FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT: AYN RAND

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
On August 16, 1943, AYF RAND, a well-known novelist and author of the best seller "The Fountainhead," who lives at 10,000 Tampa Street, Chatsworth, California, was interviewed on another matter at Warner Brothers motion picture studios in Hollywood, California, where Miss RAND's novel mentioned above is currently being produced.

Miss RAND received international publicity when she testified before the House Un-American Activities Committee hearings dealing with Communist infiltration of the motion picture industry which were held in Washington, D.C., in October 1947. Miss RAND received additional similar publicity when she was awarded an American Legion citation of honor during the early part of 1948 in Hollywood. She is of the opinion that the letter described below and enclosed herewith may have been prompted by this publicity.

It was explained by Miss RAND that she did not think too much of the matter at the time she received the letter, which was in January of this year, and therefore did not report it to any authorities. She felt, however, that even though the letter did not constitute extortion as such and appeared to be more of an appeal for aid, it was rather odd and may have been more than that, i.e., an attempt to secure more information about her.

The fact that the letter was addressed to her at "Studio Saxon Wood" is significant, because at Saxon Wood, a well-known Hollywood producer-director, likewise received publicity similar to that of Miss RAND, as an anti-Communist witness.

The letter in question was written in French and consisted of one page handwritten in on one side and postmarked "Jan. 16, 1948 Montreal, P.Q." A translation of this letter made by the Los Angeles Division is as follows:

The letter reads: "..."
Director, FBI
Attention: FBI Laboratory

Res:

EXECUTION AND SECURITY MATTER - C

St. Lin (or Liu), Quebec, Canada
January 6, '48

Miss Ayn Kane
Studio Ban Wood
Hollywood

I am asking you for a loan or a deposit in my name. Please answer immediately. Mail the deposit at the bank of Canada in the name of [redacted] St. Lin, Que., Canada.

Please communicate with me either by telegram or send a money order. I am waiting for your help. Find me some work in your country.

/s/

This letter is being forwarded to the Bureau for information purposes and may be retained in the Laboratory extortion letter file and searched for possible identification with other letters at the discretion of the Bureau.

AFL-KUL 6001
Address: St. Lin, Que.
Date 3/23/43

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
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☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

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The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

66-2542-3-26-2167
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66-2542-3-26-2509

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NO DUPLICATION FEE ☒
FOR THIS PAGE ☒

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FBI/DOJ
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- For your information: ____________________________

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  105-0-13796
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Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): ____________________________________________

☐ For your information: _________________________________________________________________

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages: 616-2548-3-34-2865
August 30, 1967

J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I represent philosopher-novelist Ayn Rand in matters involving the protection of her name, her intellectual property and the integrity of her ideas.

One such matter is an incident allegedly involving the F.B.I. in Kansas, which recently came to my attention.

According to a [redacted] of the Olathe Public Library in Olathe, Kansas, about eighteen months ago the F.B.I. asked for and received from his library a list of people who have read Atlas Shrugged, a novel written by Miss Rand. [redacted] received information that the F.B.I. had even more recently checked the Gardner Library for the same purpose. Further, the Olathe Daily News, which reported the incident, apparently was told by the local F.B.I. office that the incident never took place.

Such an inquiry about the readers of Miss Rand's books -- if conducted by the F.B.I. -- is derogatory on its face because it puts Miss Rand in the category of a suspect person, perhaps a political subversive. On the other hand, if someone is impersonating the F.B.I., I am sure you would regard it in your interests -- as well as Miss Rand's -- to investigate the incident.

I would appreciate hearing from your office as soon as possible in the hopes that you can shed some light on this matter.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
September 8, 1967

Dear [Name]

With regard to the subject matter of your letter of August 30, 1967, our Kansas City Office advises no record of such investigation could be located.

I am consequently referring this matter to our Kansas City Office for investigation under the Impersonation Statute. If you have any further questions concerning this matter, you should feel free to contact our Special Agent in Charge, 707 United States Courthouse Building, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

I appreciate your bringing this situation to my attention.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

1 - Kansas City (Enclosure)

NOTE SAC, KANSAS CITY: Enclosed for Kansas City is copy of a letter from [Name] dated August 30, 1967. You should conduct investigation to determine whether there has been a violation of the Impersonation Statute.
NOTE:

who states he represents novelist Ayn Rand, advises that about 18 months ago the FBI obtained from a library in Olathe, Kansas, a list of people who have read Atlas Shrugged and more recently obtained a similar list from another library. Telephonic contact with the Kansas City Office, SAC Dissly, advises no record. Consequently, the above letter is being sent to and SAC, Kansas City is being instructed to open an impersonation case.
DIRECTOR, FBI

SAC, KANSAS CITY (47-4917) - C -

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
Alleged Impersonation of FBI Agents;
COMPLAINANT

00: KC

Reference is made to the captioned complainant's letter to the Director, dated August 30, 1967 and the Director's response to him, dated September 8, 1967.

The Bureau furnished a copy of each of the referenced letters to Kansas City with instructions to conduct investigation to determine whether or not there has been a violation of the Impersonation Statute.

In substance, complained in his letter to the Bureau that an investigation had apparently been conducted at Olathe and Gardner, Kansas, relative to a book, entitled Atlas Shrugged, written by his client, AYN RAND. He suggested that such investigation places Miss RAND in the category of a "suspect person" or a "political subversive". He alleged that information received by him is that the investigation in this instance was conducted by the FBI. He further suggested that if it was not the FBI who conducted the investigation there then may be an Impersonation matter requiring our attention.

In response, the Bureau informed that there is no record of such an investigation having been conducted by the FBI by the Kansas City Office.

Investigation conducted by Kansas City has revealed the following facts:

[Handwritten notes and redacted portions]

Best Copy Available

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
In view of the above, Kansas City is conducting no further investigation regarding the alleged Impersonation.

is being separately advised that he should direct his inquiry to NIS and the NIS, Chicago is being made aware of complaint, also by separate letter. Copies of the pertinent letters in this regard are enclosed herewith for the information of the Bureau.
Dear [Blank]

Please refer to your letter, dated August 30, 1967, to J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and his response to you, dated September 8, 1967.

With regard to the subject matter of your letter of August 30, 1967, referenced above, I wish to confirm that no such investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have determined, however, that such an inquiry was, in fact, conducted by the United States Naval Investigative Service in the latter part of 1965.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter of August 30, 1967, to the Naval Investigative Service for whatever action may be deemed appropriate by that agency.

I suggest to you that in the event you have any further inquiry in this regard, you should direct such inquiry to the Commanding Officer, Naval Investigative Service, Room 900, U. S. Customs House, 610 S. Canal Street, Chicago, Illinois 60607.

Sincerely yours,

KARL W. DISSLY
Special Agent in Charge
U. S. Naval Investigative Service Office  
Ninth Naval District  
Room 900, U. S. Customs House  
610 South Canal Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60607

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of a letter, dated August 30, 1967, from Attorney of New York City to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I have determined that the subject matter of letter does not involve a matter handled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but does, in fact, concern an investigation conducted by your Resident Agency at Kansas City, Missouri, in late 1965, captioned as above.

This matter is being referred to you for whatever action you may deem appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

KARL W. DISSLY  
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure (1)

2. Address:  
1. Bureau  
   - Kansas City (47-4917)

ENCLOSURE 47-535032
TO: Director, FBI
FROM: SAC, New York
SUBJECT: "PLAIN TALK"
INFORMATION CONCERNING
Bureau file - 94-36511

Transmitted herewith for the information of the Bureau is the November 1947 issue of "PLAIN TALK".

Enclosure - 1
A World of Freeman—America’s Best Defense

PLAIN TALK

ISAAC DON LEVINE . . . . . . . Editor
MABEL TRAVIS WOOD . . . Managing Editor
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
EUGENE LYNES
SUZANNE LA FOLLETTE
GEORGE S. SCHUYLER

VOL. II. No. 2

NOVEMBER, 1947

A Word to You

Ayn Rand, author of "The Fountainhead," the novel which has done more
to exalt the dignity of the individual in our collectivist era than any other
creative work, was born in Russia . . . her Screen Guide for Americans reveals an
almost uncanny grasp of the totalitarian propaganda technique . . . she encountered
early in her life, as her childhood was spent in the crucible of the Bolshevik
Revolution . . . "I decided to be a writer at the age of nine—it was a specific,
conscious decision—I remember the day and the hour," she writes . . . "I left home
when I was quite young and have been on my own ever since. . . . I have been
asked why I chose to present a philosophy of ethics in fiction form. I am inter-
ested in philosophical principles only as they affect the actual existence of men;
and in men, only as they reflect philosophical principles. An abstract theory that
has no relation to reality is worse than nonsense; and men who act without rela-
tion to principles are less than animals."

HOMER MARTIN, son of an Illinois schoolteacher . . . became interested in the
lot of automobile workers as a young Baptist minister in Leeds, a suburb
of Kansas City . . . pioneered the organization of the United Automobile Workers,
of which he became the first president . . . withdrew from the trade union move-
ment under Communist pressure . . . OTON GROZDIC (I Was Tito’s Courier)
is a former officer of Tito’s Partisan Army who recently escaped to London . . .
MAJOR BORISLAV Todorovich, who escaped from a Nazi concentration camp
after resisting the German seizure of Yugoslavia, trained as an airman in London
and was parachuted into Mihailovich territory . . . served as intelligence liaison
officer between the Allies and the Mihailovich headquarters . . . because of his
exceptional sources of information, Major Todorovich's report on Revolt in Yugo-
slovla merits the utmost confidence . . . Equally illuminating is the report on
Resistance in the Ukraine, by WALTER DUSHNYCK, himself of Ukrainian origin,
who is an American citizen, possesses an unrivaled knowledge of the
inner workings of the Comintern underground. . . . To bring you the timely
Screen Guide, we have omitted A Bookman’s Horizon from this issue . . . Confidentially, Vissinsky's poem was ghosted!

THE EDITOR
Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Mr. Nicholas
FROM: M. A. Jones
SUBJECT: Information Concerning

DATE: 10-24-47

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-27-43 BY S.P.

EX-43

There is no information of value in our files concerning this individual.

Miss Rand is the author of the book "The Fountainhead." This book is the dramatic story of three men and one woman told against the backdrop of New York's architectural skyline. It is a love story revolving around a young architect and his ego. The book was published in 1943 and received enthusiastic support in literary circles as well as with the general public.

60 JAN 15 1948 EX-43 57

INDEXED 29 DEC 1947
Director, FBI

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Re: COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

It has come to the attention of this office that some of the individuals within the motion picture industry who are to be subpoenaed to Washington as witnesses in the House Un-American Activities Committee hearing later this month desire to meet the Director, if possible, and to take a tour of the Bureau. They may call you while in Washington.

RAND is a novelist who is known internationally, her best known novels being "The Fountainhead" and "We the Living." She is of Russian extraction and birth but is now a citizen of this country.

RAND published a booklet which was designed for furnishing information concerning the type of Communist propaganda used in motion pictures. This booklet was distributed to producers and publishers. It is her intention to testify before the House Committee regarding the contents of this booklet.

Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD, SAC
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

____________________________________________________________________

☐ For your information:

____________________________________________________________________

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

62-85631-3
Nightshirt Fringe Applauds Ayn Rand's 10-Year-Old Book

"Ayn Rand, film reviewer to the Italian Un-American Activities Committee, is no stranger to America's nightshirt fringe. Friends of Democracy disclosed today that she is the author of a 98-page novel called 'Anthem,' currently distributed by purveyors of hate literature. Although there isn't an anti-Semitic line in it, it is still

Andrew E. McAllister, who operates the Pro-America Information Bureau, believing 'The Pro-AM' to be the works of Elizabeth Dilling and comparable items through post office box at Hickory Hill, Ill., has been pushing 'Anthem.'

Discouraged by Sales

"A novel of the future and our book of the month—one dollar per copy" proclaimed McAllister in a news bulletin which offered a 10 per cent discount on purchases of 10 or more from his stock. In trade, 'Anthem' itself was dull than anything else. It attempts to tell the story of a 'rebel' in some future century when collectivism has remodeled society to the point where each individual has a number rather than a name, the singular pronoun is forbidden, the individual's life is laid out by edict at birth and is cut short by fate. The 'unique work' of Miss Lane halts 'Anthem' at a remarkable book—a unique work, commending her readers to Miss Rand's "The Veil," organ of the Motion Picture Alliance, now fighting the Communist International in Hollywood, the incomparably best writing obtainable on human rights.

Anyway, it was Miss Rand who returned to Washington that she reviewed 'Song of Russia' for the Un-American Activities Committee and said it "made me sick." She was scheduled to give additional testimony today.
November 13, 1961

I have received your letter dated November 5, 1961, with its enclosure, and your interest in furnishing this information and affording me the benefit of your observations is indeed appreciated.

It is not possible for me to advise you of the results of any inquiry which this Bureau may conduct. A regulation of the Department of Justice prohibits the disclosure of such information to other than appropriate agencies in the executive branch of the Federal Government.

There are enclosed several items of literature available for distribution by the FBI concerning the menace of communism which you may like to read.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures - 4
NOTES ON YELLOW:

Files contain no identifiable data concerning the correspondent. The enclosure to correspondent's letter was a copy of a letter he has written to the "Saturday Evening Post" objecting to an article in that magazine concerning Ayn Rand.

The article mentioned by correspondent concerning Ayn Rand which appeared in the "Saturday Evening Post" has been reviewed and does not appear to be communist propaganda. The article indicates she is an atheist and discusses her cult of objectivism based upon her theory that "Money is the root of all good."

The following items of literature were sent to the correspondent:

1. "The Communist Party Line"
2. "The Deadly Contest"
3. "Faith in God -- Our Answer To Communism"
4. Director's statement re Internal Security 4-17-61.
November 5, 1961

Editor
Saturday Evening Post
Curtis Publishing Company
Independence Square
Philadelphia 5, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Just recently I've become sensitive to what is called, "logic tight compartments": Miss Rand's Objectivism is one such.

In attempting to object to her "militant atheism" on grounds of faith, the attacker would find himself on shaky logical ground because faith is founded on subjective phenomena assumed to be valid on an individual but not on any universal or even communicable basis. Faith in this respect is abstract, and attempting to dislodge the concrete with the abstract proves quite difficult, so I've decided to attack on altogether different bases.

(1) Miss Rand's extroverted espousal of arch-capitalism evidenced by her statement, "Money is the root of all good.", seems to place her in a definite anti-communist position - or so she would have us believe. To further color her stand in this wise she comments of Bolshevism, "I know it was evil", and complains of "having a thin time of it because the communist influence there (Hollywood) was too strong." These phrases paint a seemingly positive background against which we find her central idea - that of Objectivism.

(2) "Whatever exists exists independent of any perceiver; man can perceive and understand reality, but only through reason - intuition, emotion, faith have no validity as paths to knowledge." From the article I find that Atlas Shrugged combines Ideas 1 and 2 in such overwhelming complexity that an extremely intelligent reader would be sorely vexed in attempting even a cursory analytical critique.

If an individual accepts this block of hardened logic in the form of ideas 1 plus 2 he takes a side with capitalism (he thinks) and admits to himself that all reality is external or objective. Now so far this doesn't seem too bad, but let's analyze what happens if we disagree.

(a) To disagree with the idea, "Money is the root of all good.2 makes a sensitive, self conscious person think that he is anti-capitalism or even just slightly pink, especially if money is to be equated with or accepted to be the symbol of capitalism.

(b) To disagree with the idea that man can perceive reality causes an individual to doubt the questions his own values and becomes insecure about his own mental ability.

In other words - if you do not accept the tenets of the doctrine you begin to have serious trouble with your mental attitudes and thinking. This should be the first clue to you that there is something inherently wrong with it.

Now, let's clarify this dubious philosophy.
Point 1:

Money is a medium of exchange; it is crystallized services or goods. Its use simplifies trade and relieves man of the burden of the cumbersome barter system by creating a value which is universally recognized and is easier to transport by virtue of its smaller mass. At the present level of development of industrial civilization in the world money is a necessity. It is not, repeat not to be understood as a symbol for anything.

Point 2:

Perception is a thought process; thoughts are subjective and internal not objective and external. If you define your reality as being only that which you perceive through your senses, then you are denying your own internal existence and denying the existence of thought because thought is not perceived it is subjectively understood. All of your perceptions are internal and subjective and your thoughts about these things constitute your reality.

Miss Rand's Objectivism is an excellent example of classical doubletalk. It cannot be accepted in whole or in part without very troublesome mental inconsistencies for a free-thinking individual because it is against the grain of free human nature.

Mr. Karl Marx, history's greatest professional cheerleader, complained until he composed a dirge similar in many respects to Rand's double symphony. Her verbal harmony seems to sell well, but if you buy her records and listen because you think you need it you'll soon be dancing to her tune. Her projection is a penetrating prose and she is quite obviously well disciplined - there things interest those who are in need of strong leadership (this applies largely to the young) and stimuli (this applies to almost everyone). If Miss Rand's rational self-interest can cause you to believe intellectually that all reality is external and perceived then denial of your non-perceivable self will be quite logical. The step from this to that of being a completely altruistic, thought slave, worker of the "people's republic" with complete denial of individuality is an easy one.

If Miss Rand is not a communist as she says she is not, then she has been led down the rosy path and is guilty of very incomplete thinking, because a careful reader can see the suds still clinging to the brain.

---

Freedom is the right of the individual to react to his perceptions without being restricted to a particular view or a particular reaction. Physical freedom is impossible without mental freedom. Objectivism and communism are both mental and physical slavery because they restrict the individual to a particular view.

My regards to Mr. Kobler for a clear and understandable article. I'm quite elated that I didn't find Rand in your "people on their way up" department.

Sincerely,

P.S. I've sent copies to the P.B.I. and my congressman - they should read this also.
January 8, 1966

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In the article "Hoover of the FBI," in the September 25, 1965 issue of The Saturday Evening Post, there appears the sentence (page 32): "Hoover disavows the ultraconservative political label, terms himself an 'objectivist,' etc..."

I would like very much to know whether you meant that you agree with my philosophy of Objectivism - or whether you used that term in some different meaning. Forgive me for attaching any sort of even provisional credence to that article, which I regard as extremely unfair, in a magazine for which I have no respect at all. I would like to know the truth for obvious reasons - since an Objectivist such as yourself would be more than welcome.

Regardless of your answer, that is, without presuming that that statement is necessarily true, I should like very much to meet you - to discuss a personal-political problem. If you find it possible to give me an appointment, I would come to Washington at any time at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Ayn Rand

Ayn Rand

[Enclosure]
Recently the FBI has been keeping a close eye on the ultraright Minutemen. Although Hoover is a towering hero to much of the right, the founder of the Minutemen, Robert DePugh, flatly refused to furnish the FBI with a list of his membership. "It could serve as an assassination list for the Communists when they take over," says DePugh, who believes that the "take-over" is inevitable, Hoover or no Hoover. Despite the tendency of many liberals to lump Hoover with his far-right admirers, Hoover disavows the ultraconservative political label, terms himself an "objectivist," and has publicly declared that he "has no respect" for the extremist notions of Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society. "I know Mr. Hoover says that about Mr. Welch," says Birch public-relations director John Rousselot sadly. "But we still have high regard for him and the FBI."

---

Excerpt from the article "Hoover of the FBI," 9-25-65 issue of "The Saturday Evening Post."
I have never stated that I am an objectivist; however, I have always made every effort to maintain an impartial, balanced perspective and judge matters in the light of fact rather than preconceived notions. I have always made every effort to maintain an impartial, balanced perspective and judge matters in the light of fact rather than preconceived notions.

With respect to your request, I regret that the pressure of official schedule precludes my making an appointment to see you. If you wish to speak to one of my assistants when you are in Washington, please feel free to communicate with Assistant Director Robert E. Wick, either by letter addressed to him directly here at FBI Headquarters, Ninth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20535, or telephone at Executive 4-1100, extension 691. He will be glad to render whatever assistance he can. If I am in my office at the time of your visit, you may be sure it will be a pleasure to talk to you.


Dear Miss Rand:

I received your letter of January 6th and want to thank you for the interest in writing.

Best regards,

Assistant Director Robert E. Wick
FBI Headquarters, Ninth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20535

DATE: 3-23-66

Rec'd 6a-85631-9

January 23, 1966

Enc. 2

Mail Room
Memorandum

TO: Mr. Wick
FROM: D. C. Morrell

DATE: 1-13-66

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO MEET THE DIRECTOR
AYN RAND
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

By letter dated January 8th to the Director, captioned individual referred to the September, 1965, issue of "The Saturday Evening Post" wherein the article on the Director contains the statement to the effect that he terms himself an "objectivist."

Captioned individual requests to be informed whether the Director meant that he agrees with her philosophy of Objectivism or whether he used the term in a different meaning. She states that she would like to know since an Objectivist such as the Director would be more than welcome. The Director has noted "I have never said I was an "objectivist" whatever that is."

Captioned individual states that she would like to meet the Director to discuss a personal political problem and that she would come to Washington at any time at the Director's convenience, if he would give her an appointment.

Captioned individual is a well-known writer and lecturer and her books include such publications as "The Fountainhead" and "Atlas Shrugged." The publication "Who's Who of American Women" describes her as an exponent of the philosophy Objectivism. She was born in Russia in 1905 and attended private schools including the University of Leningrad.
Morrell to Wick memo

RE: REQUEST TO MEET THE DIRECTOR
AYN RAND
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

In 1947, captioned individual testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities regarding communist infiltration of the motion picture industry. She is self-admittedly an anti-communist.


Files contain no information on the philosophy of objectivism other than references to individuals who subscribe to the "Objectivist Newsletter" by Ayn Rand.

As indicated in the attached excerpt from "The Saturday Evening Post" article to which captioned individual refers, it is noted that it does contain the statement that the Director terms himself an "objectivist." It is felt, however, that in this instance it means that the Director maintains an open-minded outlook uncolored by any preconceived conclusions.

It is not felt that the Director would want to take time from his busy schedule to see captioned individual, and she will be advised that the Director's commitments preclude his making an appointment. She will also be advised that, if she desires to come to FBI Headquarters to speak to one of the Director's Assistants, to contact you (Mr. Wick). She will also be advised that the Director has never stated that he is an "objectivist" but has always tried to maintain a balanced perspective uncolored by preconceived notions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) That the Director not take time from his busy schedule to see captioned individual.

(2) That the attached letter go forward expressing the Director's regrets and advising her to contact you (Mr. Wick) if she desires to come to FBI Headquarters.
The attached copy of the paperback book "For the New Intellectual" by Ayn Rand is inscribed to the Director as follows:

"To J. E. Hoover from F. I. Hoover"

July 13, 1970

There was no return address on the envelope and the postmark is not clear.

[Address redacted, postal markings redacted]