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Erie, Pennsylvania

September 22, 1938

Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Again I thank you for your courtesy, under date of September 20, 1938, and I want to compliment you on the whole for the splendid address to the American Legion in Los Angeles.

The excellent work your department is doing in contacting civic, state, municipal and social, as well as patriotic organizations, and explaining to them the activities of your department, certainly promotes a better understanding and cooperative feeling on the part of the average citizen towards the F.B.I. and tends to eliminate some of the erroneous impressions created by certain elements when you "step on their corns", so to speak.

I note particularly the comment in paragraph five on page 3 of your address, and while I consider the Attorney General and his office in general men of highest honor and integrity, I am wondering if the reports we read are true in certain columns and new items regarding the activities of F.B.I. in the recent Dies investigation. For example, I read a report where twelve men were assigned to this investigation to uncover Nazi and Fascist activities, and as soon as the Committee swung around to investigating the Communists, where some glaring disclosures were made, the support of F.B.I. was withdrawn from this Committee, and they were handicapped in every way in carrying on their communistic investigation.

I have heard a good deal of comment on that from intelligent patriotic Americans, particularly in the Catholic Church, where I happen to worship, which is definitely opposed to Communism, and naturally wonder how much truth there is in the aforementioned reports. Certainly of all the "isms" in this country today, Communism should be investigated and brought to light, particularly that phase of it opposed to our form of Government and Laws. In my opinion, that is more important than for us to worry about Hitler, Mussolini or the Spanish situation, which is really their own funeral and should be allowed to "stew in their own grease", so to speak.

Having traveled around the world a number of times, and having seen a few things in my little more than 60 years of very active life, I am a strong American isolationist, and believe in a strict hands off

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Mr. John Edgar Hoover

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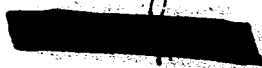
policy as far as Europe is concerned, all of which was again confirmed by my more recent trips to Europe, where I found a definite tendency to ridicule the Americans and look on them as the "proverbial sap", so to speak, particularly in the Southern countries of France, Italy and down through the Mediterranean.

The communistic influence and the propaganda in this country, carried on by all sorts of patriotic bodies, is tremendous. Boake Carter recently made the statement that the greatest job of propaganda that has been done in this country since the World War is the one which sold the American people the idea that they should support the so-called Loyalists in Spain, who are the Communists, with men, material and money, and I personally feel that phase of our national and social life needs investigating far more than some of these European "isms", about which everybody seems to get excited.

We should be for the United States first, last and all the time, with full respect for law and order and the Constitution in our own country, and irrespective of certain organized propaganda tending to stir up our people against certain foreign rulers, because they happen to be opposed to Communism, is no reason why we should get ourselves embroiled with a "rotten mess" in Europe, in the participation of which we could not possibly benefit, or add anything to the progress of humanity.

Again thanking you for your courtesy, Mr. Hoover, and hoping you will continue to favor me with your letters and educational matter, I am

Very truly yours,

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October 17, 1938

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[REDACTED]  
Eire, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

It was indeed a pleasure to receive your letter of September 22, 1938, upon my return to Washington after an extended absence from my office, occasioned by an inspection trip to the various Field Divisions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation located in the west. Your comments regarding my address were encouraging, and I do want you to know how deeply I appreciate having your approbation.

With reference to your inquiry concerning the relationship of the FBI to the Dies Committee investigation, I desire to point out that it was not possible to lend any Special Agents of this Bureau to the Dies Committee by reason of the fact that due to a deficiency in our appropriation last year and a limitation on our appropriation for the coming year, we are experiencing a very acute shortage of personnel and accordingly it was not possible to relieve any Special Agents from the investigative work of this Bureau to assist the Dies Committee.

I of course am sure that you are fully cognizant of my views upon the influx of un-American ideas and practices, but insofar as the Federal Bureau of Investigation is concerned, I would like to point out that there are no Federal statutes which make participation in communistic or fascistic activities a Federal offense. I was glad to receive your observations on world affairs, for I feel that from the richness of your experience must have come many observations based upon first-hand contacts which unfortunately so many of us have not had.

You may be assured that future publications of this Bureau will be sent you as they are released from time to time.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,