

The Assassination of President Kennedy And the FBI Take-over of America

LaRouche PAC conducted an interview with former Congressman Cornelius “Neil” Gallagher (D-NJ) on Sept. 17, 2014. Excerpts are presented here. Gallagher is the only man alive who was not only a close personal friend of John F. Kennedy, but fought the apparatus associated with his assassination and the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King as a leading member of Congress. Miraculously, he was able to continue fighting, unlike others who had joined him in the struggle. Even more miraculously, he is still alive today to tell of it. Here, at 92 years of age, former Congressman Gallagher presents his story.



Schiller Institute

Former Democratic Congressman Neil Gallagher delivering a video message to the Schiller Institute's 30th Anniversary conference, Jan. 15, 2014. He had been a personal friend of President Kennedy.

Part I. The Kennedy Years

Neil Gallagher: I first met Kennedy at the 1956 [Democratic] Convention; I was a delegate from New Jersey. And supposedly, the convention would be open, and everybody had their little campaigns for who was going to be [the candidate for] Vice President. Adlai Stevenson said it was going to be an open convention. And so, there were some people from Massachusetts that I knew from the war days, who were friends of Kennedy, and they introduced us. And we had a little boomlet for Vice President, and I got some of the people in New Jersey and we started to stir things up for Kennedy to be vice president. And it was the best thing that

ever happened—he lost. Because otherwise nobody would have probably ever heard of him again! And that's how I first met him.

Then, shortly thereafter, I was elected to Congress, and then we became friends. Then, after he was in Congress, then it appeared that now he was going to get serious about running for President in 1960. So, we'd meet every once in a while, and maybe every couple weeks or so, and maybe have a sandwich over at his office and we'd go over how some of the people in New Jersey might feel about it, the leadership, whether the Governor might be for him, or the political leaders. And so we became quite friendly.

JFK's Intent to Return to FDR

Question: Was Kennedy trying to return to the legacy of FDR?

Gallagher: Yes, there's no question about that. I



Kennedy was returning to the legacy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, "there's no question about that."

think the policies of [Secretary of State John Foster] Dulles and the standoffishness of President Eisenhower, who had the admiration of the world for his role in the war—but policy was really driven by Dulles, though revisionist history says that the man behind it all was Eisenhower, which is probably true. I think he was probably more of a manager than one who was making policy. I think that Dulles added to the policies of Truman and [his Secretary of State Dean] Acheson and left no room for diminution of the Cold War. I think Kennedy viewed that as one of his great responsibilities, to reduce those tensions.

Of course, everybody was so fraught about a nuclear war. I mean, we're talking about a terrorist plot right now, but nuclear war was the end of the world for many, many people! And I think Kennedy took that very, very seriously, how to reduce the tensions, and not fall into a war.

And of course, he was highly tested, highly tested by Khrushchov. I remember talking to him, over there, when he came back from the meeting with Khrushchov, and I was asking him, "How'd you find Khrushchov? How'd you get along with him?" He says, "He's a son of a bitch!" And we got talking about it a little bit. And I said, "Well, how did it end?" "Well, he knew that I was a no-good son of a bitch, too, at the end." And then his farewell was, he said, "I asked Khrushchov, 'what's that medal you wore all the time?' He says, 'That's the Lenin Peace Medal.'" Kennedy said, "I hope you're still wearing it the next time we meet."

So, but he was—and of course, Kennedy—Kennedy after the Bay of Pigs, really did not trust the mili-

tary leadership too much. And you still had people like General [Curtis] LeMay and those guys, who "sock 'em, nuke 'em, and get 'em outta there," you know. And for a young President following a great general that was a very difficult course for him to play.

Question: Did you speak with President Kennedy about his vision for the country?

Gallagher: Well, not like a heart-to-heart talk like this. But I was on the Foreign Affairs Committee, so I would be in on the conversations in the White House. I handled, and helped draft the Peace Corps [Act], and you could know where he wanted to go with that. I helped draft that, and then I was the co-manager of the passage of the Peace Corps [Act] on the floor. There's a picture there, with the pen and all, of the signing.

And I also introduced and managed the bill creating the arms control agency [Arms Control and Disarmament Agency]. So, on matters like that, Kennedy was for real, in the question of America's role internationally. And of course, he did give hope to all the young people. And all of the people around the world who had fought in the war, it was sort of our turn to be on the stage, and in that way, he truly was a leader of the world's hope. And the new generation was aware of the problems and were intelligent enough and courageous enough to want to try and solve those problems while America still had its leadership role, and while people still really looked up to the United States. And he was ideal for that period, there was no question about it.

The Day the President Was Shot

Question: Who do you think was behind the Kennedy assassination?

Gallagher: I am convinced, I was convinced from the day after—in fact there's a story right there, that you can work in there: The day that the President was killed, I was in my office, and Bob Michel, who became Republican Minority Leader, his office was next door to mine. And he ran into my office and he says, "The President has been shot." And I didn't have a radio, we didn't have radios in there, and I went over to Bob's office, listening to what was going on. And you know, I'd been shot a couple of times, so I didn't really think

this tough guy was going to be dead! I said, I was kidding, I said, “Well, jeez, it looks like we’re going to win this election.” You know, it was a little like the Reagan thing, later on.

But then, as I was there, my secretary came in and said, “Speaker McCormack would like you come over to his office right away.” I was sort of a protégé of the Speaker in those days. And then I went over to the Speaker’s office, and there were a lot of people milling around, and I said to him, I said—a lot of reporters were there—I said, “You got to give some kind of a statement here.” And of course, he was really—he didn’t know what the hell was going on, whether the President was dead or whatever the hell it was. So, I sort of draft up, dictate a statement from the Speaker to his secretary. While we’re working on it, one of the other secretaries came out and said, “President’s dead.”

And of course, that changed the whole game.

Now, the Secret Service and everybody starts showing up in the Speaker’s office, because he’s next in line. We don’t know whether there’s some kind of big conspiracy going on, and so I stayed there, and we waited now to see what was going on next. And then, the word came through, as to what time the plane would come in. And so, I went out, and the Speaker asked me to drive out to the airport with him. And we went out with Carl Albert, the new Majority Leader, and Mr. Roswell from Georgia, and we went out and waited for the plane to come in with the President’s body.

So there’s a story there, “where were you that day,” you know. In fact, when we got out there, there’s some colonel had set up some microphones and told the Speaker that when the plane came in, this was where the new President would come over. And then I looked over to my left, and I see this guy walking up and down, next to a tanker there, a gasoline truck—and it was Bobby Kennedy, all by himself.

So I went over, and then, he’s walking up and down, so I walk up and I put my arm around him, and we walked up and down for a while. And, what the hell



President John F. Kennedy viewed it as one of his great responsibilities to reduce Cold War tensions in an atmosphere of great fear over a possible nuclear war. Here he delivers his State of the Union address to Congress, Jan. 11, 1962.

could you say. And the only thing I remember him saying, a couple things, he says, “that old man’s hand is in this someplace [referring to J. Edgar Hoover], I don’t know.” And I didn’t want to press him, because he was crying. And so then, we just kept walking up and down, and then they got notified the plane was coming in. And then, I went back over to see if Mr. McCormack was all right, and then the plane came in. And somehow or other, I never figured out how they did it, but Bobby got on that damned plane and walked off with Jackie Kennedy and the casket.

And then the new President came over, and the new game was on.

Who Killed JFK?

The day after the President was killed, I remember making notes—I don’t even know where the hell they are now—I was convinced that if there was a conspiracy, there was only one group that could have brought it off, and that was Hoover. And Hoover hated the Kennedys. He thought the both of them were national security threats, they were too young. And most of all, they didn’t like each other, and Hoover was very protective of his goddamned job.

I never could figure out whether or not he really set up Oswald or not. But I became convinced as time went on, that, it’s hard to bring back those days, but

everybody was communist-happy in those days. I mean, there were Communists under the rug, under your bed, and all over! And this guy, Lee Harvey Oswald had been to Russia. He had been a Marine. He came back. No one ever went into the Russian Embassy—and this came out in the papers when Drew Pearson was a writer in those days, a muckraker—anybody who went into the Russian Embassy, [from] across the street, the FBI was taking pictures of everybody. And everybody who went into the Russian Embassy was investigated.

So here you had a guy who came back from Russia, was known to the FBI, went to the FBI! The FBI investigated him, and was unleashed, and nobody knew what the hell was going on! And yet, there's no way that the FBI could not have been monitoring Lee Harvey Oswald, all the time. Because they monitored everybody! It was an employment thing for FBI agents too—"another guy went into the embassy, put two more agents on him." Everybody was bugged and monitored.

And as it went on, then [there was] the Clay Shaw group down there, that he was obviously involved with.

Here you had, really, a group of goddamned people who had discussed killing the President of the United States! Of which a guy by the name of Oswald was familiar to them on it, and he met with them!

FBI Cover-up

And yet, the FBI found no conspiracy. And they try to make it a joke, that it was just a group of homosexuals down there, playing games about what they'd do with the President if they killed him, because he was such a sex symbol, you know. It was a joke around in those days, that they tried to belittle the Clay Shaw group. And yet, there's no question in my mind that the Clay Shaw group, and this was what [Congressman Hale] Boggs insisted on, that he didn't understand it at that moment, why he wanted to open up [re-open] the Warren Commission.

Because there was no question, that group did discuss it. Oswald was in touch with them, and the President was killed! And they got all of these connections, and yet, nobody wanted to take a look. And when you got a spooky son of a bitch like Shaw involved in the middle of this, from his background, there was no way to know whether they set up, gave him the gun or not, who the hell knew?

But I always thought, there was one thing that I'm sure about, and everybody else was, in that period: Hoover knew every goddamned thing that was going on, everywhere! Our Congress was bugged. I hired a guy from the White House, the guy named Captain Hartnett, he was a Signals officer. The Speaker asked me to find somebody to see whether our offices were being bugged, because we knew they were being bugged.

We took a guy from the Signals office of the White House, he was an Army captain, and we hired him in the Clerk's office, to see what we could do about bugging the Congressional offices. And the conclusion was, there's nothing you can do about it, because the same people that are debugging are the people who were putting the bugs in anyhow, on us. So it was so bad! And the FBI was behind all of this.

And so Hoover had to know what—well, he knew what everybody was doing; that's a general statement, but interesting people. But they had to know what this guy from Russia, running around, Lee Harvey Oswald, they had to know what he was doing. I always thought that Hoover and his special group removed all the opposition: Like in a football game, take out all the defenders and walk into the goal line.

Only Hoover's Group Could Have Killed the President

I think that's exactly what the hell happened, and if there was a conspiracy, only Hoover and his special group could have killed the President. And to this day, I feel that that's what happened. Even more so today, when I think the killing of the President was the perfect sting; that now, just like yesterday, they'll get some damned moron and surround him with informers and FBI agents, tell him how they can get a 1,000 pound bomb ... how would an ignorant moron like that guy they captured yesterday know where to buy a 1,000 pound bomb? And the guy who parked his car in New York: The whole security apparatus today, relies on these stings, where they get these moronic guys who say, "Yeah I wanna blow this up, I wanna blow that up." Before you know it, a whole tantrum: "Oh, you want to blow something up? We'll show you where to blow it up. We'll show you how to buy the truck, where to park the truck ..."

Back in the first bombing of the World Trade Center, you had an Egyptian colonel that they inserted into



New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. Hale Boggs, who had been on the Warren Commission, became convinced that the destruction of Garrison was based on the fact that Garrison was right, there was a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.

those guys who blew that up at that time. The FBI gave them a million bucks! One million dollars, and showed them how to make bombs, and rent the farm here in New Jersey, rent a Ryder trucker. The colonel disappears and they blow up the basement of the World Trade Center in, when was that? In '93 or something; whenever it was, before the main one.

So the whole underground spook apparatus is based on stings and informants, and I am convinced to this day that Oswald became the designated patsy. Whether he wanted to kill the President or not, who the hell knows? Did he kill the President? He probably did. But was the way paved for him? Was the set-up with Jack Ruby another way that put closure to the whole damned thing? They get a wacko groupie, a cop groupie like Jack Ruby . . . Jerry O'Leary—he was a reporter for the *Washington Star*—won a Pulitzer Prize for [his coverage of] the killing of Lee Harvey Oswald. When the *Life* stories come out, Jerry O'Leary came up to my house here, and spent three days with us, wanting to know about these *Life* stories, and we became very good friends. And I said, "How the hell did you get into that tunnel, or whatever the hell it was, to be next to Jack Ruby?" He said, "Deke DeLoach put me there." He said, "We were neighbors in Virginia and I knew him very well."

And Jerry got a lot of good stories through the FBI. He was one of those guys that they leaked to. He was good writer, and he was a good guy!

When we see how well these stings are carried out

today, people didn't understand stings in those days. But the killing of the President, in my mind, was the perfect goddamned sting, and only Hoover and those guys, the tight guys around him, would know that.

The Jim Garrison Investigation

Question: Did you ever speak with Jim Garrison about the JFK assassination?

Gallagher: I didn't have a deep discussion with Garrison on the issues, but we did talk generally about the assassination, and about this Clay Shaw group, and that these guys were in his area. A conspiracy would have been a conspiracy any place in the country, and any district attorney could have made a conspiracy charge. Yet, they were disparaging Garrison, that he didn't have jurisdiction, and what the hell was he doing, and this was a group of homos, and why are they taking it seriously, and things like this.

The Warren Commission

But by this time, Hale [Boggs] was taking such a beating, like I was taking from the FBI, that he really now began to totally believe that it was all a set-up. If you looked at the Warren Commission, it was the Chief Justice [Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court], and then it was [former World Bank President] John J. McCloy, the chairman of the board, and Allen Dulles [fired by Kennedy as Director of Central Intelligence]. From the House, it was Gerry Ford and Hale, and then John [Sherman] Cooper and McClellan [actually Richard Russell—ed.] from the Senate. That was the committee.

Now, the Chief Justice really never got involved in it. By that time, he was a little shaky, to tell you the truth. I knew him, he was a nice man, but it was inconceivable to him, at that point in his life, to think anything was going on.

McCloy is the guy who did all the work and he wrote the opinion, along with the support of Dulles. And I asked President Johnson one time, "How did you come to put Allen Dulles on there, who was an enemy of Kennedy's?" And he just avoided the whole question. And we were pretty friendly, Johnson and I. But he just avoided the whole question.

But again, if Hoover didn't set this whole thing up, then there was only one other guy who could have done it! And that was Allen Dulles! Because Allen Dulles' job, in Europe during World War II was to run assassination committees, groups, all around Europe, when he

was head of the OSS [CIA predecessor organization] over there. So, to this day, I can't understand why they put Dulles on there, because at that time, he was fired, he was an enemy of Kennedy, more than the Cubans did, because he fired him from CIA.

So, there was so much mysterious stuff that went on during that thing! It just couldn't be that there was nothing else to it. There was so much intrigues spinning around, Hoover and the special group.

The Legacy of the JFK Assassination

Question: What was the legacy of the JFK assassination?

Gallagher: Well, the effect of it was, I think it associated with raising questions, deep questions that we had ignored, about the meaning of life, the mortality, and the shortness of life, the quickness of it. Why hope, why plan, when a guy like Kennedy who had it all going for him, could be wiped out in

Question: When a President could be killed.

Gallagher: Yes, yes. Not only a President, but *that* President! Who was strong, good-looking, had everything going for him. And all the money, and the life—and all the girls, and everything else he might have wanted! But with that particular President, who, when he became President, inspired hope not only in this country and among all the young people, the new generation, the people who were not only in the war generation, but the *younger* people! With the Peace Corps, and that their voices would be heard. And there was a place for them to say things and study, and a reason to live and have a place to participate in their government and in their future! I think that was all wrapped up in Kennedy, and I think it was all blown apart when Kennedy was killed.

How does it compare today? I don't sense that there is that sense of commonality, that existed during that period, among people today.

Part II: The Privacy Committee, J. Edgar Hoover, and the Control of Congress

In 1962, Congressman Gallagher, whose passion was foreign affairs, found himself confronted with

widespread screenings, polygraphs, and personality tests being conducted on Americans by the FBI and CIA.

My Government Is Doing Terrible, Terrible Things

Gallagher: My office was very close to the public entrance, the street entrance to the Capitol there, and I heard this woman screaming, and she was getting in an argument with the police officer by the door, and she was yelling, "I want to see a congressman! I want to see a congressman!"

This woman had her daughter with her, who had gone down for an interview for a clerk/typist or clerk/receptionist and had had to go through a lie detector test, and they were asking all about her religion, all about her sex life, and all of this stuff. And then when she didn't have an interesting sex life—she was only 17—then the operator asked her, "Well, are you some kind of lesbian? You sleep with girls?" like this. And she broke and ran home to mama.

Mama ran up looking for a congressman. I said, "I'm a congressman. Which congressman do you want?" And she didn't care who it was. And really, I have four daughters, and it just triggered something in me that, "Jesus, can our government be possibly doing this sort of stuff to people?" And as a result, I wrote every agency in our government, asking "Are you giving lie detector tests? For what purpose, where are the funds coming from? What's the training?" And that's really how it all started.

Then there was press on it. I got a hearing held on this, and in the course of about three or four months, I must have got about 28,000 letters . . .

Question: Really!

Gallagher: They were coming in with duffle bags full of mail.

Question: Twenty-eight thousand letters of people who said this is . . .

Gallagher: Abuses of the government . . .

Question: Wow.

Gallagher: . . . and different things. And really, that really woke me up, you know, about all of these things that were going on, that I never even thought about. I was just a little congressman, thinking it was all on the level, from Bayonne! And all of a sudden, I see my government is doing all of these terrible, terrible things!

‘Mr. Hoover Is Protecting Us’

Then, as a result of that, I went over to the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and suggested that they look into this. And they wanted nothing to do with it. But again, I spoke to the Chairman of the Government Operations Committee, and said, “Somebody ought to look into this.”

And, well, to make a long story short, we held a hearing on it, and as a result, there were thousands of letters came in from the publicity of the hearing, that they were bringing letters in, of government abuses of various people that were going on under our nose, that none of us really were looking at. And one of the letters—I’d read some of the more abusive letters that were coming in—was a woman who went to confession; she was a Catholic. And after she finished her confession, somebody propositioned her. And when she said, “I’m not kind of a girl,” he then played back her confession. He had bugged the confessional with a parabolic mike!

Again, I was outraged at this sort of thing, being in the Congress, that we’re not watching what is really going on, and what’s happening to the civil liberties of our people, and the effect that the new technologies were having on our society. I ran over and I saw Cardinal Spellman, who I had been introduced to by Roy Cohn at a luncheon some time earlier. And I told him, I said, “I have four daughters, they go to confession regularly,” it’s a sacrament of the Catholic Church. I’m a Catholic. And I said, “What are we doing to protect our people from this sort of thing?”

And of course, he said, “I wouldn’t worry about it, my son.” I said, “Who *is* worrying about it?” And he said, “Well, probably Mr. Hoover’s protecting us.”

Well, the only people in those days who really had that kind of equipment were the security agencies, including the FBI. So that was not reassuring. . . .

Gallagher’s Subcommittee on Privacy and Constitutional Rights

In the Fall of 1963, the Chairman of the House Committee on Government Operations allowed Gallagher to hold hearings on government intrusion into private lives. In 1964 Gallagher made the use of the polygraphs, clandestine surveillance, illegal wire-tapping, and monitoring, a national issue. Martin Luther King wrote of Gallagher, “Here is a perennial warrior of penetrating intensity . . . who does some-

thing about civil rights rather than merely talk about it.”

His efforts yielded results within three months: The use of lie detection devices was stopped by all government agencies with the exception of the CIA, the Department of Defense, and the State Department. Gallagher was named chairman of a special three-man House Subcommittee on Privacy and Constitutional Rights.

Gallagher: . . . That’s really how I got into the privacy issue, because no one else wanted to look at it. The Judiciary Committee did not want to look at it! Because it bordered on some of the law enforcement agencies.

But my concerns were greater than that, and we were not trying to intrude on the jurisdiction of anybody else. I mean, we held hearings then on personality testing; we held hearings on data banks. We got into the business of the Army surveillance system, where you had the military, in collaboration with the FBI, were now setting up a surveillance system and every county in America was reporting, and the Army had all this computer time, because they had the computers and didn’t know what to do with them, really, in those days.

So law enforcement then cooked up this scheme about the surveillance of civilians, to see whether,—who was a commie next door. And we stirred the pot up a little bit.

Gallagher’s Privacy Committee claimed a victory on June 3, 1966, when his questioning of the Civil Service Commission led to the banning of personality testing in the hiring of employees. That year, his work led to the passage of two important acts of Congress: The Freedom of Information Act and the Credit Reporting Act. He began investigating the plan for a National Data Bank, a central data base of information obtained from illegal wiretaps and other means from more than twenty government agencies.

He first understood the character of what he was taking on when, on March 23, 1966, he found his home broken into and ransacked in FBI fashion.

In mid-September 1966, Hale Boggs told him that Hoover lied to the Warren Commission, that the lone gunman story was a fraud, and that the investigation should be re-opened. Boggs told him, “Hoover and the CIA have bugs planted in the House caucus rooms and most of our offices.”

Congress Bugged

Gallagher: But everybody suddenly is scared of the FBI! Is scared of Hoover, is scared of his spooks, is scared of the various people, are now complaining of their offices being bugged. In fact, I was appointed by the Speaker to head a small, quiet group. We hired away from the White House a Captain Harnett from the Signal Corps; we put him on the Clerk's payroll in order to see how we could protect our offices from being bugged. And of course everybody thought it was Hoover on it, and who could do anything about it? And the report came back, the very people that we would hire to debug, were the people who were bugging! It was a small, closed group.

So, you were doing away with even the *protections* of privacy!

Bobby Kennedy took up the mantle of his late brother and was targeted by Hoover in mid-1967. Gallagher received a call from Roy Cohn well in advance of Bobby's decision to run for President.

Battling Hoover, McCarthy, and Roy Cohn

Gallagher: In those days, by now, the only two who were really battling Hoover, are Hale Boggs and myself. And I didn't volunteer to battle Hoover. You know, when I was a little kid, I thought the Junior G-man was a nice badge that all the kids in the neighborhood could get. And I thought it was all for real.

But now, when I went down to Congress and Roy Cohn, who was a friend of mine—in fact, I represented Roy when he got indicted—he and the whole board of directors of the *Union News* got indicted in New Jersey for distribution of pornographic literature. There was *Confidential* magazine, and another one named *Nugget*—they were bosomy girls, but they were clothed! But they sold them at Newark Airport in a newsstand, and *Union News* had all of these newsstands in the airports, I think.

And they were indicted, and a friend of mine who was a federal judge, a guy named Coulihan, asked me if I would meet Roy Cohn, at the Al Smith Dinner in New York; it was at the Statler Hotel.



J. Edgar Hoover's agent, Roy Cohn (right), seen here in his role as aide to Sen. Joe McCarthy (left), 1954.

And I said, "What the hell do I want to meet Roy Cohn for?" Because I hated everything McCarthy stood for; in fact, my political career was nearly ruined early, when I was a Freeholder in Hudson County. It was a pretty big job in those days, and I ran and I was elected, and I was one of the big men, all of a sudden, in Bayonne, my city. Now, I belonged to a parish called St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bayonne, and a group came to me and wanted me to go down to the railroad station and meet Senator McCarthy and introduce him at the communion breakfast.

I said, "Why would I want to go and meet Joe McCarthy?"

He's an Irish Catholic. All Irish Catholics are supposed to be for Joe McCarthy, right?

I said, "That guy is one of the most terrible men, running around this country ruining it, ruining people's lives, and why would he even be coming?" And I refused to go down and meet him—and not only that, I boycotted the communion breakfast! Which, you know, every aspiring politician likes to go to those little rallies, we got a lot of people there.

And so, I said, "I absolutely refuse to go." And I hated everything McCarthy stood for, and I guess it was contrary to what you were supposed to be if you were an Irish Catholic from Bayonne. But I had an innate

feeling against injustice, and that was one of the worst provocateurs of injustice in America in those days, what he was doing.

And Roy was his spokesman. Roy was the guy that ran,— as a very young guy, as a *very* young guy, he was counsel to the McCarthy Committee [the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations], and became famous on TV.

And Roy would get all of this garbage that McCarthy would be waving, about 29 Communists, 72 Communists in the State Department; and Roy, who was a very big favorite of Hoover in those days, because as a very young federal U.S. Attorney, he was one of the trial lawyers of the Rosenberg case. The Rosenbergs were the two spies, Communist spies, that were put to death. That's what made Roy a giant in the Republican conspirator politics.

Now, Roy now became counsel to McCarthy's committee, and all the garbage called "evidence" that McCarthy had, Hoover would give to Roy, and Roy was the chief counsel of the committee. That was the basis of it.

So, I hated Roy, I hated McCarthy, and everybody who was part of it. I was only a little county commissioner in those days; I wasn't in Congress. So, I refused to go to that damned thing with McCarthy. Now, a couple years passed, that's all over, and I'm at this dinner, and this Judge Coulihan asks me, would I meet Roy Cohn upstairs; they had a room upstairs. And I'm, "I don't want to meet that son of a bitch." "C'mon! Do me a favor," and all that . . .

So that's how I meet Roy Cohn, and then Coulihan asked me if I would represent the board of directors, including Roy. Now, on the board of directors was the President of the Bank of New York, Cardinal Spellman's nephew, Morton Downey the singer, very close with Joe Kennedy, I mean, these were really big guys, and I represented them. It was a nothing case, and I tried it and it was thrown out. And I never sent Roy a bill on it.

But we became friends in this period. And he was an engaging guy, he was nuts—Roy was nuts, but he had a good sense of humor, he was funny. And we became friends, we had dinner, and we became friends. And all we'd ever do is scream at each other about McCarthy, and "what the hell this Communist crap you guys are still spreading around . . ."



Neil Gallagher during this September 2014 interview. He represented New Jersey's 13th congressional district, 1959-1973. LPACTV

Cohn Tries to Bribe Gallagher

One day, after I was elected to Congress, he asked me if he could come down to my office and bring somebody with him. This guy was the counsel for the Teamsters. They come in with suitcases, and wanted me to hold a hearing. Now I'm getting pretty well known nationally with the Privacy Committee. And it had nothing to do with law enforcement. I was involved in polygraph, the psychological testing, the MMPI [Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory], whatever the hell you call it, drugging kids [with] Ritalin, the National Data Bank. It really started to grow, about 30, 40 campaigns, the campaign of the Civilian Surveillance System they installed, where the Army was now in law enforcement, involved with the local sheriff and local chief of police, exchanging information, data banks, drugging of kids, all these things. I avoided the law enforcement aspect of it, because that was up to the Judiciary Committee.

Now Cohn comes with Sid Zagri, the guy's name was, Sid Zagri. And they want me to hold a hearing on the law-breaking that the Department of Justice and the IRS were doing, under Bobby Kennedy, as the Attorney General. And man, it was terrible, terrible stuff! They must have had about three or four feet of evidence, of affidavits and all of this. And I'm looking at this stuff, at what the hell our government was doing, and all of a sudden, I'm a little guy, the chairman of a three-man Privacy Committee, with a great budget of \$25,000

bucks, which allowed us to have one man on that committee!

And I'm supposed to be holding a hearing on the Justice Department and the Internal Revenue Service, which were now, I could see, were pitted against the FBI. And they asked me to hold this hearing.

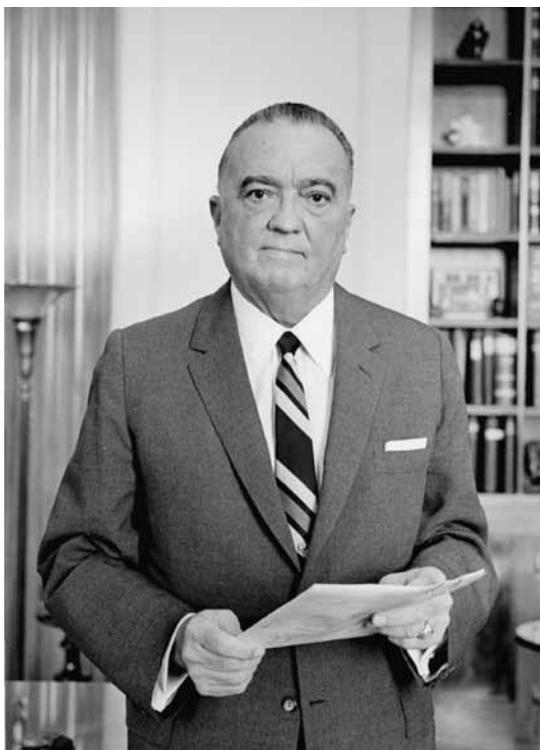
And, I said, "Roy, where the hell did you get this stuff? I mean, this is dynamite!" And he said, "I can't say." I said, "Listen, where the hell did you get it? Or we don't talk any more."

Cohn said, "Mr. Hoover gave this to me. And he would request it as a personal favor, if you would hold these hearings." He didn't like what Bobby Kennedy was doing, what the Justice Department was doing, and the IRS ... and I said, "Roy, I can't get into this kind of stuff. I just will not get into it. First of all, I don't have the jurisdiction, I don't have the staff—and I have no inclination to get involved in a goddamned war between Bobby Kennedy and J. Edgar Hoover. That's way out of my goddamned league. I'm just interested in these little technical devices like computers and things that are having an effect on people's lives in this country."

And then Zagri says, "Well, listen, we'll contribute \$100,000 to your campaign on it." And he says, "You'll have the full support of the Teamsters on it." And I didn't like the way he said it, you know. I said, "Listen Zagri, who the hell are you talking to?" I said, "If I could hold this hearing, and I wanted to, I would. I am not involved in it! So don't you go talking about any \$100,000 bucks or the Teamsters. The Teamsters support me now, in Hudson County, so I don't need you or anybody else!"

He said, "Oh, what're you? You're some kind of a tough guy?"

I said, "No, but I'm not a pushover either. So you



Marion S. Trikosko/U.S. News & World Report Collection, Library of Congress

*J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, 1935-1972. Gallagher on the subject of Hoover: (speaking to Roy Cohn): "And I said, 'F*** you, and f*** Hoover, too!'" That fight resulted from Hoover's 1967 attempt to use Gallagher against Bobby Kennedy's campaign for President, "to blow that son-of-a-bitch out of the water," in Cohn's words.*

stay out of this. And Roy, I'm telling you, I am not doing this!"

Cohn Threatens Gallagher

Roy said, "Mr. Hoover will consider it a personal favor. And if you don't," he said, "then, you're not his friend." I said, "I'm everybody's friend, Roy, but I'm nobody's whore." And so I got rid of it.

That was the first *major* test of a fight with Hoover. Now, Roy was not an easy guy to shake off, and they had a couple other things I refused to do.

Now, Bobby's now running for President—I'm accelerating this—Bobby is now running for President, and Roy comes in—I come back to my office one night, and I'm signing my mail, a big stack of mail, and I see this letter from me to the Attorney General Nick Katzenbach, demanding that he come before my committee and bring with him the transcripts of the bugging of Martin Luther King, and the authorizations for the bugging.

And I said to my secretary, "this is a letter for my signature," I said, "Elizabeth, where the—where the hell did this letter come from?"

And I said to my secretary, "this is a letter for my signature," I said, "Elizabeth, where the—where the hell did this letter come from?"

"Oh," she said, "Mr. Cohn was here, and gave it, and said that you cleared it and would I put it on your stationery for your signature?"

I said, "Get that little son of a bitch on the phone, right now!" And I said, "Roy! Who the Christ do you think you're dealing with? Where'd this letter come ... ?" And then, Roy, when he got nervous, he said, "dit-dit-dit..." [chattering] he used to tawk like dat, that's the way he use to tawk, like dat—you know? He said, "I'll come down there tomorrow, I have to talk to you."

I said, "Roy, you've got to goddamned well talk to me!" And so he comes down the next day, I said, "Who the hell ever gave you permission to dictate a letter

from me?" He said, "Mr. Hoover and I drafted the letter." He said, "Here, Bobby Kennedy's now running for President, and he's helping all the black people, and here, look, look, right here," and he showed me the authorization for the bugging of King, and it's got Bobby's name on it. And he said, "We're going to blow that son of a bitch out of the water."

I said, "You blow anybody you want out of the water!" and I said, "but you're not going to blow me out of the water," and he said, "Well, from Mr. Hoover, this is the last chance you're going to get!"

I said, "Are you threatening me, you little bastard?" And I went over and I grabbed him, and I was about to throw him out of the window, I was so mad by now. And now, he says, and he's running out the door, and he says, "You'll be sorry! Because if you're not their friend, you're Mr. Hoover's enemy." And I said, "F*** you, and f*** Hoover, too!" And I was really angry about that!

But right after, that's when it started, the whole goddamned thing started.

Hoover's Vendetta Against Gallagher

On August 27, 1967, weeks after Gallagher refused to blackmail Bobby Kennedy, Life magazine published an article tying Gallagher to the mob. A week later, Life published another article implying that a body of a Bayonne gambler was hauled out of Gallagher's basement.

Gallagher: But from that day on, Hoover never let up on me. Then they floated those stories in *Life* magazine, about a body in my basement, and it was torture, man, for four years; they never let up.

Meanwhile, members of Congress became more and more aware that they were under surveillance, forcing legislators to meet with Gallagher in secret.

How Congress Became Cowards

Gallagher: It wasn't a question that people didn't want to believe this about Hoover. They feared even talking about it, about Hoover. Hoover was a *cancer* to this country, and he was a cancer to the Congress. You talk about behavioral modification: Hoover modified



Hoover caused wild fabrications smearing Gallagher to appear in Life magazine.

the behavior of the Congress through this guy Deke DeLoach, who was sort of a hit man for Hoover's FBI in the Congress.

He would bring over tapes that they had on various congressmen and said, "We're your friends and we're in your corner," but that meant that they owned them, they owned them. It was tantamount to blackmail. He really was the number three guy in the FBI. And he was the hit man against the Congress. If you stepped out of line, he was the guy that brought you in line over Mr. Hoover. He corrupted more goddamned congressmen than anybody during the Jackson days, okay? But by threat and wiretaps.

An example: I came back one day, and there was Congressman [Peter] Rodino. Rodino was the chairman of the [Nixon] impeachment committee, but he was also chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He was only the number three guy in that thing, and he came over, and he was green. And I said "Peter, what's the matter? Are your eyes bothering you?" He had bad eyes. He says, "No. Deke DeLoach was just in my office." And he says, "Thank God for friends." And DeLoach gives him tapes, and says, "You know, Congressman, we've got these bad guys in Newark saying things about you, how you're selling immigration legislative private bills for \$200—but we don't believe anything like that now. Here, you take these tapes." And he gave them to him. Now, you know from that minute on, they own Rodino, darn it.

Now, I'm curious, because I'm in a war with these

sons of bitches. At least seven or eight people on that Judiciary Committee, the only ones who supervised the,— they had done the same thing with tapes and threats, and whatever the hell it was. So that was DeLoach.

Corruptors of Congress Tied to JFK Assassination

Incidentally, DeLoach is the guy who put Jerry O’Leary, who won the Pulitzer Prize for [the story of] the killing of Lee Harvey Oswald, put him in the tunnel next to Lee Harvey Oswald. And put him next to Jack Ruby, when Lee Harvey Oswald was killed. So this was one of the biggest goddamned operators in the whole spook community.

It was Hoover’s people that got Ruby those credentials. It was Hoover’s people that put Ruby there.

And that was the way that worked in those days. It wasn’t only him. As a result of that, I began to do another little bit of spade work, of how many people were approached in the Congress. Now, most of the members in the Congress had nothing to do with this sort of thing, and they didn’t know it was going on. If you were on the Agricultural Committee and Steering Committee, or whatever it was, you had no reason to know about this. But if you were on the Appropriations Committee, who funded the FBI, or the Justice Department, you were in it! If you were on the Judiciary Committee, or in the top leadership, you came under their umbrella and under their threats.

And there was another very decent man in the Congress, who could have moved up on the committee, but he was the Oversight Committee for the FBI, and he was told, stay where you are. So, if somebody would write in about an abuse of the FBI by Hoover or something, it was referred to his subcommittee. And of course, he being an ex-FBI man himself, that was the end of it! And that’s the way it worked. There was no forum.

I had never really said much before, but, when we were trying to figure out how to debug our offices, and



FBI Special Agent Cartha “Deke” DeLoach. Gallagher: “This guy Deke DeLoach . . . He really was the number 3 guy in the FBI. And he was the hit man against the Congress. He corrupted more goddamned Congressmen than anybody during the [President Andrew] Jackson days, okay? But by threat and wiretaps. DeLoach oversaw the investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King.

what to do about the six or eight cases that we *knew* Hoover was bugging those offices, we had [something] like cells. You wouldn’t have meetings with a lot. You’re talking about maybe three or four people that you trusted, and say, “What in hell can we do about this?” Because there weren’t too many people you could trust there, who had the connections. They were under the gun, or being extorted by Hoover and his guys, to control the Congress! And I’m not exaggerating when I say, “control the Congress”! The top three or four people on that Judiciary Committee, they were owned by Hoover, darn it.

Congress Terrorized

Poor [New York Congressman] Manny Celler was scared to death, as in the case of my personal experience with him in our

Privacy Committee. So, the way that they controlled,— the only guy on that committee that Hoover would ever talk to, in both houses, was John Rooney of New York. He was chairman of the subcommittee on Justice and State Department expenditures. And Hoover would just go into his office, and Rooney would give him 110 percent of everything that he asked for, and thank him very much for the honor of Mr. Hoover appearing before his committee. I mean, they owned John Rooney. But nobody else in Congress, he ever had to report to. Rooney had three men on the committee. One of them died, and a new member, who was a good friend of mine, named John Slack from West Virginia, was appointed, because he had been Attorney General in West Virginia. It was a three-man subcommittee under Rooney.

One day Mr. Hoover came in [to the subcommittee], Rooney was falling all over him, as usual, and then he says to Slack, “Do you have any questions?” And Slack asked Hoover a couple questions, innocuous questions! The next day, Rooney got a hold of me and said, “Hey you and that Slack are friendly, aren’t ya?” I said, “Yeah, we’re friendly.”

“You better warn him: Mr. Hoover wants him to know when he comes before that committee, to keep his goddamned mouth shut!” And he said, “I don’t like the impertinence of him asking me questions in there.” And he said, “If he doesn’t settle down, he’s going to have a lot more trouble in his goddamned district than he can handle!”

That was the way they operated! That was the way they operated: I mean, this is the Congress of the United States! That this terrible man is modifying our behavior and our thinking, and our ability to protect the people that elected us!

Attacks on Gallagher Escalate

Gallagher’s victories continued: In July 1968, he exposed the danger of a National Data Bank plan, comparing it with Hitler’s census. Gallagher asked President Johnson to stop its implementation and the next day it was killed. Days later, he spotted a man sitting outside his house, pointing a parabolic microphone in his direction.

Weeks after the June 6, 1968 assassination of Bobby Kennedy, Life magazine published another article, this time claiming that Gallagher personally removed a dead body from his basement. Roy Cohn then delivered another message to Gallagher.

Gallagher: Now I win the [Democratic] primary, and now, I’ve got four months to go before the election, which, if you win the nomination, normally, you would win in Hudson County, it’s Democratic.

So now, I get a call from my lawyer in the middle of this war, and he says “Neil, you’ve got to meet me at Newark Airport, right away, right away!”

“I’m in Washington.” He says, “You got to do this, please.” So I say, “Okay, I’ll grab the shuttle.” And I go to grab the shuttle, and I meet Larry Weichsel [as heard—ed.], a good friend of mine, and with him is Roy Cohn, and they were friends—I knew they were friends, in fact that’s probably how I met Larry—and a good friend of mine, named Neil Walsh. And they said they had just had a meeting in New York with Deke DeLoach, Cartha DeLoach.

Larry says, “Neil, I hate to tell you this, but you really have got to resign.” I said, “Why do I have to resign? I just won the goddamned primary after all these *Life* stories and all.”

He says, “Well, if you don’t resign, Mr. Hoover wants you out of Congress in seven days. And if you don’t resign in seven days, there’s going to be another

story in *Life* magazine, about your wife.” And this supposed body in my basement, darn it, that he died sleeping with my wife. And he was living in my house five days a week, and died of a heart attack having intercourse with my wife. And my whole family’s a bunch of goddamned pigs, I got four daughters, my mother-in-law lives with me, and my wife, and now, they’re going to put another *Life* story in, about this.

So, and then Roy is with them, confirming it. Neil Walsh, who is a good friend of mine, he’s confirming that he was at the meeting, and that DeLoach said this.

Well, by now—I don’t care what the hell they’re saying about me, it’s politics—but now picking on my wife, who was a lovely, lovely woman, and my four daughters, who are all “a bunch of goddamn pigs.” I said, OK.

Gallagher Sticks it to Cohn and Hoover

So then the next day, I’m up here in Jersey and I met Roy in New York, and I said, “Roy, I want you to check this letter.” And he said “Neil, you’re doin’ the right thing, I know Ricky”—and he did, he knew my wife, we were social friends by that time. And he said “you’re doing the right thing resigning.” I said, “Roy, you just check this,” I said, “You’re a pretty smart guy. And just check it for grammar and punctuation, see if there’s anything wrong with it.” And he reads it, and he throws it up in the air and he screams, “God! You can’t say this, you can’t say this kinda stuff!” And I said, “It’s a letter—now, here’s the speech I’m making,” I said, “because I’ve got three more months left in Congress, even if I lose the November election.” And every day, every congressman can make a speech at 12 o’clock noon-time, and insert speeches, revise and extend their remarks. And I said, “I am making that goddamned speech every single day.”

And the speech was, “I am no judge of any person’s sexual mores, or sexual proclivities,” and I said “if two people of the same sex figure that’s the way they want to live their lives, that is not up to me to judge them. But,” I said, “on the other hand, the Director J. Edgar Hoover, and the Deputy Director, Clyde Tolson,” I said, “have spent 31 years together, having dinner and breakfast every single day of their lives. And now they go around the country, always go to some racetrack together, and they have armored cars picking them up, and all of this is done at government expense.

“Now, their sex lives is no great interest to me—



Gallagher threatened to turn the tables on Hoover and his sex partner, Associate FBI Director Clyde Tolson.

though it is an interesting sex life—but I’m not judging them. But I do feel, as a member of the Government Operations Committee, that we have to look into this whole thing and hold a hearing, as to why these expenditures by the FBI should be paying for these two men to be living in the same hotel rooms at night, going to the race tracks together (which they did), and wearing the same hats. I don’t know if the Government Operations Committee is paying for the hats or not.” And I really stuck it to ’em.

And Roy’s going crazy! He said, “Jesus Christ! You can’t say this kinda stuff about Mr. Hoover!” I said, “Why not?” He said, “Well, where’d ya get all of this?” I said, “you know, Roy, this has been around a long time!” And I said, “So I’m just putting together a lot of the stories that I’ve heard about these two guys for a long time.” And he said, “yooooooooo ca-can’t say that!”

“Well,” I said, “I’ll make it up, like they made up with the *Life* stories.” I said, “I have the privilege, and that I can say any goddamned thing I want. And every day between now and next January, when my term ends, I will be making this goddamned speech, with additional facts—or fictions—it doesn’t make a goddamned difference to me! But I will drive that old bastard into a heart attack, long before I finish Congress. And you can go and tell ’em: If I hear one goddamned

word, about my wife or anything! So I’m not resigning!”

And Roy said, “You think I’m crazy?! To tell Mr. Hoover this?” I said, “Oh yeah, I forgot to tell you, Roy.” I said, “I have an addendum to that letter: “I asked Mr. Roy Cohn to check this for accuracy—the good friend of Mr. Hoover to check my speech as to accuracy, if there’s anything in there that’s untrue. And I’d appreciate very much if Mr. Cohn would point these out. Mr. Cohn failed to deny it, and therefore I add this to the speech.” He said, “You son of a bitch!”—he’s going all crazy.

And I said, “What’s gonna happen after you’re in there that you didn’t help your buddy Hoover, now? Right? When I

make these speeches?”

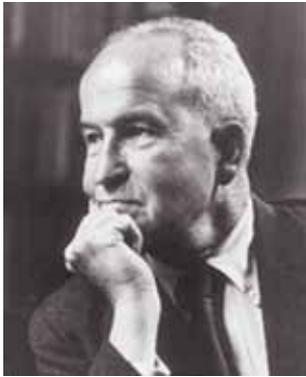
So, that’s how the hell I got them to back off. Anyhow, the next day, I’m up in the country—we had a house over,— about 20 miles from here. They fly a guy up, an FBI guy that I knew. “Mr. Hoover wants to know why you’re mad at him.” I said, “Jim, you’re kidding! That son of a bitch, after all those stories!” He said, “Well, what can we do?” I said, “Jim, I’m not telling you what you can do and what you can’t do. But I just want to tell you one thing, if I hear one goddamned word out of that old bastard about my wife or about my kids,” I said, “he’s finished!” And I said, “I am going to make this speech starting Monday, when the House comes into session.”

“Oh, wait, wait, wait!” and he said, “what if I get him to back off?” I said, “I don’t give a shit whether he backs off or he doesn’t back off.” I said, “This is what I’m doing.”

Anyway, to make the long story short, they got the Speaker and everything, and Hoover backs off: They put out denials about the body in the basement, and all that kinda stuff. But then Nixon got in, and the whole thing started all over again.

The Trail of the Assassins

In 1968 Gallagher was uncovering the most damning secrets of all. His investigations led into govern-



Harvard University Archives

Dr. Henry Alexander Murray, Harvard psychologist. Gallagher: "Harvard was getting more money from the DIA and CIA ... doing these experiments on people ... [T]here was a Dr. Murray, who knew how to get all of these grants ... to make more perfect assassins and spies. ... [T]hey would take these young geniuses and give them \$15 a week, to become subjects ... One of them was Kaczynski ..."



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Booking photo of mathematics professor Theodore Kaczynski, the Unabomber, arrested in 1996 after an 18-year career as a terrorist who killed and maimed in his back-to-nature campaign against industrialization.

ment programs for behavioral modification, hypnosis, and other forms of manipulation of the men who assassinated the Kennedy brothers and Martin Luther King.

Gallagher: So, there was so much of this that was going on! And nobody wanted to do anything about it. Or it wasn't that they didn't want to do anything about it, it was—there was no official forum to consider these things, like the National Data Bank. I think I held some 22, 23 various hearings on this, including what was going on up at Harvard, where Harvard was getting more money from the Defense Intelligence Agency and the CIA than they were getting [from] tuition during those days—doing these experiments on people—the [Timothy] Leary experiments, the [B.F.] Skinner experiments; Skinner, who raised his child in his box, got a \$3 million grant from the government, to do studies on behavioral modification.

Question: Really?

Gallagher: In fact, one of the fallouts of some of these Harvard studies was, there was a Dr. [Henry Alexander] Murray, who knew how to get all of these grants on the drugging and the modification of the mind, in order to make more perfect assassins and spies. One of

the abortions of that program, was where they would take these young geniuses and give them \$15 a week to become subjects of his experiments. One of them was [Theodore] Kaczynski the Unabomber! And I think there were five or six of these super-intelligent mathematicians—I think one or two of them committed suicide; Kaczynski became the mad Unabomber. And I think the only one that survived is a dishwasher out there in, last I looked at it, in California.

But all of these things were going on at Harvard, and the Leary drug experiments were going on. As part of that, somebody was thrown out of the window in New York [Dr. Frank Olson]. He was one of the leaders of one of these programs, who fell out of the window.

I mean, there were so many things going on below the surface of what we thought was the Great American Way, and here was Congress, really, didn't want to see it.

All of these people, who killed the three of them, all of them denied it, and it was consistent with the studies that were going on, and the experiments that were going on up there in Harvard, in making assassins and making spies and making different soldiers. I think it was Henry Murray, the Murray experiments were to produce *exactly* those kind of people! Which is where Kaczynski the Unabomber,— he was one of the abortions of it!

So, nobody wants to make that connection, that we really *built* people to do things like that. But the connection was there. We spent millions of dollars in grants up in the Harvard studies, to create people that would do those kinds of things, and not know it! Sure! But nobody paid any attention to it. I've never seen anybody else make the connection on it. Hale Boggs was convinced it was a conspiracy, but Hale didn't make the connection with the Harvard studies, where we were *producing*, we were *experimenting* to make those kind of robotic soldiers, of the mind or something. I made that connection. Nobody paid any attention to it!

Hale Boggs' Mission to Dump Hoover

In April 1971, Congressman Hale Boggs met again with Gallagher, telling him the repairman found his phone bugged. The next morning Hale Boggs called for Hoover's resignation on the floor of the Congress.

"The time has come for the Attorney General to ask for [Hoover's] resignation. When the FBI taps the telephones of members of this body and the Senate, it stations agents on campuses, when the FBI adopts the tac-

tics of the Soviet Union and Hitler's Gestapo, it is time, it is way past time, Mr. Speaker, that the present director no longer be the director. I ask again now that you have enough courage to demand the resignation of this man." —Hale Boggs

Boggs' mission to bring down Hoover was in parallel with his attempt to re-open the investigations into the assassinations of the Kennedys and Martin Luther King.

Gallagher: Well, by this time, Boggs now sees me as an ally and we were friends. There was a possibility that if Hale moved, I was going to be House Whip in a leadership role down there. [Boggs was House Majority Whip, 1962-1971; in 1971 he moved up to House Majority Leader. —ed.]

Now, Hale Boggs started to make speeches about this [the assassination investigations], too. And Hale Boggs, by this time,— he had been one of the seven people on the Warren Commission, that held a hearing on the Kennedy assassination.

Now, he and Jim Garrison were classmates in law school. They were from Louisiana. Hale was from there, and Garrison. Hale became convinced that there was a little razzmatazz went on, and that the very issues that might bring the truth out on the assassination were obscured. He then talked about re-opening the Warren Commission. Hale became quite adamant about it, and he was convinced that the destruction of Jim Garrison was based on the fact that Garrison was *right*, there was a conspiracy, and that conspiracy to assassinate the President took place within his jurisdiction.

And frankly, if you look at conspiracy indictments today, that would have been a home run, and an easy one.

In a 1992 interview, Edward Haggerty, the Judge in the Clay Shaw trial, said of Shaw: "I believe he was lying to the jury. . . . I think Shaw put a good con job on the jury."

The JFK Cover-up

Gallagher: But no one wanted to get involved, and finally Garrison brought the charges against Clay Shaw, that Clay Shaw group. And to this day, it remains a mystery: Here you had this group down there, everybody admits they discussed killing the President. Everybody admits that Lee Harvey Oswald and [David] Ferrie, the



In April 1971 Hale Boggs—then House Majority Leader—called for Hoover's resignation from the floor of Congress. He sought to re-open the investigations of the assassinations of JFK, RFK, and MLK. In October 1972, the plane in which Boggs was traveling disappeared in Alaska.

pilot with the red wig, flew to Cuba. Nobody doubts that Oswald was under the surveillance of the FBI from the day he came back [from Russia]. And yet, how could he have done all of this without maybe the path being cleared for him.

And I think Hale now began to feel this way. Hale was battered around very badly by Hoover and DeLoach, like I was. And Hale nearly had a breakdown as a result of it.

On April 26, 1971, Gallagher's Subcommittee on Privacy was shut down. He directed his efforts toward drafting a bill that would create a permanent committee. On the day that Gallagher brought his Privacy Bill to the House on February 8, 1972, Hoover intervened.

Gallagher: So, this was a bipartisan effort: Before I even started this, I went to Gerry Ford, who was then Minority Leader, who was one of the most decent men ever in the goddamned Congress, or ever in the White House, incidentally. And because, now, since I was getting a lot of press on this stuff, so every day, when there would be a roll call, different members of the Congress would be coming up and saying, "Neil, Jesus, this happened to my city, or this happened to my town." Or, "listen to this story" or . . . so I was being inundated with this stuff!

I went over to Gerry, and I said, "Gerry, talk to your guys! I mean, we really should do something about

this! The Judiciary Committee won't touch it, but," I said, "we're living in a new world! An evolutionary world of technology, that's affecting the democratic process! People's lives!" And Gerry agreed with it. We worked on that, I don't know, for several months, and we come up with a bill—bipartisan; he said he'd support it. And I worked out with Manny Celler, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, that they had certain reservations on turf grounds, jurisdictional grounds, and we worked the whole thing out, and that's how we obtained a rule, to bring the bill to the floor—in itself it was a great accomplishment, even to get the rule on it. And that included old Judge goddamned Smith down there in Virginia, and we really had good bipartisan support for all of this.

More Blackmail

So, the day the bill came up, we're ready to start the debate, and it's going to go through because we've got all the votes we need. And Celler came over to me and he said, "Neil, I'm sorry." I said, "What do you mean, you're sorry?" He said, "I have to break my word, and I don't like to break my word." I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "I have to oppose it, on jurisdictional grounds." He said, "The committee's going to oppose it." I said, "How the hell could you do this, at the last minute? We're on the floor here!" He said, "I got a personal call from Mr. Hoover. I'm telling you why! Because I like you, and like this idea."

He said, "I got a personal call this morning from Mr. Hoover who said that if I do not oppose that bill on jurisdictional grounds, that they're going to indict my brother." Because they had a law practice in New York; on one door was the brother, and the other was Manny. So he said, "I *have* to oppose it." He said, "I hope you understand." I said, "Well, I understand what you're



White House/Cecil W. Stoughton

The Warren Commission was controlled by Allen Dulles (third from right) and John J. McCloy (extreme left). On the far right, Hale Boggs. Gallagher: "If Hoover didn't set this whole thing up, then there was only one other guy who could have done it! And that was Allen Dulles! Because Allen Dulles' job in Europe during World War II was to run assassination committees."

saying, but," I said, "it's incomprehensible to me, that something like this could happen in the goddamned Congress."

And I think they had 36 members in that committee: Only four of them voted for my bill, and the rest of them . . . opposed. So, there was no way we could pass on the bill.

And I'll never forget, Gerry Ford coming over and saying, "Neil," he said, "I gave you my word I was going to support the bill." He said, "It's going down." He said, "You want me to vote for it, I'll keep my word and I'll vote for it, but," he said, "if you want to relieve me of my word, it will help me in my district if I oppose the bill rather than to vote for it." That's a law enforcement kind of thing.

I said, "No, it's going down, what the hell's the difference?" And he did, which I always remember that. It was a wonderful gesture.

And that was the *last* attempt, to set up *any* kind of a permanent committee, that would consider the impact of the new technology on the civil liberties of the American people, and their civil rights. We were talking

about civil rights, but at the same time, we were taking away the rights of *everybody* during those days, in a nice, quiet manner, by nobody accepting responsibility for the dehumanization that was going on, on the personal lives of everybody in the country.

Gallagher Indicted, Fights Back

On April 10, 1972, a federal grand jury indicted Gallagher on charges of conspiracy, perjury, and federal income tax evasion.

Gallagher went to the floor of the Congress and, for the first time, put forward the details of the filth thrown at him under orders from Hoover, the origin of the Life magazine articles, the broad intimidation of Congress, and the incredible revelations that had been presented to his subcommittee regarding U.S. Army, FBI, and CIA abuses of constitutional rights against Americans. He called for Hoover's resignation, or firing.

Months later, on October 18, 1972, it was reported that the plane carrying Hale Boggs had disappeared in Alaska.

No one in Congress questions his five years of trying to expose the JFK assassination.

He had become the House Majority Leader of the U.S. Congress.

Boggs Disappeared

Gallagher: I always thought they blew the plane up. I always thought that. Because Hale was starting to make a lot of noise, like I did, although he was a more serious guy, because he had been on the Warren Commission. He came back, and wanted to re-open the Warren Commission, and then this plane mysteriously blew up. And those guys were not against things like that.

Did somebody blow his goddamned plane up? Why not! They couldn't shut him up! They shut me up! They dismembered my seat in the Congress: They indicted me—there was never any corruption, or payoffs, or bribes, or anything. The judge said that. They indicted me, and the next day, they dismembered my Congress-



Congress was “a willing victim” of FBI corruption, “because everybody was scared, because the New York Times v. Sullivan case said you can lie about politicians. They eliminated all slander and libel laws. That became the threat to democracy, where elected officials were now frail vessels. . . .”

sional District; I had five cities. They gerrymandered me out of Congress, and gave each one of my cities to an incumbent. How the hell could you beat an incumbent on it, when you only have one little city on it?

They never let up on Hale Boggs either, never! And to this day, nobody knew what the hell blew up Hale Boggs' plane either. But Hale was a bigger threat to them than I was, because he was Majority Leader, and Hale's plane mysteriously blew up in Alaska. So there were very, very strange things going on this country, below the level of appearances.

Congress a Willing Victim

And the congress was a *victim* of it! A willing victim, because everybody was scared, because the *New York Times v. Sullivan* case said you can lie about politicians. They eliminated all slander and libel laws. This put another great tool in the hands of law enforcement. Because you're an agent at one desk, you can write an anonymous letter to me at the next desk. That's enough to start an investigation on somebody. And that's the way it worked. And then you could leak that there's an investigation going on to *Life* magazine or *Look* magazine, or somebody like that. That became the *threat* to democracy, where elected officials were now frail vessels, where with the slightest opposition to an agency, that agency could leak a story out to the

new world of investigative reporters.

Hoover died on May 2, 1972, just two weeks after Gallagher had gone before the House, calling for his impeachment. Despite his death, Boggs inspired Congressmen Allard Lowenstein and Frank Church to re-open the investigation of the assassinations, leading to the 1975 Church Committee on Assassinations and the 1976-1978 House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Days before he was scheduled to testify before the Church Committee on Assassinations in 1975, mobster Sam Giancana was shot and killed, while under FBI protective custody.

Mobster Johnny Roselli was killed shortly after he testified before the House Assassinations Committee in 1976.

George De Mohrenschildt, Oswald's Dallas handler, was killed hours before testifying to the House Committee in 1977.

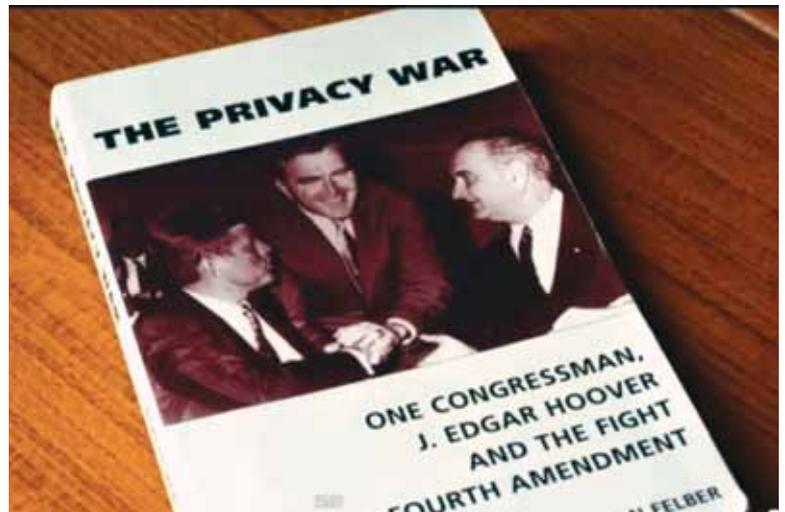
William Sullivan, Hoover's number two man, who headed up the FBI investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy, was shot and killed in 1977, after completing a preliminary meeting with investigators for the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Rep. Allard Lowenstein, Boggs' close collaborator, was shot and killed in 1980.

It Breaks Your Heart

Question: What are your thoughts for today's Congress?

Gallagher: I gave it a try. I gave it a try, and I smashed my whole career, as a result of it. And I'm not sorry! Because, what the hell would be the sense of staying down there, not being able to look in the mirror, or anything. And I think the overall picture, of the emerging of the secret-police apparatus in America, which really came to a head with the Kennedy assassination, is, today, bigger and stronger than ever. And you don't really have a Hoover around today, but you have a heck of a lot of guys with the power that Hoover had, who are a little more quiet and a little more efficient in the exercise of that kind of power. And I worry very much about what the hell's going to happen to this country, unless people become aware of it. The frailty of civilization, and the ability to destroy it is so widespread now. As long as people in the Congress don't raise these questions about the role of the secret govern-



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Gallagher's 2003 biography, by Ron Felber, has been described by reviewers as timely, thoughtful, and perceptive—and a page-turner.

ment in America, or the secret governments in America, or the real role of the secret societies in America—as long as there's no protection for them, they can be destroyed overnight.

So, the power of destroying people is a lot easier even now than it was then. So, in answer to your question, there's a lot of courageous guys down there! I'm sure most of the people who get elected are well intentioned. We're all "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"; you want to do the right thing. I'm speaking about the general people who seek election. They take all the fire you have to take to be in public life, you've got to have something other than collecting money, for fundraising or PACs. You want to make it a little better.

And you get down there, and you know, being a congressman or senator is one of the greatest jobs in the world! I mean, the pay is okay now. You're a celebrity, everybody's "Yes, Congressman. No, Congressman." And "Make way for the Congressman," and all of that, and that's great! Except, you come to a point, where now, you say: "Gee, I'm in this position, I've got what appears to be a lot of power—but I can't do anything about anything!"

Now, it breaks your heart.

It breaks your heart, since you see what has to be done, you're *close* enough to see what has to be done, what *should* be done, what Congress as a whole could do, but can't do any more.

I think the most important lesson is, if you have an issue that's worthwhile going to war about, you better damn well have an army behind you. I didn't.