

DB 10-1979

16 OCT 1958

Mr. Edwin Lyle Fisher



Dear Mr. Fisher:

Since you have recently retired at the end of a distinguished Government career, it is appropriate that we express to you our appreciation of the guidance, understanding, and support you gave to this Agency throughout its growing years.

Before the Agency was recognized by statute, it was only through techniques worked out with you that the Central Intelligence Group was able effectively to lay the foundations for the future Agency. Once formally established, the Agency was faced with a requirement for the authorities necessary to carry out its functions. Again your understanding of our responsibilities and the problem of undertaking them in the cold war era was a powerful influence in the passage of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949. This act is now time tested, and our experience has shown that the wide authorities granted to this Agency are essential to its ability to perform effectively.

Many other times you have considered our problems, some of them perhaps unique in Government, and always we found your counsel constructive. It was therefore with great regret that we saw you leave the Government, but we extend our best wishes for a long career in the comparatively simple life of private industry.

Sincerely,

OGC:LRH:jeb

cc: DCI
DDCI
ER
DD/S
Comptroller
General Counsel

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

ORIGINATED BY:

SIGNED

14 OCT 1958

Personnel 4-1

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Fisher is lunching with us on Thursday and Colonel White suggested it might be appropriate for you to give him a letter of appreciation. A suggested letter is attached. You may either want to read it to him or just hand it to him at lunch.

SIGNED

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

14 October 1958
(DATE)

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

(47)

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9 OCT 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: E. Lyle Fisher

1. I have invited Mr. E. Lyle Fisher for lunch on Thursday, 16 October, 1 p.m. Mr. Fisher was General Counsel to the Comptroller General from the last days of OSS and all through the beginnings and growth of the Agency. He retired last summer after a severe heart attack. He is now representing the Glenn L. Martin Company in Washington in connection with their Government contracts.

2. Mr. Fisher was a firm friend of the Agency throughout his tenure with the Comptroller General, and all our major dealings with that office were through him. His support was a strong influence in obtaining our statutory authorities. If he had opposed our confidential funds authority we might well not have been given it as the Atomic Energy Commission was refused such authority on the opposition of the Comptroller General. However, Mr. Fisher emphasized our unique role and the world situation which made it so important and obtained the Comptroller General's approval of granting such authority to CIA.

3. Mr. Fisher arranged for the special audit system for those Agency expenditures reviewed by the General Accounting Office so that the audit is conducted within our walls by specified, cleared auditors. These funds are [redacted]

[redacted] maintained almost on a current basis which is an invaluable aid in the event of exceptions. Mr. Saunders and I kept him briefed on all major fiscal developments of the Agency and on our philosophy in the handling of our funds authorities. He reciprocated by assuring us that so long as he was there and felt these policies were being followed, the Comptroller General would

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not seek or initiate any investigation into the Agency's handling of funds.

4. Our dealings were mostly informal and few official opinions resulted. He was forced to rule against us when a pay raise was made retroactive but we were not given the retroactive authority specifically. I have no quarrel with his law on this point. On the other hand, he approved our purchase of air-conditioning equipment for the temporary buildings without specific authority in the face of a statutory prohibition. On this his law was probably wrong and he certainly took a considerable chance to help us with this problem. This, however, was typical of his normal common sense handling of the matters we took up with him. I feel we owe him a considerable debt for his support and the manner in which it was given.

SIGNED

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

Distribution

Orig-Addressee

cc: DDCI
DD/S
ADD/S
Comptroller
Chief, Audit Staff
Legislative Counsel
✓ General Counsel

GUEST LIST - LUNCHEON FOR E. LYLE FISHER - 16 OCTOBER 1958

The Director

The Deputy Director

Deputy Director (Support)

Assistant Deputy Director (Support)

Comptroller

Chief, Audit Staff

Legislative Counsel

General Counsel

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

I have invited Lyle Fisher, former General Counsel to the Comptroller General, for lunch on Thursday, 16 October. I hope you can join us as he was a firm and powerful friend through our growing years. The attached memorandum indicates his support more specifically.

SIGNED

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

9 OCT 1958
(DATE)

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