

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen *Rosen*

DATE 8/10/59 *file*

FROM : G. *G. Sullivan*

SUBJECT: JAMES SMITH BUSH  
SPI *Sp. Inquiry*

Tolson	
Belmont	
DeLoach	
Mohr	
Parsons	
Rosen	
Tamm	
Trotter	
W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Holloman	
Gandy	

Request for investigation received from White House 7/10/59 by letter of same date. Bush, an investment counselor in St. Louis, Missouri, is being considered as a member of Board of Directors of Export-Import Bank of Washington. Bush is [redacted] Opening airtel to field dated 7/10/59 advised field of position for which being considered. Investigation completed and summary memorandum of investigation furnished to White House and Attorney General 8/5/59. Investigation was generally favorable except that Bush was described as having been a heavy drinker in the past and he lost one position in a bank due to drinking. However, his drinking has been slight during the past six or seven years. One person stated Bush was "ladies' man" and could possibly become involved with women and he allegedly had affairs with other women while married. *maclean*

On 8/4/59 White House advised Liaison Agent [redacted] that Bush had complained, on unknown date, to White House, that Agents investigating him had divulged to persons interviewed that he was being considered for appointment with Export-Import Bank of Washington. He claimed that such divulgement embarrassed him. At White House request, apparently, Bush furnished White House, by letter dated 7/28/59, list of five persons whom he claimed were interviewed by Bureau Agents, inferring but not definitely stating these were the persons whom the Agents informed of the position. These persons were [redacted] *letter returned to White House*

Appropriate explanations were requested from the Cincinnati and St. Louis Offices by teletype 8/4/59. *if;*

SA [redacted] St. Louis Agent involved, in his explanation advised that [redacted] had previous knowledge that Bush was being considered for position with Export-Import Bank and had advised him of same during their interviews. He said that [redacted] indicated that she knew he was being considered for "some Government position." All four people advised SA [redacted] that they also knew that Bush had been considered for some position in the recent past with the Federal Reserve Board which he did not receive. SA [redacted] also lists five other persons, not mentioned by Bush who were

- Enclosures
- 1 - Administrative Division *Kurtz*
  - 1 - Mr. Bartlett, Liaison Section

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also cognizant of the position involved and so informed the Agent during the interview. One of these, [redacted] also advised SA [redacted] that he had attended a party with Bush around [redacted] also being present, and that [redacted] told [redacted] that Bush, at the party, had complained about being investigated by the FBI as he felt he should not be investigated since his reputation was beyond reproach. [redacted] told [redacted] that he laughed at Bush and told him that anyone being appointed to a Government position was investigated and that he, [redacted] had been investigated due to his position (president of Monsanto Chemical Company, St. Louis). SA [redacted] points out that it was apparent throughout the investigation that it was widely known in St. Louis that after failing to receive an appointment with the Federal Reserve Board Bush was being considered for a position with the Export-Import Bank. He states that such knowledge was not due to its revelation by him and that the actual position was mentioned during the interviews and there was no reason for SA [redacted] to pretend ignorance. SAC, St. Louis recommends no administrative action.

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SA [redacted] Cincinnati Agent involved, explains that [redacted] was simply advised that Bush was being considered for "Government employment" and consequently was being investigated at the request of another Government agency. He states that at no time did he advise or relate to [redacted] that Bush was being considered for employment with the Export-Import Bank. SA [redacted] says that he is experienced in Special Inquiry investigations and is aware of instructions in the Manual of Instructions that the identity of the requesting agency and the position involved not be disclosed. SAC, Cincinnati recommends no administrative action.

Since this is a White House matter neither Bush nor any of the persons listed by him as having been interviewed by Bureau Agents, have been interviewed concerning this matter. It is felt that, under the circumstances, Liaison should furnish the above information to [redacted] be requested to advise if the White House desires any further interviews to be conducted in connection with this matter. It appears that Bush is resentful of our investigation of him which, incidentally, indicated that he is not as above reproach as he claimed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That no administrative action be taken concerning Agents [redacted] at this time, pending of course, on any subsequent information which may be developed due to any possible further investigation which may be requested by the White House.

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*This is rather fuzzy, but I gather  
there did exist knowledge of the  
position - so this should be covered.  
Knowledge is not to be covered.*

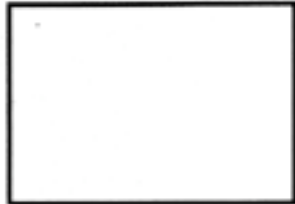
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2. That Liaison advise the White House of the above and determine if the White House desires that Mr. Bush and the other persons listed by Bush be interviewed for any additional information they might have concerning the matter.

*Just stress fact of Bush's  
found the talking -  
[Signature]  
8/12*



8/17/59 [Redacted] advised per recommendation. It was strongly pointed out that Bush was doing the talking himself and met the FBI. [Redacted] said no add. investigation necessary. C. H. Bartlett

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PERMANENT BRIEFS OF THE PERSONNEL FILES OF SAs [Redacted] AND [Redacted] ARE ATTACHED.

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*Detached  
8-12-59  
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