

*A. Smith*

13 August 1968

MEMO TO: E. U. Condon

FROM: D. S. Gillmor

SUBJECT: Visit of intelligence officers to project

On 5 August 1968 I found two men in civilian clothing standing in the secretaries' office (Room 201, Woodbury Hall). They were interrogating Mrs. Marilyn Ryder, the project secretary in charge of administrative and fiscal matters whose primary responsibility is to handle Robert J. Low's work and to maintain project financial and personnel records. I asked the gentlemen if I could help them in any way. The elder of the two indicated that they had obtained the information they required from Mrs. Ryder in connection with a "routine security check" but would like to have a few words with me.

Entering my office they produced Army Intelligence identification cards bearing the names Walker and Bettis. Walker is about 50; Bettis is about 30. Apart from questions designed to elicit my name and function in the project, Bettis (who asked all the questions) directed his inquiries entirely to my knowledge of Robert Low. How long had I known him? (A few months.) Where and under what circumstances had I met him? (In May, in your office.) Did I regard him as competent? (I did.) Did I know of any organizations he belonged to. (I did not.) Did I consider him completely trustworthy? (I did.) Did I have any reason to doubt Mr. Low's loyalty to the United States? (Definitely not.) Did I know of any relatives he might have living abroad? (I did not, and surmised that he probably had none living abroad.) Did I think he might be in any way mentally unstable? (Definitely not.) Did I know whether he had ever been abroad and if so, where? (I did not know, but assumed that, as an educated man, he had traveled abroad.) Whom did I regard as the two individuals most closely acquainted with Mr. Low on this project? (Dr. Condon and Dr. Craig.) Would I ask Dr. Craig if he could see them for a moment? (I would.) Would I please mention this interview to no one? (I indicated that I would comply, but of course reported the matter to you at the first opportunity.)

Later I asked Mrs. Ryder to recall to the best of her ability the substance of the men's questions to her. She says that they limited their inquiries to the location and contents of Mr. Low's personnel records, not, apparently, personnel records in general.

On the following day, Bettis returned and asked to see me for "just one moment." He was alone this time. He asked me only whether I knew who the security officer of the project was and how he could be reached. I told him that, having no responsibility for security matters, I had no idea who the security officer might be or where he might be located.

I now understand, of course, that Lt. Col. Kellum has that responsibility and is to be phoned promptly in the event that any occurrence of this nature should come to my attention.

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