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١	Mr. Coffey
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New York, hew York.

PEF : RG

May 24, 1939

PRASONAL AND CO PEDIFICAL

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, hashington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There has appeared in LEONARD MYCKS column upon several occasions reference to

67C, 674

LYONS has mentioned in his column that paid for his passport; that he accomply smuggled in property for GRACIFALLEN and HARM LIVINGSTO rether than GROSSICEURIS and JACK BERNY. Recently he neutloned that was involved in connection with the passing of a \$10,000.00 U.S. note by an attorney in town.

b7c

United States Attorney John To Cahill spoke to me about this and said he was very much concerned regarding the information appearing in LYOMS! column and wondered where the leak might be. I told Mr. Cahill that only one or two Agents of the Federal Sureau of Investigation knew of

67C,67D

other than myself and I was certain there had been no leak in the F.b.I.; that we furnished reports to him under Personal and Confidential cover and I did not know who in his office had access to these reports. I did tell Hr. Cahill that I thought that if he wanted to ascertain the source of LYONS' information he should call him down and ask him or else have him appear before the Grand Jury.

RECORDED a INDEXED

At that time Mr. Cahill stated that he did not think that any purpose would be served by interviewing LYONS because he did not believe that he would disclose his source of information; further that he felt that if LYONS were called before the Grand Jury he would still refuse to disclose the source of his information. Mr. Cahill also pointed out that to follow such a procedure might interfere with the pleasant relations now existing between his office and the press.

Letter to Director

5/24/39

I informed Assistant Director E. A. Tamm of Mr. Cahill's remarks in connection with this matter and Mr. Tamm later instructed that I tell Mr. Cahill that the matter had been discussed with you and you were of the opinion that it would be a very good idea to have LYONS before the Grand Jury in order to question him concerning his sources of information and further that you were also greatly concerned about the source of information of the who has been found from time to time to be in possession of a good bit of confidential information and that it was your suggestion that at the same time to be questioned as to his sources of information.

I informed Mr. Cahill of the above relians him that it was your suggestion. At that time Mr. Cahili grain stated that he did not feel that any purpose would be served by calling either of the individuals before the Crand Jury for the reason that they would undoubtedly refuse to disclose their sources of information and for the further reason that he felt that it would interfers with the present relationship existing with the representatives of the press.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXFORTH, Inspector. 607 U. S. Court House Foley Square New York, N. Y.

SJD:JPM 62-6419

PERSONAL VID CONFIDENTIAL

August 11, 1939

Hon. John T. Cahill United States Attorney U. S. Court House Foley Square New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

For your information, during a recent interview with a prisoner in the Federal House of Detention.

New York City, Special Agent was informed that a bondsman, was interested in a prisoner by the name of substance and was convicted early this year on a charge of counterfeiting and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary.

advised that was also being held at the House of Detention, New York City. However, it was subsequently ascertained that was transferred to the Atlanta penitentiary on July 14, 1939.

by Assistant U. S. Attorney JOSEPH L. DELANEY, and that and and are very close to MR. DELANEY and were working for a reduction in sentence.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH, Special Agent in Charge

cc-Bureau

INDEXED

54-717-13X

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WM

### Nederal Bureau of Investigation United States Department of Justice

New York, N. Y.

SJD<sub>1</sub>EL 62-6419

July 25, 1939

PERSONAL

Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

For the Burgau's information, during a conference on July 6, 1939, a prisoner in the Federal House of Detention, New York City, advised Special Agent (A) that a bondsman, was interested in a prisoner by the name of who was convicted early this year on a charge of counterfeiting and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. advised that was being held at the House of Detention, New York City. It has been subsequently determined that was transferred to the Atlanta was being Penitentiary on July 14, 1939.

67 C further informed that handled by Assistant U. S. Attorney JOSEPH L. DELANEY, and that are very close to DELANEY and were working for a reduction in sentence.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH.

Special Agent in Charge.

WW - 8/3/34 UNDEXED

PEOPHAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AUG 7 1939

IS S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BALL. MIN

VCZ:RMB

August 3, 1939

RECORDED - 4-717-14

PERSONAL AD CONFIDENTIAL

Special Agent in Charge New York, New York

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of July 25, 1939, concerning

condense, was interested in a prisoner by the name those case was handled by Assistant

Dalked States Attorney Joseph L. Belaney, and that and the are very class to Delaney and were working for a reduction in sentence.

It is desired that the information related in your above-mentioned letter be brought to the attention of United States Attorney Cabill.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Roover Director

Mr. Tolnon
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Turcm
Mr. Clegif
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Rgan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Lawlor
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

★ AUG -3 1939

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

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COPY FILED IN 62

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Gem Smyggler

Albert N. Chapereau, who did a bit of smugging for Jack Benny, Mary Livingston, George Burns and Gracie Allen back in 1938, now wants the quartet to cough up with the \$7,682 he paid in fines, it became known yesterday.

Attorneys for the radio stars announced they'd move for dismissal of suits in Supreme Court at 10 A. M. today. Benny and Burns paid fines of \$10,000 and \$5,000, respectively, in connection with the amuggling.

In his suit against the Bennys—Jack and Mary—Chapereau seeks \$2,131 and interest, charging they sked him to carry diamond and gald clips and a bracelet from France.

63 MAR 17 1945

CLIFFING FROM THE N. Y. DAILY MEWS

DATED 2.25-40
FORWARDED BY M. Y. DIVISION

# Prison Opens for Smuggler

Chaperau Sentence Is Commuted

NEW YORK, April 12.—(P)—The United States Attorney's Office here was advised today that President Roosevelt had commuted to the time already served the five-year sentence imposed last April on Albert N. Chaperau, central figure in a widespread smuggling plot.

Chaperau, a pseudo diplomat, was, convicted as the carrier of smuggled goods which wound up in the hands of such notables as Jack Benny and George Burns, the radio comedians, and Mrs. Edgar Lauer, wife of a former New York State Supreme Court justice.

Chaperau's sentence, while originally put at five years, already had been cut by Federal Judge Hulbert, on motion of the prosecution, to two years minus the time served while awaiting trial—which made the actual sentence about 18 months. His unpaid \$5,000 fine will repeat in tudgment against him.

repain in judgment against him Renny paid a \$10,000 fine; Buns \$8,000 Mrs. Lauer served a 3month jail term.

THE DETRUIT NAMES APRIL 12, 1940



157C

# U S. Rewards Chaperau

Albert N. Chaperau, serving two years in Federal prison for jewel smuggling, today earned his reward for co-operating with the Government in the case involving Jack Benny and George Burns, radio comedians, and Mrs. Elma N. Lauer, wife of former Supreme Court Justice Edgar A. Lauer.

An indictment against his wife, Paula Chaperau, was nolle prossed under authorization of U. S. Attorney John T. Cahill on the plea of Chaperau that Mrs. Chaperau and their 16-year-old daughter were poverty stricken in France and would like to return here.

Burns and Benny were given a suspended sentence and Mrs. Layer was sentenced to three months in

54-717-A-

CLIFFING FROM THE N. Y. EVENTING FOURNAL AMERICAN

DATE. (FOR 7 - 10.33)
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

## <del>a f</del>ggler (<u>see</u> Ended Against Mrs. Chaperau

Cahill Drops Indictment as Reward to Husband for Manton Trial Testimony

The prosecution of later. Pauls Chaperau as a member let a jewelly smuggling ayundicate operated by her attaband. Afbert N. Chaperau and Mrs. Edgar J. Taunt, when all the former Justice of the Supreme Court, was dropped yesterday, when a three-count indictment drawn up against her on Dec. 9, 1933, was nolle prossed in United States Diatrict Court.

Joseph J. Delanes, Assistant United States Attorney, filled the government's intention to drop prosecution of Mrs. Chaperau, which was said to be the last legal action, taken in the case, which is; suited in guilty pleas is Jock Benny and George Burns, sersell and radio comedians, as receivers in smuggled goods. Chaperau laster is muggled goods. Chaperau laster is smuggled goods. Chaperau laster is smuggled goods. Chaperau laster is smuggled goods. Chaperau laster is sentence. Survey and a day and Burns sank. Section a day and Burns sank. Section and a captured sentence of series, and a day and addition, Benny was authorized by John T. Candil, United States Attorney, in consideration of the testimony offered by Chaperau as a government witness in the trial of Martin T. Mantage former sentor judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. The last followed the recent policy which Mr. Cahill has serveres for services, rendered to the government in its various prosecutions.

Chaperau had made many attentions which has services frindered to the government in its various prosecutions. ecutions.

ecutions.

Chiaperau had made many attempts since he was sentened on Jan. 10, 1939, for his part in the smuggling conspiracy, either to gain his release of quash the indictment against his wife, so that she and their sixteen year-old daughter, who are at present in Paris, could come to the United States. Chaperau told authorities that his family was powerly-stricken

poverty-stricken Mrs. Chaperau's part in the operations of the jewelry smugglers, according to the indictment revolved around the smuggling into this country of a gold ring, studded with diamonds, valued at \$905. The document charged that Mrs. Chaperau brought in the ring at the suggestion of her husband, who posed as a commercial attache of the Nicaraguan government, to escape payment of, import duties. Besides smuggling the lewelry Mrs. Chapment was accused of making talse occurrences to the customs by sating that the ring was her personal phoperty, whereas it really was indicated to be sold to Burns, which was eventually done. Mrs. Chaperau's part in the opera-

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CIIPFILG 20	T. T. Silver	yesi
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FORWARDED DE TOU YOUR LITTSION

surray Sirin Satur Sirai

New York January 16, 1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Re: 670

Gentlemen:

HANDVER 2-7800

67c

our client alleging that on or about November 9, 1940, it negli- b70 gently destroyed some of his personal property, contrary to his instructions.

We have some recollection of a man of a similar name being involved with the Department of Justice, due to violations of the Customs Laws. Our basis for believing that this is the same man is the fact that among the alleged property destroyed there is claimed to have been some correspondence from people of promintence in the theatrical and radio business.

We are interested in obtaining any useful information you may have in your files which will assist us in the defense of our case.

If convenient and agreeable to you, we shall be glad to have our representative confer with your representative in New York.
City to go over the matter in more detail.

Yours very truly,

By:

Managing Attorney

MC

JEO:GU

JAC:11C 54**-717-1**5

February 2, 1943

27 Gedar Street New York, New York

Dear 51C

I have for acknowledgment your letter dated January 16, 1943.

Please be advised that the matter referred to therein was handled by the Customs Service in New York City, and it is, therefore, suggested you may desire to communicate with the Customs Service or with the United States Attorney's Office in New York City, which prosecuted this case, for further details in this regard.

I regret advising that I am unable to render you any assistance in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

In &

×

June 25, 1964

JACK BENNY Born: February 14, 1894 Waukegan, Illinois

In response to your request for a check of the files of this Bureau concerning the captioned individual, you are advised that no investigation of him has been conducted by the FBI.

The files of this Bureau do reveal, however, that according to newspaper publicity appearing in late 1939 and early 1940 Benny was the subject of a swuggling investigation as a result of which he was convicted and paid a fine of \$10,000.

You may desire to check with the Customs Bureau, U. S. Treasury Department, for information concerning this matter. (54-717)

Original & 1 - CSC Request Received 6/23/64

13:nc/b

1 ENCLOSURE

TE JUN 30 1964

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI, and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This is in answer to your request for a check of FBI files.



STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION BUREAU OF PERSONNEL INVESTIGATIONS WASHINGTON 25, D.C. ADDRESS REPLY TO
"CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION"
AND REFER TO

FILE

AND DATE OF THIS LETTER

Benny, Jack (stage name)
DOB: 2-14-94
POB: Waukegan, Ill.

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA, VOLUME 31, 1960-1961, page 222

Radio entertainer; b. Waukegan, Ill., Feb. 14, 1894; s. Meyer and Emma (Sachs) Kubelsky; ed. Waukegan (Ill.) High Sch.; m. Mary Livingstone (actress) Jan. 25, 1927; 1 dau., Joan Naomi (adopted). Began as violinist, 1912; featured player on vaudeville stage; star in motion pictures since 1929; radio entertainer since 1932 also on TV as guest artist and in own program; recent pictures: To Be or Not to Be, George Washington Slept Here, The Horn Blows at Midnight. Served in U. S. Navy, World War I; spent summers 1943, 14, 15, entertaining armed forces Overseas during World War II. Recipient award for best continuing performance by a male entertainer Nat. Acad. Television Arts and Sci., 1957, Spl. award. Home: 1002 North Roxbury Dr., Beverly Hills, Cal.

SII Check - No Record

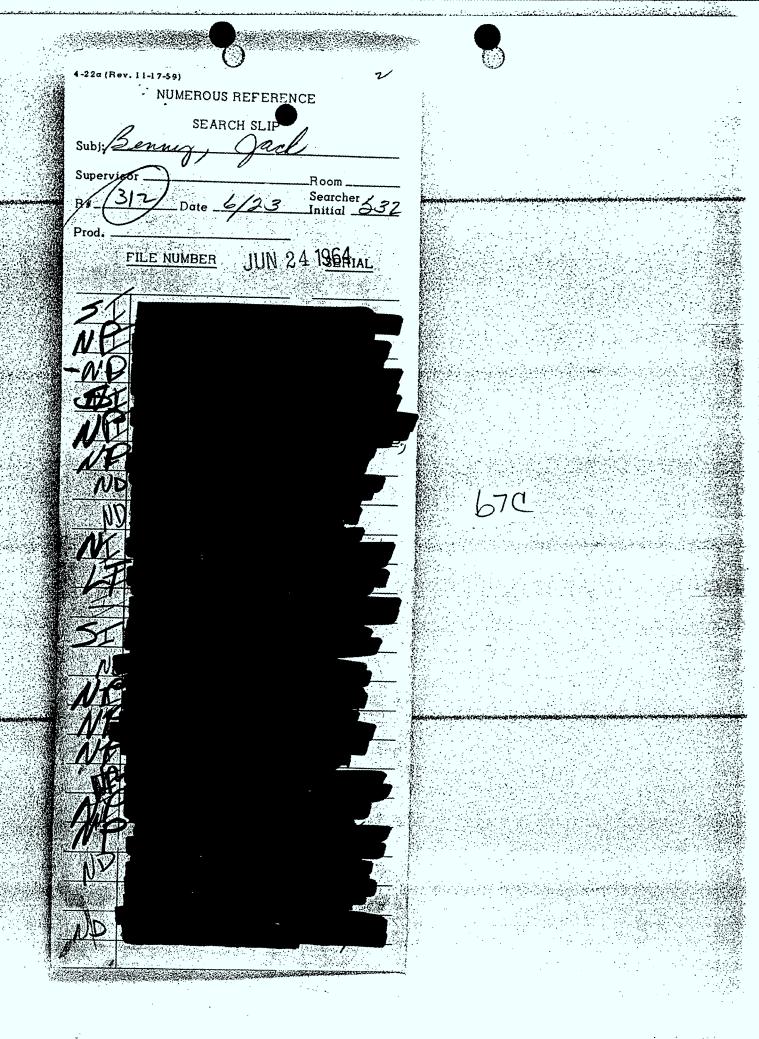
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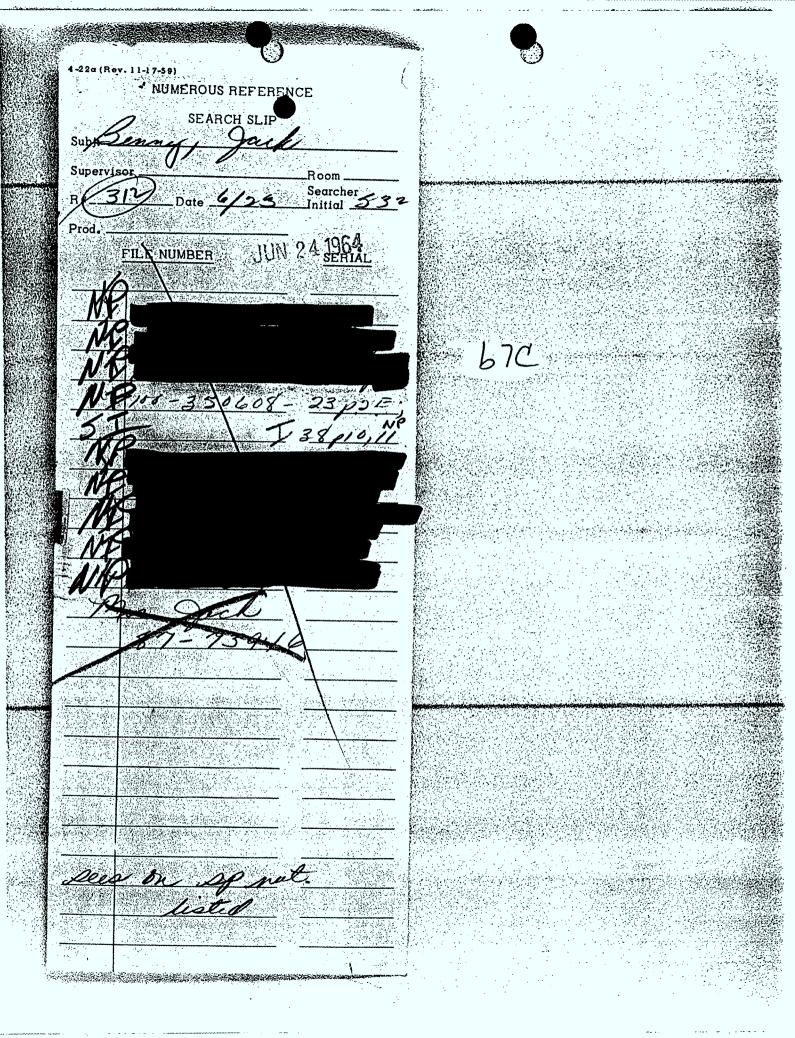
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ENCLOSURE

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August 12, 1984 as jack/benny BORN: FEBRUARY 14, 1894 WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS

Captioned individual has never been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBI.

The files of this Eureau do reveal, however, that according to newspaper publicity appearing in late 1939 and early 1940, Benny was the subject of a smuggling investigation as a result of which he was convicted and paid a fine of \$10,000.

As the files of the FBI contain no additional pertinent information concerning this matter, you may desire to check with the Custom's Bureau, U.S. Treasury Department for further information. (54-717)

Social Secretary, White House.)

Belmont \_ Cospet Cortad DeLoach Gole

JMM:cmk (10)

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT Mr. DeLoach DATE: 8-13-64 FROM : M. A. Jones SUBJECT: NAME CHECK REQUESTS FOR WHITE HOUSE 107C , Social Secretary at the White House, requested a check of Bureau files concerning the following individuals: Dan Blocker, Nathan Birnbaum (George Burns), Alfred Gerald Caplin (Al Capp), Michael Landon, Raymond Massey, Richard Bernard Skelton (Red Skelton), Sam Jaffe There are attached 14 memoranda reflecting the results of these checks. RECOMMENDATION: That you, Mr. DeLoach, furnish the attached letterhead memoranda to MG AUG 25 364 Enclosures (14) NOLCOURS 1 - Mr. Pelmont - Enclosures 1 - M. Mohr - Enclosures 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosures Mr. Evans - Enclosures - Mr. Rosen - Enclosures

CRIMIN RESEARCH

34 AUG 28 1964

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ENCLOSUBE 7

August 13, 1964

NATHAN BIRNBAUM, ALSO KNOWN AS GEORGE BURNS BORN: JANUARY 20, 1896 NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Captioned individual has never been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBI.

The files of this Bureau do reveal, however, that according to newspaper publicity appearing in late 1939 and early 1940, Burns was the subject of a smuggling investigation as a result of which he was convicted and paid a fine of \$8,000.

As the files of the FBI contain no furthum pertinent information concerning this matter, you may desire to check with the Customs Bureau, U. S. Treasury Department, for further information. (54-717).

In 1943, Burns was reported to be a sponsor of the Committee for the Care of Children in Wartime, which organization allegedly had Communist Party affiliations and connections. Burns, however, was believed to be unaware of the true nature of the organization. (100-92879-24)

In the early 1940's, Burns was reported to be a member of the Hollywood Democratic Committee, cited as a communist front by the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee On Un-American Activities in a 1948 report. In June, 1945, Burns was also listed as a member of the executive council of the June, 1945, Burns was also listed as a member of the Arts, Sciences and Professions Hollywood Independent Citizens: Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions (HICCASP), successor to the Hollywood Democratic Committee. The HICCASP was also cited as a communist frent by the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee On Un-American Activities in its 1948 report. (100-197270-7, 21;100-152-52)-39).

Tolson ———— Belmont ———— Mohr ————————————————————————————————————	67c	ocial Secretar	, White H	louse.)
Contrad	fr.	GAL.	4	Jo

March 18, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

Reference is made to your name check request for a review of FBI files concerning the following individuals subsequent to the date of the previous name check request as noted following each name.

Benjamin Kubelsky (also known as Jack Benny) John Ernst Steinbeck

September 12, 1963 August 12, 1964 May 20, 1964

Our files contain no additional pertinent information oncerning Mr. Kubelsky.

In 1967, information was received that (

reference for an individual who was a delegate from the New York Guild of the American Newspaper Guild to its National Convention in 1645. The New York Newspaper Guild had been described as communist infiltrated and communist dominated. This same individual reportedly sent a communication to Governor Thomas Dewey in 1954 appealing for exacutive clemency for who was convicted on June 28, 1941, in General Sections Court, New York, and sentenced to State Prison on four counts of giving false testimony before the Rapp--Condert Joint Legislative Commissee. During his testimony had admitted membership in the Communist Party but had lied with respect to the number of individuals he knew to be members of the City

College of New York Unit of the Communist Party, ENCLOSURE

1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent dick

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Galertsent direct)

126 MAR 21 1988

See note next pa

Mrs. Mildred Stegall

Information was received in 1966 that a Czechoslovakian citizen, who had been a member of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party since 1945, was to visit the United States on the cultural exchange program in 1966. He indicated an intention to visit friends in the United States included among whom was John Steinbeck.

The files of the Identification Division were checked and found to contain no additional pertinent data concerning the above individuals.

A copy of this communication has not been sent to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

wessent by memorandum dated 9-12-63, rather

The additional information was developed subsequent to

NOTE: Our files reflect that the final results of our name check

the prior summary memorandum furnished in 1963.

concerning

than 9-4-63.

June 6, 1972

MR. AND MRS. JACK BENNY

Jack Benny, who you advised resides at 1400 Tower Grove Drive, Beverly Hills, California, has not been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBI. However, our files reveal that in late 1939 and early 1940, Benny was the subject of a smuggling investigation which was not investigated by this Bureau, and was subsequently convicted and paid a fine of \$10,000.

Attached is a copy of an FBI Record, Number 3 367 854, which may relate to Jack Benny. The central files of the FBI contain no additional pertinent information concerning captioned individuals based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

Enclosure

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

54-417-18

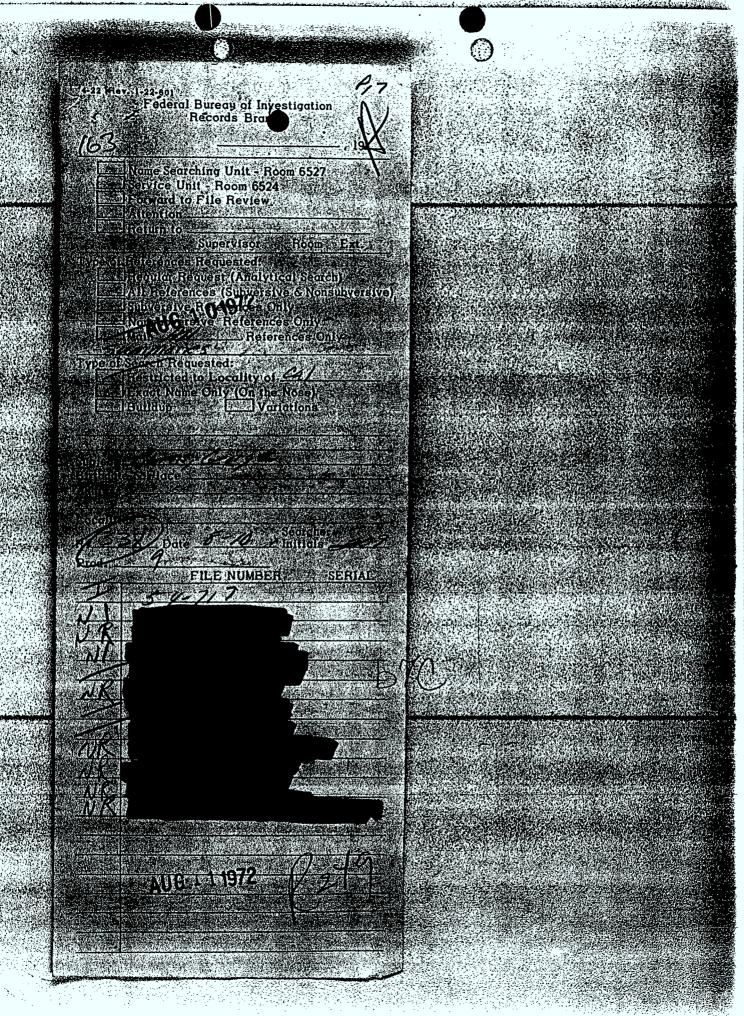
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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

11:02AM

June 8, 1971

The Tour Room advised that a special tour of the Bureau has been arranged for the daughter of Jack Denny, the famous comedian, Mr. Benny's grandson,

67C

for 10:30 a.m., tomorrow,
Wednesday, June 9th. They will be
conducted on tour by a Special Agent
of the Crime Records Division.

There was no request to meet the Director.

This tour was requested through the office of the Vice President.

MR. SULLIVAN
MR. MOHE
MR. BISHOF
MR. BRENNAN, C.D.
MR. CALL AH AN
MR. CASPER
MR. CONRAD
MR. DALLEY
MR. FELT
MR. GALE
MR. ROSEN
MR. TAVEL
MR. WALTERS
MR. SOYARS
MR. JONES
TELE. ROOM

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June 6, 1972 BY LIAISON Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield Deputy Assistant to the President The White House Washington, B. C. Dear Mr. Butterfield: Reference is made to your name check request concerning Mr. and Mrs. Jack Benny, Attached are separate memoranda concerning these individuals. Patrick Gray, III Acting Director Inclosures (4) 1 - Mr. Cleveland - Enclosures (sent direct) JCF:mcbinCD Campbell . Casper -Conrad RIO4 (1972 TELETYPE UNIT

August 22, 1972 BY LIAISON

Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield Deputy Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Butterfield:

Reference is made to your name check request concerning Jim Backus and some other individuals.

Attached are separate memoranda concerning the following individuals:



Jim Backus

Vince Edwards

67C

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray, III Acting Director

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NOT RECORDED 184 AUG 28 1972

1 - Mr. Cleveland - Enclosures (sent direct)

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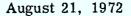
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#### **GEORGE BURNS**

Captioned individual, who you advised resides at 720 North Maple Drive, Beverly Hills, California, has not been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBL Summer

However, our files reveal that in late 1939 Burns, whose true name is Nathan irnbaum, was the subject of a smuggling (jewels and clothing, investigation which was not conducted by this Bureau. He was subsequently convicted, given a suspended sentance of one year and one day, and paid an \$8,000 fine. (54-717)

The central files of the FBI, including the files of the Identification Division, contain no additional pertinent information concerning captioned individual based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

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

EJK:csh/psr (5)

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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Baker.