

MEMORANDUM FOR: ~~General Carter~~ *ER*

Mr. McCone reviewed the attached papers, including my note.

He does not plan to write Senator Church further, and is agreeable to a suggestion that Houston and company handle orally with the Senator's office.

I have advised Houston and White of the above.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] *6/15*

14 June 63
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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The attached papers describe the results of our investigation into Senator Church's letter delivery.

I would sum it up as follows:

- ① The senator's staff managed to make a monumental project out of trying to deliver a letter.
- ② The senator thought it was amusing, and said so at dinner.
- ③ The press loves stories about CIA, and gobbled this one up.
- ④ The senator's secretary says the page was upset.
- ⑤ The page says he was treated well and is sorry if ~~we~~ he caused us any trouble.



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63-4841

14 June 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Publicity in Connection with Senator Church's Efforts to Deliver a Letter to the Director

REFERENCES : (a) Memo for the Record dtd 11 Jun 63 by Asst OGC/LC, subj: "Meeting with Mr. Ward Hower"
(b) Memo dtd 12 Jun 63 to DD/S fr DD/Sec, subj: "Interview of Riding Page Connected with Article in 11 June 1963 Issue of Washington Post Newspaper"

1. I attach hereto a report of an interview with the riding page who attempted to deliver Senator Church's letter to the Director to our 2430 E Street address.

2. Mr. Spittle said that he was treated well by our guards and that the newspaper story was at least 50 per cent inaccurate. This is in sharp contrast to the newspaper article in which the Senator's secretary is quoted as saying that the page was distraught, confused, and exasperated. It is also in sharp contrast to Mr. Hower's statement to [redacted] /see Reference (b)/ that the page was "ordered off the place."

3. Miss [redacted] our Chief Telephone Operator, reported that none of the operators remember any inquiry concerning where a riding page might leave a letter for the Director. She pointed out that, had Mr. McCone's name been mentioned, the call would automatically have been referred to his office.

4. Since Senator Church is apparently not upset about this incident, I believe that it would serve no useful purpose to pursue the matter further, especially since the apparent ineptness of his own staff seems to me to have been the major problem.

JUN 14 15 20 BH 63

DD/S

Signed
L. K. White
Deputy Director
(Support)

2 Atts:
References (a) and (b)

cc: OGC w/Ref (b)

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

63-4841/1

11 June 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Ward Hower, Administrative Assistant to Senator Frank Church (D., Idaho)

1. On this date, I attempted to see Senator Frank Church but learned he was on the floor of the Senate and would be tied up for sometime. (This was a very active day in both the House and Senate Chambers.) In the Senator's absence, I spoke with his Administrative Assistant, Mr. Ward Hower.

2. I left with Mr. Hower the Director's letter to the Senator responding to the Senator's transmittal of his memo of conversation covering his meeting on 4 June with Georgi M. Koridenko, Charge d'Affairs at the Soviet Embassy. I expressed our regret that the Senator had been unable to have his communication delivered by a Capitol Page, but indicated that the letter did reach us through regular mail channels. I asked Mr. Hower if he could give me any particulars on how their office attempted to have the letter delivered. He explained that Mrs. Ward, the Senator's personal secretary who was within earshot of our conversation, had been asked by the Senator to determine the best way to have his communication hand carried to the Director as well as to the Secretary of State.

3. On Wednesday, 5 June, at approximately 3:30 P.M., Mrs. Ward called the Agency switchboard. She said she had a communication from the Senator to the Director which she was having delivered by "riding Page" and asked if it could be delivered to our address in Washington as well as in Langley. (Capitol "riding Pages" can deliver congressional communications only within the Washington, D.C. area.) Mrs. Ward was advised by the switchboard operator that the communication could be sent either to Langley or to 2430 E Street, N.W. A "riding Page" was then dispatched with the Senator's letter. At approximately 6:30 P.M., the page (who presumably had other messages to deliver on that trip) called Senator Church's office

and said he had been unable to deliver the communication to the E Street address and asked for further instructions. According to Mr. Hower, the Page was "ordered off the place." (When I questioned Mr. Hower, he said he was not aware of the details as to whether or not the Page spoke to a building guard or a receptionist. He explained, however, that Capitol "riding Pages" are provided by the Post Office and that we could probably determine who the Page was and question him directly by calling code 180, extension 5353. Mr. Hower made a gesture to call this number but I indicated that rather than to put him to any further inconvenience, we could inquire into this matter on our own. He was quite agreeable to this.)

4. Mr. Hower said there was no deliberate attempt on their part to report this matter to the press. He said the Senator had treated it somewhat comically and happened to mention it at a social function that evening. It developed that a newspaper reporter was present and pressed the Senator for details. Mr. Hower said that "having let the cat out of the bag" the Senator saw no point in withdrawing since he still regarded it as something less than a serious matter. I explained to Mr. Hower that our building receptionists, telephone operators and Agency guards operated under definite procedures and instructions and that we were concerned that this matter was not brought to our attention. I suggested to Mr. Hower that in the future they call our office directly (giving him a card with our names and telephone number on it), adding that we would be pleased to either pick up a communication or arrange for one of our couriers to do so.

5. Mr. Hower asked if our Agency sent an annual letter to the Hill designating legislative liaison officers, as many other departments and agencies do, adding that it would be helpful to congressional offices in reaching us if they had such information. I told him that we did not send such a letter but that we were listed in the Congressional Directory. (Page 411 of the Congressional Directory, under the heading "Central Intelligence Agency", lists the 2430 E. Street address, the Agency telephone number and the names of the Director, Deputy Director and the Legislative Counsel.)

6. In further conversation with Mr. Hower, I mentioned that, as he knew, the Senator had visited the Agency several years ago following his trip to Africa and that, at his request, we had also briefed him in 1961 on the status of the Soviet nuclear powered aircraft program. I added that at the

Agency meeting, Senator Church mentioned that he had received a luncheon invitation from the Soviet Ambassador and Mr. Dulles commented that he saw no reason why the Senator should not have luncheon with him. Mr. Hower said that after one such invitation, the Senator asked if Mr. Hower might accompany him and the invitation was promptly withdrawn. He also mentioned that Senator Church was somewhat piqued the other day when, after accepting the invitation, he learned that the luncheon was with the Charge d'Affairs and not the Ambassador. However, the Senator commented that in his previous contacts the Ambassador had been extremely general and non-committal. When he met the Charge d'Affairs this year the conversation immediately became specific and to a certain extent more revealing than his conversations with the Ambassador.



8. I had the impression, in talking with Mr. Hower, that the whole subject of this newspaper article was quite embarrassing to the Senator who would be very happy if the whole thing had never taken place. For this reason, I am not certain that any further attempt to discuss it with the Senator would be wise (unless he calls or contacts the Director personally), although we might have a follow-up chat with Hower if we feel there is something additional and constructive to pass on to him after we look into the delivery problem further.

9. The substance of this memorandum has been conveyed to General Carter, Colonel White and Mr. [redacted]. The Office of Security is looking into the internal aspects of the telephone call and delivery situations.

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[redacted]
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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12 JUN 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

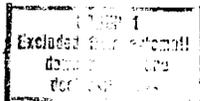
SUBJECT: Interview of Riding Page Connected with Article in 11 June 1963 Issue of Washington Post Newspaper

- 1. This memorandum is for information only.
- 2. The following facts are submitted in connection with the subject article:

- a. The name of the riding page involved is R. J. Spittle, employee of the United States Senate Post Office.

- b. Mr. Spittle stated that in attempting to deliver Senator Church's letter, he encountered the construction barricade in front of North Building and that it took him forty-five minutes to find his way through the Naval Hospital grounds to Central Building. At Central Building he asked the guard where Mr. McCone's office was located. The guard directed him to East Building. The guard at East Building told him that Mr. McCone was at Langley. Mr. Spittle then asked the guard if he would accept the letter. The guard said that he could not. Mr. Spittle then asked to use the telephone from which he called his supervisor in the Post Office. The supervisor said to return the letter to the Post Office.

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c. Mr. Spittle stated that he was in the vicinity of Central - East Building not over fifteen minutes, and that he was treated well by the guards. The only problem he had encountered was the confusion created by the heavy construction in that area.

d. Mr. Spittle called Senator Church's secretary when he returned to the Post Office to apprise her that he was unable to deliver the letter. She instructed him to deposit the letter in Senator Church's mail box from which it was taken by the Senator's secretary and mailed.

e. Mr. Spittle further stated that he was amazed at the story that appeared in the Washington Post the following day. He related that it was at least fifty per cent inaccurate.

f. He did not know who released the story to the press.

3. In summarizing the incident, Mr. Spittle apologized for any difficulty he may have caused this Agency.

4. As was previously mentioned in an early memorandum the instructions to the guards have been amended to prevent a recurrence.

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[Redacted Signature]

Deputy Director of Security

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