

File #:

62-116464

Serial Scope:

210 - Bulky PART I

100-4-210
BULKY ENCLOSURE

BIN #16E

ROOM 1B-873

167H

17B

XEROX COPY OF ^{Abstract} COVER LETTER ENCLOSED

FBI CENTRAL RECORDS CENTER
HQ - HEADQUARTERS

Class / Case #	Sub	Vol.	Serial #
0062 116464		1	210 ONLY

4/14/203789



RRP005R2EE

INFORMATION RELATING TO THE
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW ORGANIZATIONS

INFORMATION RELATING TO THE
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW ORGANIZATIONS

FOR ACCESS

Reviewed by
Ellen Heller HSC
1/7/76 RMH

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE: 4-7-66

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

Pages A2085-A2087. Congressman Ryan, (D) New York, extended his remarks to include an article entitled "Vietnam and the Jewish Conscience" written by Albert Vorpan, director of the Commission on Social Action of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which appeared in a current issue of American Judaism. Mr. Vorpan stated "If the war in Vietnam continues its spiral of escalation, we may enter a dark and dangerous era in American life in which a spirit of repression and hysteria and hatred will make the inhumanity of the Hitler look, in retrospect, like a mild national aberration. . . . Government leaders on all levels have helped escape a public arena hospitable to criticism of U. S. policy in Vietnam. Attorney General Katzenbach has held out the threat of a full-scale investigation into the demonstrations, promising that 'we may have some prosecutions in this area.' J. Edgar Hoover, who can always be relied upon to appeal to the primitive and widely held notion that Communists are at the bottom of all social agitation, reassured the public that Communists are exploiting the protest against our Vietnam policy."

Original filed in:

62-5341-

NOT RECORDED

167 APR 18 1966

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for 4-7-66 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE: 4-9-66

210
175
Pg. # 1
Hebrew
Organization

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

Pages A2905-A2907. Congressman Ryan, (D) New York, extended his remarks to include an article entitled "Vietnam and the Jewish Conscience" written by Albert Vorspan, director of the Commission on Social Action of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which appeared in a current issue of American Judaism. Mr. Vorspan stated "If the war in Vietnam continues its spiral of escalation, we may enter a dark and dangerous era in American life in which a spirit of repression and hysteria and hatred will make the McCarthyism of the 1950s look, in retrospect, like a mild national aberration. . . . Government leaders on all levels have helped escape a public mood susceptible to criticism of U. S. policy in Vietnam. Attorney General Katzenbach has held out the threat of a full-scale investigation into the demonstrations, promising that 'we may have some prosecutions in this area.' J. Edgar Hoover, who can always be relied upon to appeal to the primitive and widely held notion that Communists are at the bottom of all social agitation, reassured the public that Communists are exploiting the protest against our Vietnam policy."

Original filed in:

Bureau copy

62-5341-

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167 APR 18 1966

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Casper	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
DeLoach	_____
Evans	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

Handwritten initials and scribbles

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 3-30-64

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: SYLVAN LEBOW
 NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE BROTHERHOODS
 NEW YORK, NEW YORK
 INFORMATION CONCERNING
 HARVEY BURSTEIN
 FORMER FBI SPECIAL AGENT
 INFORMATION CONCERNING

Handwritten signature: M.A. Jones

On 3-26-64, the Director received a copy of the Spring, 1964, issue of "American Judaism," the official publication of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. It was sent by Sylvan Lebow, who is listed as an ex-officio member of the publication's editorial board.

Excerpts of the Director's address on 12-4-63 before the Washington Hebrew Congregation Brotherhood are reprinted on page 39, together with a picture of Mr. Hoover receiving an artifact from Arnold Fine, the Brotherhood's President.

Page 46 contains a very fanciful article which is supposed to relate some of the high points of the Bureau career of former Special Agent Harvey Burstein. Written in a very braggadocio manner, this item contends that Burstein made himself invaluable to the FBI because he had the distinction of being the first Yiddish and Hebrew speaking Special Agent. The article does make the point that Burstein was not the first member of the Jewish faith employed by the FBI. 62-5386-31954

The article is replete with claims that cannot be substantiated by a review of Burstein's personnel file, and with outright errors. He is identified as a wartime Agent who, in 1941, was assigned to "all aspects of internal security, the tasks of espionage and foreign intelligence. The war was raging in Europe, and tensions were mounting between Japan and the United States." Burstein actually entered the FBI on 8-25-41, as a clerk, and was assigned as a student fingerprint classifier. He resigned his position on 6-22-42 to enter military service. He was reinstated on 7-2-48 as a clerk, and did not receive an appointment as Special Agent until 10-25-48. He resigned from the Bureau again on 8-14-53, having served in Chicago and Washington Field.

His file does indicate that a request was made on 11-3-41 that Burstein be made available to the Translation Unit for the purpose of translating Yiddish newspapers.

Enclosure *sent 3-31-64*

1 - Mr. Sullivan - Enclosures

HHA:cmk

CRIME INQUIRY

PERS. REC. UNIT

XEROX
APR 9 1964

(Continued, page 2)

W. A. Jones to DeLoach
Re: SYLVAN LEBOW HARVEY BURSTEIN

The article, however, relates an incident that supposedly took place in 1941 with the discovery by a citizen in New York City of a metal container supposedly containing a coded message.

A courier was rushed to Washington with the "coded message," according to the article, and orders were issued to "Get 'Agent' Burstein on the double." The article goes on to state that Burstein entered a room where Agents were crowded around a desk on which the container rested. Burstein took one look and supposedly said: "Gentlemen, this is the Sh'ma, the basic credo of the Jewish faith--nothing to worry about." The container was a mezuzah.

The article then states that down the long corridors of the FBI went the word that if "anything comes across any desk in a foreign language, call Burstein."

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

Bufiles contain no derogatory information identifiable with Sylvan Lebow.

Harvey Burstein's services were satisfactory, however, in a memorandum dated 11-14-48, former Assistant Director Tamm set forth a summary of Burstein's FBI record. Mr. Tamm knew Burstein and said he felt he was an opportunist who had an exaggerated opinion of his own ability; that he did not feel he could be trusted nor that he would do anything for the FBI except to use it to further his own interests; and that he felt we should deal with Burstein circumspectly. The Director noted, "I think this is a proper evaluation."

OBSERVATIONS:

We have been very circumspect in our relationship with Burstein and it is felt nothing would be gained by calling his hand on this rather absurd article. It bears out the evaluation made of the man in 1958. It is believed Mr. Lebow sent the magazine to the Director because of the speech excerpts and the picture, and not in connection with the article on Burstein.

RECOMMENDATION:

* That the attached letter of thanks be forwarded to Sylvan Lebow for sending the magazine to the Director.

✓
OPH
JAN 28/30

* No letter attached in file.

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

Rabbi Calls FBI Lax in Race Cases

A Reform Jewish official has accused the FBI of laxness in apprehending racial terrorists in the South.

Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch, director of the Religious Action Center of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations here, also criticized the Kennedy Administration, in a talk in New York, for failure to do all it can in support of the civil rights program before Congress.

"Indicative of our national shame," the Rabbi said Sunday at a Reform Jewish civil rights conference, "is that the FBI, which has shown itself fully capable of infiltrating every segment of the Communist apparatus in this country, has proved itself impotent in infiltrating the ranks of the racial terrorists who now constitute a major threat to the lives of millions of Americans and to the ideals which America represents."

When the Department of Justice says it lacks legal power for more comprehensive civil rights action and a bill is proposed to increase its powers, the Administration, Rabbi Hirsch asserted, "refuses to exert its influence on behalf of the strengthened legislation."

Handwritten notes: DC, Report, [unclear]

Vertical stamp: SEP 24 1963

62-5341-A

REC 37

OCT 9 1963

Handwritten signature: [unclear]

- The Washington Post and Times Herald H-2
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star _____
- New York Herald Tribune _____
- New York Journal-American _____
- New York Mirror _____
- New York Daily News _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Date _____

OCT 4 8 40 AM '63

OCT 1 10 48 AM '63

SEP 24 1963

DCM [unclear] DIA

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

29

Handwritten initials and scribbles

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 3-30-64

FROM : M. A. Jones

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NEW YORK, NEW YORK
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FORMER FBI SPECIAL AGENT
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The article is replete with claims that cannot be substantiated by a review of Burstein's personnel file, and with outright errors. He is identified as a wartime Agent who, in 1941, was assigned to "all aspects of internal security, the tasks of espionage and foreign intelligence. The war was raging in Europe, and tensions were mounting between Japan and the United States." Burstein actually entered the FBI on 8-25-41, as a clerk, and was assigned as a student fingerprint classifier. He resigned his position on 6-22-42 to enter military service. He was reinstated on 7-26-48 as a clerk, and did not receive an appointment as Special Agent until 10-25-48. He resigned from the Bureau again on 8-14-53, having served in Chicago and Washington Field.

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XEROX
APR 9 1964

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(Continued, page 2)

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V.
OPH
JMM
8/30

* 2nd letter attached in file. 2 -

30

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- Mohr
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
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Handwritten notes:
PC
X
Root
V

Vertical stamp:
OCT 18 1963

62-5341-A

REC 37

OCT 9 1963

Handwritten signature:
6-20-63

- The Washington Post and Times Herald H-2
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star _____
- New York Herald Tribune _____
- New York Journal-American _____
- New York Mirror _____
- New York Daily News _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Date _____

OCT 4 8 40 AM '63

OCT 3 10 48 AM '63

DCW INLET DIA

SEP 24 1963