

Morris further told me that he understood the President had recently told a couple of newsmen who had talked to him about the commission concept that they should develop the thoughts that this was a new approach. I told Morris I had heard it had been considered on previous occasions and turned down. I did get from him that one of the newsmen involved was Joseph Harsh of the Christian Science Monitor staff and a CBS commentator.

Ernst then expressed grave concern for the Bureau's future and stated in his opinion, Brownell was going to wreck the Bureau; that he has heard Brownell is now going to make reports available to the chairmen of the various Congressional committees. I told Morris I was not familiar with any such plan and that I did know that only recently, for his strictly personal and confidential information, the Attorney General had declined to make material available to McCarthy and that we confidently expected some public attack on the Department and the Bureau for this. Ernst thought it would be the best thing in the world that could happen because people now have the idea that FBI reports no longer have the bond of sanctity they once had.

Morris then made quite a point out of the Attorney General briefing the February 1st summary to the White House in the Harry Dexter White case. I told Ernst while we, of course, were not taking sides, the fact remained that the consequences of Tom Clark's unleashing the 26 individual reports, making full text available, was far more disastrous than what had taken place. I think Ernst had forgotten about this.

Ernst then stated he had made great inroads in certain liberal circles for wiretapping legislation in that he would place the responsibility in the Attorney General, but that he has now just about reversed his thinking and was of the opinion the Supreme Court should appoint a proctor who would issue the authority. He, of course, agrees that the district judges should not have the authority.

He talked about a debate he was going to have with Ferdinand Pecora tonight on the subject of wire tapping. We were unable to find anything for tonight in the radio columns at the time Morris indicated he was to have this debate.