

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

Principle Target

To: Information Resources Division, ELSUR Index Subunit

Date 5-9-00From: ☐ CID ☐ LCD ☐ NSD ☐ IRD ☐ Other _____Subject: George William

File #: _____ (specify)

Norris

Priority:

☐ Expedite, will pick up:
☐ Routine
☐ Date needed: _____

REQUEST FOR ELSUR SEARCH FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

- ☐
- Title III Application
-
- ☐
- FISA Application
-
- ☐
- Legal Motion (DOJ)
-
- ☒
- FOIPA

☐ FBI ☐ DEA

- ☐
- GBI/BAIU
-
- ☐
- SPU
-
- ☐
- Investigative Lead
-
- ☐
- Other _____

(One of the above must be checked before search will be conducted.) (specify)

Requestor

Complete and Return to:

Janon FisherFears57676780

Name

Name

Ext.

Room

List names; Addresses; facilities; telephone #
or other pertinent # to be searched:

Known Aliases

Search
ResultsJuly 11, 1861 SanduskyCounty, OhioSept 2, 1944 McCookNebraskaVRSearched by ClayDate 5-12-00

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

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

SUBJECT: GEORGE W NORRIS

George W Harris

9-3400

Post Office Department
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR
Washington

IN REPLY REFER TO:

January 11, 1938.

The Honorable

The Attorney General.

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

Attention of the Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Transmitted herewith are a letter from Mr. John P.
Robertson, Secretary to Senator George W. Norris, dated
January 8, 1938, and a threatening letter addressed to the
Senator.

Since it appears that the letter may be a violation of
that part of the extortion statute which your Department is
administering, the matter is referred to you for such action
as you may deem advisable.

Very truly yours,

For the Postmaster General,

RECORDED

INDEXED

N
7-3400-1

Enclosures. JAN 20 1938 P.M.

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

K.P. Aldrich
Chief Inspector.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. Clegg | |
| Mr. Glavin | |
| Mr. Ladd | |
| Mr. Nichols | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Tracy | |
| Mr. Carson | |
| Mr. Egan | |
| Mr. Gurnea | |
| Mr. Harbo | |
| Mr. Hendon | |
| Mr. Jones | |
| Mr. Mumford | |
| Mr. Quinn | |
| Mr. Nease | |
| Miss Gandy | |

REF ID: A66666

aa
X
RECORDED
&
INDEXED

W. P. Aldrich forwards letter from
Secy to Genl George A. Norris
transmitting a threatening letter to
senior, for investigation as possible
extortion violation.

rci

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| Mr. Nathan | ..... |
| Mr. Tolson | ..... |
| Mr. Clegg | ..... |
| Mr. Coffey | ..... |
| Mr. Glavin | ..... |
| Mr. Ladd | ..... |
| Mr. Nichols | ..... |
| Mr. Rosen | ..... |
| Mr. Tracy | ..... |
| Mr. Carson | ..... |
| Mr. Egan | ..... |
| Mr. Gurnea | ..... |
| Mr. Hendon | ..... |
| Mr. Jones | ..... |
| Mr. Quinn | ..... |
| Mr. Nease | ..... |
| Mr. Gandy | ..... |

RECEIVED

January 19, 1938.

9-3400-1
X
The Honorable,
The Postmaster General,
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. E. P. Aldrich,
Chief Inspector.

My dear Mr. Postmaster General:

Reference is made to your letter dated January 11, 1938, transmitting a letter from Mr. John P. Robertson, Secretary to Senator George W. Norris, dated January 8, 1938, and a threatening letter addressed to Senator Norris.

An examination of the threatening communication fails to reveal an intent to extort money or other thing of value, in view of which the same does not constitute a violation of that section of the Extortion Statute over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

In view of the above, the letter of Mr. Robertson dated January 8, 1938, and the threatening letter in question are returned to you herewith.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosures.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

JAN 19 1938

F. B. I.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

James Earl Ray
Attorney
P.O. Box 248
St. Louis, Mo. 63101

My Dear Mr. Ramsey:

James Earl Ray



C O P Y

MR. GEORGE MORRIS

You dirty rat get out of Washington or you get
a poison knife in your back you crazy dog before
spring the rats will be running over your grave

(S) BLACK HAND

Washington
D.C.
Wallace



Mr. George W. Norris
Senate Office
Washington D.C.

Don't forget to

get out of the house

and get a good night's sleep

and don't forget to

get a good night's sleep

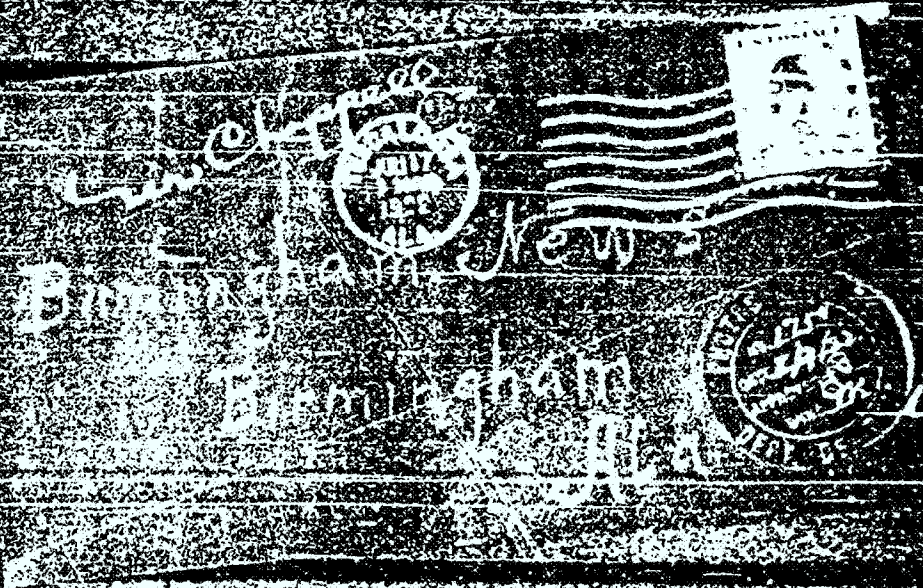
and don't forget to

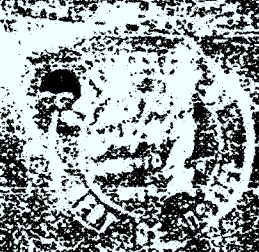
get a good night's sleep

George W. Harris
48-175

ews

llis)
or
or
x
ed
19





THAS KILLY SIR
WANTAINFORM YOUTH
HENRY FORD DOESNT
WANT TO SHOOT
IF HE CAN FOR THE BEN
OF THE SOUTH AND THE
WHOLE CLASS OF PEOPLE
THAT I WILL SHOOT YOU
AND 2 MORE OF THE
WORKING PEOPLE
WILL KILL SENATOR FILCH
AND FEENY SRUM FOR IN
TERFERING WITH THE POWER
HOUSE. IT WAS DONE TO PRE
VENT HENRY FORD FROM
HELPING OUT THE SOUTH

FILTH
MEN
FROM
WILL
WE
HIT
AND
WANT
WANT



THE
AGREED TO TAKE THE PLACE
OF THE PEOPLE. AND
IN OPERATION FOR
THE INTEREST OF THE FARM
TO FINISH THE DAM AND
MAKE THE PLANT BE
BENEFICIAL TO
PEOPLE THAN FOR THE
A POWER CO. TO HAVE
THE POWER HOUSE A
THEY WILL GIVE
THE HIGH WORK AND
PUT OUT THE SOUTH
AND A SCHOOL AND
AND PLACE A
RECEIVING
THE EASTERN

A.S.



WINDMILLS OF BOOMING
 YOUR RESIDENTS AND A
 NUMBER OF OTHERS WENT
 TO DO THE WORK, HOPING
 FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOUR MEN-
 FAMILY YOU ALL WILL CHANGE
 YOUR MINDS AND US WHAT YOU
 CAN FOR H. FORD TO BUY ON
 LEASE THE LAND

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
 DISTRICT COURT



the
 agee, Okla.,
 of Oklahoma,
 ered in the
 on until
 District
 lertal
 , 1912.
 follows the
 . Okla.

JUL 9 1926

TIME AND PLACES OF HOLDING COURTS

Anniston - First Mondays in May and November.
Birmingham - First Mondays in March and September.
Florence - Second Tuesday in February and third Tuesday in October.
Gadsden - First Tuesdays in February and August.
Huntsville - First Tuesday in April and second Tuesday in October.
Jasper - Second Tuesdays in January and June.
Tuscaloosa - First Tuesdays in January and June.

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO. _____

Department of Justice.

OFFICE OF THE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY.

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA,

BIRMINGHAM. July 31, 1932

Mr. J.C. Gilbo,

Leeds Building, Inc.,

First Floor, Bldg.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter submitted to this office a letter was forwarded to the Birmingham News, containing a threat to kill Governor Bailey and Senator Harris. I wish to say that I am not a member of the News and do not come within the class of persons who are liable, but the letter bears evidence that it was written by some persons who are guilty of the crimes perpetrated in Section 11 and 12 of the Federal Penal Code, and I would be glad to receive any information as to the author of this letter and if anyone else was connected with him in the writing of this letter and report to this office.

Respectfully,

C. B. Kenna

United States Attorney.

*Filed & reg.
1932 Aug 1
100-2-2-19*

I am returning herewith the letter.

rim

Post Office Department

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR IN CHARGE

Chattanooga, Tenn., July 24, 1922

Respectfully referred to the

CHIEF INSPECTOR, Washington, D. C.,
for appropriate attention.

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA: Mailing of an anonymous letter, addressed to the Birmingham News, Birmingham, Alabama, threatening to kill Governor Kirby and Senator Ellis.

Transmitting a reference from Inspector T. C. Gibbs, to which will be found attached the letter in question, referred to him by the United States Attorney, Birmingham, Alabama, with the request that an investigation be made with the end in view of identifying the writer of this communication. The United States Attorney, that in his opinion Sections 19 and 21 of the Federal Penal Code have been violated.

Inspector in Charge

Post Office Department
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR

Birmingham, Ala., July 22, 1922.

Case No.



Respectfully

referred to Inspector in Charge, Chattanooga, Tenn.
For such attention as may be deemed advisable.

Subject: Tuscaloosa, Ala: Objectionable and threatening letter addressed to the Birmingham News, and a letter from United States Attorney Kennamer, Birmingham, Ala., requesting an investigation to ascertain the identity of the writer, stating that the author appears to be acting in violation of Sections 19 and 21 of the Federal Penal Code.

Very respectfully,

J. C. Gibbs
Inspector

Post Office Department
PAC-MO'C.-3. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR
Washington

August 4, 1922.

Hon. William J. Burns, Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice.

My dear Mr. Burns:

I beg to transmit herewith for your consideration and such action as may be deemed proper, a communication from the post-office inspector in charge at Chattanooga, Tennessee, dated July 24, 1922, with inclosure of an anonymous letter mailed at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, addressed to the Birmingham News, of Birmingham, Alabama, containing threats against Governor Kilby, and Senator Herria. The communication does not appear to have been mailed in violation of postal law, but attention is invited to the statement of the United States Attorney at Birmingham, that the author and probably other persons have violated Sections 19 and 21, of the Penal Code.

Sincerely yours,

Inclosures.

RECORDED

Chief Inspector

AUG 15 1922

WNG-AS

✓
48-175-1

AUG 15 1922

August 9, 1922.

Mr. C. B. Kennamer,
United States Attorney,
Birmingham, Ala.

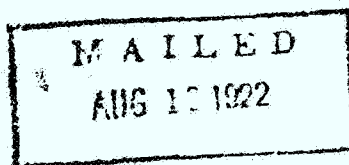
48-175

Dear Mr. Kennamer:

This Bureau has received by reference, your letter dated July 21st, 1922 addressed to the Post Office Inspector at Birmingham, in connection with a threat against Governor Kilby and Senator Norris because of their positions on the Mussel Shoals proposition.

I am today forwarding the original threat to our Birmingham office and outlining an investigation to be made by them. I have instructed the Agent in Charge to communicate directly with you.

Very truly yours,



W. J. Quinn
Director.

84G-48

August 9, 1923.

Mr. C. W. McNeill,

Box 128,

Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith photostatic copy of a letter addressed to the "Birmingham News" by an anonymous writer at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, containing threats against Governor Kilby and Senator Norris, because of their action in the matter of the disposition of the Government plant at Mussel Shoals. You will see that the Post Office Department has ruled they cannot take action, because it is not a violation of the law to use the mails in sending a threat.

The United States Attorney at Birmingham is of the opinion that there is a probable violation of Section 19 of the Code. I am inclined to agree with him on the theory that the Mussel Shoals question is one before the Federal Government, which is entitled to the advice, counsel and recommendations of any citizen of the United States and if such citizen, in exercising his right, to properly inform, advise or counsel the National Government, is intimidated, threatened or assaulted, it becomes a matter properly included under Section 19, as distinguished from a purely State case.

I desire that you institute immediately a thorough investigation, in an effort to identify the parties responsible for this threat and in working up the case, that you include therein a definite statement, showing exactly the position of Governor Kilby and Senator Norris on the question, which positions are the basis of the threat. It will be necessary for the United States Attorney to have this information.

RECORDED

tion, in order to establish his case. You will remember from past experiences, that the Federal Government can take no cognizance of personal assaults committed in the states, unless those assaults arise out of the victim having exercised some civil right guaranteed to him by the Constitution and Laws of the United States; and that the courts have held that these rights include that of communicating with, informing, or advising the Federal Government on any matter of its concern.

Please give this matter prompt attention and communicate directly with the United States Attorney.

Very truly yours,

Director.



Encl. 137210.

MAILED
AUG 13 1922

(Birmingham file No. 1045)

| | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| REPORT MADE AT Birmingham, Ala. | DATE WHEN MADE 9/19/33 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/29-30 & 9/12/33 | REPORT MADE BY W. D. Bolling |
| TITLE AND CHARACTER OF CASE [REDACTED] | | | |
| Tuscaloosa Insane Asylum - FANATIC. | | | |
| FACTS DEVELOPED: At Tuscaloosa, Ala. | | | |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">GENERAL INTELLIGENCE SEP 21 1922 DIVISION</div> 48-175 | | | |
| References: Letter from the Director, dated August 9, 1922, initialed JEH, WWG-AS, enclosing the following letters that had been received by the Director from the Birmingham News: | | | |
| *Birmingham News | | | |
| *Dear Sirs | | | |
| *For the benefit of these men and more so their families please publish this letter for us, for we will not stand for H Ford to be done as they are doing him, for we need him in the South with us. | | | |
| Signed | | | |
| Working people's Friend* | | | |
| LETTER: | | | |
| *Thomas Kilby - Sir | | | |
| *I want to inform you that if Henry Ford doesent get Muscle Shoals plant to run for the benefit of the South and the working class of people within the next 30 days that I will kill you, and 3 more of the working people friend will kill Senator Norris and F. E. Engstrom for interfering with the power house. It was done to prevent Henry Ford from helping out the South and to take the idle plant off of the people and put it in operation for the intrust of the farmer to finish the dam and operate the plant be more | | | |
| 3- Washington. | | | |
| <div style="text-align: right;">RECORDED SEP 29 1922 APPROVED AND FORWARDED C. W. McPHAIL, Special Agent in Charge.</div> | | | |

Mr. B. L. and copy to Sen. Norris 9/26/33

W. D. Bolling

8/28-30 &
9/12/22

2

benifitchal to people than for the Ala Power Co to have the power house alone It would give more men work and help out the South. I am a Southern man and I have decided that such men as you all that oposed to the Ford offer the whole U. S. A. would be better off without you all. Myself and two others are to do the work for you all. Now we are B. S. The time has come when something has got to be done. It is imposible for you all to get by without death. Your gards or any protection you have cant stop us for they are 1000 of ways to get you all. Such as posining or shooting from up stairs windows or booming your residents and a number of other ways to do the work. Hoping for the benefit of you mens family you will change your minds and do what you can for H. Ford to buy or lease the plant

Sign. Poor People Friend"

These letters were printed in long hand and mailed in envelope bearing the post-mark of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 2:30 p.m., July 17, 1922.

Careful inquiry failed to locate any radicals or considerable number of Socialists in the vicinity of Tuscaloosa. However, the general feeling amongst the working classes appears to be that turning over the Muscle Shoals plant to Henry Ford will solve all problems for this vicinity, the better elements appearing to think that the Alabama Power Company is entitled to recognition in disposing of this plant.

Dr. W. D. Partlow, Superintendent of the Alabama State Insane Asylum, situated at Tuscaloosa, stated that an effort is made to censor all letters sent out by patients, but as they have about

nineteen hundred patients and some of them are used as trustees, they find that occasionally letters have been slipped out and mailed.

At a meeting of the doctors and nurses of this institution this matter was brought to their attention, and SUBJECT was suggested as the probable writer of the letter, he having at various times talked with some of the attendants about the Muscle Shoals Plant, and was insistent that Henry Ford be given the control of the proposition.

A letter written by SUBJECT to Dr. W. D. Partlow, attacking Governor Kilby was compared with this anonymous letter, and while the letter to Dr. Partlow was written in long hand and showed no errors in spelling, there was a similarity between them.

SUBJECT was interviewed, this Agent appearing as a representative of the Birmingham News, and while SUBJECT appeared perfectly sane, he denied writing any letter to the News, but when asked how he stood on the Muscle Shoals proposition, he became greatly excited, and accused Governor Kilby, Senator Norris and the capitalists of trying to exploit the farmers by refusing to turn the Muscle Shoals Plant over to Henry Ford.

SUBJECT [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Usually he appears intelligent and well educated.

b7c

Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

P. C. Box 148
Sept. 30, 1922.

48-175

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

OCT 1 1922

DIVISION

Director, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Receipt is acknowledged of your
letter under date of September 26th, initials
WWG, 48-175.

I am this day furnishing the
United States Attorney for this District a
copy of Special Agent Bolling's report on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b7c

Very truly yours,

C. W. McPhail

C. W. McPhail,
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE.

CWM-P

OCT 1 1922

48-175

RECORDED

WEG-AS
48-175

September 26, 1922.

Mr. C. W. McRae,

Box 148,

Birmingham, Ala.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Agent Collins for
the 12th instant on [REDACTED] A copy of this report should
be forwarded to the United States Attorney at Birmingham, who
was responsible for instituting the investigation. He probably
would appreciate being advised of the findings.

Very truly yours,

[Handwritten Signature]

Director.

MAILED
SEP 26 1922

200-25

48-175 - 3

SEP 23 1922

September 26, 1922.

Honorable, George W. Norris,

United States Senate,

Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

Sometime ago there were presented to this Bureau for investigation, certain anonymous letters to Governor Kilby and you, with regard to your stand on the Muscle Shoals matter. It was requested that we endeavor to ascertain the parties responsible for these letters. I thought you would be interested in the results of our investigation and I am enclosing herewith a copy of the report just received from our Birmingham, Alabama office. This is for your information.

Very truly yours,



Director.

MAILED
SEP 23 1922

Encl. 131899.

SEP 23 1922

plant of the Alabama Power Company is located the Gorgas Steam Plant supplies more than fifty per cent of the power used by cities towns industries and power and lighting customers on the system of the Alabama Power Company stop The use of the Gorgas plant under the circumstances includes in addition to the original plant built by the Alabama Power Company the extension built for the government during the war this entire plant being necessary for the support of the system of the Alabama Power Company during low water periods stop A moral contract by the government should be as binding as a legal one stop If this plant were taken away from the system of the Alabama Power Company it is inevitable great inconvenience and confusion would result to the public served by the Alabama Power Company in Alabama

(Signed) Thomas E. Kilby, Governor

It will be noted that this telegram was sent on July 14, 1933 and published in the local papers, which are accessible to the inmates of the State Insane Asylum, and the threatening letter was mailed July 17th.

As there appears to be no probability of a prosecution in this case, copy will not be furnished the United States Attorney unless there are further developments.

Concluded.

W. D. Bolling

8/29-30 &
9/12/23

4

However, Dr. Partlow stated that at times he becomes unruly, which necessitates his confinement. Dr. Partlow requested that no publicity be given to any suspicion of SUBJECT having written the above letters, on account of SUBJECT'S family [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7c
Agent is reasonably sure that SUBJECT is the author of these letters.

At Montgomery, Ala.

Governor Thomas E. Kilby was interviewed by this Agent and Agent in Charge C. W. McPhail, and his views on the Muscle Shoals proposition requested. He stated his views were fully set out in the following telegram which he had sent out to Senator Norris on July 14, 1923:

"Senator George W. Norris, Chairman,
Committee on Agriculture & Forestry,
Washington, D. C.

"I desire to register my earnest protest against the inclusion of the Gorgas Steam Plant of the Alabama Power Company and the extension built for the government as a part of this plant during the war in any recommendation made by your committee for the acceptance by Congress of the Ford offer for the Muscle Shoals properties stop This plant is eighty-eight miles from Muscle Shoals is not a part of the Muscle Shoals property and is not necessary to the operation of the nitrate plants stop A large part of the industry of Alabama has been built up dependent upon the operation by the Alabama Power Company of the Gorgas Steam Plant in connection with its other plants and in support thereof stop During the low water periods on the Coosa River where the main water power

George W. Harris

56-158

From
Assistant Attorney General Dodds
 to
 Official indicated below by check mark

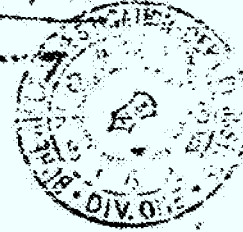
3

MEMORANDUM

The Attorney General
 The Solicitor General
 Assistant to the Atty. Gen. O'Brian
 Assistant Attorney General Richardson
 Assistant Attorney General Sisson
 Assistant Attorney General Youngquist
 Assistant Attorney General Rugg
 Assistant Attorney General (Admiralty)
 Mr. Hoover, Dir. Bureau of Investigation
 Mr. Bates, Dir. Bureau of Prisons
 Division of Accounts
 The Chief Clerk
 The Appointment Clerk
 Division of Supplies
 Mails and Files
 Mr. Finch
 Mr. Pagan
 Mr. Ridgely
 Mr. Parriah
 Mr. Wixson
 Mr. Fisher
 Mr. Ramsey
 Mr. Wharton
 Miss Brookley

4/20/31

Maple
Plan



APR 24 1931 PM

*Think there
 would be a
 good man for
 the matter that
 we discussed
 this evening.*

RECORDED
 MAY 5 - 1931
 54-158-1

4/24

sent

W.C.

W.D.
mems for [illegible]

U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

May 4, 1931.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

56-4131

Pursuant to your instructions, upon the arrival of Special Agent J. E. Green of the Omaha office on the morning of May 1, a conference was had with Mr. Rupert Lodge relative to the charges against Senator Morris against Robert H. Lucas, Executive Director, Nye National Committee, at which time Mr. Lodge turned to the writer and Special Agent Green correspondence which had been received in connection with these charges, and copies of correspondence are attached hereto.

Later in the afternoon after the writer and Special Agent Green had an opportunity to review the correspondence and after Special Agent Green had also read some of the reports of the work of the Nye Committee, a further conference was had with Mr. Lodge, at which time it was decided that Special Agent Green should inaugurate the inquiry by first calling upon Mr. Lucas, similarly in view of the fact that Mr. Lucas has retaliated by making certain charges against Senator Morris' accepting the contribution from Senator Cutting in furtherance of Senator Morris' last campaign. Special Agent Green will later interview Senator Morris before conducting any investigation in the field. Special Agent Green on the morning of May 2nd called at the Capitol to obtain further records of the hearings of the Nye Committee and it is believed ought to be perused carefully before conducting the investigation.

Respectfully,

W. R. Hughes
W. R. Hughes.

MAY 5 - 1931 56

RECORDED & INDEXED

56-158-1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DIVISION THREE**

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--|
| REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D.C. | DATE WHEN MADE 5/13/31 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/29 to 5/12/31 | REPORT MADE BY J. P. GREEN |
| TITLE ROBERT H. LUCAS | | | CHARACTER OF CASE CORRUPT PRACTICE ACT |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Interview had with Robert H. Lucas at Washington, D.C., in which he admitted campaign expenditures in various States, as charged by Senator George W. Norris, but that he had fully complied with the law by filing a report of all his personal campaign expenditures with the Secretary of the Senate December 22, 1930. He also stated that Senator Norris had accepted a primary campaign contribution from Senator Cutting in violation of the Federal Statutes, and also had reported campaign expenditures after election of a similar nature as his after the primary election. Senator George W. Norris interviewed at McCook, Nebraska, advised that he had no further facts with reference to aforesaid violation by Mr. Lucas other than those contained in the report of the Senatorial Campaign Expenditures Committee, which he wished to disclose at the present time, all set out herein.

DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

This Agent reported to Mr. Hughes at Washington, D.C., on the morning of May 1, 1931. Mr. Hughes advised that it was desired that Agent make the investigation with reference to a complaint made to the Department by Senator George W. Norris with reference to certain violations of the Corrupt Practice Act, and other matters, and that further instructions with reference to this matter would be received by Agent from Mr. Dodds, Assistant Attorney General.

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> | SPECIAL AGENT 56-158-2 | RECEIVED MAY 15 1931 |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO 6 - Bureau <i>[Signature]</i> | BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION MAY 16 1931 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | MAY 16 1931 |

In company with Mr. Hughes, Agent called at the office of Mr. Dodds, Assistant Attorney General, who advised as follows:

That under date of March 23, 1931, a letter was addressed by Senator George F. Norris to the Attorney General, in which Senator Norris stated that he desired to call attention to the evidence taken by the Senate Committee on Senatorial Campaign Expenditures, appointed pursuant to Senate Resolution 215, in Washington, D.C., on December 20, 1930, and January 6, 1931, in which it is disclosed that Mr. Lucas clearly violated Section 306 of the United States Statutes in failing to make the proper report provided for under the law. Senator Norris advised in the same letter that he was enclosing a copy of the report made by Senator Nye, Chairman of the Committee, and that he desired to call the Attorney General's particular attention to page 7 of said report, which he had marked.

Mr. Dodds further advised that under date of April 14, 1931, another letter from Senator George F. Norris, addressed to the Attorney General, had been received, in which Senator Norris stated that in addition to what he had stated in his prior letter (of March 23, 1931) he desired to call the Attorney General's attention to the general law and the embezzlement of funds, of which Mr. Lucas was probably guilty when he specifically set aside a sum of money, on deposit in the bank, to the credit of the Republican National Committee, as security for his own private loan and that Mr. Lucas claimed to have financed this operation from his own funds, which he borrowed, but in borrowing this money he illegally set aside an equal amount of Committee funds to secure the bank for this alleged private loan, and that all of this appeared in the testimony referred to in his prior letter.

The originals of the aforesaid letters were given by Mr. Dodds to this Agent. Same have been photostated and the originals returned to Mr. Dodds under date of May 3, 1931.

Mr. Dodds requested that Agent make an investigation of the facts as disclosed in the aforesaid complaint of Senator George F. Norris, and requested that Senator Norris and Robert H. Lucas be first interviewed by this Agent, and that further investigation should be made as the facts developed in said interview might warrant.

Agent secured copies of the report of the Select Committee on Senatorial Campaign Expenditures, as made to the Senate in Report No. 1064 with reference to the Senatorial primary and general election in the State of Nebraska for the year 1930, and the printed record of all the hearings had therein, from John Andrews, Secretary of the aforesaid Committee.

Agent endeavored to familiarize himself with the general contents of said report and the record of its hearings, giving special attention to that part of the report and the record of the hearings which disclosed the

matters complained of by Senator Norris in said hearings.

That part of the testimony in said hearings which is of particular interest in this investigation appeared to Agent to be the following testimony:

John F. Blackwell, starting on page 925 of said record - Foreman of the Independent Publishing Company, Washington, D.C.;

Charles I. Stangle, starting on page 935 - Editor of the National Farm News, published by the Independent Publishing Company, Washington, D.C.;

Walter W. Johnson, starting on pages 935 and 942, respectively - stockholder of the Independent Publishing Company, Washington, D.C.;

Robert H. Lucas, starting on pages 959 and 965, respectively - Executive Director of the Republican National Committee, Washington, D.C.;

Wade H. Cooper, starting on page 875 - President, Commercial National Bank, Washington, D.C.;

James W. Reynolds, starting on page 899 - Vice President, Commercial National Bank, Washington, D.C.;

William F. Murray, starting on page 839 - Formerly Assistant to Franklin W. Fort, former Secretary of the Republican National Committee and an employee of that Committee, Rock Falls, Illinois.

While at the Senate Executive Offices securing the aforesaid report and record of hearings of the Senate Expenditures Committee, Agent ascertained from Secretary Heffner of Senator Howell's office, the Secretary being personally known to this Agent, that Senator Norris had left Washington and he understood was now at his home at McCook, Nebraska, in view of which fact it was deemed advisable to first interview Mr. Lucas with reference to aforesaid complaint before interviewing Senator Norris.

On May 4, 1931, Agent contacted Robert H. Lucas, Executive Director of the Republican National Committee, 403 Barr Building, 910 17th Street, N.W. Agent advised Mr. Lucas that he had been requested to interview him with reference to certain complaints made by Senator George W. Norris relative to a violation of the Corrupt Practices Act, because of his

failure to properly report his personal campaign expenditures as required by law, and also with reference to securing a personal loan by using funds belonging to the Republican National Committee as collateral, which Senator Norris believed to be in violation of the law and to constitute embezzlement. After going over in detail the aforesaid matters with reference thereto, Mr. Lucas made the following verbal statement:

"Charles I. Stangle, editor of the National Farm News, came to my office, soliciting for printing, two or three times in October, 1930. I told him I could not use any printing for the National Republican Central Committee at that time, as I had already made arrangements for all necessary printing, but if the opportunity came I would give him an order. About October 10, 1930, Mr. Stangle came to my office with this 'Bar Room Cartoon,' which carried a quotation from Al Smith that he was for repeal of the Prohibition Law. He wanted me to send it into those States where a wet and dry fight was being made. I told him that the Committee could take no sides in such a fight. Mr. Stangle said if I would personally send some of these out into those States where it would make an appeal, he was sure there would be repeat orders from interested parties; that he would charge me \$4.00 a thousand and that he would allow a liberal rebate on repeat orders, of which orders he expected to have many.

"These cartoons were sent out at that time into States of which I gave him a mailing list, to which he was to send 25 or 50 each. This list included North Carolina, Kentucky, West Virginia, Indiana, Ohio, Delaware, and Montana.

"About October 18, 1930, I ordered from Mr. Stangle a pamphlet with editorial comments from papers over the country, also the above cartoon, and a reproduction of a letter which had been sent to Democrats asking them to support Senator Norris because he had supported Al Smith in 1928. All of the editorial comment pamphlets and copies of the Democrat letter were sent to Elmer E. Stephenson, Lincoln, Nebraska, and some of the cartoons. It may be that some of the cartoons were also mailed to Committee-men in Nebraska by Mr. Stangle, as in other States, but of this latter I am not certain. However this may be, I understand the other printed matter was expressed to Mr. Stephenson at Lincoln, Nebraska, October 23, 1930, as their bookkeeper testified at the hearing before the Senatorial Expenditures Committee, and I do not know to the contrary.

"I had no idea what the bill on this printing would be, because I did not know how many were sent and what the rebate would be on repeat orders. No bill was submitted to me until

November 10, 1930, for any of this printing, and on December 3, 1930, I made my first payment of \$4,000, with a balance of \$237.77 still owing, which I paid January 2, 1931. These were the only bills paid by me for matter used personally by me during the campaign of 1930. No others were presented and no other bills were incurred.

"I have been in a great many political campaigns in the last twenty years and I know from experience that printing bills contracted in October, and bills not rendered and not paid for until after election, are never reported until following the election. In accordance with this practice, I prepared my report of personal expenditures in December. I phoned Edwin P. Thayer, Secretary of the Senate, and he advised me that he was the proper official with whom to file this report, which accordingly was filed with him by me, December 22, 1930, and in doing so I thought I had fully complied with the law governing this matter.

"When Charles I. Stangle came in for his money I said I would pay it when I got back from Louisville, where I expected to get the money for this. About this time two of our banks failed and I was not able to get it while there. When I came back to Washington about December 1, I called on James B. Reynolds, Vice President of the Commercial National Bank, who came to my office, whom I personally well know, and asked to borrow \$4,000 for thirty days from his bank. He said I could have it without any security. I assured him I would not withdraw the special account in my name below \$4,000 until this note was paid. Mr. Reynolds said this assurance was not necessary. He requested I come to the bank the next morning and he would have them fix me up. Mr. Reynolds said he would be out of town, but the boys would fix me up.

"I called at the bank the next morning and completed the loan with one of the officials whose name I do not remember. He suggested drawing up the paper with reference to the withdrawal of the special account. I waited while he drew up the paper and I signed it. This was December 2 or 3, 1930, that I signed this paper and the thirty day note for \$4,000. On January 2, 1931, I paid this note in full."

On the morning of May 5, 1931, Agent again called on Mr. Lucas at his office, as requested by him. A further verbal statement was made as follows:

"Senator Norris seems to think that I failed to comply with the law in not recording my expenditures until December 22, 1930. I am inclined to believe Senator Norris has this opinion only because he is not familiar with the laws covering campaign contributions and expenditures.

"As an illustration of this, I wish to call attention to the fact that in looking over the report of the Nye Senatorial Expenditures Committee I find on page 135 that on July 14, 1930, it is disclosed that Senator Cutting of New Mexico contributed the sum of \$1,000 to Senator Norris for use in his primary campaign. Under Section 206 (Criminal Code, Section 114, as amended) this seems clearly a violation of the law.

"In this same report of the Hearings, on pages 347 and 348, there is shown a report of primary campaign expenditures for Senator Norris made on September 18, 1930, more than one month following the primary election, reporting for printing and other expenditures which had been contracted for during the campaign but not paid for until after the primary election. This is exactly the same situation that I had, where bills were not presented and paid until after election and could not, therefore, have been reported previous to the election as an expenditure."

In this connection Mr. Lucas turned over to Agent a letter under date of April 24, 1931, addressed to Honorable William D. Mitchell, Attorney General, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., from Edwin P. Thayer, Secretary of the United States Senate, in which Secretary Thayer writes as follows:

"Mr. Robert H. Lucas filed with me as Secretary of the United States Senate on December 22, 1930, his report of Campaign expenditures for the 1930 election.

"At the time of filing this report, Mr. Lucas inquired of me as to the proper place for filing. I informed him that personal expense accounts of Candidates for the Senate were filed with me, and that in my opinion this was the proper place for him to file his expense account."

The original of this letter was turned over by Agent to Mr. Hodges, Assistant Attorney General.