Interview with Former Special Agent
W. Raymond Wannall (1942 – 1976)
on October 20, 2006
By Stanley A. Pimentel

P: Today is October 20, 2006, and I’m here today with W. Raymond Wannall, who was in the FBI from 1942 through 1976. And Ray has consented to turn over a number of documents to me, and I am Stanley A. Pimentel, so that these documents can be made a part of the Oral History Project of the Society of Former Agents of the FBI. Ray has been so kind as to provide the originals of these documents to me which I will enumerate later on and I will make copies for the Oral History Project so that the originals can be returned to Mr. Wannall. And with that Mr. Wannall will move forward and try to identify these documents for the record.

W. Raymond Wannall

W: Well, the first of these is a summary of the “Basis for FBI National Security Intelligence Investigations.” (Addendum A) It was prepared in 1975 and it was a cover for a rather large collection of the documents themselves, which are still retained in the FBI.

P: Okay.

W: The second of these is an article which appeared in the January, 1987, issue of The Washington Times publication captioned “The World and I.” (Addendum B) It is captioned “Setting Straight the FBI’s Counterintelligence Record.” (Addendum B) This is the COINTEL Program which was subject to so much criticism of the FBI and of Mr. Hoover. It was a program that was started in 1956 and it continued until 1971.

The article was to explain each of the COINTELPROs. There were five of them. Why they were started, what the results were, how many there were over this fifteen year period, and how, and how many were applied against each of the five persons or their organizations which were the subjects of counterintelligence operations.

P: Yeah, okay.
W: This next is a copy of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers official publication. It’s called the “Periscope.” It is the copy of the issue, Volume 8, Number 1, published in the winter of 1983 and the caption of an article in it is “FBI Investigations of Potential Internal Threats to US at an All-Time Low Says AFIO Official.” (Addendum C.)

P: You’re a member of AFIO?

W: Yes, and I was chairman of the board at this time. I also served as president of it.

P: Yes, that’s right. You did. Yes.

W: It goes into Congress’s denouncing of Communism and FBI responsibilities. Touches upon the so-called Levi Guidelines which were adopted following the completion of the Church Committee hearings in 1976, as I recall. And it ends up indicating there are virtually no FBI security inquiries at the present time.

P: Uh, huh.

W: At the time this article was written.

P: Right.

W: I was chairman of an organization known as the Security Intelligence Foundation. They published articles --. They published a paper known as Nightwatch. They put out special reports. One, Volume Number 3, Number 12, Special Report, which was published in December, 1988, is captioned “A Subtle Anti-Intelligence Proposal: Welcome Communist Immigrants.” (Addendum D.)

P: (chuckle)

W: It might be apropos to what’s going on today with the immigrant matters.


W: A second Nightwatch by the same author which was published in September, 1987 --

P: Okay.

W: -- was captioned “KGB Into the Breach.” (Addendum E.) Actually this was used as an article by Pat Buchanan, a correspondent. It shows that through the United Nations the KGB was able to accomplish things that the FBI was precluded from doing.
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P: Okay.

W: *The Washington Times* on August 1, 1999, carried an article by Wannall explaining the unrelenting assaults against J. Edgar Hoover. (*Addendum F.*)

P: Okay.


P: Okay.

W: An article written by Wannall for *The Washington Dateline* (*Addendum H.*) on the FBI’s oversight trend has to do with the committee of Congress headed by a former FBI Agent named Edwards, Don Edwards, who headed the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights and adopted a very anti-FBI stance.

P: Uh, huh.

W: Encouraged the FBI to discontinue some of its operations.

P: Yeah.

W: In May of 2003, I prepared for Deke DeLoach, a compilation of information from public sources showing the gutting of the FBI by congressional committees. It’s a twenty-two page compilation which to my knowledge has never been used by DeLoach but it does provide public source information on the subject. (“Gutting of the FBI by Congressional Committees,” *Addendum I.*)

P: All right.

W: There is an organization known as the Symbionese Liberation Army in California. I think you are aware of the fact that some of the members were killed in a raid.

P: Uh, huh.

W: This shows in *The Washington Times* Commentary Section on July 20, 1999, how the SLA was developed in a series of reorganizations starting with the Communist Party, USA. (“Anatomy of the SLA and its deeds,” *Addendum J.*)

P: Well, okay. That would be of interest I think. Sure.
W: Sort of a genealogy of the SLA.

P: This is remarks by you before the Conservative Club, Alexandria. That was in '82. (“Domestic Subversion: Its Scope & Problems,” Addendum K.)

W: Let’s see what the subject was on that. “Domestic Subversion, It’s Scope and Problem.” It says “genealogy.”

P: “Genealogy of the SLA,” okay.

W: This was presented with a slide presentation.

P: Yeah, okay.

W: I think I have the slides still.

P: Okay.

W: This is a lecture to the Smithsonian Institution known as the Campus on the Mall on March 5, 2001. The caption of the lecture was “FBI and the Cold War.” (Addendum L) Now this started back explaining the ‘Black Tom explosion’ in World War I which was one of the worst they ever had. Developing a need for preventive law enforcement and then the appointment by Harland Fiske Stone, the Attorney General, on May 10, 1924, of Hoover showing what was agreed between the two men. What Hoover would do when he took over the FBI. There was an agreement, by the way, that it would be strictly a criminal investigative agency without any preventive jurisdictions.

In the mid-‘30s, you had Japan invading Korea. Hitler in Germany. Mussolini in Italy. And Joe Stalin taking over in Russia.

In August, 1936, at a meeting at the White House, the President, FDR, said he wanted Hoover to investigate fascists and communists to determine any activities which might affect the economy and political life of the United States. This put the FBI in a position to compile lists of German spies. There were thirty-three of them in all who were arrested on January 2, 1942, within thirty days of the beginning of our participation in World War II. And all together they were sentenced to more than three hundred years in jail.

It involved the case known as the “Duquesne” case. Case involving Fred Duquesne, one of the leaders in the spy ring. It also involved a man who had been born in Germany and had entered the United States. I think his name was William Sebold. He became a United States citizen.
W: In 1949 he made a visit to Germany because his mother and other members of his family still lived there. When he was there, he was approached to act as a German agent upon his return to the United States. He went into the US establishment over there and told them that and said he would like to cooperate with the FBI.

He returned to the United States in February, 1940. He got in touch with the FBI. He was set up in an office heading an accounting firm and was set up in such a fashion that the Agents in the next room looking through a mirror, a two-way mirror, could identify and photograph anybody who visited him. There was a calendar up on the wall showing the date that it happened. He operated under the code name of Harry Sawyer for the Germans. That was their suggestion.

He came back in February, 1940. In May, 1940, FBI Agents established a radio station which broadcasted in code, which was utilized by Sebold, to communicate.

They sent about three hundred messages to the Germans and received two hundred in return. It was through this operation that the criminals were under complete FBI control. That also assisted in knowing agents that could be arrested within a month after the United States entered the war.

Then after that they had the eight saboteurs that came in in mid-’42. In fact I was in training school. They used to be brought in the Black Maria for hearings in what was our classroom up on the fifth floor of the FBI building.

P: What was the “Black Maria?”

W: Well, it was the wagon, police patrol.

P: Oh, okay.

W: That’s a common [term] in Washington, D.C. “Black Maria.” They used to come in. We’d see them come in and go out all the time. And I think you know what the operation was. They got four of them down in Florida.

P: Okay. And this is a document that documents all of that?

W: Yes.

P: Oh, okay.

W: This is “The FBI and the Cold War” which was used in the Smithsonian lecture.

P: Okay.
W: It goes into SIS.

P: Uh, huh.

W: It goes into TOPLEV. You probably remember it.

P: I can recall that, yes.

W: It goes into the SOLO case. Morris Childs, Jack Childs. It discusses the Whittaker Chambers case, involving Alger Hiss.

P: Uh, huh.

W: Goes into the SOLO case in some detail.

P: Okay.

W: It showed something which I think very few people realize. Nobody outside the FBI knew about that case. I worked in Headquarters for twenty-five years before I ever heard of the case.

P: (chuckle)

W: And when I heard of it, I had to take it over. But Hoover accepted full responsibility. If those people, Morris and Jack and their wives were traveling behind the Iron Curtain, if they had been killed, it would have been Hoover’s responsibility.

P: Uh, huh.

W: He quietly accepted it and gave them direction and approved everything they were doing. Which I think is a great thing. By the way, this case was not made at Headquarters. It was made by field Agents and believe me they did a hell-of-a-good job. One out in Chicago, two of them out in Chicago particularly.

It talks about the Frank Church Committee which almost compromised SOLO. I don’t know if you’re aware of that, but it’s probably somewhere around here.

P: That’s a good way to give a good history of the FBI during the Cold War.

W: This was a Smithsonian lecture also at the Campus on the Mall. It was on the subject of “Foreign Counterintelligence in the FBI” which I think is an important subject. I’ve got it. (Addendum M.)
P: Uh, huh.

W: I could tell you what it is, but you’re going to be going through the things.-

P: Sure.

W: For example, it goes back and quotes what Washington thought about intelligence. It talks about its foundation back in 1775 and 1776. Washington had --. 1775 and 1777. Foundation of our country. What George Washington said about it.

P: Uh, huh.

W: The fact that they used covert action during that time.

P: Right.

W: The fact that they used counterintelligence and intelligence. There’s also an indication in here that the Soviets, what the Soviets’ targets were. Have you ever heard the code name of MICE?

P: No.

W: That was what they used for recruiting people. MICE stood for money, ideology, compromise, ego.

P: Ego.

W: That’s what they used to compromise. This explains the Hiss case, the Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, Harry Dexter White, Laughlin Currie, and John Walker: spends quite a bit of time of the John Walker case.

P: Okay.

W: As a matter of fact, John Walker took stuff over to the embassy. He left it. I think it was about .

P: Uh, huh.

W: And within two days after he left it there, the Pueblo was seized by North Korea.

P: Uh.
W: Immediately after that John Walker was put on their payroll. And he got just about a million dollars. He made an agreement, saying if he wouldn’t be executed, that he’d take a life sentence so his son would be given something less than a life sentence. He got twenty-five years. So that’s about what it covers.

P: Okay. And this is a document of twenty-eight pages.

I’d like to note that today is October 20, 2006, and it’s approximately 11:18 am.

W: This says “Strategic Intelligence in the Domestic Area.” (Addendum N.) It’s a lecture I gave at the Oklahoma Baptist University in Shoney, Oklahoma, October 7, 1987.

P: Uh, huh.

W: It covers ACLU efforts, together with other organizations of the ilk, to exclude illegal aliens --. To defeat laws which would exclude illegal aliens from the United States. You’ve got to get illegal aliens in the act.

P: (chuckle)

W: It goes into McCarthyism. It goes into the revelations of Whittaker Chambers and Elizabeth Terrill Bentley. It covers the Emergency Detention Act which they were doing their best to get that abrogated.

P: Uh, huh.

W: Three groups including ACLU, Institute for Policy Studies, and one of the others, prepared what they called “A Law to Control the FBI,” which was introduced to the public in a Capitol Hill hearing attended by the press, on February 15, 1977. It was introduced by Ramsey Clark.

P: (chuckle) And he’s still around creating havoc.

W: It resulted in a proposed charter for the FBI based on that and there were three Congressmen who passed bills. They are identified in here.

P: Uh, huh.

W: To adopt that. One of whom was Don Edwards.

P: Don Edwards.
W: And if his had gone through, it would have taken the FBI out of foreign counterintelligence. Foreign. Not just domestic, but foreign. There were some guidelines replacing the Levi Guidelines, that went in March, 1976, and these went out in March of 1983. They were called the William French Smith Guidelines. He was the Attorney General at the time.

Senator Alan Simpson said about the charter which was based on that law to control the FBI, “I don’t see that any GOP members or any FBI Agents were consulted in order to prepare this charter for the FBI.” So he started working on it. They called that the Democrat Charter.

P: (chuckle)

W: That was S1612, and as a result of the efforts by Alan Simpson, Senator, the Republican Charter was adopted. And that was S2928. And as a result, neither one was adopted.

P: Yes.

W: The Alliance to End Repression. That was the case, before a woman judge in Chicago named Getzendanner. Her name is in here. This Alliance to End Repression was one of three groups when the William French Smith Guidelines came out who said, “We object to these guidelines and we feel that we should be able to get an injunction against these guidelines if it is necessary to prevent them from being put out.” But she said, “No injunction is necessary. I’m going to pass a law that they are applicable in Chicago and not only you people but anybody in Chicago has a right to invoke this.” (“Agreement Signs Away FBI Domestic Security Jurisdiction, April 4, 1984.” Addendum O.)

Well, that was appealed. And on appeal, they ended up saying, “The FBI always has investigated those who advocate a law violation and it always will.” It was reversed. That is explained in here. (“Statements of the Seventh Appellate Court, August 8, 1984.” Addendum P.)

P: That’s good. And this is another document, twenty-two page document with some notes at the end.

W: Now this, I don’t think it’s something I should give you at this point unless I clear it with John Fox.

P: Okay.

W: It’s the Pentagon Papers. (Addendum Q.) That case was in our section. I had to get an extra phone on my desk. We were so busy.
P: Uh, huh.

W: It went all over the darn country.

THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTION APPLIES UNTIL PRE-PUBLICATION REVIEW:

P: I will explain something here. Everything that goes from here, i.e., the recording will be transcribed. Everything goes to the Bureau’s prepublication unit before it’s made a part of anything, before it goes to the Society of Former Special Agents or anyone. You will be getting a copy of the transcription of this recording that you can look over, add, delete, whatever, and restrict anything you don’t want to be used. For example, we could put a restriction on this until, you’re handing me this note regarding the Pentagon Papers case and noting that no publication or anything should be referred to this until the Bureau’s prepublication unit has had an opportunity to review it.

W: Yes, that would be fine.

P: Okay.

W: It’s just to summarize the affair.

P: Okay.

W: I was responsible for the case and I probably had a better knowledge of it than anybody.

P: And we’ll put “Restricted” on here and “The Pentagon Papers Case.”


* * *

P: Okay. Mr. Wannall has stepped away to his office to gather whatever other documents he has to make available to the Oral History Project. I’d like to note that I am interviewing Mr. Wannall, who was born on May 31 of 1918 in Washington, DC.

I am conducting this interview with him at his residence in Leisure World in Silver Spring, Maryland.

W: I belonged to an organization, “America’s Future,” that had radio programs and they put out a monthly communication. Lot of stuff of theirs.

P: Uh, huh.
W: Some of them might be good. I don’t know. If you’ve got time sometime just to come over and look. This stuff I’m going to keep in the family. I have kids, grown children, grandchildren, interested in this sort of thing. And my wife has a lot of interest in it too because she did the editing on a lot of stuff for me.

P: Okay.

W: So I don’t want to give it away.

P: Just for the record, if you don’t mind just giving us a little summary of your background in the Bureau. You were born in Washington, DC, in 1918.

W: Uh, huh.

P: You attended what schools, and how did you get into the FBI? A short summary of that if you don’t mind.

W: I attended a high school known as McKinley, a tech high school. McKinley Tech. On the seventh of this month, I went to the reunion of the Tech classes. Once you have been a graduate for fifty years, they have an organization known as the Golden Techites. There were over three hundred people at that reunion from Tech High School. So we get three or four hundred people reunions each year from Tech High School.

I was graduated from there in ’36. I started night school at George Washington University to study medicine and I found out that in order to study medicine I would have to go full-time later on and I couldn’t afford that. I paid my way through school.

P: Uh, huh.

W: So I quit. Got a job in American Security and Trust Company Bank. I was there from 1937 until 1941. While there, I went to American Institute of Banking and took some courses until ’39. In ’39 I went to the Columbus University School of Law, which is now part of Catholic University.

P: Huh.
W: So I got a degree in law. In 1942. And I took the bar exam in June of ’42. And in that class --. It was night school. It was five nights a week. It was two hours, four nights, and three hours, one night. And it went on from ’39 through ’42. In the classes, there were fellows who were support personnel in the FBI clerical jobs who were taking law to become Agents. So there must have been seven or eight of them in one of the classes I was in. And one of them brought me an application for the Bureau.

P: (chuckle)

W: So I filed the application. You know, war started December ’41, and I was through in June of ’42. So there was about a six-month span there where the Bureau started building up like mad.

P: Uh, huh.

W: So I had no difficulty getting in the Bureau. My original credentials were “4385” and I imagine that’s about what number I was in the agency. There were five hundred Agents as I recall in about ’39 and they built up to over four thousand during the war.

So I went in the Bureau and we had a twelve-week course, from nine to nine. We had an hour off for lunch; we had an hour off for dinner, and we had examinations in three different areas, regular stuff. We had a security manual for one thing --

P: Uh, huh.

W: -- aside from the two that you usually had that you studied I’m sure. So we went through that in twelve weeks. I got, my first assignment was to Oklahoma City. I had to look at a map to see where it was. I was a stupid Washingtonian --

P: (chuckle)

W: -- where I was born. Went to Oklahoma in 1942, October. Was there for a month or two. Was assigned up to the RA, Resident Agency, in Tulsa. Was up there for a couple of months, because I had only four months in the first office. That was normal in those times. I was then transferred to St. Louis. I arrived there in February ’43. In September of ’43, I was sent to New York on a special assignment for two months. In January ’44, I was transferred back to St. Louis.

P: And so you entered the Bureau in, presumably around July of ’42?

W: July 27, 1942. I was in Philadelphia for about two and a half years. That’s when I was introduced to counterintelligence work.
W: The day I arrived there, there was a snow storm (chuckle). I didn’t have any long underwear but they tapped me for surveillance that night to cover a Communist Party meeting. You know, following people to see where they went home. And identify them. It was ’44, I started on counterintelligence work and that’s all I worked until I retired. I did have some --. Everybody looked for deserters during the war as I remember. Got a few things like that.

But I was in Philadelphia until June of 1946. We had some good cases there. One of the cases was a “Little Joe” case. Jose Laredegocia (phonetic) was handled by a fellow from New York. Every time the Manual Calvo, the Spanish vessel, came in there were three people on it who were working for the Germans. Anyhow, I got a transfer to WFO in June 1946.

P: What was the name of that case again now?

W: Jose Laredegocia. They called it a “Little Joe” case.

P: Oh, okay. This was a German, a Nazi German?

W: Uh, huh.

P: Okay.

W: When I got to WFO, I was put on the squad with Bill Ryan and working counterintelligence. Well, actually, by that time Elizabeth Terrill Bentley had talked and so had the guy who named Alger Hiss. I was assigned to the people identified by two former Soviet KGB agents who defected, came over, and were interviewed by the Bureau. One was Elizabeth Terrill Bentley. The other, the name will occur to me sooner or later I believe. He’s the one who named Alger Hiss.

P: Burgess?

W: No.

P: Philby?

W: No. By the way, I participated in a surveillance on Alger Hiss at one time. On the 20th of July, one week less than five years in the Bureau, I was transferred to FBIHQ.
W: -- I was transferred to Headquarters in what I thought was a ninety-day assignment because of the Truman Loyalty Program, Executive Order 9835. Five men from WFO were transferred over there that week. But my ninety days stretched to twenty-eight and a half years.

P: You arrived in 1947?

W: July 20, 1947 is when I arrived there.

P: Okay. For ninety days, and you ended up spending twenty-eight and a half more years.

W: I left the end of February, 1976.

P: (chuckle)

W: Well, my first year, I became interested because I was assigned to a desk handling matters relating to the Middle East. In fact, I was handling matters anywhere outside of the Soviet Bloc, including, for example, Cuba, Nicaragua, and places like that. But by the end of November in 1947, the United Nations agreed to the partitioning of Palestine. The British had a mandate over Palestine at that time and they withdrew their troops at midnight, May 14, 1948. At that time, it was a war in Palestine. And I had those people involved in espionage against each other in the Middle East.

P: (chuckle)

W: It was a very interesting thing that developed. And I found that I was interested because I saw the big picture. When I was out in the field, I knew what was going on in a particular area in the field, but I was able to see the big picture and I enjoyed working the whole time I was at FBIHQ.

I went in as an Agent and became a Supervisor in Charge. I became a Section Chief. I became an Inspector. I became a Number One Man to an Assistant Director and then I became an Assistant Director. I retired as Assistant Director of Division 5, which by that time was known as the Intelligence Division.

P: Division 5. INTD, right?

W: Yes. Actually Clarence Kelley took over, I think it was in July ’73, and I worked basically under him, and Jim Adams who was up in the front office. There were a lot of good people there at the time. I can remember them. I told you I had this chart on them. I take it out every once in a while and look at it.
P: Uh, huh.

W: And that’s about it.

P: Okay. Well, what was probably the most interesting case you had there while you were assigned to Headquarters? I’m sure that there are hundreds or probably dozens of interesting cases.

W: The SOLO case.

P: The SOLO case?

W: That was the most interesting. In fact, I lectured on that at the Centre for Counterintelligence and National Security Studies over in Alexandria.

P: Uh, huh.

W: Started by Dave Major. Remember him?

P: I remember Dave Major.

W: I lectured there for, I guess, about three years. In fact, they recorded my lecture. I’ve got a tape of that.

P: Oh, okay, okay. In summary, what was that case?

W: In 1951, the TOPLEV Program started which called for Agents to get special training so that they could go out and approach Communist Party members and officials and try to talk them into coming over. One of the persons who was contacted in September in 1951 was Jack Childs. Jack and his brother, Morris, were born near Kiev in the Soviet Union. They arrived in the country in 1911. Morris was born in 1902. And in 1919 the Communist Party was established in the United States and he became a member of the Communist Party. Very devoted to communism.

Jack, his brother, was a little younger. Was not particularly devoted to communism but he was devoted to Morris, and because of that he also joined the party. Now Morris ran for Congress on the Communist Party ticket. He was in charge of the Communist Party operation in a couple of different places. Jack was always in New York as I recall.
W: Morris was in Chicago eventually. He married a woman named Eva. And he became editor of the Communist Party newspaper, *Daily Worker*. And in 1947, I guess it was, he had a heart attack. And his patron saint was the guy who was head of the Communist Party during World War II. He changed the thing from the Communist Party to Communist Political Association. And when the Cold War started they discarded that and discarded him. And he was, he was a ‘rabbi’ for Morris.

So Morris was kicked out. He didn’t have anything to do. He had a heart attack and Jack lost out too because Morris lost out. But in September, 1951, under the TOPLEV Program, Jack was approached on the street in New York. And the Agents said that “the FBI would like to talk to you.” And he said, “Where in the hell have you guys been for the last several years? I could practically have raised two kids by the time you contacted me.” (chuckle)

And they talked to him and he was perfectly willing to cooperate. He said, “I’m no good.” He said, “If you want the real thing you ought to talk to Morris.” They said, “Well, can you help us get in touch with Morris?” “Yeah.” He did. He helped and an Agent from the Chicago Office, a guy who did a tremendous job, approached Morris. He indicated he’d be willing to help. They sent him through, to the clinic, out in --. Where’s the main clinic?

P: Oh, Mayo, Mayo Clinic?

W: Mayo Clinic. I think that’s the right one.

P: Yeah, Rochester, Rochester, Minnesota.

W: They sent him. They got him well.

P: Uh, huh.

W: They paid for that. And Morris became active from 1951 until about ’58 I guess it was. They started working their way back into the Party. And by the middle ’50s they had established themselves again.

And in 1958 Morris was sent to Moscow. And he was treated pretty royally over there. Eventually he became --. Well, if the Party had taken over, he would have been Secretary of State.

P: Huh?

W: For the Communist Party. He was right up in the top of the Party. He and his wife, Eva, whom he married after he became active with us. It concerned the guys in the field, he was bringing somebody else into this very, very highly classified ring.
P: Huh.

W: But she had had Communist Party background and she fit right in. He made fifty-two trips to Moscow.

P: Oh, my.

W: And Eva accompanied him on fifty of them. Now when he was over there he was treated --. Well, let’s go first. He went over and made a trip at a time when there seemed to have been a breach between the Communist Party in the Soviet Union and the Party in China.

P: Uh, huh.

W: Because the Party in China was not an outgrowth of the Trotsky party. No, they were an outgrowth of the Trotsky party. There were a lot of questions among the intelligence community as to whether this breach was for real.

P: Uh, huh.

W: When Morris went over there, he made a trip to Moscow and he flew from there to China.

P: Beijing.

W: He was treated royally in both places. The Chinese treated him royally because they wanted the United States support. He came back and proved that actually it was a real thing. The breach was for real. And as a result of that, we changed what was known as the SASH, I guess it was, code name for the Operation Against the Communist Party. That’s what we started. Operation Against the Communist Party, but it turns out, we’d operate him against the Soviets. So we changed this to SOLO. Just changed SASH to SOLO. And we began operating and sent him over there fifty-two different times.

P: Incredible. He was successfully operated for all those years?

W: In 1976, he had a heart palpitations. And he stopped going over in 1977.

P: Uh, huh.

W: In fact, they went over there. He thought they were compromised. And it scared him to death.

P: Uh, huh.
W: But it turned out he was there and he was told --. He got word he should stay in
Moscow because the head of the Communist Party was coming over there and he
thought that maybe … When he took a plane to fly home, and his plane was
turned around and sent back.

P: Huh.

W: And when he went into the airport in Moscow, they met him with flowers. They
knew he was all right and they gave him some sort of Red Army award --

P: Uh, huh.

W: -- for his work. We had a picture of him in the Kremlin. He was seated in there
with top officials, the head of the Communist Party, and I used that picture when I
talked to the head of the Senate committee, that almost compromised the case, to
show him. I said, “Here’s the man you’re going to kill if you’re not careful.”

P: This is Frank Church?

W: Church. Frank Church.

P: Yeah.

W: Frank Church is the one that --. What happened was they got word of the fact in
the Martin Luther King situation that there was something, that he had some
contacts with the Childs boys.

P: Uh, huh.

W: And they asked for everything we had on Martin Luther King and on the Childs.
He was going to give us a subpoena to get it if we didn’t talk to him.

So Clarence Kelley told me to go on over there and talk to him. And I talked to
him in his office privately. Showed him this picture of Morris sitting in the
Kremlin deciding what’s to be done. And he said, “I wish the people could know
about this.” He said, “I’ll never talk about it, but I have three people, I’ve got to
have you brief them because they are doing the Martin Luther King thing.”

So I briefed them in one of the rooms over at the Capitol Building. And he told
them, he said, “What you hear, you should never reveal to anybody.” And they
never did. But when Morris and Jack thought I had compromised them because I
had talked about it. They were upset.

P: Oh, sure, sure.
W: So I went to Chicago and spent some time with them. And I said, “Look, I’m not asking you --.” They had to go on a trip. They had been over on a trip, I think, in November and they had three months to do it again in February or something like that. So I said, “Look, if you don’t go, you’re still part of us. We’re interested in protecting you. You’re part of the FBI. We’re more interested in that.”

So they decided to go and they made the trip over there. And they went on and made a few more. And I think that the last trip was in 1977.

And then they also were very close to the head of the Communist Party in this country and they knew his wife, knew the wife of the head of the Communist Party. They were able to give us a lot of information until 1981 and at that time somebody in the Department of Justice put out something and it looked like it’d compromise them.

P: Huh.

W: So Agents kind of showed up at their place. (They had a beautiful place. I had dinner with them one night in Chicago.) They showed up in Chicago and put all of their stuff in a truck and took them to a safe place.

P: Huh.

W: Down in Florida.

P: Uh, huh.

W: And the guys spent a lot of time with them until they died. In fact, Morris died in 1991 and Eva died in ’95, I think it was. Jack had died before that as I recall.

But, you know, I have a real interest in looking at seeing the lecture?

P: Sure, sure.

W: Do you want to take the time now?

P: Sure, I can take the time now.

We’ll take a break here right now. It’s four minutes to noon. And, in fact, I need to turn over the tape on the other side. And so we can look at the lecture.
P: We’re back. I changed tapes. It’s now twelve-fifteen. Mr. Wannall was so kind
as to give me a couple of videos that I might be able to make copies of. One in
particular was the SOLO presentation of the case he just mentioned a few minutes
ago. And some of those two other tapes about interviews that he’s conducted
with some national news organizations that I will look at and make copies of for
the Oral History Project.

You were talking about, that you came into the Bureau in 1942, and had
knowledge of the SIS. As I indicated to you I had a great interest in the SIS since
it was a precursor to the current Legal Attaché program but also in part of the
CIA. Your take on that?

W: Well, what comes to mind is --. In 1972 responsibility for the SIS operations. At
that time they were not known as the Secret Intelligence Service or Legal
Attaches attached to embassies abroad.

P: “Secret” or Special Intelligence?

W: I guess it was Special Intelligence.

P: Special Intelligence.

W: Yeah. I was not a part of that, but I have talked to fellows who were.

In that year there was somebody in the CIA who had information regarding a
situation in one of the western states in which the Director was interested. And he
expected that man to furnish information to the FBI, and apparently he forgot to
do it. This is what I’m remembering.

P: (chuckle)

W: My memory is not the best. There was a problem over some man who was in
touch with the CIA for something.

P: Uh, huh.

W: Our CIA representative at the time was Sam Papich.

P: Oh!

W: You know of Sam?

P: I know of Sam, yes.
W: Well, Sam did his best to get the thing straightened out, but Mr. Hoover became very upset over the thing and cut off liaison with CIA.

P: Right.

W: At that time, the connections between Headquarters and the fellows who were Legal Attaches were handled in another section. But I took over a whole unit that was handling that, in our section which at the time was the Nationalities Intelligence Section. So as a result I became interested and had some responsibility over the Legal Attaché operations. That was 1972. There were fifteen Legal Attaches.

The most recent figure I’ve seen and I think I read it on the “xgboy” network, I think there are fifty-three now.

P: Fifty-three or fifty-five.

W: Which is amazing.

P: Yes.

W: But, anyhow, when Mr. Hoover cut out liaison with CIA, he cut out liaison with all of the other agencies. Well, that isn’t true. I’m really wrong on that. He cut it out only with CIA, but it put the other guys in a position where anything having to do with liaison was a problem.

P: Huh.

W: Because Mr. Hoover had taken cognizance of it, something had gone wrong there and he did not let it happen. For example, we had an Agent in our section who had been a master of ceremonies for the Rockettes up in New York at one time. Married one of them and he was the sort of a guy that whenever we had a get-together we had him “mc’ing” the thing because he had a tremendous way of doing things and saying things.

He had liaison with the National Security Agency. And I had in my front office a locked box in which a phone, a green phone, as I recall. Was a secure phone that you could call on a secure line to the other agencies.

P: Uh, huh.

W: One of which was NSA. Well my secretary at the time was a well-known support employee named Alta Southers.
P: Uh, huh.

W: She came running into my office one day and said, “The phone was ringing and I answered it and it was somebody for this Agent, whose name slips my mind right now, to talk to , who was with NSA.” was our contact with NSA.

P: (chuckle)

W: And she said that when he was talking to her, he said, “Well, no , I can’t come over and see you.” And she was rather insistent, so the guy ended up saying, “Well, we’re like doctors. We don’t do house calls any more.” And that’s what happened. You couldn’t make a call outside.

P: Uh, huh.

W: Make contacts with them, but you couldn’t make the call. So fifteen of them, I took them over. I think that was fall of ’72 and I became interested, of course, in the Legat operations at that time. And it’s amazing at how this has grown up since then. I recall we got up into the 30s and then the 40s and the last I heard it’s up in the 50s.

P: Uh, huh.

W: And there’s no question that it’s an excellent idea because you’ve got to have exchange of information, particularly in the antiterrorist area.

P: Exactly.

W: So I think it was a good move.

P: Yeah. Well I can vouch for it because all of twenty of almost my thirty years in the Bureau were in the Legal Attaché program.

W: Oh, they were?

P: Yeah.

W: Those were interesting assignments. Various places?

P: Mexico City, two different times, as an Assistant and later on I retired as a Legat in ’96.

W: In ’96.
P: And then I opened up Panama and opened up Uruguay, Montevideo, Uruguay.

W: You’ve had a very interesting career in the Bureau.

P: I did. I was very fortunate. Any vignettes or any kind of nice stories about Mr. Hoover that you have personal knowledge of?

W: Well, Mr. Hoover had a tremendous sense of humor. But the things I know about him, I put them in my book.

P: Okay.

W: I do have some stuff in there.

P: In the book?

W: The book is called *The Real J. Edgar Hoover For The Record*. I’ll show you what it looks like.

P: Okay.

W: Yes, it was published in 2004, if I’m not mistaken.

P: Good. More material to get back to you. (chuckle) Any way. Any, any funny stories? You say he had a good sense of humor?

W: Yes, if I could just recall them. There were some pretty good ones. Yes, in the book. The ones I know are in the book and there must be three or four of them that I think are pretty clever. Yes, he had a good sense of humor.

P: Uh, huh.

W: And he had a real close relationship with a guy named Bill Sullivan. You know about the Bill Sullivan situation?

P: Exactly.

W: That’s covered in that book. In detail. *(See summary in Addendum R.)*

P: Okay. All right. I thank you for your time, Mr. Wannall. I don’t know if there is anything else you would like to put on. Course the Headquarters will get a copy or see this before it’s ever published or anything is ever made available to the public or for the research or anything like that.
W: Well, you’re welcome to use anything that I have. I probably have other stuff that may be of interest but I do want the originals back.

P: Sure, sure. I’ll get them back to you.

W: I still am interested in the Bureau and very happy that I worked when I did.

P: Uh, huh.

W: I think that the Bureau that I was in was different from the one now. I have no, nothing to complain about the one now, but I do know that I had, there were a bunch of fellows that --. Well, I can give you an example. While the Church Committee thing was going on, I got a call from Bill Colby who was head of CIA.

P: Uh, huh. Uh, huh.

W: He said, “Church has asked me for information and I’ve compiled a document. It runs about, I think it was several hundred pages, explaining the problems that CIA has had and I’ve got to give it to Church at nine o’clock tomorrow morning.” This was about two o’clock in the afternoon. He called me on the green line. We had a direct line.

I said, “Bill, is there anything about the Bureau in there?” He said, “Yes, there’s some things about you.” I said, “Well, I don’t want you to give it to him until I’ve got a chance to see it.” He said, “I’ll send it over to you right now, but I’m obligated to give it to him in the morning.”

I put out a call. I had about, I had a couple of hundred Agents I guess in the division at the time. In fact, I think there were over three hundred people including clerical personnel. I sent the word around, “We’ve got something --. We’ve got to look at it during the course of the night and have it done by early tomorrow morning.” Everybody there stayed. There wasn’t a murmur.

P: Uh, huh.

W: Guys got on the phone and broke dates.

P: Right.

W: We worked all that night and got the thing up on Hoover’s --. No, it wasn’t Hoover at the time. I guess it was Clarence Kelley. Got it up to Clarence Kelley the next morning before it went over there. So that’s the sort of thing that was done. You have a problem working in the night --. I need somebody on a surveillance.
P: Right.

W: You got a volunteer. You had guys you know yourself. If you went out on a raid, you had somebody that was covering you.

P: Uh, huh.

W: And they were well qualified to do it.

P: Right.

W: I had a couple of raids when I was in the Bureau.

P: Uh, huh.

W: So that’s what I mean about the Bureau that I worked for. And I’m not sure it’s that way now because I haven’t had experience with it. I’m sure the guys who are there probably --. I doubt if I could qualify. They have an awful lot of doctors and things of that sort.

P: Yeah.

W: So I know that they have a good, a bunch of good people, but it’s a different, it’s a different culture throughout the country. Not just the Bureau.

P: Well, I think maybe when you were in, the Bureau was still in a learning phase, I think. You know, in a phase of being created.

W: Well, it changed while I was in there.

P: Still it was being created.

W: Well, that’s what I mean. In other words, when the Cold War was over, all of a sudden we had, we had a different approach.

P: Right.

W: And before it was over, we had a different --. In other words, when I went in there, we were still at things that we did not disseminate.

P: Uh, huh.

W: Because it might have been something having to do with our relationship in the foreign relations field.
P: Right.

W: Some other country might be involved and know about it. But when the war was over we had to sit down and do a lot of review of things and get them in the hands of the department because they worked for the department.

P: Uh, huh.

W: Some things we didn’t even send in to the department at the time, now that the war was over, we did. And, of course, we cut back on communism.

P: Uh, huh.

W: By 1947, the Bureau was way, way down. But then it was discovered in September of 1949 that the Soviets had the atomic bomb.

P: Right.

W: That changed everything.

P: Sure.

W: We started building up again. I mean, reacted to that. Changed. Which you said was in a constant state of change.

P: Constant state of change, right.

W: I think Hoover had his finger on an awful lot of things. When they passed legislation, we started investigating things having to do with legislation which was going through Congress and took six months to get there.

P: Uh, huh.

W: We were ahead of the game on that. We started the Custodial Detention Program.

P: Right.

W: Hundreds of cases we had had nothing to do with violations of law. It had to do with preventive action. Congress passed Section 811 of the Internal Security Act of 1950. It was the Custodial Detention Program. It said, “We want people who might represent a danger to the country in the event of war identified.”

P: Uh, huh.
W: Sure. We checked hundreds of people for that. So it went through processes of changes and I think we kept up with them pretty well.

P: Yeah.

W: And I’m sure they’re still doing it. The changes since the September 11 attack.

P: Sure, sure. The Bureau has changed considerably since September 11, from what I hear anyway. Probably things that you were doing back in 1946 have come back.

W: Well, we had a good basis for our counterintelligence. Not only domestically but foreign.

P: Uh, huh. Uh,huh.

W: And I think you’ll find from the things that you have there support it.

P: Okay.

W: Such as legislation and Hoover’s testimony on occasion and then things of that sort that happened that put us in business as we needed to change our direction and our targets.

P: Okay. Ray, I don’t want to take any more of your time at this time. I’m hoping that I can, after reviewing all of the material that you’ve given me, then I’ll have another chance to sit down and chat with you again. It’s now 12:31 and the oral phase of this interview is hereby terminated.
Interview with Former Special Agent  
W. Raymond Wannall (1942 – 1976)  
on October 31, 2006  
By Stanley A. Pimentel

Stanley A. Pimentel  
P: Today is October 31, Halloween, 2006, and this is Stan Pimentel and I’m with W. Raymond Wannall. It’s approximately 10:55 in the morning and Mr. Wannall has graciously granted the Oral History Project to obtain some copies, or actually, he’s going to give me some of his original published data that I will take and make copies of. Anyway, Mr. Wannall will pass these to me and this is to record the titles of the documents he has provided.

W. Raymond Wannall  
W: Stan, these are seventeen letters which appeared as Letters to the Editor in The Washington Times, starting in May of 1984 and going through May of 2003. (Addendum AA.) The items are for the most part of interest to the FBI.

P: Uh, huh.

W: For example, this is about Don Edwards who headed the House Committee which had oversight of the FBI. And he pointed out that he had been in the Bureau and he thought he had a pretty good concept of it, but actually he was in the Bureau for little less than a year, between December 1940 and December 1941.

P: Huh.

W: And he requested, he submitted his resignation just before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

P: Well, okay.

W: And he asked to have it removed, and Hoover, who was absolute death on draft dodgers wouldn’t accept him back. And I think he irritated Don Edwards and Don after that had very much of an anti-Hoover stance. So this shows, for example, he was interested in and did work or cooperated with and belonged to the Institute for Policy Studies which was a leftist sort of thing.

P: Uh, huh.
W: And he also did stuff for the World Peace Council. You’ve heard of that surely –

P: Right, right.

W: -- which has a sort of an orientation the same direction. And it was to point out Don Edwards vs. the FBI as you can see. You are welcome to take a look at all of these if you’d like.

P: Sure.

W: I’ll just hand you the list of them and you can go down the list and ask any questions that might help you clarify them. Is that the sort of thing you’re interested in?

P: Sure, sure, sure. Because trying to put all of this together, you know, some of this may still be in the archives and some of it may not be in the archives of The Washington Times. And these are things that you want me to return?

W: Yes. They are ones that I would have to have back.

P: Okay, okay.

W: Would you just care to take them with you and return them to me?

P: I will, I’ll do that. I will do that. The first document that Mr. Wannall gave me was from the International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, the 2002, called “Undermining Counterintelligence Capability.” (Addendum BB)

W: I was approached by the editors of The Washington Inquirer, which I think had a connection with Accuracy in Media, if I’m not mistaken. And I wrote about nine articles for them (Addendum CC) on things such as “Letter to the Editor, Civil Servants Need Immunity.” That had to do with the fact that a lot of Agents were being sued because of alleged stepping on people’s rights.

P: Uh, huh.

W: This is the Chinese Threat (Letter to Editor, dated 4/1/96).

P: Okay.

W: It explains the fact that there was a threat, by the way it still exists, as you are well aware of.

P: Very much so.

P: Right.

W: “Terrorist Threat Posed by Islamic Militants.” Now this was put out on May 6, 1996. But it pretty much highlights the trouble we’re having now.

“Amerasiagate.” Amerasia was an organization which had influence on, supporting Chinese communist government. And members of the State Department were much involved in that which resulted in a Congressional hearing (dated 7/19/95).

P: Uh, huh.


P: (chuckle) Sure.


P: Oh, okay.

W: This is “J. Edgar Hoover Was My Boss.” (Addendum DD.) Now that goes into some things, several things. The COINTELPRO for example.

P: Oh, okay. That’s good.

W: It covers some other controversial things. “Use of Disinformation.” (Refers to Addendum DD.)

P: Right.

W: “Public Expectations of the FBI.” About Hoover’s compassion. I don’t know if you remember Jack Grady. In fact, if you ride around this area you find Grady Company. He’s dead now. His widow lives next door. And I lived close to Jack. He was in the Bureau. I first came across him in New York in 1943. We were both in there on a two-month special to try to clean up the Selective Service and Foreign Enemy Control cases.

And then they moved next door to us. I knew him quite well. And this explains that when he was assigned to New York later on, he learned that his father, his father was killed in a furnace explosion.
P: Oh, boy.

W: He went to the funeral. Came back and a couple of weeks later he learned that his sister was quite ill and his mother was very distraught and despondent and she called to report this latest tragic news. Jack said immediately that he was being transferred to Springfield. Well, he was assigned to New York. But what is explained in here, Jack had been a support employee at Headquarters and knew that Hoover would give every consideration if somebody had a family problem.

P: Uh, huh.

W: And sure enough, he reported to the SAC and the Assistant Director in Charge up there, I guess it was, and they reported it to the Bureau. And in forty-eight hours he had a transfer to Springfield. And he later found out that on top of his personnel file at Headquarters it said: “This man is not to be transferred until his family is straightened out.” That’s the sort of thing that explains Hoover.

P: Right.

W: Things of that sort. I think this covers quite a few other things that might be of interest.

P: Yeah, that’d be great. Yeah.

W: I did some talking for the Nathan Hale Institute. This you can have. “1984, The Year of the Terrorist.” (Addendum EE.) This was the publication and I had forgotten about it, at the Nathan Hale, and I did another one. You can have that. “Who’s Tracking the Terrorists?” (Addendum FF.) And I have a copy of that if you’d like to have it.

P: Sure. I’ll take these and these will go into the Oral History Project repository.

W: Good. You remember Donald E. Moore?

P: Right.

W: Don Moore and I, at the request of the Society, prepared a write-up on the Weather Underground Organization and the suit that was brought against L. Patrick Gray, W. Mark Felt, and Edward S. Miller for allegedly investigating members of the families of Weather Underground fugitives. (Addendum GG.) I also gave a speech to a Sorority in Maryland on 12/5/81, entitled “The Weather Underground is Alive and Prospering.” (Addendum HH.) They were underground for quite some time. I don’t know if you remember that.
P: I remember that, yes sir.

W: But this speech analyzed the thing to show the reasons for it. If that’s of any interest you, you’re welcome to have it.

P: That’s prepared by you. Okay.

W: Yes.

P: All right. Yeah. I’ll take this and I’ll give it back to you.

W: This paper was also prepared for the Society of Former Special Agents in 1977. It is an analysis of the Church Committee Report. (Addendum II.) And there were three of us worked on this thing as I recall. One of them was Bill Branigan who handled the Espionage Section. One was Lish Whitson. I don’t know if you remember Whitson, one of the old-timers.

P: Okay. Now for the Church Committee Report for the Society of Former Society of Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We may already have this, but I will take it anyway and make copies of it.

W: Possibly, possibly you do have it. I don’t know if it had any lasting value but it was of interest at the time.

P: Sure. I have a number of “Behind the Headlines.” What’s this?

W: This has to do with the situation in Waco, Texas. Do you remember that?

P: Yes.

W: Well, there was a lot of criticism of it. And “Why We Should Support the FBI” was written, here it is, a publication called Between the Lines,” May 21, 1993. (Addendum JJ.) The enclosures from the edition of Between the Headlines, “Self-Designated Watch Dog of the Dominant Media.” Publisher is Bellinger, is Lee Bellinger of Capitol Hill Publishing Company. Editor, John Elvin, formerly with The Washington Times. And it shows justification for the Waco thing.

I wrote some items for the American Sentinel. They had a publication called the Pink Sheet on the Left, America’s Authoritative Report on Left-Wing Activities, is what they say it is.

P: Uh, huh.
W: And under the caption of “Clinton Watch,” there is an article that they included that I had written on “Ignoring the Warning Signs, Terrorism Requires Strengthening of Intelligence Capabilities.” (Addendum KK.)

P: Okay. And you want this one back?

W: Yes, I will need it back.

P: Okay.

W: *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence.* You looked at a copy of that earlier. This was in Spring of 2003 issue and it was called “The Weathermen’s Clouds.” It’s a review of a book written by Weather Underground leader, Bill Ayers. (Addendum LL.)

P: Sure, sure.

W: This is something which is pretty good from an historical standpoint because it starts off to show what intelligence is, how you define it, implementation of the Roosevelt Directives, those are directives in August of ’36. To the advent of the Attorney General Kennedy. *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence,* Volume 4, No. 4, 1990. *Domestic Security in Limbo.* (Addendum MM.)

P: Uh, huh.

W: From *The World Intelligence Review,* there’s an article “The Truth is the Only Casualty.” (Addendum NN.) That was an article I wrote back in 1996. It was a book put out by Harvey Klehr and Ronald Radosh and it goes into the Amerasia case, prelude to McCarthyism. It’s a review of the book but from the standpoint of it’s blaming the Amerasia situation, which was handled by the Bureau, I think you would find it interesting.

P: Sure, sure. “The Truth was the Only Casualty,” page six, of *The World Intelligence Review.*

W: “Still Doubting the FBI’s Effectiveness.” This is Athon Theoharis’s book he wrote called *Chasing Spies, How the FBI Failed in Counterintelligence But Promoted the Politics of McCarthyism.* (Addendum OO.)

P: (chuckle)
W: It’s a refutation of that frankly. And this is from *The International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*, issued in 2003, right when the book came out.

P: Okay.

W: In *The Foreign Intelligence Literary Scene*, in 1988, “The FBI and the Press.” (Addendum PP.) Have you ever heard of Ronald Kessler?

P: Yes, I have. Yes.

W: He had a book called *Spy vs. Spy*.

P: Right.

W: *Stalking Soviet Spies in America*. This goes into that. And it is obvious that Kessler probably had an in with some people over in the field office because he wrote about information received from FBI agents, who discussed what should not have been disclosed.

P: It appears that he did, yes. And he used to be very critical of the FBI and then, then he’s kind of turned around a hundred and eighty degrees.

W: He called me on one occasion, right after he turned around and I helped him with it. But this shows that --. For example, he and his wife went over and visited a former Czech intelligence officer who had become a naturalized citizen but had worked for the CIA for I don’t know how many years. Long time. He was connected to the CIA and had all of their secrets.

P: Huh.

W: But he went over with his wife and talked to him and they questioned him and he was very open about it. But then he declined to talk about his recruitment by Czech intelligence service because “it’s probably the sort of information that the service itself would like to keep a secret because then you narrow down the kind of man who could be recruited.” Well, he just showed a greater regard for protecting Czech intelligence, than Kessler showed for protecting FBI counterintelligence.

P: Uh, huh.

W: Is that part of what you’re interested in?

P: Sure, sure.
W: You had a couple of these Nightwatches. Is that one of them? “The FBI: Perennial Target of the Left.” (Addendum QQ.)

P: I don’t think so. No, that’s a different one I believe. I’ll take it and make copies of it.

P: Okay, the Nightwatch report, one was “KGB Into the Breach.” And the other was “A Subtle Anti-Intelligence Proposal Welcome Communist Immigrants.” So that’s not the same one. (These two reports are Addenda to Mr. Wannall’s October 20, 2006 interview.)

W: This is different. It’s called “The Perennial Target of the Left, the FBI.” This may be in some other publication.

I gave you something on the SLA. I think I called it “The Genealogy.” I came across this since then. From a Commentary item I wrote for The Washington Times in 1999 called “Anatomy of the SLA and Its Deeds.” (These two items are Addenda to the October 20, 2006 interview of Mr. Wannall.)

P: There was a newspaper copy attached to the genealogy.

W: Oh, there was?

P: Yes, sir. I kind of put everything back in order, but it may be a little out of order on the attachments.

W: Well, I’m sure it’s all there. That’s the main thing.

P: Yeah.


P: (chuckle)

W: “An Image of Infallibility Created by J. Edgar Hoover During His Forty-Eight Years As Director and Tarnished in the Quarter Century Since His Death.” In all honesty, this should have read “Tarnished by the Media in the Quarter Century Since His Death.” (Included as an Addendum with Mr. Wannall’s October 20, 2006 interview.) That is the refutation of it.
P: Right. Okay, okay.

W: William B. Breuer. I’ve known Breuer. I was introduced to him when he wrote a book on an admiral whose name skips, leaves me right now. But he wrote a book called *J. Edgar Hoover and his G-men*. And I think you’d find that interesting.

P: Okay.

W: It’s a review of the book. (*Addendum RR.*) And I think it may contain information where --. It’s a refutation of some of the stuff on Hoover.

P: Sure.

W: That man has thirty-nine books he’s published.

P: Uh, huh. Okay.

W: Did I give you something on FBI and World War II?

P: No, sir. I would love to see that though.

W: Well, this is a talk that I gave before a World War II veterans group in Silver Spring. (*FBI and World War II, Addendum SS.*) The man who ran the thing had headed the 29th Battalion Organization. Route 29 through here is named for that as you probably know. And I gave a couple of talks to them. And this particular one was, goes back I think to World War I. Mentions World War I in 1914 and comes up to date.

P: Okay.

W: It’s something that could be of interest to you.

P: Oh, I think so, I think so. Anything that you’ve written would be of great interest.

W: Well, that’s a talk.

P: Right.

W: I’ve got a stack like that you can look at lectures I’ve given.

P: Oh, lectures that you’ve written up. Hey, it’s good.

W: By the way, I’ve brought this as a matter of interest. Do you all have a copy of this first *Grapevine* that was put out?
P: Oh, I don’t know. The Society should have it I would think.

W: Okay, ready for some more?

P: Sure.

W: I should introduce this by telling you that articles and items were published in monthly reports and Behind the Headlines radio commentators by America’s Future, Inc. America’s Future, Inc. is a nonprofit educational organization founded in 1946. Now I belonged to it for a while and when they took off on Waco, I resigned from it.

P: Uh, huh.

W: There’s something more about this on the back. Let me see if I can see if it’s any value to you.

During the 1990s its reports went to thousands of subscribers nationwide and was available free to colleges and high school libraries. Information contained in its radio commentaries was disseminated to more than a hundred and twenty radio stations and more than three hundred newspapers.

So it had a wide dissemination. They used to take my stuff and put it on the radio and some of it would appear in publications called Behind the Headlines. (Addendum TT.)

P: Uh, huh.

W: For example, this is Radio Program C505, February 28, 1992. It goes into what? Talking about the collapse of the Soviet Bloc. The First Substantial Contraction of the FBI’s Counterespionage Operations.”

I’m quoted in here. If it’s something that you can use, you’re welcome to use it.

P: Okay.

W: I have a lot of them. Here’s “America’s Future: Intelligence, Our First Line of Defense,” which covers something that I sent to them that showed up in their publication, Behind the Headlines.

P: This is all from Behind the Headline here, all of this?

W: All of this.
P: Why don’t we keep it together and I’ll make copies and return everything back to you.

W: These are duplicated in here. In fact, if they’re copies of them, you can have a copy. It will keep you from having to duplicate them. I had three of them and I have second copy and third copy. This particular one you will find, I think, in here. There’s one that’s duplicated. There’s one in December, duplicated. You’ll find the originals in here.

P: Okay.

W: And there’s another one somewhere. I’ve got more of them. I came up with them last night.

W: Now there’s the one, there’s one that you’ve got to have.

P: Okay.

W: This is on “Refuting the Hatchet Job on J. Edgar Hoover.” (America’s Future, Volume 35, Number 3, March 1993.)

I spent an awful lot on Hoover. And my whole book was on that actually.

P: Right, he’s gotten a bad rap. And that’s why this is important, I think.

W: “Selected Articles From Intelligence Publications.” Seven items appearing in intelligence publications.

P: Okay.

W: American Bar Association, their National Security Intelligence Report. “Amended Federal Tort Claims Act Should Contain Good Faith Clause.” (Addendum UU.) I don’t know if that’s of interest to you or not.

P: Okay. Why don’t we just keep it all together? I’ll do that.

W: “The FBI’s Counterintelligence Role.” (Addendum VV.) In the Foreign Intelligence Literary Scene, Bimonthly Newsletter/Book Review.

NIC A Shield from the National Intelligence and Counterintelligence Association. “Fighting Terrorism with Intelligence.” (Addendum WW.) and, on pages nineteen and twenty of another issue, “FBI Expansion Abroad Needed, Looks Promising.” (Addendum XX.)
W: I don’t know if you want transcripts of recorded telephone interviews. I had a lot of telephone interviews with someone. This is one with VOA broadcast in Chinese by a Ms. Xin Chen. *(Addendum YY).*

P: Uh, huh.

W: This is replying to the Chinese as about the FBI. That’s a great story she says. I’ve got three transcripts of telephone conversations.

P: Okay.

W: Are you interested in them?

P: Sure, sure.

W: There’s one. This is a phone interview over Radio Station KERI, Bakersfield, California, June, 16, 1990, West Coast Host Don Clark, Dolf Droge. *(Addendum ZZ.)*

P: There’re three of them, aren’t there?

W: This is NPR, you know, National Public Radio, “Interview Regarding Weather Underground Movement, October, ’81, The Brinks Truck Robbery.” *(Addendum AAA.)*

P: Okay. I’ll just keep all three of these in this folder if you don’t mind.

W: Yeah, that’s fine.

P: Okay.

W: I have book reviews. Breuer’s book, *Daring Missions of World War II* and *Undercover Tales of World War II.*

P: Oh yeah, I’ve got that book. In fact I bought it because when I was starting to get involved in this project, I was looking for information on the SIS. And there’s so little information about the SIS. Very little.

W: Well, this had to do with World War II.

P: Right. It just vaguely mentions in two pages or two and a half pages the role of the FBI in World War II. Mentions Foxworth, who was killed.

W: Percy Foxworth. He was killed with a fellow who was in my training class.
P: Oh, that’s a shame.

W: They went down together.

P: Yes.

P: Did you do any traveling overseas while you were in the Bureau, Ray?

W: I had to do an inspection over there, in the Dominican Republic at one time, but I didn’t do any other traveling.

P: That was during the civil war down there?

W: During the war or right after it, yes. At the end of it. We opened an office down there.

P: Right, right. And Clark Anderson was there. A number of other Agents.

W: That’s right. Sixteen people all together as I remember. I went down and inspected the thing.

P: Uh, huh.

W: Must have been going about a year. Clark Anderson got a bad deal on that because he was down there for quite some time. A number of years, I recall. His daughter was getting married and he asked to come up for wedding. And Hoover took exception.

P: No kidding? Oh.

W: And sent another - Nischwitz, I think it was. He just died.

P: Right. And Ann Arnold was one of the ladies down there. One of the support people down there.

W: I don’t remember.

P: I spoke to Ann Arnold a few days ago and I’ve asked her to document some of the nice side of what happened down there. You know, the interaction between the Bureau Agents and Balaguer.

W: They had, they had excellent cooperation with XXX, I think, down there. And, I guess it was the Air Force. They went down without any place to go.
P: Uh, huh.

W: I think the State Department had something down there. It was an adjunct to the State Department put in that office and it was the Air Force Center. A leftover so they could look through a window they had there. And they had lot of success and a lot of cooperation with the people.

P: Right.

W: They made, they made a good impression.

P: They did, yeah.

W: In fact so much so, that their stuff came in immediately. While they were communicating one time, they put on the teletype to Headquarters, “Well, a round of ammunition just hit a part of our building.”

P: (chuckle)

W: Now, it was LBJ, Lyndon Johnson, wasn’t it, was the President? He used the stuff from us and criticized CIA. Yeah, he thought that was great. He went in at one time to notify that something had happened. Had one of our communications under his arm. So they did a great job. They didn’t get a lot of credit.

P: No, no.

W: But did a good job.

P: It was a tough time, being caught up in a civil war, you know.

W: Yes, very much so.

P: And not exactly living in hotels and stuff like that.

W: “Selected Lectures.” Well, there were many. *A list of Speeches is attached as Addendum BBB. Special written request is required.*

P: Okay. I have it.

We took a break here to look at Mr. Wannall’s lecture series here. I’d like to note that it’s now 12:10 and Ray and I have been going over his lectures and he has graciously given me permission to take thirty-one of his lectures to make copies of. And these are lectures that he has given from approximately 1981 to 2003.
P: It’s now about 12:15 and, Ray, I want to thank you very much again for your generosity in letting me see and make copies, or take things to make copies, of the different lectures and papers you’ve written throughout the years.

W: I hope they serve a purpose.

P: I think they will. For the Oral History Project, it will be a treasure trove, I think.

W: (chuckle)

P: So, anyway, again thank you very kindly, Ray. And it is now almost 12:15 on October 31, 2006.