

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

SUBJECT: LENNIE BRUCE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : *LPB* SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (62-0)

SUBJECT: LENNIE BRUCE
INFORMATION CONCERNING

DATE: 10/4/65

On 10/2/65, LENNIE BRUCE, the nightclub and stage performer widely known for his obscenity, who gave his current residence address as 534 Broadway, San Francisco, California, appeared at the San Francisco Field Office headquarters.

BRUCE, who advised that he is scheduled to begin confinement, 10/13/65, in New York State as a result of a conviction for a lewd show, alleged that there is a conspiracy between the courts of the states of New York and California to violate his rights. Allegedly this violation of his rights takes place by these lower courts failing to abide by decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court with regard to obscenity.

BRUCE admitted that he has failed to exhaust his rights of appeal from the courts of either state, explaining that he has dismissed his attorney and is now a pauper. Further, he admitted that the Legal Aid Society locally refused to furnish him assistance and that several attorneys, whom he did not name, had refused to give any support to his contention that such a conspiracy as he described did, in effect, exist.

BRUCE advised that he had made no other attempt to make a similar complaint at any other FBI field office.

The foregoing is furnished for the information of the Bureau and New York.

2 - Bureau
1 - New York
1 - San Francisco
JFH:rap
(4)

10-112 MCTV9

ST-113

16 OCT 6 1965

until 3:00 PM
10-6-65, KLB/nmb

Handwritten initials and stamps

EXP. PROC.
34

10-6-65

1- Mr. [REDACTED]

Airtel

REC-113

44-

30757 - 1

b7c

To: SAC, San Francisco

From: Director, FBI

UNSUB;
LENNIE BRUCE - VICTIM
CR

Reurlet to Bureau dated 10-4-65 captioned,
"Lennie Bruce, Information Concerning."

By return airtel submit appropriate letterhead
memorandum suitable for dissemination.

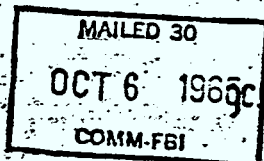
You should insure that investigative and supervisory
personnel of your office are familiar with and comply with
instructions pertaining to the proper reporting in civil
rights matters.

1- New York (info)

ab
KLB:mmb (5)

NOTE: Victim alleges a conspiracy between the Courts of the
States of New York and California to violate his rights.
This communication for purpose of San Francisco to submit
appropriate letterhead memorandum.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____



RECEIVED

51 OCT 12 1965

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI

Date: 10/8/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: *LB* SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (44-NEW CSUBJECT: UNSUB; ϕ
LENNIE BRUCE - VICTIM
CR

Re San Francisco letter to the Bureau, 10/4/65,
captioned "LENNIE BRUCE, INFORMATION CONCERNING," and Bureau
airtel, 10/6/65, above caption.

Enclosed herewith are four copies of an LHM setting
forth the results of an interview with Victim on 10/2/65. Two
copies of the LHM are enclosed to New York for information.

BRUCE advised that he has made no other attempt to
make a similar complaint at any other FBI field office.

One copy of the LHM has been furnished the USA,
San Francisco, and no further investigation is being conducted.

1 - Bureau (Encls. 4)
2 - New York (Encls. 2)(INFO)(AM)
1 - San Francisco
JFH:rap
(6)

C.C. WICK

EX-112 REC-32

44-30757-2

OCT 9 1965

rec - CRB
rec - CR Unit
10-12-65
694-H
JFH/jen

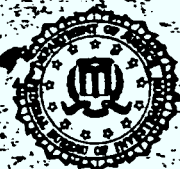
69 OCT 18 1965

Sent

Per

Special Agent in Charge

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Francisco, California

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

October 8, 1965

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
LENNIE BRUCE - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

On October 7, 1965, LENNIE BRUCE, the nightclub and stage performer widely known for his obscenity, who gave his current residence address as 534 Broadway Street, San Francisco, California, appeared at the San Francisco Field Office Headquarters.

BRUCE, who advised that he is scheduled to begin confinement, October 13, 1965, in New York State as a result of a conviction for a lewd show, alleged that there is a conspiracy between the courts of the states of New York and California to violate his rights. Allegedly this violation of his rights takes place by these lower courts failing to abide by decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court with regard to obscenity.

BRUCE admitted that he has failed to exhaust his rights of appeal from the courts of either state, explaining that he has dismissed his attorney and is now a pauper. Further, he admitted that the Legal Aid Society locally refused to furnish him assistance and that several attorneys, whom he did not name, had refused to give any support to his contention that such a conspiracy as he described did, in effect, exist.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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.

44-30757-2
ENCLOSURE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Date: 10/15/65

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (44-560) (C)

SUBJECT: UNSUB;
LENNIE BRUCE - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

Enclosed herewith are four copies of a LHM setting forth the text of an article appearing in the "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper of 10/14/65, page 13, and two Xerox copies of the article. One copy of the LHM is enclosed to New York for information.

One copy of the LHM has been furnished USA, San Francisco and no further investigation is being conducted.

- 2 - Bureau (Encls. 5)
 - 1 - New York (INFO) (Encl. 1) (AM)
 - 1 - San Francisco
- JFH:rap
(5)

ENCLOSURE

REC-22 MCT-16

44-30757-3

EX-111

OCT 20 1965

60 OCT 26 1965

Approved: Special Agent in Charge

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
San Francisco, California

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

October 15, 1965

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
LENNIE BRUCE - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

On October 14, 1965, the following article appeared on page 13 of the "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper, captioned "Comedian Bruce A Pauper":

"Comic Lenny Bruce, center of a long series of legal battles over his alleged obscene night club act, yesterday celebrated his 40th birthday by getting himself declared a pauper and asking the Federal court here to keep him out of jail in New York.

"In his self-composed suit, he also asked the U.S. District Court to protect him from 'harassment' by police in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco. He claimed that because of persecutions and prosecutions in these cities he can no longer get bookings for his act.

"In addition, he wants the court to determine how much money he has lost since his 1964 obscenity conviction in New York City and to order the police department there to pay him damages in that amount.

"In his financial statement, Bruce said that since his first arrest for obscenity in San Francisco in 1961, his gross earnings have plummeted from \$108,000 a year to \$10,963 in the first six months of this year. He said his liabilities exceed his assets by \$14,494.

"Bruce, now living with friends in a North Beach hotel, was acquitted of the first obscenity charges in 1962 by a San Francisco jury.

44-30757-3

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.

ENCLOSURE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
LENNIE BRUCE - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

He was to have surrendered himself to New York authorities yesterday to begin a four-month jail term there.

Instead, he filed suit here. He told Judge George E. Harris he was too broke to pay the \$15 filing fee. The judge declared Bruce a pauper in the eyes of the court and accepted the filing without fee.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Comedian**Bruce****A Pauper**

Comic Lenny Bruce, center of a long series of legal battles over his allegedly obscene night club act, yesterday celebrated his 40th birthday by getting himself declared a pauper and asking the Federal court here to keep him out of jail in New York.

In his self-composed suit, he also asked the U.S. District Court to protect him from "harassment" by police in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco. He claimed that because of persecutions and prosecutions in these cities he can no longer get bookings for his act.

In addition, he wants the court to determine how much money he has lost since his 1964 obscenity conviction in New York City and to order the police department there to pay him damages in that amount.

IN HIS financial statement, Bruce said that since his first arrest for obscenity in San Francisco in 1961, his gross earnings have plummeted from \$108,000 a year to \$10,963 in the first six months of this year. He said his liabilities exceed his assets by \$14,494.

Bruce, now living with friends in a North Beach hotel, was acquitted of the first obscenity charges in 1952 by a San Francisco jury.

HE WAS TO HAVE surrendered himself to New York authorities yesterday to begin a four month jail term there.

Instead, he filed suit here. He told Judge George B. Harris he was too broke to pay the \$15 filing fee. The judge declared Bruce a pauper in the eyes of the court and accepted the filing without fee.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

13 S.F. Examiner and
News Call Bulletin
San Francisco, Calif

Date: 10-14-65
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor: Edmund J. Dooley
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: SF
☐ Being Investigated

44-30757-3
ENCLOSURE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Wick	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

[REDACTED] b7c

Encl

September 9, 1966

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
 Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I suppose your scrap^{BOOKS} probably occupy almost as much space as the finger-print section of your bureau; but since your name was used in the attached correspondence, I felt I should send you a copy.

0. T. O. M.

[REDACTED] b7c

Respectfully,

[REDACTED] B

b7c

ACK
 9/15/66
 Dfc/rep

REC-6

145-0-1643

EXP. PROC. EX-106

16 SEP 20 1966

SEP 12 1966

B
 2 ENCLOSURE

F. Q. 70

September 8, 1966

MANHATTAN EAST

A Community Newspaper for Residents of East Manhattan

LENNY

N.Y. Calif
Lenny Bruce was many things to many people. Following his recent death, there was a spate of editorializing about his life and career, some of which must be giving Lenny some graven chuckles.

Nobody captured the Lenny Bruce I knew quite as well as Stan Cohen did, the editor of the *West Side News and Morning-sider*, and this column is reprinted with his permission.—Ed.

N.Y.
He had been found guilty of obscenity that morning and now, late in the afternoon, in the Hotel Marlton in Greenwich Village, Lenny Bruce was talking about it to a reporter from the old World-Telegram and Sun.

Now let me tell you, first hand, that newspaper reporters are trained to seek out facts, and so they almost never catch the sense of the event they are covering; therefore they conclude interviews by asking questions like, "How do you think all this will end for you, Lenny?"

"What, the trial," he asked, "the appeal?"

"No, the whole thing, all the trials, the arrests, do you think they'll stop?"

Lenny was leaning against the wall, his hands jammed into the pockets of his denims, the tails of his green-striped dress shirt hanging loose. His eyes, puffed with the profit of lost sleep, were fixed on the debris of legal documents, tapes, trial transcripts, precedent cases, which covered his bed and spilled over onto the floor of the small room. Then he smiled and looked up and he told it in the only way he knew, his private route to truth, he told a story:

"Okay," he said, "here's how it ends. One day I'm going to get an order to appear in court. Oh, shit, what is it this time? But when I get there the courtroom will be all decorated, dig, with balloons, and streamers, and confetti, and when I walk in they'll all jump up and yell 'Surprise.' And there'll be all the cops that busted me, and the judges and DA's who tried me, and they'll say: 'Lenny, this is a surprise party for you, we're giving you a party because even after everything that happened you never lost respect for the law.'"

Well, Lenny Bruce never lost his respect for the law, but he won't get his party, because he's dead now. The cops said it was an over-

dose of drugs, and a friend of his said it was an overdose of cops, but probably it was an overdose of respect for the law.

You see, the trouble with Lenny Bruce was that he really believed he would get his party. Somehow, he never learned that freedom of speech in America meant the right to speak everything but the truth. He never quite understood that he was living in a place whose standards of morality were set by Frank Hogan and Cardinal Spellman and J. Edgar Hoover. How could you tell him that this was their America, and in their America justice means the preservation of power and religion means you don't pay taxes.

But you couldn't really tell that to Lenny, because despite the brutality of his satire, despite the language and the insight and the wit, Lenny Bruce lived with a child's innocence and a naivete which allowed him to believe that he would find justice in Judge Murtagh's court. It was a pretty trial, the kind of a trial in which 15 eyewitnesses testified that Bruce did not make an obscene

gesture during his act but the court found that he did on the lone testimony of the arresting officer. That's how the trial went, and if you were there you knew that the Christians stood a better chance in the Colosseum. Still, Lenny thought he would be acquitted because according to the interpretations of the Supreme Court he was clearly not guilty of obscenity. And that was the Law.

"The law is a beautiful thing," he told me once. "The people who attack the law don't really understand it. You know what it's like?" he said. "It's like the Supreme Court, that's the daddy and it runs the store because it knows how. All the state courts and the civil courts, they're the clerks, and the daddy says, 'Now you just sweep the floor and unpack the stock and that's it. I don't want you to place any orders or change the displays, and keep your hands out of the register.' But the minute he turns his back all the clerks think they know how to run it better, and they start changing everything and ordering the wrong things and it's a mess. The Supreme Court's the big daddy, it knows what is, but the little guys keep trying to run the store."

America is like a giant supermarket whose many departments are independently operated. They are run by such as Johnson and Hoover and Hogan and Spellman.

We have become a nation of clerks.

ENCLOSURE

145-0 1643

September 15, 1966

EC-6

EC105

[REDACTED]

b7c [initials]

FBI

SEP 15 4 18 PM '66
FBI - READING ROOM

Dear [REDACTED]

I received your letter of September 9th, with enclosures, and want to thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing.

It is certainly good of you to furnish this material to me, and you may be assured I appreciate the favorable comments you expressed in your letter to the editor of the publication, "Manhattan East."

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 11
SEP 15 1966
COMM-FBI

b7c

1 - New York - Enclosures (3)

NOTE:

[REDACTED]

Lenny Bruce was known as a "sick comic" who was charged with obscenity in his act. He had an extensive record in the Los Angeles Police Department records for narcotic violations.

DFC:sep
(4)

64 SEP 26 1966

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

[Handwritten initials and signatures]

Mohr _____
 DeLoach _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Evans _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

LENNY
100-409763
121

NAMES AND FACES

By William Rollins

A Reversal on Lenny Bruce

Well, Lenny Bruce wasn't being obscene after all, so the Illinois Supreme Court decided in reversing itself because of a U. S. Supreme Court ruling in another case that struck the rule that obscenity and affirmative values must be weighed to determine which predominates. And so the Illinois court held: "Our original opinion recognized the defendant's right to satirize society's attitudes... however bizarre, as long as the method used in so doing was not so objectionable as to render the entire performance obscene. (But) ... the 'balancing test' rule is no longer a Constitutionally acceptable method of determining whether material is obscene. It is there made clear (by the highest court) that material having any social importance is Constitutionally protected."

100-409763
(or Lane)

A Shrug From Mark Lane

Mark Lane, the attorney who holds differing views about the Presidential assassination, shrugged off the Warren Commission's just-published harsh words about himself. "I am sure the Chief Justice said he had every reason to doubt my truthfulness," the lawyer said. Earl Warren's newly published statement to Lane during hearings "is a matter of great concern to the commission. If you are unwilling to tell us about those things you consider bear upon the guilt or innocence of Lee Harvey Oswald, and it hands caps us greatly in what we are to do because of the things that you do say, then we are very far from the commission, and then when the time comes fully before us as to those things that are in dispute, public." (The attorney claims to have an interview with a woman who saw Patrolman J. D. Tippit murdered, and information about a meeting between Tippit, the King, and a man who played the anti-aircraft song in the Dallas Morning News.)

File 5
with

The Washington Post and Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 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 _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
 Date _____

NOT RECORDED
 28 DEC 9 1964

53 DEC 14 1964

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-409763

Cops Put Tape On Bruce... Next Date Courtroom

By MEL JUFFE

Perennially "sick" comedian Lenny Bruce has the miseries again today.

Lenny, the iconoclastic expert who specializes in dissecting the ailments of the world around him, was arrested last night for the second time in two weeks. He was charged with giving an obscene performance at the Cafe Au Go Go, 152 Bleecker st.

Police grabbed the 35-year-old entertainer just before he took the floor for his 10 p.m. show. They brought him to the Charles st. station along with Howard Solomon, 35, of 66 E. 9th st., manager of the cafe.

Both were booked on the indecency charge, resulting from a police taping of Mr. Bruce's performance last Sunday. They will be arraigned later today in Criminal Court.

The gaunt young man has a long record of previous arrests for using off-color material, narcotics possession and assorted complaints in Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago.

He currently is awaiting a hearing on his most previous offense—another indecent performance charge brought in his hometown of Los Angeles last March 28.

DENIED LICENSE

Mr. Bruce only arrived in New York last Friday and gave his initial performance before a sell-out crowd at the Village Theatre on Saturday.

He is not allowed to work in a licensed cabaret or night club here because of his past record. But the Cafe Au Go Go, which commands as much as \$6 for admission for the better tables on weekends, is an expensive basement coffee shop.

Mrs. Ella Solomon, wife of the proprietor, today told the Journal-American:

"I think it's terribly unfair that the police had to take him last night. Why didn't they touch him all week long? They waited for our busiest night."

"There were several policemen, in uniform and off-duty, here all week. I was at the desk and I know. Many were my guests and they were all laughing and having a good time."

"When we got to the precinct there were newspapermen waiting... as if it was all planned in advance."

According to Mrs. Solomon, the entertainer was picked up in his dressing room by police who had a bench warrant.

Mr. Bruce answered routine questions and then left with the officers and Mr. Solomon.

Asked if the wise-cracking Bruce hadn't some words of wisdom for the officers, Mrs. Solomon replied:

"No, actually Mr. Bruce is a very quiet, withdrawn man. A very brilliant man, offstage, a genius, literally."

"He doesn't talk at all to people he doesn't know..."

Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

The Washington Post and Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
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 _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Date _____

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

NOT RECORDED

APR 13 1964

APR 13 1964