

Executive Registry

3-1761

13 August 1952

Dear Commissioner Spingarn:

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending a copy of President Truman's message to the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association convention.

I am indeed sorry that it has not been possible for me to accept your several invitations to speak to the Association but am hopeful that circumstances will be more favorable and will permit me to do so at some future date.

Again, with thanks,

Sincerely,

Walter R. Smith

The Honorable Stephen J. Spingarn
Commissioner
Federal Trade Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

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1 - reading
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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25

STEPHEN J. SPINGARN
COMMISSIONER

August 7, 1952

Dear General Smith:

I thought you might be interested in seeing a copy of the message which the President sent to the Baltimore Convention last week of the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association.

Incidentally, General Eisenhower also sent a brief message to the convention in which he asked to be furnished with a copy of the record of our proceedings.

The convention next year is to be in Philadelphia and we have still not given up hope of persuading you to attend and address us.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Spingarn
Stephen J. Spingarn

General Walter B. Smith,
Director,
Central Intelligence Agency,
2430 E Street, N. W.,
Washington 25, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 25, 1952.

TO THE FIFTH NATIONAL COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS CONVENTION:

It is a real pleasure to send my best wishes to your Baltimore Convention and to all the fine men at the Convention, or represented there, who have seen service with the Counter Intelligence Corps and who belong to its alumni organization -- the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association.

I am fully aware of the splendid work which the Counter Intelligence Corps did during World War II in searching out and frustrating the enemy's espionage and sabotage activities. The successful operations of the Corps during that period greatly increased its prestige and are responsible for the emphasis which our Army today places on the Corps' work in every part of the world where our troops are located. You CIC veterans can properly take pride in your connection with an organization which has done such valiant work in the defense of freedom. If the men who now compose the active Counter Intelligence Corps do as good a job as you did -- and I believe they will -- we need have little concern about our military counter espionage and counter sabotage operations.

Today we find the field of counter intelligence all too frequently invaded by amateurs, some of them sincere persons and others self-appointed super-patriots or politicians eager for headlines and very little concerned with whether the charges they make can be documented, whether they help or hurt our internal security, or how much damage they do to innocent persons. These persons do not understand -- and some of them do not wish to -- the quiet, searching and effective techniques of counter intelligence in which you professionals have been trained. In this connection, and in this year of 1952, it seems particularly timely for me to repeat what I told your Cleveland Convention last year when I said:

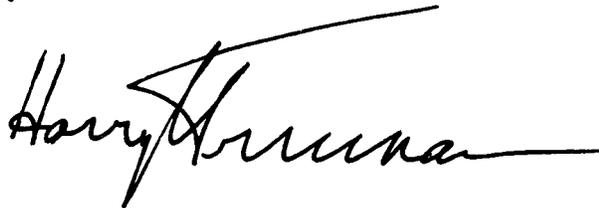
" . . . The Corps deserves our gratitude and commendation for the vital contribution which it has made to American security and, not least of all, for demonstrating that the protection of both our

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security and the individual rights of men must and can be reconciled by the security officers of a democratic nation.

"I believe that professionals in the field of counter intelligence can perform another valuable public service by throwing the light of reason and experience on an area -- the field of internal security -- in which all too often unreason and emotion prevail. There are none who know better than you that this delicate work requires the use of the surgeon's scalpel rather than the butcher's cleaver. There are none who know better than you that those individuals -- however sincere they may be -- who seek to turn counter intelligence into a three-ring circus involving trial by headlines and by denunciations are hurting American security, not helping it."

I wish you a most successful convention and I hope that you will return to your homes with wonderful memories of renewed companionships with old friends.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harry Truman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the main body of text.