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January 17, 1966

He states categorically that he never wrote such a letter. For the information of Senators who are present, perhaps I should read the letter into the Record, instead of merely putting it in the Record.

The letter is dated January 11, 1966, and reads as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
Washington, D.C., January 11, 1966.
Hon. Bourke B. Hickenlooper,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

MR. DEAR SENATOR: This is to acknowledge your request for the complete facts as known to this Bureau concerning the anonymous letter you received containing what purports to be a copy of a personal letter to former White House aid Walter Jenkins over my signature.

I am pleased to comply with your request and will begin first by stating without any equivocation that I never wrote such a letter.

The letter you received is one of many anonymous mailings sent to various Senators, Congressmen, and other prominent Government officials within the past week. They are part of a concerted Communist smear campaign which was launched a year ago.

The campaign began in January 1965, when several letters of this type were received by individuals who also brought them to my attention. Several more were brought to my attention by individuals who received them in April 1965.

Upon examination, the copy of the letter supposedly signed by me was determined to be a crude forgery. Comparison of all the letters disclosed they had all been prepared by the same person or persons. Further comparison with other letters circulated in the past in this and other countries by the Soviet Disinformation Department proved irrefutably that this was a Communist scheme.

You may recall that the nefarious schemes of the Soviet Disinformation Department were exposed in a report prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency last year. The details of that Agency's study were printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of September 28, 1965.

The study revealed that the Soviet Disinformation Department of the KGB, the Soviet Committee for State Security, wages a broad-scaled propaganda offensive against U.S. agencies and pointed out that I and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are priority targets for attacks. It also disclosed that the overall objective is to discredit U.S. agencies here and abroad and emphasized that a preferred instrument used by the Soviets in their attacks is the forged document.

Typical of the tactics used in such efforts was the circulation of letters in South America in the summer of 1964. In that case, too, my name had been forged on the letters. They were designed to make it appear that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency had something to do with the Brazilian revolution of April 1964. The intricacies of that Communist scheme became further apparent when we determined that my signature has been forged from a letter stolen by Cubans in Havana in 1960.

I trust that in making these facts available to you I have satisfied any and all questions which the scurrilous anonymous communication you received may have raised. If not, do not hesitate to call on me again.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to you for bringing the letter to my attention. It provides another link in the chain of evidence being gathered

to complete the picture of this Soviet smear campaign, which amounts to character assassination.

Sincerely yours,

J. EDGAR HOOVER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator from Iowa has expired.

MR. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MR. HICKENLOOPER. Let me conclude by saying, with respect to the suggestion in Mr. Hoover's letter that I might have some question about this matter, that, the letter was so crude and so scurrilous that on its face it was a forgery. At no time have I had any question as to the truth or falsity of the letter. It is false on its face. I merely wish to clear the matter up so that all may know that these things are constantly going on as attacks are made against our law enforcement agencies.

ATTACK ON HON. J. EDGAR HOOVER

MR. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, I had intended, during the morning hour on last Friday, to discuss this subject, and to put in the Record a letter dealing with it. However, I was not on the floor when the Senate suddenly adjourned and I did not reach the Chamber quite in time.

The information contained in the letter did leak out in some way, however. For the Record I wish to do now what I had intended to do last Friday.

About 10 days ago, I received a scurrilous anonymous letter, mailed from Baltimore, alleged to contain a photostatic copy of a letter which was alleged by the writer of the anonymous letter to have been written by J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to Walter Jenkins.

The alleged photostatic copy of the letter is so scurrilous and putrid that I do not intend to put it in the Record.

I sent the anonymous letter to Mr. Hoover, for his information and for whatever aid and assistance it might be.

Mr. Hoover wrote me a letter, stating that he had received the anonymous letter with the alleged copy of a letter which he was supposed to have written, according to the anonymous letter.