

28 June 1971

Dear Congressman Eilberg:

Thank you for your courtesy in sending me a copy of the letter dated June 15 which you received from J. Edgar Hoover. I appreciate very much your following up on my letter to you about my statement on FBI activities on this campus and elsewhere, and I suspect you share some of my despondency at the intransigent tone of Mr. Hoover's reply. Do you have any suggestions about further steps I might take? I have received a generally strong letter of support from our colleague in the academic community, a somewhat hostile one from Congressman Williams, and a neutral one from Senator Scott. I have no predilection for laboring at hopeless causes, but I am stubborn enough, when I think I am right - as I do here - to explore every avenue that may be suggested that might lead to a more benign situation than I am afraid now exists. Any advice that you could give me would be most appreciated.

With all best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Robert D. Cross,
President

The Honorable Joshua Eilberg
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Memorandum

June 17, 1971

Dear Dr. Cross:

For your information

J.E.

FROM: JOSHUA EILBERG

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



*Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.*

June 15, 1971

Honorable Joshua Eilberg
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

I have received your letter of June 10th concerning a communication from President Cross of Swarthmore College.

It is certainly regrettable that Dr. Cross has chosen to make such a sweeping indictment of the FBI and its activities. The FBI has not sought to determine political beliefs of students and teachers as he charges; however, legitimate inquiry by this Bureau into the activities of those who advocate anarchy, revolution or other acts in violation of Federal law is a proper function of the FBI and we would be derelict in our duty if we did not investigate such matters. The fact that the persons involved formulate their plans or carry on their activities on a college campus should not, per se, grant them freedom to flaunt the law.

FBI investigations are not intended to, and should not, intimidate others merely because they espouse an unpopular or controversial policy.

I must also point out that the FBI, as a Bureau within the Department of Justice, comes under the supervision and control of the Attorney General. Additionally, our duties and responsibilities are clearly defined by legislation enacted by the Congress or by Executive Order of the President. All of our investigations are conducted within the guidelines of, and in accordance with, directives of the Department. We do not conduct investigations

Honorable Joshua Eilberg

on the basis of whim or fancy, but only for legitimate authorized purposes and will continue to do so as long as I am the Director of this Bureau. Should the fulfillment of our responsibilities require that we conduct investigation on any college campus, we shall do so without apology to anyone and with full respect for the freedom of the academic community.

Legislative action or administrative fiat to limit the scope of our inquiries in the manner suggested by Dr. Cross would not serve the best interests of the country, but would permit those who conspire against our Nation to hide behind a smokescreen of rhetoric.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover