 1919. He was honorably discharged on August 6, 1919, being awarded the World War I Victory Medal and two Gold War Chevrons.

On August 8, 1942, he was appointed Head Occupational Analyst, Army Specialist Corps, in a civilian capacity with relative rating of Colonel, resigning this position on November 19, 1942, upon discontinuance of the Army Specialist Corps. He was commissioned a Colonel at Washington, D. C., December 3, 1942, with active duty from the same date in the Office of the Secretary of War, and was honorably discharged on December 9, 1945, while in the rank of Brigadier General, being awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the World War II Victory Medal and the American Campaign Medal.

From December 3, 1942, to October, 1943, he was Chief of Procurement Division of the Officer Procurement Service at Washington, D. C. He was the representative of the Secretary of War on voting matters from October, 1943, to April, 1944. General Cutler was the Secretary of War's Coordinator for Soldier Voting and Executive Officer of the United States War Ballot Commission from April, 1944, to December, 1944. He was also assigned to the Legislative and Liaison Division, War Department Special Staff, from December, 1944, to October, 1945.

#### E. Employment and Public Service.

From September, 1916, through August, 1917, he was a member of the Harvard University faculty as an assistant in English.

From 1922 to 1930 he was employed as an attorney with the law firm of Herrick, Smith, Donald, Farley and Ketchum, Boston, Massachusetts, being admitted to membership in the firm in 1930 and resigning in 1940 when he became Corporation Counsel for the City of Boston.

From 1940 to 1942 he was Corporation Counsel for the City of Boston when he left to enter the United States Army.

From 1946 to the present he has been President and a member of the Board of Directors, Old Colony Trust Company, Boston, Massachusetts.

Since 1948 Mr. Cutler has been a Corporator and Trustee and a member of the Board of Investment, Boston Five Cents Savings Bank, Boston, Massachusetts.

Until his recent resignation he has been a member of the Board of Directors, Wilson-Jones Company, office supplies and equipment, head office, Chicago, Illinois, having previously represented this firm as an attorney.

Since September 1951, he has been a consultant without compensation to the Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D. C. In 1951 he was also Special Assistant to the Director, Psychological Strategy Board, Washington, D. C., from August to November.

Mr. Cutler's public service includes the following: He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Brookline, Massachusetts, Public Library from 1932 to 1938. He has been identified with the Community Fund since 1932. He has been the president, a director for many years, and a division chairman for a number of years. In 1937 he was also general chairman of the Greater Boston Community Fund. During 1947 to 1949 he was chairman of the Citizens Committee to Survey Social and Health Needs in Greater Boston. During the early 1940's he was for several years chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Massachusetts Public Welfare Department. Mr. Cutler has been a member of the Board of Overseers, Harvard College, since 1950, having a six-year term and being a member of the following committees: Romance Languages and Literature; Military, Naval and Air Service; Medical School; Harvard College Library; Philosophy; Board of Overseers Executive; and (chairman) the Department of Social Relations. He is also an officer of the Boston Better Business Bureau, and a member of the corporation of Northeastern University, Boston. Mr. Cutler has also been president of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, for the past five years, having been treasurer for the previous ten years and a trustee for five years prior to being treasurer.

## II. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION.

The following individuals who have known Mr. Robert Cutler either personally, professionally, socially and/or by reputation, advised in substance that he is loyal, of good character and reputation, associates with persons of the same type, and is well qualified for a position of trust with the United States Government. None of the individuals interviewed made any unfavorable comments concerning him, and in a number of instances he was described in the superlative.

### A. Interviews with Professional Associates and/or Social Acquaintances.

Ettran Davidson Alyea, partner, Root, Ballantine, Harlan, Bushby and Palmer, law firm, New York City.

Francis R. Appleton, Jr., partner, Appleton, Rice and Perrin, law firm, New York City.

*Kenneth B. Backman, Secretary and Manager, Boston Better Business Bureau, Boston, Massachusetts.*

*Robert M. Benjamin, partner, Spence, Hotchkiss, Parker and Duryee, law firm, New York City.*

*Albert F. Bigelow, Assistant to the President, Ludlow Manufacturing and Sales Company, and former member of the Massachusetts Legislature, Boston, Massachusetts.*

*James Gillespie Blaine, President, Marine Midland Trust Company, New York City.*

*Melville W. Borders, President, Wilson-Jones Company, Chicago, Illinois.*

*Lloyd D. Brace, President, First National Bank of Boston, Boston, Massachusetts.*

*Henry J. Brown, Manager, Somerset Club, Boston, Massachusetts.*

*Edward F. Buenger, Vice-President, Wilson-Jones Company, Chicago, Illinois.*

*Robert B. Choate, Publisher, Boston Herald-Traveler, Boston, Massachusetts.*

*Eugene T. Connolly, member of law firm of Herrick, Smith, Donald, Farley and Ketchum, Boston.*

*Carl P. Dow, Assistant Treasurer, Boston Five Cents Savings Bank, Boston, Massachusetts.*

*Arthur L. Endicott, Brookline, Massachusetts, former Comptroller of Harvard University.*

*G. Peabody Gardner, Director, Wilson-Jones Company and Director, Old Colony Trust Company, Boston, Massachusetts.*

*John L. Gardner, White-Weld Company, investments, Boston, Massachusetts.*

*Francis C. Gray, President, Fiduciary Trust Company, Boston, Massachusetts.*

*Henry V. Greenough, Vice-President and Sales Agent, Ludlow Manufacturing and Sales Company, Boston, Massachusetts.*

*Livingston Hall, Assistant Dean, Harvard Law School,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

*A. C. Hanford, Professor, Littauer School of Public  
Administration, Harvard University, and former Dean  
of Harvard College.*

*Mrs. Katherine Howard, Republican National Committee-  
woman from Massachusetts.*

*Walter Humphreys, Brookline, Massachusetts, former  
member of the Board of Trustees of the Brookline  
Public Library, former Secretary-Treasurer of the  
National Association of Wool Manufacturers of Boston,  
and former Professor of the Massachusetts Institute  
of Technology.*

*Sargent Kennedy, Registrar, Harvard College, Cambridge,  
Massachusetts.*

*Benjamin Kulp, Chairman of Board of Directors, Wilson-  
Jones Company, Chicago, Illinois.*

*Charles D. Maginnis, Brookline, Massachusetts, former  
Trustee of Brookline Public Library.*

*George C. Marshall, General of the Army, retired,  
United States Army, Washington, D. C.*

*W. E. McCurdy, Professor, Harvard Law School.*

*J. Reed Morss, President, Boston Five Cents Savings  
Bank, Boston, Massachusetts.*

*Alexander C. Nagle, President, First National Bank,  
New York City.*

*James Mount Nicely, Vice-President, First National  
Bank, New York City.*

*William Parks, Executive Secretary and Chairman of  
Grievance Committee, Bar Association of the City  
of Boston.*

*Arthur G. Rotch, President of the United Community  
Services, Boston, Massachusetts.*

*Paul T. Rothwell, President, Boston Chamber of  
Commerce, Boston, Massachusetts.*

Roland Schuerhoff, Manager, Smith Barney, Incorporated, investments, Boston, Massachusetts.

Henry S. Sturgis, Vice-President, First National Bank, New York City.

Daniel Tyler, Jr., Chairman, Massachusetts Republican Committee, Boston, Massachusetts, and former Vice-President of the National Shawmut Bank of Boston and Selectman of Brookline, Massachusetts.

Harold S. Vanderbilt, Lantana, Florida, member of Board of Directors, New York Central Railroad, New York City.

Stanley D. Waters, Comptroller, United Community Service, Boston, Massachusetts.

Samuel A. Welldon, member of Board of Directors, First National Bank, New York City.

Horace O. Wetmore, Vice-President, First National Bank of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, and member of Board of Directors, Wilson-Jones Company.

Joseph L. Wexelbaum, President, Cooke and Cobb Company, New York City, a subsidiary of Wilson-Jones Company.

George Whitney, Chairman, Board of Directors, J. P. Morgan and Company, New York City.

Dr. N. A. Wilhelm, Director, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

George Wolcott, Vice-President, Wilson-Jones Company, Chicago, Illinois.

Oliver Wolcott, Vice-President and Counsel, Old Colony Trust Company, Boston, Massachusetts.

Typical of comments made by persons interviewed were the following:

Lloyd D. Brace, President, First National Bank of Boston, described Mr. Cutler as an unusually active and dynamic individual who is both mentally and physically strong, adding that he is definitely a person of good reputation and character whose loyalty could not be questioned. Mr. Brace unqualifiedly recommends Mr. Cutler for a responsible Government position.

Eugene T. Connolly, member of the law firm of Herrick, Smith, Donald, Farley and Ketchum, of Boston, stated he has known Mr. Cutler since 1922. He described him as an attorney of outstanding ability, a man of excellent character, reputation and morals, and of unquestioned loyalty, adding that he was pleased to recommend him for any position of responsibility with the United States Government.

W. E. McCurdy, Professor, Harvard Law School, stated he was a classmate of Mr. Cutler at college. He described Mr. Cutler as outstanding in every respect, adding that he cannot praise him too highly. He regards him as "tops in every way."

J. Reed Morss, President, Boston Five Cents Savings Bank, who has been acquainted with Mr. Cutler for many years, stated he is a person of the highest professional integrity. Mr. Morss unqualifiedly recommends him with respect to ability, reputation, character and loyalty. Mr. Carl P. Daw, Assistant Treasurer of the same savings bank, described Mr. Cutler as an outstanding citizen with reputation and character beyond reproach and unquestionable loyalty.

Stanley B. Waters, Comptroller, United Community Service, Boston, stated Mr. Cutler is a person of great ability, excellent character and reputation and a person in whose loyalty he has the utmost confidence. He deems Mr. Cutler to be "one of the most highly respected citizens of Boston."

Dr. N. A. Wilhelm, Director, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, stated he deems Robert Cutler to be "a most profound American," adding that "you will not find a better citizen than Robert Cutler." He said Cutler is a person of outstanding ability, excellent reputation and character, and a person whom he recommends for any position of trust and responsibility with the Federal Government.

Oliver Wolcott, Vice-President and Counsel, Old Colony Trust Company, Boston, advised that he has been acquainted with Mr. Cutler for the past 40 years. He highly recommends him for any position of responsibility with the Government as a person with the best reputation and highest character, morals and loyalty and of unusual capability. He said he is also acquainted with the Cutler family which consisted of four brothers of Mr. Cutler, adding that the entire family have always been outstandingly loyal citizens, prominent in the life of Boston.

B. Interviews with Federal, State and Local Officials.

Sherman Adams, Administrative Assistant to President Eisenhower.

Winthrop W. Aldrich, Chairman, Board of Directors, Chase National Bank, New York City, and Ambassador to Great Britain -- designate.

Gabriel Hauge, Economic-Political Advisor to President Eisenhower.

Christian A. Herter, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., United States Representative to the United Nations -- designate, New York City.

Calvert Magruder, Chief Judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, First Circuit, Boston, Massachusetts.

Joseph Martin, Congressman from Massachusetts, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

William A. McDermott, Assistant Corporation Counsel of the City of Boston.

Miss Margaret G. O'Neal, Head Administrative Clerk, Law Department of the City of Boston, and former secretary to Mr. Cutler.

Maxwell Rabb, Administrative Assistant to President Eisenhower.

Leverett Saltonstall, United States Senator from Massachusetts, Washington, D. C.

Arthur J. Shinnors, Town Clerk, Brookline, Massachusetts.

John V. Spalding, Chief Justice, Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Boston.

Sinclair Weeks, Secretary of Commerce, Boston Massachusetts.

Harold P. Williams, Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Boston.

Typical of the comments made were the following:

Sherman Adams, Administrative Assistant to President Eisenhower, who has been acquainted with Mr. Cutler for 15 years,

stated that Mr. Cutler is a "stand-out citizen" and a churchman in whose character and loyalty he has the highest faith, adding that Mr. Cutler is a brilliant man whom he unhesitatingly recommends for a high post in the Federal Government.

Christian A. Herter, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, who has known Mr. Cutler for 37 years, stated he recognizes him as a man of outstanding ability, one who has been tremendously successful in business matters, and that he is pleased to recommend Mr. Cutler for a position of trust and confidence in the Government as a person whose integrity, character, and loyalty are above any reproach.

Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., United States Representative to the United Nations -- designate, who has been acquainted with Robert Cutler and Mr. Cutler's brothers for over 30 years, stated he has the highest opinion of the character and ability of Mr. Cutler and regards his loyalty to the United States as beyond question.

Calvert Magruder, Chief Judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, Boston, stated he has been acquainted with Mr. Cutler since about 1921. He highly recommends him for a Government position as a man of excellent reputation and character, of integrity, of sound legal judgement, of excellent morals, and a person loyal to the United States beyond peradventure of doubt.

Arthur T. Shinnors, Town Clerk, Brookline, Massachusetts, who has known Mr. Cutler for more than 10 years, described him as an outstanding citizen of Brookline who has been connected with many civic affairs. He characterized Mr. Cutler in the superlative degree insofar as ability, reputation, character and loyalty are concerned.

John V. Spalding, Chief Judge, Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, who has been acquainted with Mr. Cutler for about 25 years, knowing him as a law student, attorney, banker and businessman, stated he has always found him to possess to the highest degree morals, integrity and loyalty.

Sinclair Weeks, Secretary of Commerce, stated he has known Robert Cutler for 35 years and considers him to be a superlative person possessing a fine character and enviable reputation. He believes Cutler to be a completely loyal American and an able lawyer, banker and administrator. He said he would recommend Cutler for any position of responsibility with the Federal Government.

C. Neighborhood Investigation. No unfavorable information was

developed at the Somerset Club, 41 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts, where Mr. Cutler has resided for about twelve years.

D. Agency Checks. No unfavorable information on Mr. Cutler was developed from checks of the following Federal agencies: Central Intelligence Agency; House Committee on Un-American Activities; Civil Service Commission; United States Park Police, Washington, D. C.; Passport Division, Department of State; Federal Records Center, General Services Administration; Adjutant General's Office, Demobilized Personnel Records Branch, and files of G-2, Central Records Facility, Department of the Army; and central files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

No arrest record for Mr. Cutler was found in checks of the following law enforcement agencies; the police departments of Chicago, Illinois, New York City, and Washington, D. C., and the Massachusetts State Board of Probation, Boston, which is the central index for all arrest records in the state.

Credit records at the places of residence and employment of Mr. Cutler were checked with no adverse information obtained.

E. Relatives. Mr. Cutler is unmarried. Persons interviewed who were acquainted with Mr. Cutler's family advised that they have been loyal citizens, prominent in the life of Boston. Mr. Cutler is one of five brothers. Dr. Elliott Carr Cutler, deceased brother, was an eminent surgeon and former Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School. He was also a Brigadier General in the United States Army Medical Corps in World War II. He died in 1947. John Wilson Cutler, deceased brother, was formerly senior partner of Smith Barney, Incorporated, investments, New York City. George C. Cutler, brother, is Treasurer of Incorporated Investors Trust of Boston. Roger Wilson Cutler, brother, resides in Greenville, South Carolina.

During the investigation it was developed that the "American Review of Soviet Medicine" for February, 1947, published by the American-Soviet Medical Society of New York, lists Elliott C. Cutler, M. D., Boston, Massachusetts, as a regional Vice-President.

Concerning the American-Soviet Medical Society of New York, it is to be noted that according to a folder distributed on November 11, 1944, at the annual meeting of the American-Soviet Medical Society, held at the Hotel Biltmore, New York City, the purpose of this society was given as: "The promotion of the cooperation between the members of the medical and allied professions of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and to collect and exchange information about medical developments and achievements in the medical and allied fields of the two countries." In the December 1943 issue of the "American

Review of Soviet Medicine," there was an article which advised that the medical panel of the Tenth Anniversary Congress of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, held in New York City on November 7, 1943, was organized in cooperation with the American-Soviet Medical Society.

The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Records of the Massachusetts State Board of Probation, Boston, a central index for all arrest records in the state, reflect that George C. Cutler, Brookline, Massachusetts, had two minor traffic violations, one in 1921 and the other in 1922, on which a fine of \$5.00 each was paid.

The records of the same board reflect that Roger W. Cutler, born 1889, who resided during the period at Dedham, Brookline or Boston, Massachusetts, or Newport, Rhode Island, had from December 30, 1914, to September 17, 1940, twenty traffic violations, including speeding. He was on December 22, 1926, fined \$50.00 for operating a car after his license to drive had been revoked. The records also show that on July 16, 1940 he was in Roxbury District Court charged with operating so as to endanger lives and going away after collision, for which he was fined \$50.00 on each charge.

Investigation at Greenville, South Carolina, reflects that Roger Wilson Cutler, age 53, was arrested March 7, 1951, on charges of drunk and disorderly conduct. He forfeited bonds in the amount of \$11.00 on the drunk charge and \$26.00 on the disorderly conduct charge.