

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Symbolism Matters: Remove J. Edgar Hoover's Name from the F.B.I. Building

September 12, 2002

Dear Colleague:

In the United States, symbolism matters. This is why we have introduced H.R. 5213 to remove J. Edgar Hoover's name from the F.B.I. building.

For over a year, the Government Reform Committee has investigated corruption that surrounded the F.B.I.'s organized crime investigations in New England under J. Edgar Hoover's supervision. In what can be described only as a dark episode in American law enforcement, F.B.I. officials:

- Allowed Joe Salvati, whom they knew was innocent, to spend thirty years in prison.
- Turned a blind eye while their mob informants committed dozens of murders.
- Tipped off their mob contacts about ongoing criminal investigations so government witnesses could be murdered.
- Undermined the California murder trial of notorious mob killer Joe "The Animal" Barboza and helped him get a lighter sentence.
- Took cash and gifts from mob figures like James "Whitey" Bulger and Stevie "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

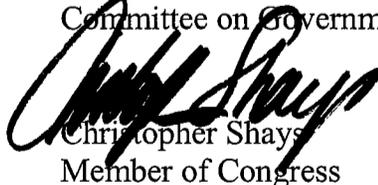
Longtime F.B.I. agent John Connolly has been convicted for his role in these nefarious activities. Paul Rico, another F.B.I. agent, took the Fifth before the Government Reform Committee to avoid testifying about his actions. All of the documentary evidence available to date indicates that J. Edgar Hoover closely supervised the actions of these agents and was regularly informed of their activities.

Hoover demonstrated a fundamental contempt for the rule of law. Throughout his tenure as Director, the F.B.I. conducted illegal or unconstitutional surveillance of U.S. citizens in Boston. In order for justice to prevail in the future, we have to make an example. Thus, I urge you to become a co-sponsor of this legislation. Please contact Michael Layman at 5-5074 to co-sponsor H.R. 5213.

Sincerely,



Dan Burton
Chairman
Committee on Government Reform



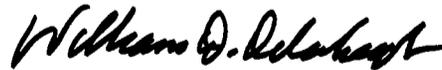
Christopher Shays
Member of Congress



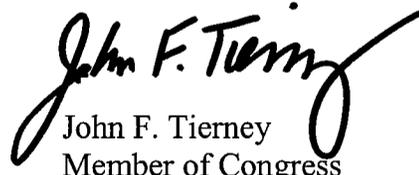
John Lewis
Member of Congress



Steven C. LaTourette
Member of Congress



William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress



John F. Tierney
Member of Congress