

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/11/90 BY SP4/BJL DATE: 5-2-73

*7/11/73*

- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Baker
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Cleveland
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Jenkins
- Mr. Marshall
- Mr. Miller, E.S.
- Mr. Soyars
- Mr. Thompson
- Mr. Walters
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Kinley
- Mr. Armstrong
- Mr. Bowers
- Mr. Herington
- Ms. Herwig
- Mr. Mintz
- Mrs. Neenan

TO : Mr. W. Mark Felt *2*

FROM : John J. McDermott, SAC, WFO *JJM*

SUBJECT: ~~WHITE HOUSE SENTRY DUTY~~ *James Walter McCop*

We have previously agreed that the assignment of FBI Agents to the White House and Executive Office Building constitutes mere window dressing and that the Bureau's reputation for integrity is being employed to give a semblance of respectability and good faith in the marshaling and sequestration of the papers of HALDEMAN, EHRLICHMAN and DEAN. *Let me copy*

I would suggest that you ask Mr. RUCKELSHAUS to confer with AG Designate RICHARDSON and Mr. LEONARD GARMENT, Counsel to the President (which three apparently originally agreed to this use of FBI Agents) for the purpose of now having the Bureau coverage withdrawn.

We have assisted Mr. GARMENT and his staff in making firm recommendations concerning the identification and secure isolation of the papers under discussion, and he appeared extremely appreciative of both the recommendations and the action that the Bureau had taken. As of this morning, all of these documents will be in one of two secure locations in the Executive Office Building. Both locations are protected by sound-sensor detecting equipment which is monitored by the Executive Protection Service (EPS). I learned last evening that Chief EARL DRESCHER of the EPS has been told by his Secret Service superiors to discontinue the EPS guard duty over these papers. (We had arranged for one EPS uniformed officer to be with an FBI Agent at each station.) *U*

*139-4089 -*

Understand that we had to rely completely upon White House Staff people, including assistants of HALDEMAN, EHRLICHMAN and DEAN, to identify the files of these men which should be sealed. We (FBI) exercised no judgment or discretion in the selection of these papers; nor have we reviewed any. Now that these papers have been marshaled into secure locations, access to them under a program recommended by us to Mr. GARMENT would be extremely limited. Only a few people would be permitted to authorize access to them. HALDEMAN and EHRLICHMAN and some of their staff people will require access in the future because of

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REC 107

JJMcd:crt

*McDermott*  
*inst. dated 4/30*  
*5/2/73 to sub. AT*  
*re current arrangements*  
*MS*

*2078*  
*6-CH*



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Re: White House Sentry Duty

on-going incomplete projects in which they were involved. As such access is required in the future, FBI would be exercising no judgment in determining who shall be granted access, or to what files or documents access will be granted. FBI Agents will not have safe combinations or door keys which permit access. FBI Agents would only assure that during periods when individuals are permitted access to these files, no documents are purloined or removed in any fashion, other than for copying purposes which would be permitted.

Admittedly there are many papers of a strictly personal nature which have no relevancy to Watergate which should be removed. The files which are now sealed and secured will be culled by persons as yet undetermined on the White House Staff for the purpose of removing such "irrelevant" documents for return to appropriate persons. FBI Agents will not participate in this culling of files and, of course, this culling permits an opportunity for one who is so inclined to remove whatever papers desired from the seized files. The very people who will cull the files most probably are those who worked for EHRlichman and HALDEMAN (BRUCE KEHRLI, as an example). no

Obviously if there is any suggested breach of security with regard to these files, or unaccountability or disappearance of any document, the FBI stands to be blamed despite the fact that we have no knowledge of the contents of the files, had no role in their selection, cannot prevent their being stripped by persons authorized to cull them, do not control the security hardware sealing them, etc. In summary, we do not have custody of these files. Our role is to limit access to the room containing the files to persons who have been "cleared" for access by others and to see that original papers are not removed except by those authorized to "cull" the files. no

Our role, therefore, is reduced to that of unthinking hallway sentries performing GS-3 level guard duty, exercising absolutely no effective control over these files.

The Bureau has been placed in this untenable position for the purpose of "putting on a show" and lending an aura of custodial integrity, which we in no way can assure. no

Custodial responsibility for White House documents should be returned to White House security people at the earliest possible hour so as to extricate the Bureau from this impossible posture in which we find ourselves.

Federal Bureau of Investigation

1973

- Director
- Mr. Felt, 5744
- Mr. Baker, 5734
- Mr. Callahan, 5525
- Mr. Cleveland, 1742
- Mr. Conrad, 7621
- Mr. Gebhardt, 5706
- Mr. Jenkins
- Mr. Marshall, 7746
- Mr. Miller, 1026 9&D
- Mr. Mintz, 5642
- Mr. Soyars, 3114 IB
- Mr. Thompson, 4130 IB
- Mr. Walters, 5256
- Mr. Campbell
- Mr. Bassett
- Miss Tschudy
- Mrs. Mutter
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- Miss Southers
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- Mr. Armstrong, 5633
- Mrs. Neenan, 5633
- Telephone Room
- Mr. Bowers, 5630
- Mr. Hauer, 4718
- Mr. Heim, 4264
- Mr. Herington
- Corres. Review, 5533
- Mail Room, 5531
- Teletype
- Personnel Records
- Mechanical Section
- For appropriate action
- For your approval
- Initial and return
- Please call me
- For information

M \_\_\_\_\_

Room \_\_\_\_\_

**URGENT**

*I have discussed  
this with [unclear] &  
[unclear] & [unclear]  
to remove a Monday  
copy*

W. M. Felt  
Room 5744, Extension 3351