FROM: DB
DATE: 1-27-51

1. Mr. Murphy
2. Mr. Elsey
3. Mr. Lloyd

Pencil notation: Please return to CEM.
January 26, 1951

Memorandum for: Mr. David Bell
The White House

Dave:

Thank you for your memorandum of January 25 about the new Commission and for sending me a copy of the release. It is almost unnecessary for me to say that I was delighted with this action, and I want to congratulate you heartily on your fine contribution to it. The President's statement announcing the formation of the Commission was first class. If my memory serves me right, it was not changed much since the last time I saw it about a month ago. I think that the Executive Order has actually been improved since I last saw it in draft form.

Of course, it will be important for the Commission to get a first class staff director and staff. Two possibilities that occur to me are Robert Cushman of Cornell, who for the past several years has been directing a wide scale study of the status of civil liberties in the United States, and Robert Carr of Dartmouth, who, of course, was staff director for the President's Committee on Civil Rights. Of course, the staff should include experts on security as well as on civil rights. One of the most important things will be to see that the new Commission is not blocked by alleged security considerations from seeing any files or getting any information that it regards as necessary to carry out its duties. From my experience as a working member of the President's Commission on Employee Loyalty four years ago, I should be surprised if this problem did not raise its head at a very early date. Actually, the Commission should be encouraged to demand and get any information it needs. The danger is that it will accept without objection the refusal on the part of some security agency or other to give it information on the grounds that national security would suffer thereby.

/s/ S.J.S.
S.J.S.

x 100

x 2750-A Cushman
x 2750-A Carr