

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**

**SUBJECT: THE BEATLES**

**FILE NUMBER: 145-0**

Mr. Will R. Wilson  
Assistant Attorney General  
Director, FBI

March 11, 1969

1 - Mr. McKinnon

**PHONOGRAPHIC ALBUM BY  
JOHN LENNON  
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION  
OF OBSCENE MATTER**

This will confirm conversation on March 7, 1969, between Mr. Robert Mahony and Special Agent Charles R. McKinnon of this Bureau.

Mr. Mahony was advised that this Bureau has received a communication from Congressman Ancher Nelsen of Minnesota forwarding a letter sent to him from [redacted] identified himself in his letter as an employee of [redacted] which has [redacted] in [redacted] Minnesota.

b7c

because of his employment, has observed the cover of a phonographic album by John Lennon. This album, according to [redacted], contains a nude photograph of Lennon and Yoka One. [redacted] is concerned with the effect such a photograph may have on the youth in this country and requested to know what can be done to keep this photograph out of the hands of the American public.

Mr. Mahony advised he is familiar with the phonographic album by John Lennon, which cover contains the nude photograph of Lennon and Yoka One. He advised that the photograph does not meet the existing criteria of obscenity from a legal standpoint and is not a violation of the Interstate Transportation of Obscene Matter Statute. Congressman Nelsen was so advised.

MAILED 7  
MAR 11 1969  
COMM-FBI

CRM:emf  
(4)

19 MAR 12 1969

NOTE:

See letter to Congressman Ancher Nelsen dated 3/10/69.

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

145-0-1765

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

March 5, 1968

Congressman Nelson  
U.S.C.

Sir:

The attached communication  
is sent for your consideration.  
Please investigate the statements  
contained therein and forward me  
the necessary information for re-  
ply, return of the enclosed corre-  
spondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

H. C.

Congressman Nelson  
2220 Parkers Hill  
Washington, D.C.

Attn: Nelson

EX-123-PROO  
RE MAR 6 1968

57X

1- [unclear]

0.4 3.10.11  
C. H. [unclear]

MAR 8 1968  
145-0-1766

[REDACTED]

b7c

JANUARY 31, 1969

CONGRESSMAN ANCHER NELSON

DEAR ANCHER:

YESTERDAY I RECEIVED AN ALBUM AT OUR [REDACTED] WHICH [REDACTED] b7c

IT IS THE LATEST ALBUM OF JOHN LENNON OF THE BEATLES AND HIS LATEST FLAME YOKO ONE. THE COVER OF THE ALBUM WAS A PHOTOGRAPH OF LENNON AND ONO COMPLETELY NUDE; AND BELIEVE ME THEY DIDN'T HIDE A THING. IT IS NOW BEING SOLD TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE RECORD STANDS. MR. NELSON, IT IS THE MOST DISCOLORED AND VULGAR DISPLAY OF GARBAGE I HAVE EVER SEEN IN MY LIFE.

ISN'T THERE SOME WAY WE CAN GET THIS ALBUM OFF THE MARKET?? IT HAS TO BE SENT IN THE MAIL TO THE STORES WHICH IN TURN SELL IT TO THE KIDS. IT DOES HAVE AN ENVELOPE OVER THE PICTURE WHEN BOUGHT IN THE STORES, SO IT IS ALSO FRAUGULENT ADVERTISING. MOST OF THE STORE MANAGERS DO NOT KNOW THIS PICTURE IS ON THE COVER BECAUSE OF THE ENVELOPE. I AM AT THIS TIME TRYING TO GET AHOLD OF ALL OF THE LOCAL MERCHANTS CARRYING THIS ALBUM AND FILLING THEM IN ON WHAT IS REALLY ON THIS ALBUM.

YOU ASK WHY THE YOUTH OF TODAY ARE LIKE THEY ARE....THIS IS ONE OF THE PRIME REASONS. ANCHER, I SAY TO YOU, THIS HAS TO STOP...AND I MEAN NOW!! PLEASE WRITE ME AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE THIS LETTER AND TELL ME WHAT WE CAN DO TO GET THIS TRASH OFF OUR YOUTH MARKET.

[REDACTED]

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

[REDACTED]

b7c  
↓

March 10, 1969

1 - Mr. McKinnon

1760

RE: 10

Honorable Ancher Nelsen  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

I have received your communication dated March 5, 1969,  
along with its enclosure, a letter to you dated January 31, 1969,  
from [REDACTED] **b7C**

A representative of the Department of Justice has advised  
that he is familiar with the photograph contained on the cover of an  
album by John Lennon. He stated that no violation with regard to  
obscenity exists concerning this photograph as it does not meet the  
criteria of obscenity from a legal standpoint.

Your bringing this to my attention is indeed appreciated.  
I am returning [REDACTED] letter to you as requested. **b7C**

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 3  
MAR 10 1969  
COMM-FBI

Enclosure

1 - SAC, Minneapolis - Enclosure

NOTE TO SAC, MINNEAPOLIS:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter dated 1-31-69, from [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] to Congressman Ancher Nelsen for your information. **b7C**

CRM:erg  
(5)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

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

5 MAR 17 1969

NOTE:

By communication 3/5/69, Congressman Ancher Nelsen (Rep. - Minnesota) forwarded a letter sent to him from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated he is an employee of a [REDACTED] having [REDACTED] Minnesota. [REDACTED] stated the latest album of John Lennon of the Beatles contains a cover of Lennon and "his latest flame" Yoka One which depicts both completely nude. b7c

Attorney Robert Mahony has previously reviewed the photograph contained on this record album and advised that it does not meet the criteria of obscenity from a legal standpoint. This is being confirmed in writing. We have had limited but cordial relations with Congressman Nelsen.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

FORM 1

# Memorandum

DATE: 3-20-69

TO: Mr. Bishop

FROM: M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN CHARLES E. BENNETT (D - FLORIDA)  
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING  
PROPOSED LEGISLATION PROHIBITING  
THE DISSEMINATION OF OBSCENE MATERIAL  
TO MINORS

By letter dated March 17th, Congressman Bennett sent a copy of H. R. 5171, which is legislation he has introduced to prohibit the dissemination of obscene material to minors. Congressman Bennett pointed out that his bill is patterned after a New York State statute which has been upheld by the Supreme Court. He also sent a copy of two other identical bills, H. R. 6186 and H. R. 7167. In his letter, Congressman Bennett requested "any information you can provide me to back up this bill." By letter of March 18th, Congressman Bennett followed up his previous letter with a request for "evidence" which would show that the rise in crime or the rise of sex crimes is attributable to pornography. He also asked if we can show that a substantial number of criminals have been exposed to pornography. He also asked if we know of any articles or research which would demonstrate a clear need for such a law as he proposes.

We have had cordial relations with Congressman Bennett over the past several years.

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Director restrict our assistance in this matter to provide Congressman Bennett with appropriate reprint material, and that attached letter to this effect be sent.

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Bishop - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Rosen - Enclosure

TDH:cmj  
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