

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: MR. ROSEN

DATE: October 31, 1949

FROM: F. H. SCHMIDT

SUBJECT: CHAPLAIN JOSEPH M. CLARK  
U. S. PENITENTIARY, ALCATRAZ

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Hollis
- Miss Gandy

In connection with the current efforts of Chaplain Clark to obtain a parole for Machine Gun Kelly a review has been made of the Bureau's files and the following references have been located concerning Father Clark, who is the Catholic Chaplain at Alcatraz.

On June 25, 1940, Chaplain Clark and another Chaplain from the Milan Detention Farm, Milan, Michigan, were given a special tour of the Bureau. The Fathers, who were attending a conference of Chaplains being held in the Department at that time, expressed great interest in the Bureau's work and stated that the Bureau was doing an unusually important job. (94-2-19661X4, 19668X3, 94-6-5835, 5836)

On April 1, 1949, Chaplain Clark was interviewed by the Director, the appointment having been made by Judge Matthew F. McGuire. Father Clark stated that he was interested in the case of John Paul Chase and was desirous of learning what the Director's attitude would be of a commutation of Chase's sentence to twenty-five years. Father Clark further indicated that it was his understanding that Baby Face Nelson actually fired the shots which killed Inspector Cowley and Agent Hollis rather than Chase.

By letter of April 6, 1949, Chaplain Clark was furnished a brief summary of the true facts concerning Chase's participation in the cold-blooded murder of Inspector Cowley and Agent Hollis. He was further advised that the Director would vigorously oppose any official effort to commute the sentence of John Paul Chase. (62-29777, serials 7112, 7113, 7114)

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*Watch closely & endeavor to thwart efforts of this priest who should be attending to his own business instead of trying to turn loose on society such mad dogs. G.*