

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION
COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: JAMES FRANCIS CAGNEY

FILE: 9-HQ-14593

June 21, 1946

B7C

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] with a letter and envelope addressed to Mr.
James Cagney, Cagney Productions, Inc., 1105 Formosa Avenue, Hollywood,
California [REDACTED]

This letter reads as follows:

June 17, 1946

Mr. James Cagney
Vice President
Cagney Productions Inc.
Hollywood, California

Dear Sir:

"Kindly remit to me \$50,000 for your unprecedented and
uncalled for attack on me last summer in the first week of Sep-
tember. This is part settlement.

"Your attack on me with brass knuckles and studs has
rendered me unable to work to support my family.

"The money you owe me for projecting for you as to
the fighting 69th we can arrange for later. May I hear from
you by return mail.

Yours Sincerely

/s/ [REDACTED]

You will note that the envelope bears a [REDACTED]
which is probably traceable to the company for which [REDACTED] works.

Although this letter does not contain a direct threat it does
appear to be a potentially dangerous situation and it is suggested that
an agent call on [REDACTED] and ascertain the nature of his complaint and
caution him against sending threatening communications through the U.S. Mails.

This letter was received from [REDACTED] Secretary to Mr. CAGNEY
on June 20, 1946

ENCLOSURE

9-14593-1

August 19, 1946

JAMES CAGNEY - PERSECUTION

Reference is made to your letter to the Detroit Field Division dated June 21, 1946, concerning the above-captioned matter.

was interviewed by a Bureau Agent and furnished the following information.

In 1934 while he was under contract to the Warner Brothers Studio he projected for JAMES CAGNEY. His projecting, however, consisted of mentally throwing images on a screen concerning the Fighting 69th, from which mental pictures the movie was subsequently made, and he claims \$50,000 for that service. When questioned as to how he got out to California, [redacted] claimed that he had been a genius since 1921 and that Warner Brothers after kidnapping him and taking him out to California, entered into a contract with him to pay him \$1,500 a week for the first two years and \$15,000 a week thereafter to create pictures for them. He claimed that aside from what CAGNEY owes him, Warner Brothers have never paid him for his services and they now owe him some eleven million dollars.

In August, 1945, [redacted] stated, he had nothing else to do so he went out to California to contact [redacted] and Warner Brothers to collect some of this money he claimed they owed him. He claimed to have met CAGNEY on one of the studio lots and CAGNEY promised to see him at a later date at his home. Sometime later [redacted] was walking down the street in Hollywood and passed CAGNEY and Warner Brothers on the corner. CAGNEY suddenly pounced on him and struck him, knocking him unconscious. That was the attack with brass knuckles and studs that [redacted] referred to in his letter.

[redacted] also claims to have the power of projecting the black light which makes objects visible on a movie screen which would not otherwise be apparent to the eye. He also claimed to have created the Air Cobra airplane and other equally important military developments and turning them over to the United States for which he has never been paid.

It would appear from the above that [redacted] has a persecution complex and is otherwise mentally unbalanced.

He was advised of the Extortion Statute and cautioned against writing any threatening letters.

9-14593-1

With reference to Bureau letter dated September 21, 1945, enclosing copies of a communication received from the Los Angeles Office dated June 21, 1945, and a copy of our reply to the Los Angeles Office dated August 19, 1945, which contains background information concerning this matter and the result of Special Agent [redacted] contact with [redacted]

In view of [redacted] obvious unbalanced mental condition, no further action concerning this matter is being taken.



67 OCT 29 1945

Truly
Yours,
R. A. Quarles

SE 17
67 OCT 17 1945

R. A. Quarles, SAC

[Handwritten signatures and initials]
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