

This reference is a memo from Mr. Nichols to Mr. Tolson dated 12-19-53 in which he stated that Morris Ernst told him (Mr. Nichols) that he or someone was going to send a letter to the Attorney General and refer to the AG's interview in "Newsweek" Magazine last April dealing with the confidential character of FBI files.

Ernst further stated the ACLU was sending a letter to the AG as a result of his speech before the Bar Association in Boston. Ernst also said there was talk in the ACLU of sending a letter to the Director and the AG but that in the past few days several members of the ACLU Board protested against the letter and he was one of them.

Mr. Nichols advised Ernst there was no point in sending a letter to the Director.

101-4053-1054  
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This reference is a memo dated 2-19-54 from Mr. Nichols to Mr. Tolson in which he stated Morris Ernst returned from Germany on 2-18-54 and called him. Nichols stated the Bureau had seen the "NY Times" ad on Harper's Magazine (subject of 94-3-4-550) article by Alan Barth on "What is Wrong with FBI Reports." Morris was asked if he was still attorney for Harper's to which he answered in the affirmative. Ernst had not read the article but would check immediately and call back. Mr. Nichols stated the day was approaching when the Bureau would want a show down on some of the false representations.

Ernst called Nichols on 2-19-54 and said he had read the article and went into detail about the article.

Ernst also stated in confidence that his son-in-law, Michael Bessie, had wanted the editors of Harpers to send a proof of the article to the Attorney General and the Director for comment prior to publication but that was contrary to Harpers' policy.

(Director's notations).

94-3-4-550-46X  
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