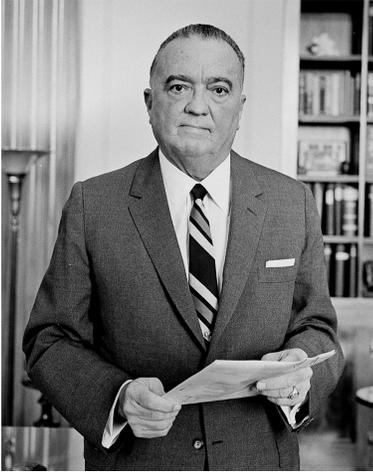


The Transvestism of John Edgar Hoover

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J. Edgar Hoover, who is notorious for his transvestism

The *National Observer* had it that the name J. Edgar Hoover is associated with transvestism as closely as Rolls is with Royce and Laurel with Hardy. So what is the truth of it? Did he honestly feel more comfortable wearing a fluffy gown, suspender belt, and false eyelashes?

Ralph de Toledano, a mainstay of the conservative movement in the United States throughout the latter half of the 20th century, trumpeted, “You know, there'd been a lot of talk about Hoover and this and that and the transvestite stuff and so on. Nonsense. Hoover had one wife, and that was his Federal Bureau of Investigation. That was his whole life.”

Homosexuality on Hoover's part was highly plausible. Hoover resided with his mother until her death in 1938, when he was 43. For over 40 years, he was inseparable from his right-hand man, Deputy Director of the FBI Clyde Tolson. Both were bachelors and they vacationed together, staying in adjacent rooms. They are buried side-by-side. Gay activists now have been known to include Hoover and Tolson in their lists of famous gay couples. The pair were treated as a couple by high society: Hoover would never be invited to dinner sans Tolson. They double-dated with Broadway star Ethel Merman and Sherman Billingsley, owner of the famous Stork Club, when they were in the throes of an affair. Hoover and Tolson did the same with Richard and Pat Nixon. In the 1960s, FBI agents referred to them as “J. Edna” and “Mother Tolson.”



Clyde Tolson, who is widely believe to have been Hoover's love partner

The film, *J. Edgar*, which was directed by Clint Eastwood, portrayed Hoover and Tolson as unrequited lovers. They kissed, held hands, and quarreled like lovers but were not depicted as having gone further than that. Hoover is seen donning his recently-deceased mother's dress, however, the film does not make him out to be a full-fledged tranny. But then, it never mentioned COINTELPRO (www.academia.edu/4002969/The_Shocking_Truth_of_COINTELPRO), either.

Rumors of Hoover's homosexuality appeared as soon as he became head of the FBI in 1926. He was somewhat dandyish and favored white linen suits as a young man. In 1933, an article in *Collier's* magazine, one of the most popular in the country, described his “mincing” manner of walking. His voice was highly affected, and Leonardo DeCaprio had a hard time mimicking it in *J. Edgar*. Hoover kept classical statues of male nudes in his home. Many people sensed that his relationship with Tolson went beyond friendship. Dorothy Parker, witty as ever, privately joked that Hoover “chased men for business and pleasure.” An article published by Fordham University, one of the leading 60 universities in the United States, described Tolson as Hoover's “true love.” When Hoover died in 1972, President Nixon exclaimed: “Jesus Christ! That old cocksucker!” It is possible he was not speaking figuratively.



When Hoover died, Tricky Dicky exclaimed, “Jesus Christ! That old cocksucker!”, which was, perhaps, not figurative. Photo: toneyetone

The transvestism thing was described most comprehensively in Anthony Summers' gossipy 1993 biography of Hoover, *Official and Confidential: the Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover*. Summers had previously written of the JFK assassination. He repeated explosive allegations by Susan, the one-time fourth wife of liquor magnate Lewis Rosenstiel, a bootlegger who made his fortune after the repeal of Prohibition by starting the United States' largest distillery, Schenley Industries. In the book, Susan and her husband were met at the door of Manhattan's Plaza Hotel by Roy Cohn, a Republican power broker who was formerly an aide to Senator Joseph McCarthy. Mrs. Rosenstiel recounted that she was taken to the bedroom of a suite where she saw Hoover, whom she had met previously at her townhouse in the Upper East Side of New York. Mrs. Rosenstiel's husband had told her that Hoover granted him access to influential politicians, and he returned the favor by paying off Hoover's gambling debts.

The 64-year-old Hoover was in drag: He wore a black dress that was “very fluffy, with flounces,” in addition to “lace stockings, high heels, and a curly black wig.” He sported make-up, false eyelashes, and a very short skirt, the dirty slut. He sat with his legs crossed. Mrs. Rosenstiel remarked that Hoover looked like a flapper. Cohn had warned her not to comment and gave the FBI director's name as “Mary” when he introduced her to him. Hoover commented, “Good evening,” as if it was the first time they had met.

Rosenteil recalled that two blond boys entered the “tremendous bedroom, with a bed like in Caesar's time,” and an orgy commenced. Hoover removed his dress and underclothing to reveal a garter belt. The boys “work[ed] on him with their hands,” with one wearing rubber gloves. Then, her husband “got into the act,” after which Cohn had “full sex” with both boys.

One year after, the same occurred again in the same hotel with the same boys. Now, the boys wore leather, with Hoover in a red dress and black feather boa. One boy read from the *Babble* as the other fondled Hoover while wearing gloves. Hoover “grabbed the Bible, threw it down, and told the second boy to join the sex.” Mrs. Rosenstiel's husband invited her to participate, but she declined.

Is it plausible that the events Mrs. Rosenstiel describes took place at a one of New York's most fashionable hotels, rather than a safe house? It is as believable as the claim by Joe McCarthy that the State Department contained 205 known communists—which was widely circulated by the press with no further investigation. Let's have some more of that.

Do we trust the originator of this uncorroborated story? Hoover provided Lewis Rosenthal with damaging information concerning his wife when they divorced in the late 1960s. Mrs. Rosenstiel testified against her husband and his partners in organized crime. Mrs. Rosenstiel spent a while at Riker's Island for perjury in 1971; she had pled guilty. She was sued 38 times by eminent Manhattan stores that included Gucci, Saks, and Tiffany. Journalist Ronald Kessler met her at her place, in a single-room occupancy hotel in New York which cost her \$98.95 a night. She had been paid by Summers and again by *Frontline* and the BBC. Kessler bellyached, “I believe that paying for information calls into question its credibility.”

Mrs. Rosenstiel attempted to spread her story for years, once to an opponent of Hoover, Robert M. Morgenthau, District Attorney of New York. She annoyed him with repeated phone calls after 5:30 p.m., when his secretary had departed. He passed the information to William Hundley, the head of the Justice Department's Organized Crime and Racketeering Section. Hundley asked a Justice Department attorney to investigate. Hundley later commented that Mrs. Rosenstiel “had a total ax to grind” and that her story was constructed “of whole cloth.” He told this to Summers, who went undeterred.

Robert M. Morgenthau in later years

“Outing” is alleging that a prominent figure is gay and in political cases uses gossip over sexual identity as a political weapon: The target is made out to be not only a pervert but a hypocrite. During the presidency of Bill Clinton in the 1990s, sexual gossip was increasingly employed to articulate



political resentment, a practice which had begun in the early nineteenth century.

The allegations about Hoover were richly deserved. Hoover oversaw the spreading of accusations of the homosexuality of political enemies such as Adlai Stevenson, the governor of Illinois and a rising star and later twice the Democrat presidential nominee, a leading liberal who was “the kind of guy Hoover hates,” as his biographer, historian Jean Baker, explained. Articles by gay journalists in the early 1980s following a discrimination lawsuit by a gay FBI agent revealed that G men collected the underwear of politicians for blackmail purposes. Hoover closely followed the sexual shenanigans of President Kennedy.



Hoover was a keen student of the sexual doings of JFK. Photo: thesmuggler – Night of the swallow

Mr. Rosenstiel was linked to the Mafia figures, Frank Costello (formerly Francesco Castiglia) and Meyer Lansky, at New York legislative committee hearings in 1970. Blackmail of politicians was central to Mafia operations. According to Summers, “several Mafia sources” claimed that Hoover was blackmailed over his sexuality using photographs of him and Tolson. A source who saw one such photograph affirmed that it clearly depicted two men in sexual congress but was too blurry to allow for identification. A photographic record of Hoover's homosexuality could perhaps explain his reluctance to even acknowledge the existence of organized crime, although some believe this was because he preferred easy targets to more comfortably inflate his arrest statistics. The blurb of Summers' book states, “Without this, the Mafia as we know it might never have gained its hold on America.” When world-class journalist Robert Mass asked one of Lansky's closest associates about the photograph, the ancient mafioso replied: “Are you nuts?”

Summers claimed that the photographs originated from the Office of Strategic Services, forerunner to the CIA. While feuding with OSS boss William Donovan, Hoover had attempted to obtain compromising information about him, as was his wont, and Donovan retaliated.

The Miami field office of the FBI complained that its investigation of Lansky, initiated by Hoover, was not generating enough meat to countenance the manpower devoted to it, prompting Hoover to reply that “Lansky has been designated for 'crash' investigation.” He exploded that the significance of the endeavor could not be overemphasized and he desired a vigorous and detailed investigation. Lansky's apartment was bugged.

Hoover's attitude to the Mob had changed after publicity surrounding the historic 1957 Appalachin Meeting of about 100 mobsters. If the Mob had anything on Hoover, it would have turned up in the many wiretaps mounted after Appalachin. Let's ignore that bit.



Hoover ordered that Meyer Lansky be the subject of “crash investigation.” Photo: YAHAWAH BAN YAHAWAH BAN YAHAWAH

The transvestism of John Edgar Hoover has not been proven and is highly unlikely. It has only one source: an embittered, impoverished perjurer. Even hardcore pinkoes who resent all that Hoover stood for dismiss the story.

Was Hoover, the most powerful ever lawman of the United States, a tranny? Hell, yes! Come on, the guy was fucked-up. Were he not a tranny, he must have been a serial killer, rapist, cannibal, or pedophile. This is actually the least worst option. After Hoover's death, his associates, led by Tolson, destroyed many of his files. Hoover knew all about blackmail, having done so much of it, and it is no surprise that his tracks have been erased. Summers also wrote that Hoover ignored a warning of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

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