

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

June 2, 1970

DESI ARNAS Summary

4/14/87
Classified by *Subgale*
Declassify on: OADR
Comp # 279511

Captioned individual, who you advised was born on March 2, 1917, at Santiago, Cuba, and who currently resides at Delmar, California, has not been the subject of an investigation by the FBI. However, our files reveal the following information which may pertain to him.

The February 28, 1946, issue of the "California Eagle," a Los Angeles newspaper, reported that Desi Arnaz was one of the many entertainers who appeared on a show sponsored by the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, an organization cited by the California House Committee on Un-American Activities.

B1

[REDACTED]

B6
B7C
B7D

[REDACTED]

B6

[REDACTED]

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Walters _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Soyars _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

NOTE: Per request of Alexander P. Butterfield, Deputy Assistant to the President.

JCF:mcb (7)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

94-52549-94

Desi Arnaz

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The September 22, 1959, issue of the "Washington Star," in a column entitled "Arnaz Challenges Drunk Arrest," reported that Desi Arnaz, TV actor-producer, stated his arrest on a drunk charge on September 19, 1959, was a "bum pinch." According to this newspaper account, Mr. Arnaz had been taken into custody by two plainclothesmen who noted they had observed him staggering along a Hollywood street. (100-460465)

B6
B7C

[REDACTED]

B6
B7C
B7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B6
B7C
B7D

[REDACTED]

Attached is a copy of an FBI Identification Record, Number 1 448 710, which may pertain to captioned individual.

Enclosure

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: September 17, 1953

FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: DESI ARNAZ, aka.
Desiderio Alberto Arnaz y Acha
FOREIGN MISCELLANEOUS

On the afternoon of 9-16-53 [REDACTED]

and stated in confidence that he had just received a cable from [REDACTED] stating that they had information that DESI ARNAZ had once been a card-carrying member of the Cuban Communist Party [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was advised that it is the writer's personal recollection of hearing that DESI ARNAZ had been born at Santiago de Cuba and that his father, DESIDERIO ARNAZ, Senior, had been a prominent politician in Santiago de Cuba and was Mayor of Santiago up to the time of the fall of President MACHADO on August 12, 1933.

After [REDACTED] call I inquired of [REDACTED] verified that DESIDERIO ARNAZ had been born in Santiago. He said that DESI left Cuba with his parents shortly after the fall of Dictator MACHADO in 1933 or 1934 and that their flight was due to DESI's father's close association with President MACHADO which necessitated their leaving the country for their own safety. [REDACTED] thought that DESI, Junior was about six years old at the time.

[REDACTED] that DESI ARNAZ, Jr. then remained in Miami, Florida with his mother and later made a reputation as a rumba dancer in Miami and New York. [REDACTED] believed that DESI, Sr. later on made peace with strong man FULGENCIO BATISTA and started a Cuban Tobacco Exposition center in Miami on behalf of the Cuban Government, then later returned to his home in Santiago de Cuba, but that DESI, Jr. and his mother remained in the United States.

Mr. Tolson

Mr. E. A. Tamm

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Gearty

Mr. Mohr

Mr. Winterrowd

Room

Mr. Holloman

Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-6-87 BY SP7/BJP

On the afternoon of 9-16-53 [REDACTED]

and stated in confidence that he had just received a cable from [REDACTED] stating that they had information that DESI ARNAZ had once been a card-carrying member of the Cuban Communist Party [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was advised that it is the writer's personal recollection of hearing that DESI ARNAZ had been born at Santiago de Cuba and that his father, DESIDERIO ARNAZ, Senior, had been a prominent politician in Santiago de Cuba and was Mayor of Santiago up to the time of the fall of President MACHADO on August 12, 1933.

After [REDACTED] call I inquired of [REDACTED] verified that DESIDERIO ARNAZ had been born in Santiago. He said that DESI left Cuba with his parents shortly after the fall of Dictator MACHADO in 1933 or 1934 and that their flight was due to DESI's father's close association with President MACHADO which necessitated their leaving the country for their own safety. [REDACTED] thought that DESI, Junior was about six years old at the time.

[REDACTED] that DESI ARNAZ, Jr. then remained in Miami, Florida with his mother and later made a reputation as a rumba dancer in Miami and New York. [REDACTED] believed that DESI, Sr. later on made peace with strong man FULGENCIO BATISTA and started a Cuban Tobacco Exposition center in Miami on behalf of the Cuban Government, then later returned to his home in Santiago de Cuba, but that DESI, Jr. and his mother remained in the United States.

63 OCT 5 1953

RECORDED-33

SE 28 1953

EX-127

OCT 1 1953

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

To: Director, FBI

September 17, 1953

Subject: DESI ARNAZ, aka.
Desiderio Alberto Arnaz y Acha
FOREIGN MISCELIANEOUS

B6 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] had recollections about DESI ARNAZ which more or less coincided with the recollections of [REDACTED]

If their recollections are correct, it would seem that DESI ARNAZ would probably not have been a Cuban Communist Party card-carrying member because he was too young and also because he was the son of a MACHADO supporter and the Communists and revolutionaries were opposed to Dictator MACHADO.

[REDACTED] his full name was, given as DESIDERIO ALBERTO ARNAZ y ACHA.

This is being submitted as of possible interest to the Bureau.

The Director

Mr. D. M. Ladd

September 17,
1953

CONFIDENTIAL

DEZI ARNAZ

Desi Arnaz

Classified by SP7mmj/cpm
Declassify on: GADR 3N/1
aup279511

SYNOPSIS:

Desiderio Alberto Arnaz y de Lach

Pursuant to your request of September 14, 1953,
Bureau files were reviewed concerning
Desi Arnaz.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Investigation conducted by Bureau concerning Desi Arnaz, born
March 2, 1917, Santiago, Cuba. In February, 1946, Arnaz
appeared on a show sponsored by the Hollywood Independent
Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, a
so-called Communist front.

the Attorney General.

FCI:bja
100-400465

CONFIDENTIAL

NOT RECORDED

OCT 1 1959

OCT 5 - 1959

RECEIVED

94-32549-X

ENCLOSURE
filed
note
rejoice

Memo to The Director
Re: [REDACTED]

DEZI ARNAK

B6

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For your information.

DETAILS:

On September 14, 1953, you requested a summary of our files on [REDACTED] Dezi Arnak. A complete search of our indices was made concerning them, including all probable name variations.

B6
B7C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET4

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) B1B6 - B7C - B7D with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- ☒ For your information: Page 5 contains Legislative Branch information that is not subject to the FOIA.
- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
pages 3-6 of 94-52549-X1

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 X DELETED PAGE(S) X
 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
 X FOR THIS PAGE X
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CONFIDENTIAL

Memo to The Director

Re: [REDACTED]

DEZI ARNAZ

B6
B7c
B7D

[REDACTED]

DEZI ARNAZ

Summary

DESIDERIO ALBERTO ARNAZ y de Acha, III

NY
Calif

Biographical Data:

Arnaz, as Desiderio Alberto Arnaz y de Acha, III, was born on March 2, 1917, at Santiago, Cuba. He was educated at Colegio de Dolores, a Jesuit Prep School at Santiago, Cuba. He served as a staff sergeant, United States Army Medical Corps, for three years during World War II. He is a musician and actor by profession. (His American citizenship status is unknown). (Current Biography, 1952; Motion Picture and Television Almanac, 1952-1953.)

Information Contained in Bureau Files:

No investigation of Arnaz has been conducted by the Bureau.

A February 28, 1946, issue of the "California Eagle," a Los Angeles newspaper, contained an article entitled "Stars Interperson Talks for FEPC on Program at Shrine Auditorium Show." (FEPC signifies Fair Employment Practices Commission). The article stated that Desi Arnaz was one of the many entertainers who appeared on the show which was sponsored by the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of Arts, Sciences and Professions (HICASP). The HICASP is cited as a Communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report dated April 26, 1950. (100-135-26-181, page 8)

CONFIDENTIAL

CO
Memo to The Director

Re: [REDACTED] b6

DESI AEMAR

b1 [REDACTED] The [C]
California Labor Board has been designated by the Attorney
General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450 (X)
[REDACTED] 100-326958-133, page 112)
(c)

CONFIDENTIAL

- 8 -

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

INFORMATION-CONFIDENTIAL

November 23, 1953

DEZI ARNEZ
Born March 2, 1917
Santiago, Cuba

This Bureau has conducted no investigation concerning the captioned individual; however, our files reflect the following information concerning the subject of your inquiry.

Desilu Productions, Inc.

The "California Eagle" a Los Angeles newspaper issue dated February 28, 1946, reported that Dezi Arnez was one of the many entertainers who appeared on a show which was sponsored by the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions at the Shrine Auditorium, Los Angeles, California. The Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions was cited as a Communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities.

California Labor School has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-400465)

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check only and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your confidential use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

Orig. to Secret Service
Request received

MCT 94-52549-X

RECORDED

INDEXED

NOV 25 1953

NOV 23 1953

NAME CHECK

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Gerry
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Sizoo
Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

SECURITY INFORMATION-CONFIDENTIAL

52 DEC 1 1953

Classified by *Stancil*
Declassify on: OADR 3/4/87
conf 579571

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 1 1959

WU E008 NL PD

WESTERN UNION

TDL HOLLYWOOD CALIF DEC 31

CLYDE A TOLSON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FEDERAL BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION

DEAR CLYDE, WE CONTEMPLATE DOING THE LATE ELLIOT NESS'S
BOOK "THE UNTOUCHABLES" ON OUR WESTINGHOUSE DESILU
PLAYHOUSE. OUT OF COURTESY TO FORMER AGENT IN BOOK
WE WOULD LIKE TO LOCATE OR SEEK CLEARANCE ON MARTY
LAHART, SAM EAGER, BARNEY GLOONAN, LYLE CHAPMAN,
TOM FRIEL, MIKE KING, PAUL ROBSKY, BILL GARDNER. NESS
AND JOE LESSON ARE DECEASED. ALSO WOULD IT BE ALL
RIGHT FOR US TO USE, IN DRAMATIC REFERENCE, THE NAME
FBI IN STORY BUT NOT IN TITLE? I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY
HELP YOU CAN GIVE ME ON THIS PROJECT. MY BEST REGARDS
TO EDGAR AND YOURSELF FOR THE NEW YEAR

DESI ARNAZ DESILU HOLLYWOOD

JAN 1 157AME.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

REC-65

100-400465-1
94-52549-X3
JAN 9 1959

one
let to Desi Arnaz
1-5-59
mhl

one to Nease
memo 1-2-59
mhl

one sent copy
1-5-59
mhl

mhl
10

cc: Mr. Tolson

ST
esa

94-52549-X3

780-400465-13

REC-65

January 5, 1959

AIRMAIL

Mr. Desi Arnaz
Desilu Productions, Inc.
846 North Cahuenga Boulevard
Hollywood 38, California

Dear Desi:

Clyde has brought to my attention your telegram of December 31, and it was a pleasure to hear from you.

In connection with your inquiry, I would like to point out that the individuals mentioned in your wire were never employees of the FBI. In the early 1930's, of course, the Bureau of Prohibition was, for a time, within the Department of Justice, and for a portion of that time it was under the jurisdiction of this Bureau. It was never, however, merged with this Bureau, and the individuals listed in your telegram apparently were employees of the Bureau of Prohibition rather than of the FBI. Accordingly, I regret very much that I do not have any information concerning their present whereabouts, and I am not in a position to indicate any clearances concerning the use of their names.

With regard to mentioning the FBI in your dramatization, I might point out that "The Untouchables" describes the activities of Prohibition Investigators and not of Special Agents of this Bureau. In fact, we were not given the name "Federal Bureau of Investigation" until 1935, and a direct reference to the FBI would detract from the authenticity of your presentation.

- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Nease _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Trotter _____
- W.C. Sullivan _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

NOTE: See Jones to Nease memo dated January 2, 1959, captioned "Desi Arnaz, Request for Information." MLL:ogh.

MLL:jfc
(4)

MAILED 20
JAN 6 - 1959
COMM-FBI

66 JAN 16 1959

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Mr. Desi Arnaz

While it is unfortunate that I cannot help you in this instance, please be sure to let me know whenever I can be of assistance in the future. Clyde and I appreciate your good wishes for the New Year, and I hope that 1959 will bring you continuing success and a full measure of happiness.

Sincerely,

Edgar

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

ST TO : Mr. Nease

DATE: January 2, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: DESI ARNAZ
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

By telegram dated 12-31-58 Desi Arnaz advises Mr. Tolson that Desilu contemplates dramatizing the book, "The Untouchables" by the late Eliot Ness, and he would like to either locate or obtain clearances on a number of individuals whom he lists. He also asks permission to use, in dramatic reference, the name of the FBI in the story but not in the title.

The book by Ness entitled "The Untouchables" was published by Julian Messner, Inc., New York City and copyrighted by Ness in 1957. (Ness died in 1957. He had served as Safety Director in Cleveland [after leaving the Prohibition Unit] from 1935 to 1942 and later served with the War and Navy Departments in World War II). "The Untouchables" relates how Ness gathered under him a group of top Prohibition Agents late in 1929 and spent approximately 2 1/2 years with these men tracking down notorious prohibition violators in the Chicago area. This group apparently included men on whom Mr. Arnaz wants clearances. The book apparently gives Ness a great deal of credit for the activities of the Government in bringing prohibition violators to justice, even to giving the impression that he was instrumental in sending Al Capone to prison. The epilogue to the book even says that "The following year, 1933, the FBI moved him (Ness) to Cincinnati with instructions to clean up" moonshiners in Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio.

Ness was employed as a Prohibition Agent under the Internal Revenue Service from 8-26-28 to 6-5-29, at which time he was transferred to the Bureau of Prohibition in the Department of Justice. He was employed in the Department as a Special Agent from 7-1-30 until 8-10-33. At that time, he was reappointed as a Senior Prohibition Investigator in the Internal Revenue Service located in Cincinnati. From inquiries which we have received in the past, Ness has apparently given the impression that he was an employee of the FBI some time. The Bureau of Prohibition, of course, was in the Department of Justice for approximately three years subsequent to June of 1930. During a part of that time the Prohibition Unit was under the immediate jurisdiction of the Bureau, and this is obviously how Ness created the impression that he worked for the FBI. The Prohibition Unit was never, of course, merged with the FBI. Ness was never actually an employee of the FBI. In fact, he applied for the position of Special

Enclosure

MLL:ogh

(2)

66 JAN 16 1959

REC-65

JAN 9 1959

FBI

Jones to Nease memo

Agent in the FBI in September, 1933, but he was not accepted because he generally did not meet the Bureau's standards.

BC We can find no indication that any of the men listed by Desi Arnaz in his telegram were ever employed in the FBI. They apparently served with the Bureau of Prohibition or the Prohibition Unit and they probably so served during the time that the enforcement of prohibition came under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General. The available records, of course, are quite sketchy and incomplete, indicating only that these men were investigated for positions in the Prohibition Unit. We would certainly have additional records if any of them had actually been in the FBI. Several did apply for Bureau employment later [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Accordingly, we are in no position to provide Mr. Arnaz with any information concerning the present whereabouts or any clearances on them. In addition, because of the self-serving nature of the book by Ness and its rather sensational treatment of the activities of the Bureau of Prohibition, it would not appear advisable to have the name of the FBI used in the dramatization of the book. In this regard, we can point out to Mr. Arnaz the fact that the use of the name "FBI" would not be entirely accurate because we did not receive this name until 1935.

RECOMMENDATION:

That attached letter be sent to Mr. Arnaz pointing out that the men he mentions were not FBI employees and we cannot advise him of their present whereabouts or give him any clearances to use their names. It also points out the undesirability of using the name of the FBI in the dramatization.

✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

4/10/35

SAC, Los Angeles

February 26, 1959

Director, FBI

**DESILU PLAYHOUSE PRODUCTION
"THE UNTOUCHABLES"
INFORMATION CONCERNING**

Desi Arnaz
The "TV Guide" for the week of February 21-27 contains a reference on page 31 to the forthcoming Desilu Playhouse production entitled "The Untouchables" which is based on the book by "former FBI Agent Eliot Ness." It points out this production will be done in two parts to be shown on consecutive weeks and is the story of the "break-up of the Capone gang."

For your information a telegram dated December 31, 1958, addressed to Associate Director Tolson from Desi Arnaz, was received advising Mr. Tolson that the captioned program was going to be produced and requested Bureau permission to use "in dramatic reference" in the name "FBI" in the story but not in the title.

By way of background, Ness was employed as Prohibition Agent under the Internal Revenue Service from 8-26-26 to 6-5-29 at which time he was transferred to the Bureau of Prohibition in the Department of Justice. He was employed in the Department as a Special Agent from 7-1-30 until 8-10-33 at which time he was reappointed as a Senior Prohibition Investigator in the Internal Revenue Service located in Cincinnati. Ness was never an employee of the FBI, however, during a portion of the period that the Bureau of Prohibition was under the Department of Justice it was under the immediate jurisdiction of the FBI, and this is obviously how Ness created the impression that he worked for the FBI. Further, Ness at one time applied for a position as a Special Agent for the FBI but he was not accepted because he generally did not meet the Bureau's standards. (67-32640-35)

In response to the telegram to Associate Director Tolson from Arnaz, a letter was sent to him from the Director under the date of January 5, 1959, a pertinent portion of which is quoted below:

"With regard to mentioning the FBI in your dramatization, I might point out that 'The Untouchables' describes the activities of Prohibition Investigators and not of

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

60 MAR 27 1959

TWD:jss (8)

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

**SAC, Los Angeles
DESILU PLAYHOUSE PRODUCTION**

Special Agents of this Bureau. In fact, we were not given the name, 'Federal Bureau of Investigation,' until 1935, and a direct reference to the FBI would detract from the authenticity of your presentation."

This letter also tactfully pointed out Ness and his associates in their work as Prohibition Investigators were not employees of the FBI but for a short period of time came under the Director's supervision.

(100-400465, 13)

You should be alert to any references to the FBI in this production and the attendant publicity.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: March 13, 1959

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (94-0-840)

SUBJECT: DESILU PLAYHOUSE PRODUCTION
"THE UNTOUCHABLES"
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ReBulet 2/26/59.

Desi ARNAZ

The following news item appeared in the Rambling Reporter column, edited by MIKE CONNOLLY, in the "Hollywood Reporter" issue of 3/11/59.

"Neither ALAN LADD or JIM ARNESS can be had for FBI Agent in Desilu's two-part AL CAPONE 'Playhouse'. Regardless, 'The Untouchables' rolls Friday."

The 3/12/59, issue of the same publication contained the following news item in CONNOLLY's column:

"It's FRED MAC MURRAY for the FBI Agent in PAUL MONASH's AL CAPONE caper for Desilu, 'The Untouchables'."

The Bureau will be advised of any subsequent publicity referring to FBI in connection with this production.

- ② - Bureau
- 1 - Los Angeles (94-0-840)
- JMC:HMS
- (3)

REC-9

94-52549-X6

MAR 23 1959

60 MAR 27 1959

CRIM REC.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

RA TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: April 21, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

Desi Arnaz

SUBJECT: "THE UNTOUCHABLES"
DESILU PLAYHOUSE
WTOP-TV; 10:00 P.M., 4/21/59

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
DeLoach	_____
McGuire	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

Part I of the two-part television presentation based on Eliot Ness' book, "The Untouchables," appeared last night. This is the story of the drive against Al Capone by the Prohibition Enforcement Unit of the Treasury Department.

While the preprogram publicity and schedule announcements kept stating that this was the story of the "FBI versus Al Capone," the drama itself makes it clear that the FBI is in no way involved.

The time of this segment of the drama was 1929 and 1930 at which time Capone was incarcerated on the basis of a concealed weapons charge to which he pleaded guilty in Philadelphia. It is to be noted that the Prohibition Enforcement Unit was shifted to the Justice Department in 1930 but its operations remained entirely separate from those of the FBI and outside of the Director's responsibility. It was not until June 10, 1933, (after Capone had been sentenced to prison following his conviction for income tax evasion) that President Roosevelt ordered the Prohibition Enforcement Unit and the Bureau of Investigation consolidated into the Division of Investigation within the Department of Justice under Mr. Hoover's directorship.

The drama is well done and is narrated by Walter Winchell in a very effective style. We will watch Part II which will appear next Monday night on the Desilu Playhouse.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

JTM:cag

(4)

ENCLOSURE

67 APR 28 1959

REC-29
EX 10594-52549-X 7
APR 27 1959

CRIME REC.



DAVE REQUE ON TV

Why Go Back So Far?

UP on the Hill Senator McClellan and Bob Kennedy have been shining their investigative spotlight on the fascinating doings of modern gangsters. On television we are getting a warmed-over rehash of the more primitive doings of the bad boys of the 1920's. Video is like that.

Using the prohibition mobsters as material for drama is fairly safe, of course.

Most toes that could be stepped on have long since curled up, with or without cement overshoes. It's all so long ago. It differs from Robin Hood only in slight degree.

The sagas of the prohibition mobs are made of simple stuff. The public wanted its hooch and beer, and even these primitive plug-uglies could spot a good deal when they saw it.

They made a lot of money and had enough animal cunning to give a practical share of it to the cops.

Q Capone Tonight

In fact, Al Capone owned so many people the only way they could stash him in the clink was to catch him on an income tax rap.

This is the subject of "The Untouchables" on tonight's "Desilu Playhouse." Narrated by Walter Winchell, it'll be a documentary more than a drama, a tribute to the FBI agents who got the tax goods on Big Al.

Come to think of it, a study of how Capone stayed out of jail despite a publicly recognized close connection with assorted murders maybe still would be too hot a potato for TV.

Overall, there wasn't much finesse to the hoodlums of the '20s compared to the present-day crowd which holds its own trade conventions and cleverly mulcts a vast assortment of businesses.

"Pete Kelly's Blues" and the brand-new "The Lawless Years," which deal in prohibition criminal types, replays a well-furrowed field. Also one that is, for angles, fairly dull to start with.

Q How About

Comedy?

If we are off on a cycle of 1920's cops-and-gangsters dramas, I wonder if the wheel will turn enough to reach the present point of the western cycle: comedy westerns which kid the chaps off the traditional they-went-thataways.

I think that might kill the deal, as I think it's likely to do with the horse opera.

Q Incongruity

The broad (oh, excuse me) humor of the parodies on western as in "Maverick's" foolery recently when a chorus cutie, in her work scanties, was romping incongruously over the boondocks pursued by Indians who looked like they were imitating the Three Stooges, is likely to start causing more yawns than laughs before long.

Setting aside the undoubted charms of Jack Kelly and James Garner, "Maverick's" heroes in residence, the Sunday show's appeal is simply this: "Look, ma, here's a western that makes fun of westerns. O.K. giddy."

For the long haul, and sure is on one, "Wagon Train's" approach to fun in westerns is sounder.

Wagonmaster Ward Bond had Wally Cox aboard the other night, and it was as much real fun as Wally's old "Mr. Peepers" shows. And that's a lot of laughs.

True, the "Maverick" episode about the Britishers on a bear hunt is a pretty amusing hour. But not funny enough to be repeated as it was last night.

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

The Washington Post and Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News 44 _____
The Evening Star _____
New York Herald Tribune _____
New York Journal-American _____
New York Mirror _____
New York Daily News _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Worker _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
Date _____

APR 20 1959

ENCLOSURE

Desilu Productions Inc.

780 NORTH GOWER STREET • HOLLYWOOD 38 • CALIFORNIA
HOLLYWOOD 9-5911

DESI ARNAZ
PRESIDENT

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

April 29, 1959

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Edgar:

You and I have discussed in the past the possibility of Desilu doing a television series based upon the activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

As you probably know, Mildred and Gordon Gordon have a property which they have written, called THE FBI STORY. We have been advised that this property is being written as a one-hour teleplay, looking forward to the possibility of making this show as a pilot for a television series called THE FBI STORY.

One can never be sure as to the type of organization that would buy this property and develop it into a series without taking into account the requirements and interests of your department.

Accordingly, we would like to ask you two questions. If we were able to purchase THE FBI STORY from the Gordons for a television series and give it a quality Desilu production, would there be any objection on your part? Secondly, we would always like the opportunity of doing a series based upon the activities of the FBI based upon our previous discussions with you, if you so preferred.

EX-113

REC-69

94-52549-X
20 MAY 12 1959

ack 5-7-59
cm
me for ref. only

5-5-59

CRIME REC.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

-2-

April 29, 1959

Obviously under no conditions would we proceed with such a project unless we had the complete sanction of you and your department. On the other hand, we would be very unhappy to find some other production company buying THE FBI STORY and doing a series based upon it, with or without your approval.

Could we have your thoughts?

With best regards from Lucy and myself,

Sincerely,



Desi (Arnaz)

DA/j11

REC-69

100-400465-17
94-52549-X8

May 7, 1959

PERSONAL

Mr. Desi Arnaz
President
Desilu Productions, Inc.
780 North Gower Street
Hollywood 38, California

Dear Desi:

I have received your letter of April 29, 1959, and I deeply appreciate your advising me of the plans of Mr. Gordon Gordon to produce a one-hour teleplay based on his property, "FBI Story." Needless to say, I am grateful for your interest in this matter.

For your confidential information, we have experienced difficulties with Mildred and Gordon Gordon in connection with their writing on topics involving the FBI, the primary troubles involving their use of the title, "FBI Story," which, as you know, is similar to the title of the Warner Brothers motion picture, "The FBI Story."

We are, very frankly, committed to Warner Brothers for this motion picture and it is just physically impossible for us to become involved in any television venture at any time in the near future. As far as your producing the Gordons' "FBI Story" is concerned, let me say again that I am most appreciative of the motives which prompted your thoughts along this line, but in view of the current situation, I must object to any television series at this time which would have as a base the activities of this Bureau.

I thought you might like to know that in the last several years we have received more than one hundred offers from agencies and producers to go into television, either on a series or on a one-hour show. As I have indicated, it has been physically impossible for us to accede to these requests. This does not mean, of course, that we are shutting

1 - Los Angeles - Enclosure. Attention SAC: With regard to the letter from Mr. Arnaz you are instructed to endeavor to learn the most recent developments in the attempts of the Gordons to sell their property as a one-hour TV show or as a series. It will be incumbent upon you to follow this matter very closely and the Bureau desires a reply under (note continued next page) CEM:ch NOTE: Address per incoming. See Jones to DeLoach memo dated 5-5-59 captioned "Desi Arnaz, President, Desilu Productions, Inc., Hollywood California. CEM:ch"

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
DeLoach _____
McGuire _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____

50 MAY 26 1959

TELETYPE UNIT

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mr. Desi Arnaz
May 7, 1959

the door entirely on it when the time is propitious. You may be sure we will bear in mind your kind offer and your reputation as a quality producer.

It is my sincere hope that you will understand my position in this regard. It was good to hear from you, and I want to extend my warmest regards to Lacy.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

J. Edgar Hoover

SAC Note continued:

the caption "Desi Arnaz, President, Desilu Productions, Inc., Hollywood, California, Research (Crime Records): no later than May 29, 1959.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: May 18, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: DESILU PRODUCTIONS, INC.
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA
INTEREST IN TV SCRIPT "FBI STORY"Classified by Stancin/ham
Declassify on: OADR 3/6/87
Comp 279511

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

VISIT TO BUREAU BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of Desilu Productions, Inc., has indicated a desire to visit the Bureau Tuesday, May 19, 1959, and based upon recent correspondence with his firm, he may discuss the televising of "FBI Story," the book written by Mildred and Gordon Gordon. [REDACTED]
(Copy attached.)

By letter of May 7, 1959, to Desi Arnaz, the Director acquainted him with the difficulty the Bureau has had with the Gordons, primarily involving their use of the title, "FBI Story," and pointed out that the Bureau cannot at this time undertake any television commitment. Objections to any television series about the Bureau clearly indicated. (Correspondence to and from Arnaz attached)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

BACKGROUND ON DESI ARNAZ:

Arnaz was born March 2, 1917, at Santiago, Cuba. He was educated at Colegio de Dolores, a Jesuit Prep School at Santiago, Cuba. He served as a Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Medical Corps for three years during World War II. He is a musician and actor by profession.

The February 28, 1946, issue of the "California Eagle," a Los Angeles newspaper, reported that Dezi Arnaz was one of the many entertainers who appeared on a show which was sponsored by the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions at the Shrine Auditorium, Los Angeles, California. The Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions has been cited as a communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities.

[REDACTED] The California Labor School has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (62-5-1085)

Enclosures

- 1 - Mr. Tolson
- 1 - Mr. Holloman
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach

JRH:cag (8)

67 JUN 8 1959

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UNRECORDED COPY FILED

Jones to DeLoach memorandum

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

There have been cordial relations with Arnez and his wife, Lucille Ball, in recent years.

CONFIDENTIAL

B6

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

LS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 5/28/59

FROM : SAC, Los Angeles (94-513)

SUBJECT: DESI ARNAZ, President,
Desilu Productions, Inc.,
Hollywood, California
RESEARCH (Crime Records)

ReBulet to DESI ARNAZ 5/7/59.

To date, no information has been received by this office indicating further effort on the part of the GORDON GORDONS or their agent, INGO PREMINGER, to sell the Gordon property "FBI STORY" for TV production.

This matter will be followed closely by this office and the Bureau will be advised of any pertinent developments.

UACB, no direct contact will be had in this matter with the GORDONS or PREMINGER.

2 - Bureau (Air Mail)
 1 - Los Angeles
 WLB:AB
 (3)

*No action
 required
 CC detached
 4/24/60*

REC- 64 ~~100-400465-19~~
 EX 100 94-52549-X10
 JUN 1 1959

8 JUN 1 1959

JUN 11 8 21 AM '59

CRIMINAL

EXP. PROC.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 6/19/59

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (94-630)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TELEVISION PRODUCTION
MEETING AT APALACHIN
DESILU PLAYHOUSE

Rebulet 6/9/59.

[REDACTED] Desilu Productions,
and [REDACTED] were interviewed on 6/18/59 by
SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a documentary on the Apalachin Meeting if a sufficiently interesting story can be developed. Present plans are to limit the story to the original arrests at Apalachin. [REDACTED] stated that, regardless of treatment, no participation by the Bureau will be depicted.

Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] expressed their appreciation that the Bureau would extend the courtesy to acquaint them of the fact of the Bureau's non-participation.

- ② - Bureau (AIRMAIL)
1 - Los Angeles

WLB/ec
(3)

MCI-25

REC-55

JUN 23 1959

EX-102

JUL 2 1959

REC'D DEPT
JUL 2 1959

INCOMING

JUN 23 1959

CRIME

Cristoforo

SAC, Los Angeles

June 9, 1959

Director, FBI

**PROPOSED TELEVISION PRODUCTION
"MEETING AT APALACHIN"
DESILU PLAYHOUSE**

Reur Crimdel airtel dated May 28, 1959, which states on page five that the May 22, 1959, issue of the "Hollywood Reporter" stated that the Desilu Playhouse is preparing a production concerning the Apalachin meeting. As quoted in your communication, this news story stated that the FBI seized 21 of the individuals who attended this meeting and were seeking five others.

Appropriate contact should be made with officials at Desilu Productions in order to ascertain if such a production is scheduled. If so, it should be pointed out to appropriate officials that the FBI did not have any connection with the Apalachin meeting in the first instance and had absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with the apprehension of individuals who did take part in this meeting. It is felt that it would be best to straighten this matter out now if Desilu Productions is under the misapprehension that these incidents did involve the Bureau.

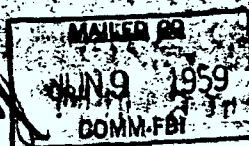
Advise the Bureau of results of your contact concerning this matter no later than June 22, 1959.

Follow-up made for 6/23/59.

JTM:cag

(5)

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



14 JUN 15 1959

JUN 23 1959 MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

63 JUN 23 1959

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: September 3, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~SUBJECT: DESI ARNAZ
MOVIE ACTOR AND PRODUCER

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

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:Desi ARNAZ

Captioned individual is going to call the Director at 2:00 p.m., today, our time. Purpose of this memorandum is to set forth salient information concerning him appearing in Bufiles. In the interest of expediency, review has been limited to abstracts only.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

OTHERWISE

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Classified by SP7mac/pan
 Declassify on: OADR 3/4/87
 Comp 279511

The current Who's Who reflects that Arnaz was born in Santiago, Cuba, March 2, 1917. He attended public schools in Miami, Florida, and married Lucille Ball in November, 1940. He appeared in various nightclubs, was with RKO Hollywood, 1940, MGM studios, 1942, and was musical director of the Bob Hope radio show in 1946. He was under contract to Columbia records in 1953. He stars with his wife, Lucille Ball, in the television show, "I Love Lucy." He is President of Desilu Productions, Inc. He served in the U.S. Army, 1943-46, and resides in Hollywood, California.

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:Desilu Productions

We have a Main file on Desi Arnaz's father, Dr. Desi Arnaz. Originally he was a political refugee from Cuba and lives in Florida.

REC-109
 MCT 94-52549-3
 As far as Desi Arnaz himself is concerned, we have never investigated him. In 1946 his name appeared in connection with a show sponsored by the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, a cited organization.

1 - Mr. Holloman

1 - Mr. DeLoach

DGH:sfc (7)

SEP 6 1959

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Jones to DeLoach memo

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

In January, 1959, Arnaz wrote to Mr. Tolson and stated that he contemplated doing "The Untouchables" on television and out of courtesy to a former Agent in the book would like to get in touch with him. He was advised we would be unable to be of assistance. In April, 1959, Arnaz wrote and was interested in doing something on the FBI on television. He was advised we were committed to Warner Brothers for "The FBI Story." Actually Arnaz was interested in "The FBI Story" by the Gordons, and he was advised we would object to this.

It should be noted that on 8-28-59 [REDACTED] telephonically contacted the Bureau and was interested in the background of one [REDACTED] allegedly employed by Desi Arnaz. [REDACTED] is a former Security Index subject with a background of communist affiliations [REDACTED]

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

ADDENDUM: JTM:ejp, 9-3-59: [REDACTED]

Desilu, came to the Bureau a few months ago and mentioned that Desilu was considering a "Dragnet" like program concerning the Metropolitan Police Department. He consulted with [REDACTED] but to our knowledge, it was on an informative stage.

copy to Mr. Tolson.

[Handwritten signature]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR

DATE: 9/3/59

FROM : CLYDE TOLSON

SUBJECT:

Desilu Productions

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

I talked to ~~Desi~~ Arnaz at Del Mar, California. He said he had filmed a show for Playhouse Theater for showing in October concerning the Apalachin Meeting. He received a call from [REDACTED] in New York, asking him to postpone the showing of the film because of the possibility that the persons mentioned could claim prejudice in the trial to be held this fall. Arnaz said that he has already invested \$200,000 in the picture and he wanted our advice as to whether to cancel the show or go ahead with it.

I told Arnaz that we have absolutely nothing to do with this matter; that his problem is one which does not come within the jurisdiction of the FBI and we could not advise him one way or the other. He stated he understood and that he would have his lawyers consider the matter further to determine whether to go ahead with the show or to postpone it.

CT:DSS

266 4 3 15 6H 22

NOT FOR
RECEIVED

53 SEP 28 1959

REC-31

94-52549-4

12 SEP 16 1959

266 4 3 15 6H 22

fite
SAME FILE

DECODED COPY

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

☒ Radio

☐ Teletype

URGENT 9-21-59

TO DIRECTOR

FROM SAC LOS ANGELES 211806

DESI ARNEZ, INFORMATION CONCERNING. DESI ARNEZ, PROMINENT TV PRODUCER AND HEAD OF DESILU PRODUCTIONS, ARRESTED HOLLYWOOD, EARLY SEPTEMBER 19, 1959 ON DRUNK CHARGE AFTER AN ARGUMENT WITH PLAIN CLOTHESMEN. RELEASED ONE HOUR LATER AFTER POSTING \$21 BAIL. WHEN BOOKED AT STATION, ARNEZ EXPRESSED DESIRE TO PHONE J. EDGAR HOOVER AND FORMER SHERIFF EUGENE BISCAILLUZ, BOTH FRIENDS WHO COULD IDENTIFY HIM. SCHEDULED FOR ARRAIGNMENT IN LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL COURT SEPTEMBER 21, 1959. PUBLICITY ITEMS BEING FORWARDED VIA AIRTEL. LOS ANGELES WILL ENDEAVOR TO DETERMINE ARREST DETAILS THROUGH ESTABLISHED SOURCES UAGB. *advised to the contrary by Bureau.*

RECEIVED:

3:24 PM RADIO

3:45 PM CODING UNIT CTF

MR. DELOACH

SEP 29 1959

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: September 21, 1959

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: DESI ARNEZ
INFORMATION CONCERNING

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

Reference is made to the radiogram from the Los Angeles Office dated 9-21-59 in which it is stated Arnez had been arrested early 9-19-59 on a drunk charge after an argument with plain clothesmen in Hollywood. The Los Angeles Office stated it would endeavor to determine the arrest details. The Director indicated there was no need to do this.

ACTION TAKEN:

Wick called SAC Webb Burke of the Los Angeles Office at 6:07 p.m. today instructing that no action should be taken by the Los Angeles Office pursuant to the Director's instructions.

1 - Mr. Jones

REW:sak
(3)

EX.

REC-21

94-52549-6

~~63-5605-2~~

SEP 23 1959 E. B. I.

SEP 25

CRIM. REC.

SEP 29 1959 bac

FBI

Date: 9/21/59 *Jeff*Transmit the following in PLAIN

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTELAIR MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

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

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
 FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (94-589)
 RE : *DESI* ARNAZ
 INFORMATION CONCERNING

Remyradiogram, 9/21/59.

Forwarded herewith are news clippings of items concerning arrest of above-captioned individual which appeared in September 20, 1959, issues of "Los Angeles Times" and "Los Angeles Examiner."

No further action being taken pursuant to telephone instructions from Bureau, 9/21/59.

3 - Bureau (Encls. 2) (Air Mail)
 1 - Los Angeles (94-589)
 JMC:HMS
 (4)

REC-36

74-52549-7

23 SEP 28 1959

FBI

RECEIVED - 10-20-59

26 53 2 51 PM '59

26 52 11 30 AM '59

26 52 4 12 PM '59

60 SEP 30 1959

FBI

Approved: *WPA*

RECEIVED - DIRECTOR

Sent: *11-21-59*

M

Per *11-21-59*

Special Agent in Charge

11 DIRECTOR