

J. EDGAR HOOVER TRANSCRIPT

Hoover:

JA: And it was pretty much unanimous that Hoover was the most feared man in Washington, and that nobody dared to oppose him, because he could destroy you. So I remember calling the staff together and saying "I understand that if we do a critical story about J. Edgar Hoover, he'll destroy us. And I think we're gonna have to find out whether that's true." And I said "I think the best way to do it is to get them laughing. Burlesque it. Because if this guy has that kind of power, and can destroy us, maybe we better get them laughing at him instead of making it a serious confrontation between us. It'll be serious in the end of course, but let's get 'em laughing. So I instructed the staff to conduct an FBI-style investigation of J. Edgar Hoover. And I said, "I want him to know you're there. Elaborately read the newspaper while you're waiting for him to get out. Go through his garbage; we'll do an FBI-style garbage check on J. Edgar Hoover's garbage." Several have done that since, but this was the first time it was ever done by a reporter. So I said, "Rattle the cans. I want him to know." So he rattled the cans, and he goes through Hoover's garbage. Scoops it up into a bag. And he reports to me afterwards that the housekeeper came running out to find out what the clatter was about, said, "What are you doing here? You can't do this." We were dealing with God. This was deity. But we went through the garbage and concluded from some menus in shaky old man's hand and from some empty gel-u-sel cartons, that he was suffering from gas pains. Then we have, noted his association with Clyde Tolson, that they alternated---every night they would have dinner together, but alternately at Hoover's home or Tolson's apartment. Every noon, at 11:30, at the same table at the same motel, the Mayflower, they would have lunch. They went on all vacations together. And he had a mother fixation, which I heard about. I forget where I heard about that. But he had all the symptoms of being a homosexual. And some of my sources said that he was. There was some, not much doubt in my mind, but no proof, so I didn't write it."

JFK:

In 1959, the idea was advanced by Allen Dulles as part of the Bay of Pigs, but it would be easier to defeat Communism in Cuba if we could eliminate Castro first of all, so there would not be a charismatic leader rallying the troops. So let's assassinate Castro. Okay, the CIA then adopts that. It's all-verbal. Nothing is put in writing. They talk about it; they agree to go ahead with it. They agree also that the best way to assassinate Castro would be to get the Mob's, to get the support of the mob. This makes a good deal of sense because presumably the Mafia Godfather in Havana would have a better assortment of hit men than anybody else, so they're gonna get the Mob in Havana to help them. That's what began it all. It was all, only six people knew about it. John F. Kennedy had told me the way to fight wars of liberation, the way we'll fight insurrection is with

counter-insurrection. So he was a great believer in counter-insurrection, in CIA operations, in Special Forces. What he wanted to avoid was an open war. What he wanted to---and he wanted to, he didn't want direct involvement of the United States.

On Johnny Roselli:

The first time he doesn't even talk to me, he talks to lawyer, even though I'm there. With him, that's a device. You know why he goes through this device; you'd have to ask a psychologist. But then the next device was "My opinion this" or "I would speculate that". So he had these devices to kind of, so he could tell the Mob that he wasn't doing what he was doing. So he'd created these devices so that he could say to anybody who asked, "I never told him anything. I speculated. I may have guessed." But he saw that I got the correct information." Johnny's body turns up later in a metal drum, wrapped with chains. The Miami Police come running to me, flying all the way from Miami to talk to me in my office, and to tell me, to ask me what I know about this, and to tell me that their informants in the Mob say that Johnny was executed by the Mob for talking to me.