

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: BARKER/KARPIS GANG  
BREMER KIDNAPPING**

**FILE NUMBER: 7-576**

**SECTION : SUB 3 Section 2**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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SUBJECT Barker/Karpis Gang (Bremer Kidnapping)

FILE NUMBER 7-576 Sub 3

SECTION NUMBER 2

SERIALS 21-50

TOTAL PAGES 197

PAGES RELEASED 197

PAGES WITHHELD 0

EXEMPTION(S) USED -

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.**

EAS:JJM

February 17, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: Telephone taps, Hot Springs, Arkansas,  
O Brekid.

This resume covers an examination of the longhand logs on the telephone taps for January 24, 25, and 26, 1937. The pertinent information disclosed is as follows:

January 24, 1937

It appears from the telephone conversation at 1:49 P. M. over 648 between Representative Carroll Hollingsworth and Mayor McLaughlin, that members of the State Legislature are attempting to induce the estranged wife of McLaughlin to testify against him. Particular attention should be paid to that part of the conversation where Hollingsworth mentions "the payoff at the Kingsway." The Kingsway is now operated under the name of the Eastman Hotel and three friends of McLaughlin, viz; Grady Manning, Raymond Rebsamen and another man, all from Little Rock, Arkansas, are supposed to have obtained the gambling concession at the Eastman Hotel for the coming season.

In the call at 3:26 P. M., Mayor McLaughlin agrees to the release of one Cole.

RECORDED & INDEXED

January 25, 1937

It appears from telephone call at 2:07 P. M. over #648 that Hazel Marsh, Secretary to Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin is kept advised by the Mayor of confidential matters. The "Preachers" referred to, probably are Baptist Ministers who at their convention at Paragould, Arkansas, pledged their support to the investigation of Hot Springs that is being conducted by the State Legislature. (See Clipping from the Hot Springs New Era for 1/24/37, herewith attached.)

The calls at 10:30 P. M. over #123 and at 10:40 P. M. show that Arch Cooper, Captain of Police who was dismissed from the force as a result of the death of John Dickson on 12/24/36 is employed at the Belvedere Night Club, the largest gambling resort in Hot Springs. Apparently Cooper uses a sawed off shotgun at the Belvedere Club and Ben Rogers, who is Night Captain of Police agreed to deliver such a gun to Cooper at the Belvedere.

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11 MAR 25 1965



Memorandum for the Director

- 2 -

February 17, 1937.

January 26, 1937

Note should be made of the telephone call at 2:14 P. M. over #123 between a woman named Billie and "Dutch" Akers, where Akers suggests a plan by which the Police Department will aid her in collecting on a bond. Akers quickly withdrew the suggestion when he saw that the woman was not pleased with the idea.

Your attention is directed to the telephone conversation at 7:18 P. M. over #123, between "Dutch" Akers and an unknown man, where the man suggests that Akers can make \$50:00 by convicting a person for a violation committed in a house, upon which the H. O. L. C. had loaned money. If there is such a law, it probably can be verified through the HOLC offices at Little Rock, Arkansas.

In the conversation between Mrs. Minnie King and Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin at 9:40 A. M. over #648, Mrs. King complains of her young nephew frequenting a pool hall.

In the conversation between "Steve" and Akers at 7:00 P. M. over #446, a suggestion is left that in case a certain party comes to Hot Springs, Akers will profit to the amount of \$25.00. This call may have reference to some "Con" man.

This evening State Revenue Officers under Commissioner D. L. Ford raided the Club Belvedere, Southern Club, Ohio Club, Kentucky Club, Milsaps Cigar Store, Miller's Cigar Store and probably other gambling places in Hot Springs. Gambling equipment was seized and the newspaper indicates it will be destroyed if possession is not regained of the equipment within 24 hours. It appears that the local police department were not given prior notice of the intended action of the State Revenue Department and were surprised. After news of the raids was obtained, Akers became quite active and advised one man, probably Roscoe Johnson of the Southern Club to "go down the Avenue and tell all the boys" of the raids that were then being conducted. Akers thereafter conversed with Mayor McLaughlin, who stated that they would have to start proceedings tomorrow morning to regain possession of the equipment that was taken.

Respectfully,

*E. J. Connelley*  
E. J. Connelley

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

EAS:JJM

February 17, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: Telephone taps, Hot Springs,  
Arkansas, Brekid.

This resume covers an examination of the longhand logs on the telephone taps for January 27, 28, 29, and 30, 1937. The pertinent information disclosed is as follows:

January 27, 1937

It appears from the conversation between Captain Jerry Watkins and Phillips (Jimmie Phillips, Manager of the Southern Club), overheard at 2:51 P. M. over #446, that Watkins is either presently residing in or intends to move into the house at 125 Florence Street. The conversation indicates that this house is owned by Phillips.

Your attention is called to the following conversations: 4:15 and 4:18 P. M. over #123; 4:35 and 4:37 P. M. over #446; 4:45 and 4:50 P. M. over #123, where it appears that Akers is not interested in prosecuting Attorney Frieder for writing a bad check but is working with the Vance Brothers Pawn Shop to locate Frieder so that he can get a "Cut" in inducing Frieder to make the check good.

Previous reports have set out conversations between Grace Goldstein and Dutch Akers concerning a ring that Grace Goldstein bought. The ring apparently was stolen and "Dutch" and Grace apparently got \$50.00 from the deal. The call at 6:28 P. M. over #123 apparently has reference to that same ring.

Note call at 10:55 P. M. over #446 where Officers Davis and Bradley report they are telephone #116, which is the Miller's Cigar Store, a gambling house.

In the conversation at 9:18 A. M. over #648, the Mayor tells Carroll Hollingsworth, a State Representative, a story, somewhat bawdy, to make his point that the State Legislative Committee is aiming at him in investigating Circuit Judge Earl Witt. Also note statement of the Mayor that he made \$25,000.00 for the city out of that thing (probably referring to gambling houses).

RECORDED & INDEXED

In the conversation at 8:48 A. M. over #648, Judge Ledgerwood agrees to fix a parking or traffic ticket.

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11 MAR 25 1965

7-576-3-22

February 17, 1937.

January 28, 1937.

Note should be made of the telephone call at 9:10 P. M. over #446 where Herbert "Dutch" Akers converses in a friendly fashion with a girl who gives her address as 708 1/2 Central. This is the address of a house of prostitution run by a woman named "Bessie."

Your attention is also directed to a conversation at 9:00 A. M. over #648 between Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin and W. S. Jacobs. The exact nature of the subject of this conversation is not known but it appears that the Mayor is doing some kind of work for Jacobs. It has previously been reported that the Mayor represents Jacobs in a legal capacity.

In the newspaper clippings above mentioned it will be noted that the Mayor in representing the chamber of commerce is opposing the sale of radio station KTHS at Hot Springs, Arkansas to Colonel T. H. Barton of El Dorado, Arkansas. It will be recalled that in previous conversations overheard on the taps that the Mayor himself has a plan whereby he, himself, can make some money from the sale or leasing of this same radio station.

January 29, 1937

It appears from telephone calls at 8:33 A. M. and 8:45 A. M. over #648 that Hazel Marsh, Secretary of Mayor McLaughlin handles the fixing of traffic tickets, probably through Judge Ledgerwood.

The reaction of the Police Department readily manifested itself shortly after the State Revenue Officers began to conduct raids on gambling establishments at Hot Springs on the above evening. Akers became very active shortly after receiving word of the raids being carried on.

The first telephone call overheard over the telephones under surveillance, was 6:37 P. M. when Mrs. Akers advised "Dutch" Akers of the raid then being conducted at Millers Cigar Store. Thereafter one Crawford, identity unknown, telephoned "Phil" (probably Norwood Phillips) at the Chicago Club and spoke of the raids then being staged. Thereafter at 7:02 P. M. over #123, Akers informed his wife of details of the raid on the Millers Cigar Store. Thereafter the following significant conversation was overheard by Special Agent H. A. Snow at 7:05 P. M. over #123, the call being an incoming one.

Akers: Hello

Man. Dutch, this is Roscoe (or Robert). I just heard that they are tearing up things down the street.

Akers. Yes they are. You'd better close up your place. Go down the Avenue (Central Avenue) right away and tell the boys.

Man. O. K. Thanks, Dutch.

(The man calling probably was Roscoe Johnson, proprietor of the Southern Club.)

February 17, 1937.

In the telephone conversation at 7:08 P. M. over #123 between Mrs. Ebel (probably wife of Walter Ebel, a local newspaper reporter) and "Dutch" Akers, Mrs. Ebel in speaking of the raids asks "Dutch" if he can square things up and Akers replies "I'm trying."

The reaction of the local police officers to the raids can be gathered from the conversations over #123 at 7:25 P. M. and 7:41 P. M.

The following conversation between Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin and Herbert "Dutch" Akers, over #123 at 8:11 P. M. was overheard by Special Agent H. A. Snow.

Akers. Called 600 (Telephone at residence of Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin).  
McLaughlin. Hello.  
Akers. You still want me?  
McLaughlin. Did they take all the stuff (Gambling equipment)  
Akers. Yes. Everything. Loaded it all in trucks. Its Ford's (Commissioner of State Revenue Department) men who did it. They had an order from Chief Justice. Griffin Smith dug up some old law about it. Ford was here with the whole committee, I judge, because I know Nichols and saw him with three men that I didn't know.  
McLaughlin. Yeah. I found out from a newspaper man that that order was issued by Chief Justice Griffin Smith. We'll have to start proceedings tomorrow before they burn it. Let Louis Petroccio (phonetic) claim it all and bring it back.  
Akers. Yes. I talked to Jake (Jacobs). He's out in the country but he's coming in after a bit. I'll see him.  
McLaughlin. Alright."

In the above call when Akers is mentioning the Committee he is probably referring to the State Legislative Committee now investigating vice and corruption in Hot Springs and vicinity. Representative Nichols is a member of that committee. The keen interest of Mayor McLaughlin in regaining possession of the seized gambling equipment for the proprietors of the places raided, is evident. He appears not at all reluctant to suborn a witness in suggesting that one Petroccio, (phonetic) claim all the property.

Attention is called to the call at 9:31 P. M. over #446, where Dave Johnson, who appears from the conversation, to be engaged in some illegal business, telephones the Hot Springs Police Department and asks Ben Rogers who is Night Captain whether "Those suckers" have left town, in probably referring to the State Revenue men.

Note should be made of the conversation at 8:15 A. M. over #123 where Akers agrees to fix a parking ticket for Dr. Stough and conversation overheard at 9:05 A. M. on #648 where Judge Ledgerwood agrees to take care of a ticket for Dr. Carrell.

February 17, 1937.

January 30, 1937

In the telephone call at 8:15 A. M. over #446 between Night Captain Ben Rogers and Ebel (Walter Ebel, Reporter of the Sentinel Record and New Era Newspapers at Hot Springs), attention is directed to the statement of Ebel in referring to a traffic ticket, that Judge Ledgerwood said he would straighten it out. In the subsequent call at 8:30 A. M. over #446 Ebel reminds the Police Department to be sure to give the ticket which he sent down, to Judge Ledgerwood.

The call at 5:35 P. M. over #446 between Cecil Brock (Dismissed policeman under indictment for the killing of John<sup>†</sup> Dickson) and Mrs. Brock, it would appear that Brock and wife are operating either a "Bookie" place or a horse race wire service. It will be recalled that a few weeks ago, it was reported that Brock had installed three unlisted telephones in his residence, he, already having another at that time.

At 6:33 P. M. Akers calls William S. Jacobs' residence, unlisted telephone #2115. Akers has little to report to Jacobs and says there is nothing important to see Jacobs for tonight and then states he will see Jacobs in the morning. The reference to the "Fire" is to the burning of the gambling equipment taken from the Belvedere Club and other gambling places on the preceding night by the State Revenue Officers. This equipment actually was burned on the evening of January 30, 1937, at Little Rock.

In the conversation between Akers and an unknown woman overheard on #446 at 9:16 P. M. Akers states the Mayor is talking of cutting the force to only three men at day and three at night; of cutting the Fire Department in half and the Street Department by two-thirds. In referring to the raids the woman states that 1100 were put out of employment thereby (the same figure quoted in the local papers) and Akers states it is close to 2200 in counting those persons indirectly employed as well as persons directly employed by Jacobs.

Note the warning given by Chief of Police Rasberry to Night Captain Ben Rogers not to permit any of those fellows (dismissed policemen) aid in any arrests, hereafter. Apparently some one of the dismissed officers had taken part in an arrest, since his dismissal.

In the call at 9:35 A. M. over #648, a man named Chase, who probably is identical with Ed. Chase, co-owner of Millsap's Cigar Store, a gambling place which was raided on the previous night by the State Revenue Officers, speaks with Mayor McLaughlin and mentions that "those machines" are out. The Mayor states that it is a good time to keep them out. The machines mentioned probably are slot or other type of gambling machines.

Note should be made of the call at 9:40 A. M. over #648 between Mayor McLaughlin and Jacobs (W. S. Jacobs). The Mayor is apparently referring to the gambling equipment seized on the previous night by the State Revenue

February 17, 1937.

Officers, when he advises Jacobs that the only decision was over 30 years ago when the stuff was finally burned and that he does not believe that anything can be done. When Jacobs asks whether it is alright to go ahead on the horses (Horse race betting), the Mayor says it is alright to do so. In this same matter, note should also be made of the conversations at 10:35 A. M., 10:36 A. M., and at 11:27 A. M. over #648. In the last mentioned call, Jacobs mentions to the Mayor that they wouldn't put up the boards (Race Entry and Result Boards) and that they had a cut-off on their phones. The Mayor again states it will be alright. It also appears that Jacobs advises with Sheriff Anderson, but the Mayor appears to be dominant.

Your attention is called to the statement of Mayor McLaughlin in the call at 12:10 P. M. over #648 that Scott Wood, Carroll D. Wood and Griffin Smith are responsible for every thing and told Ford (Commissioner of the State Revenue Department) to get to work. This apparently refers to the previous night's raids.

In the absence of Mayor McLaughlin, Roscoe Johnson of the Southern Club tells the Mayor's Secretary that he wanted to tell the Mayor that he got orders to close from Sol Godwin. The identity of Sol Godwin is not known.

Respectfully,

  
P. E. Foxworth



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

EAS:JJM

February 18, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: Telephone taps, Hot Springs,  
Arkansas, Brekid.

The taps on telephone numbers 123, 446, 648, which are listed to the Hot Springs Police Department and the Mayor's Office were removed February 3, 1937. The Junction Box where the taps were located was kept under surveillance from time to time throughout February 4, 1937. No men were seen working either around the Junction Box or in the vicinity of the Police Department and the box shows no evidence of having been touched. It is highly improbable that Akers will take any actions to check the telephone lines after February 4th. For this reason, after an inspection is made of the neighborhood it is intended to replace the taps on the above telephone lines in the morning of February 5, 1937. The tap on the residence telephone of W. S. Jacobs will also be installed at this time, the point of surveillance being at 205 1/2 Cedar Street. This surveillance will be maintained on a 24 hour basis by Special Agents J. M. Jones and Stuttler.

This resume covers an examination of the longhand logs on the telephone taps for January 31, February 1, 2, and 3, 1937. The pertinent information disclosed is as follows:

January 31, 1937

At 7:50 A. M. the telephone taps on telephones #123, #446, and #648 were re-established by Special Agent J. M. Jones. Nothing came over the taps today to indicate that anyone was suspicious of their presence. Akers reported for work in the morning but went home a short while later. He spent the rest of the day at home.

At 10:15 A. M. the tap on the residence telephone of W. S. Jacobs of 116 Cedar Street, telephone #2115, was established. Several calls have been overheard over this telephone and it appears that Jacobs transacts most of his business over this phone. For this reason it should be productive. Pending receipt of another listening set, the set formerly attached to line #446 was temporarily removed and it is now being used on the Jacobs' tap.

It will be noted in the logs for the taps on telephones 123, 446, and 648 at Hot Springs for January 31, 1937, which are attached hereto that Mayor McLaughlin made several calls from his office telephone although the day was Sunday.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

7-576-3-23

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11 MAR 25 1965

FILED  
MAR 25 1937  
FBI - HOT SPRINGS

62-12114-1016

February 18, 1937.

In the call at 2:00 P. M. over #648, between Mayor McLaughlin and Representative Carroll Hollinsworth, it is evident that the Mayor is exerting every effort to turn aside the investigation being conducted by the State Legislature. He asks about Murray (I. T. Murray, member of the Investigating committee) and Hollinsworth states that he has a man who will talk to him. Note should also be made that Hollinsworth states that they want Circuit Judge Earl Witt to resign alleging that he takes bribes, drinks and gambles on horse races. Hollinsworth also mentions that the committee expect to get some information out of a man named Watts (Sam Watt) and the mayor disagrees with this opinion because he believes that Watt is interested with Jacobs.

In the telephone call at 11:06 P. M. over #123 between some officer at the Police Department and Chief of Police Rasberry, it will be noted that two men arrested in the rear of Jack Fry's place (Keystone Bar) for gambling were arrested and taken to jail but Fry was not because there was no one to take care of his place of business, although his name was entered on the docket, it being stated that he would be down in the morning, no bond apparently having been put up by him.

February 1, 1937

Two calls refer to the fixing of traffic tickets, one at 8:50 A. M. over #123 where Captain of Police Jerry Watkins states that he thinks he can fix a parking ticket and the call at 8:56 A. M. over 648 where Judge Ledgerwood agrees to fix a parking ticket for one Charlie.

Attention is called to the calls at 10:37 A. M. and 10:38 A. M. over #123 which indicate that "Dutch" Akers connives with the Vance Brothers Pawn Shop, probably with the idea of purchasing at a nominal price articles such as rings that have been pawned by persons who have been arrested.

The association of the local police with known gamblers and gambling places is indicated in the call at 8:30 P. M. over 446 where a woman calls #1065 (Southern Cigar Stand, a part of the Southern Club gambling house) and tells Frank Nebett that she and Jerry Watkins, Captain of Police) will pick him up at the Southern Club at 6:30 A. M. At 9:25 P. M. a party asking for Murray (Officer John Murray) is told he can be located at Miller's Cigar Store, a gambling house. At 10:03 P. M. Officers Murray and Davis report in at 116, listed to the Miller Cigar Store, which place they practically make their headquarters each night.

With reference to the activities of Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin to learn of the progress of the Legislative Investigating Committee and his efforts to avert further investigation, attention is called to the following conversations which were overheard on this date:



February 18, 1937.

Call at 9:16 A. M. over 648. The man calling suggests that Bob Campbell, a State Representative and stooge for McLaughlin, invite 40 or 50 representatives over to a card game, probably to win their sympathies. The mayor also states in this conversation that from Ed Farris, (Secretary State Racing Commission) told him about the bill introduced by Representative Butt to make horse racing, that they (certain politicians) want to be dealt with.

Call at 9:32 A. M. over 648 where Representative Carroll Hollinsworth reports that five witnesses appeared before the Committee but they (The Committee) got nothing and states that he will advise the identities of the witnesses later.

Call at 9:51 A. M. over 648 where Mayor McLaughlin advises Circuit Judge Earl Witt that the Committee had charged him, Witt, with drinking and betting on the races.

Call at 11:10 A. M. over 648 where W. G. Bouic, former prosecutor suggests M. Lawrence Burrows as a contact at Little Rock, to the Mayor. The Mayor shows his interest when Bouic suggests that action be taken in the Appellate Court to prevent the raiding of the Club Belvedere again by Revenue Officers.

Call at 11:45 A. M. over 648 where the Mayor tells John Hold that the raiding and closing of the local gambling houses costs the city \$1800.00 per month. (This income is probably derived by the system of collecting fictitious fines from the operators, it amounting to a "city payoff.")

Call at 2:00 P. M. over 648 where the Mayor and Grady Manning discuss the constitutionality of the issuance of seizure writs (on gambling equipment) and Mayor McLaughlin speaks of "getting to" some man who was in Forest City on this date.

Call at 2:40 P. M. over 648 between Dr. Thompson (City Jail Physician and Informant for the Mayor) and the Mayor re getting "Stuff" (Gambling equipment) back through Bouic.

Note:- The newspapers report that not all of the equipment seized by the State Revenue Officers on the Night of January 29th in raiding gambling places at Hot Springs, was burned on the night of January 30th, but that equipment which was questioned as coming under the category of "Gambling Equipment" was held for a decision by some judicial body. This gambling equipment which was not burned is probably the subject of the above discussion between Doctor Thompson and the Mayor.

February 18, 1937.

February 2, 1937

In the telephone call at 8:34 A. M. over #123 it will be noted that "Dutch" Akers is attempting to induce Mr. Noble, Manager of the Western Union to fix up a form congratulatory telegram to be addressed to Representative Maner, and solicit throughout Hot Springs for persons to send that or a similar message to Maner for his speech of the previous day. Maner alleged that Little Rock was just as corrupt as Hot Springs.

The call at 2:00 P. M. over #446 indicates that Officer Charles Robbins resigned. Information has since been obtained that Robbins obtained a position with the State Revenue Department.

At 7:05 P. M. Officer George Young calls the Citizen's Cigar Store, a gambling house, and agrees to "Fix" a traffic ticket for Lee Hall.

The Attorney Grover with whom Mayor McLaughlin converses at 8:35 A. M. over 648 apparently is representing the Mayor in his divorce action. The Mayor makes reference to his speech of the night previous. At that time he addressed the City Council and told the Council that the city was losing \$18,000.00 every month by the closing of gambling houses in the city, the money being obtained by a system of fines, the payment of which each month gives practical immunity to gambling operators from police interference.

In the conversation, overheard over 648 at 10:46 A. M. the Mayor mentions that two other men from Little Rock and himself visited Jacobs house on the previous evening. The conversation is guarded but it is evident that the Mayor is speaking of the Oaklawn Race Track at Hot Springs and he indicates rather strongly that the race track can operate only through a "Payoff" to certain people in Little Rock, indicating particularly, members of the Racing Commission.

The Mayor is keeping a close watch on the activities of the investigating legislative committee as is evidence by the call at 11:41 P. M. over #648, where he states that he has learned that a man named Level who was giving information to the Committee was convicted of burglary in January, 1936.

At 4:30 P. M. over #648 the Mayor reports to the Sheriff's Office that they are certain people at a hotel who are "flashing more money than they did at the Belvedere."

February 3, 1937

Attention is directed to the two calls at 8:45 A. M. and at 9:02 A. M. over #648. In the first call Judge Ledgerwood agrees to take "care of" two men charged with being drunk. In the other call Ledgerwood agrees to take care of a warning notice probably for parking for some woman. Ledgerwood agrees to fix a parking ticket for one Brasswell in the call at 12:15 P. M. over #648.

February 18, 1937.

It will be noted that a man named Kemp, who may be identical with S. A. Kemp, Postmaster at Hot Springs telephones Mayor McLaughlin and informs him that Grady Manning of Little Rock has been trying to scare Circuit Judge Earl Witt. See call at 9:38 A. M. over #648. Manning in the past, has been in frequent touch with Mayor McLaughlin by long distance telephone. It now appears, from the above call and from the conversation between the Mayor's secretary, Hazel Marsh and her girl friend, Mary, who is employed at the Bus Depot in the Citizen's Building, that Grady Manning is "a dirty rat and is on the other side of the fence." See call at 2:12 P. M. over #648.

In the call at 9:41 A. M. over #648, Representative Hollingsworth advises the Mayor that Level and Spivers are opposed to him and with Sellers a former Hot Springs Police Officer are aiding the Legislative Committee investigating Hot Springs.

In the telephone call at 8:24 A. M. over #446 mention is made that the Chief is dead. This refers to Fire Chief Pate.

I have previously submitted a memorandum quoting the telephone conversation in the call at 3:56 P. M. over #123 between "Dutch" Akers and a man whose voice sounded like that of Former Chief of Police Joseph Wakelin. Particular attention should be had to that part of the conversation where Akers states that the men at Little Rock are "willing to put Jake (W. S. Jacobs) back in business, but they want someone else in charge of the money. They are shooting at Leo (McLaughlin) through Earl Witt."

In the telephone call at 6:30 P. M. over #446, Akers agrees to fix a traffic ticket for a Miss Price, identity unknown.

Respectfully,

  
S. A. Kemp

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

U. S. Department of Justice  
775 Starks Building  
Louisville, Kentucky

February 19  
1937

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There is enclosed herewith form covering telephone tap dated February 14, 1937, submitted by Special Agent John L. Madala, which was inadvertently forwarded to the Louisville Division with copy of his January expense account.

It is believed this original form should have been forwarded to the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

*O. C. Dewey*

O. C. DEWEY  
Special Agent in Charge.

OCD/mk  
Encl.

I ENCL. BY  
CC Kansas City

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

7-576-3-24  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FEB 23 1937 A. M.  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
CHP. CLERK WAB  
JAN 23 1937  
JAN 23 1937

ENCLOSURE

7-576-3-24

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$30

Date: February 14, 1937

PAID INFORMANTS - TELEPHONE TAPS

Title of case George Timiney; Dr. Joseph P. Moran, with aliases - Fugitive,

I. O. #1232; Edward George Bremer - Victim: Kidnaping etc.

Name of informant \* Mayor's Office, City Jail, and Chief of Police

Address Hot Springs, Arkansas Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Authority requested of Division by letter ( ) on \_\_\_\_\_  
telegram ( ) on \_\_\_\_\_  
teletype (x) on 11/19/36  
telephone ( ) on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Authority granted by Division by letter ( ) on \_\_\_\_\_  
telegram ( ) on \_\_\_\_\_  
teletype (x) on 11/20/36  
telephone ( ) on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Approximate period of employment Four months

Rate of compensation per <sup>month</sup> ~~day~~ \$ 55.00. Compensation to be claimed

in voucher submitted by John L. Madala  
(Special Agent)

Noted in Chief Clerk's Office \_\_\_\_\_

\*Give name of person to whom telephone is listed.



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**U. S. Department of Justice**  
Post Office Box 1469  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
February 20, 1937

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: BREKID

Dear Sir:

With reference to the above styled matter I am enclosing herewith copies of the logs for February 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, 1937, submitted by the Agents at Hot Springs, Arkansas, who are maintaining a tap on the telephone of the residence of W. S. Jacobs, being telephone number 2115.

I am also enclosing herewith the following newspaper articles with reference to this case:

Sentinel Record, Hot Springs, Arkansas,  
for February 5, 1937.  
New Era, Hot Springs, Arkansas, for  
February 9, 1937, (5).  
New Era, Hot Springs, Arkansas, for  
February 11, 1937, (2).  
Sentinel Record, Hot Springs, Arkansas,  
for February 11, 1937.  
Sentinel Record, Hot Springs, Arkansas,  
for February 12, 1937.  
New Era, Hot Springs, Arkansas, for  
February 12, 1937.  
New Era, Hot Springs, Arkansas, for  
February 15, 1937.  
X Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock, Arkansas,  
for February 16, 1937.  
New Era, Hot Springs, Arkansas, for  
February 16, 1937, (2).  
Sentinel Record, Hot Springs, Arkansas, for  
February 16, 1937.

Very truly yours,

*John B. Little*  
JOHN B. LITTLE  
Special Agent in Charge

BLD:ADM  
cc Cincinnati

*Behind file*  
*1-2-37*  
*mo*

*28*  
*mi*  
*over*

7-576-3-25

RECORDED & INDEXED

FEB

*Ea*  
*1-2-37*



2-18-37

9:25 A.M. Out on 2115

Bms

Jacobs: "42."

Man: "Hello."

Jacobs: "This is W S Jacobs talking, have you got any Collene Flapdene (phonetic) and what price is it."

Man: "Just a minute Mr Jacobs" pause  
"I can give you a price of \$24.00"  
Mr Jacobs - that's on a hundred."

Jacobs: "Ok, I'll call you back."

10:10 A.M. Out on 2115

Bms.

Maid called grocery.

10:30 AM Out on 2115

Bms.

Maid called 1656 personal conversation.

11:15 A.M. Out on 2115

Bms

Johnny Morris called his wife and told her to meet him at 1 PM he was going to play golf.

7-576-Sub B EBF SERIAL 25

2-18-37

11:50 A.M. In on 2115

Bms

Long distance operator #12 at  
Little Rock trying to locate  
Jacobs. He was out.

12:05 P.M. Out on 2115

Bms.

Jacobs: "Operator get me operator #12  
Little Rock this is Jacobs 2115."

Man: "Hello."

Jacobs: "Whatdey say."

Man: "I just saw the report, its 3 to 2  
in favor of impeachment."

Jacobs: "Is that public knowledge yet?"

Man: "No, but it will be this afternoon  
they are going to try to present  
it before lunch. Robertson  
and Jones are going to present  
a minority report, Thompson  
Murray & Nichols form the  
majority."

Jacobs: "OK, thanks a lot."

2-18-37

12:10 P.M. Out on 2115

Bms

Jacobs: "648"

Leo: "Hello."

Jacobs: "The Jew just called me, said  
he got a chance to look  
at the report, its 3 to 2  
for impeachment."

Leo: "Yeah, I just heard."

Jacobs: "Ok."

The "Jew" that Jacobs refers to is probably Louie  
Palaski whom he talked to last night.

12:45 PM Out on 2115

Bms

Jacobs: "210"

~~Jacobs:~~  
Man: "—?— there?" (Could not catch name)

Man: "No."

Jacobs: "Thanks."

1:05 PM: In on 2115

Bms

Johnny Morris' wife called for him  
to hurry & meet her.

2-18-37

8:15 P.M.

Out on #2115

~~Let~~

Jacob called #1065 and asked how dinner was going and if the people were using the upstairs dining room — Party answered "dinner was very good but very few people had used the upstairs room".

8:25 P.M.

In on #2115

F.H.F.

Party asked Jacob to listen to the sport program on K.T.H.S. at 10:15 P.M. then remarked that the minority report had been very good in that it charged the committee with only hearing the evidence which cast reflections upon Judge Witt's conduct. Calling party stated he had spoken to Witt this afternoon — That Witt was broken up about the report submitted but had felt better after hearing the minority report. Witt's health O.K.

Jacob stated he did not believe the house would take any drastic action.

9:25

Out on #2115

Jacobs called #1065 and asked for the correct time — "9:28"

2-17-37

9:05 AM. Call ~~out~~ on 2115

B.M.B.

Jacobs: "155"

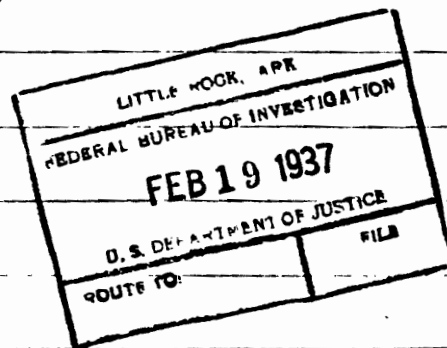
MAN: "Hello, -?- Plumbing Co."

Jacobs: "Charlie, this is Jacobs, wish you would go up to my house at 174 Cedar St. and fix that Toilet, there's a leak in it."

MAN: "Sure will Mr. Jacobs and say if you're interest in an ice cream making machine send Sam up to the Army & Navy hospital, to look at the one they're gonna sell. It's a sixteen hundred dollar machine, you can probably bid it in for \$200.00"

Jacobs: "All rightie, thanks."

MAN: "All right, Mr. Jacobs."



2-17-37

10:25 A.M. In on 2115

Fin.

Jacobs: "Hello."

Wooten: "Jake, Gil Wooten, Arkansas Bank, need a little <sup>money</sup> change this morning?"

Jacobs: "Sure do."

Wooten: "Well come on down & bring your receipts. I've got two cashiers checks for you for \$2,500." each, I sold your stock."

Jacobs: "Can't I send somebody?"

Wooten: "Yeah, I can fix it that way."

Jacobs: "Well Johnny Marvin does the work on my books for me, he'll be down and sign for them."

Wooten: "There'll be a 5% per share Govt. Tax for transfer."

Jacobs: "That's all right, thanks very much, you'll be well paid."

Wooten: "All right, goodbye."

2-17-37

10:45 A.M.

In on 2115

Bms.

Jacobs: "Hello."

Man: "Mr Jacobs, our man got drunk last night & we've got nobody to run the machine today."

Jacobs: "Well don't let anybody know, if you do it'll be all over town."

Man: "What we gonna do?"

Jacobs: "Is Memphis bookies open?"

Man: "No, they're closed too."

Jacobs: "Well, take the winners and the scratches from the radio, then call in everyone in a while, nobody'll find out, you can work it out that way."

Man: "Ok that's all right."

2-17-37

11:45 A.M.

Out on 2105

Bms

Jack: "210."

Man: "Hello."

Jack: "Is Blackie Brennan there?"

Blackie: "All right."

Jack: "I'm up now Blackie come up whenever you feel like it."

Blackie: "Ok, I'll be right up."

12:05 P.M.

In on 2115

Bms.

Johnny: "Hello."

Woman: "Johnny, Little Rock is trying to call Bill."

Johnny: "Well he has talked to Irene in Little Rock during the past 20 minutes."

Woman: "Oh, was that who it was?"

Johnny: "Yeh, she's rented an apartment."

Woman: "That's all right then."



2-17-37

12:30 P.M. In on 2115

Bms

Man: "Hello."

Blackie: "This is Blackie, has Otho left yet?"

Man: "Yes."

Blackie: "Well what is —? — (could not catch)  
address in New Orleans?"

Man: "We don't know, wait till Otho  
gets there."

Blackie: "Ok then."

1:05 P.M. Out on 2115

Bms.

Jacobs: "210"

Man: "May yo."

Jacobs: "Let me speak to Mr Smith please."

Smith: "Hello."

Jacobs: "I say you can get your books back  
now, Johnny went over & got ours, send  
your receipts down to Roscoe, he'll  
get them today when he gets his."

Smith: "I'll sure be glad to get them back,  
Thanks Jake."

2-17-37

1:30 P.M. Out on 2115

EMS.

Maid called Jo for personal  
conversation.

1:45 P.M. Out on 2115

EMS

Maid called 2746 W, spoke  
to Newey, asked him to come  
down to fix a bed, informed  
him "they" were gone, meaning  
Jacobs & Morris.

5:45 P.M. Out on #2115

J. L. J.

Jacobs called Western Union and sent  
the following message.

A. R. Conley

523 Vine St

Shreveport La.

Sorry can not use your tools

W. S. Jacobs.

6:22 P.M. In on #2115

J. L. J.

"Emil" called Jacobs and said he would leave that  
'receipt' at the cigar stand for him.

2-17-37

6:30 P.M.

In on #2115

Party called Jacob and stated he just had Harris (or Harriah) on the phone and he thought report was going to be all right

Jacob "I hope you are right - I don't think Ed - (Interrupted)"

C.P. - "Yes he said it looked as if it was going to be OK."

Jacob: "I was talking to someone who said he heard Nichols and Murray fighting on the phone"

C.P. "Well this fellow is 'on the know' and said it would be good"

Jacob "Yes I guess so - I hope so anyway"

2-17-37

6:55 P.M. In on 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: "Hello."

Miller: "Mr. Jacobs, this is Bill Miller, there was a Government man checking our beer license today, he said they were going to turn in the report tomorrow and that we could all get our books back."

Jacobs: "Yeah, I know it, Johnny got ours back today."

Miller: "OK, just thought I'd tell you."

7:20 P.M. In on 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs answered

Carroll: "Mr. Jacobs this is Tom Carroll, that fellow is down at the Ohio, drunk again."

Jacobs: "Then call the Police, do him good, might get him sober."

Carroll: "All right."

2-17-37

7:21 P.M. Out on 2115 Bms.

Jacobs: "123"

Man: "Police Station."

Jacobs: "Is 'Dutch' Akers there?"

Man: "No, he's ~~any~~ out right now."

Jake: "All right, thank you."

7:22 P.M. Out on 2115 Bms.

Jacobs: "Long distance."

L. D. "Long distance."

Jacobs: "This is Jacobs, 2115, calling Louie Poloski at the Albert Pike Hotel or 47251 Little Rock."

Poloski: "Hello."

Jacobs: "How ya be?"

Poloski: "All right Jake."

Jacobs: "Whatdyeknow?"

Poloski: "The report goes in tomorrow."

Jacobs: "In our favor of course."

Poloski: "Nape, 3 to 2 the other way."

2-17-37

7:22 P.M.

(Long distance call cont'd) page #2

BMS.

Jacobs: "You positive of that."

Poloski: "No, but I heard they want to shift the responsibility."

Jacobs: "We had a couple of flashes that Murray & Nichols had a fight & it was going the other way."

Poloski: "Nichols is the fifth man you know. I heard he wanted to pass the buck to the house." "They're gonna take it up in the morning."

Jacobs: "There'll be no way of knowing until then, eh?"

Poloski: "Well, I'm going down to the station now to mail a letter, if I hear anything on the way back, I'll let you know."

Jacobs: "All the boys over here talked to Nichols today but he's not to be depended on. He took Miller's license over there, if he had taken mine I would have had him arrested, he's liable to get

2-17-37

7:22 P.M. (Long distance call cont'd) page #3. BmsS.

Jacobs: the Government on him for that. I just wish he had taken mine."

Polaski: "I'll call you tonight if I hear anything at all, otherwise I'll call you in the morning. If they don't pass on it tomorrow it will be next week."

Thompson will probably raise some Cain."

Jacobs: "All rightie, thanks."

2-17-37

7:55 P.M. Out on 2115 Bm8

Mayor Leo McLaughlin called Long distance.

LEO: "Long distance this is 2115 calling Ed Farris in Little Rock."

Little R. Opr: "We have E. R. Farris at 5112 W 30483."

Operator called Farris at his home 30483

Mrs Farris: "Mr Farris is having dinner at the Hotel Marion."

Operator had him paged there.

Farris: "Hello."

Leo: "Ed this is Leo."

Farris: "Wait Leo, I'll call you back from a pay station booth." He did.

Leo: "Ed I called you about two things, first I was talking to Earl while ago and he told me what you told him, what Jake had said about me, when you were talking to Jake."

Farris: "That's right."

Leo: "Jake must have been ribbing you Ed, he must have been clowning



2-17-37

7:55 P.M. (Long Dist. Call continued) page #2 BMS.

Leo: or kidding me, you know I never told Jake any such damn thing."

Farris: "I didn't think so but I told Witt just what Jake told me. Jake ought to cut out such hell —, its liable to put you in the middle."

Leo: "Jake must have been ribbing, was anyone else present?"

Farris: "Yes, Watt."

Leo: "Well, no wonder, Jake & Watt are always ribbing each other."

Leo & Ed: "Here's the thing Leo, I've got no damn business being in on this thing at all but I've tried to be a good friend to all of you fellows in Hot Springs."

Leo: "I know that Ed."

Farris: "You know too that Graham Anderson and Judge Witt are both friends of mine, that's why I told Witt

2-17-37

7:55 P.M. (Long distance call cont'd) page #3 Bms

Farris: what Jake said. Do you want me to tell you over the phone what Jake said."

Leo: "Yeah, its all right, go ahead."

Farris: "Well Jake said you were really in with Governor Bailey and thru him you were going to get to some of the representatives."

Leo: "You know damn well I didn't make any such statement."

Farris: "I know it and it made me mad."

Leo: "The whole thing is this Ed, the investigation really started out on Earl Witt and before they got thru they were investigating me as much as they were Earl. The only ones that know a damn thing about me are those two preachers. You know about my divorce. That's why I hate to come

2-17-37

7:55 P.M. (Long distance call cont'd) page #4 Bms

Leo: over to Little Rock, every time I do those two damn preachers "tail" me, they know every where I go, every room I'm in."

Farris: I know theres a lot of bull — going around Leo, thats why I've kept quiet to everybody except Witt about what Jake said. Now listen I'll tell you something else Jake told me, I hav'nt told anybody this and am not except you. He said he heard you talking to Carl Baily over the phone, he said he was on an upstairs phone listening. I'm not going to tell anybody that."

Leo: "Please don't, Jake's crazy as hell, he ought to quit talking like that, that'll put me in the middle sure enough."

Farris: "I won't say a word."

2-17-37

7:55 P.M. (Long distance call cont'd.) page #5 Bms.

Leo: "The other thing I wanted to ask you about is why the commission won't let 'Doc' work out at the track?"

Farris: "They just don't want 'Doc' out there, they have their own man."

Leo: "Well what about this man Hammett?"

Farris: "Who?"

Leo: "It's Hammett or Hammond, he was recommended by Hilliard."

Farris: "The commission is opposed to Hilliard."

Leo: "Well please keep us out of the middle on this."

Farris: "I'll try to but the commission don't want to interfere."

Leo: "Seller (phonetic) did not want to get cross with the commission."

Farris: "Now listen Leo."

Leo: "No, I want you to get the whole thing straight, Seller was told that the Governor would recommend Ray. Hilliard called

2-17-37

7:55 P.M. (Long distance call cont'd.) page #6 Bms.

Leo: me and wanted me to recommend Hammond."

Farris: "Suppose you wait a couple of days to see what the commission does."

Leo: "What can I tell Hilliard if he calls me?"

Farris: "Just tell him you are marking time for a few days."

Leo: "Thanks Ed."

Farris: "I'll be over there sometime tomorrow and call you."

Leo: "O.K."

2-16-37

9:50 A.M.

Out on #2115

Juf

Ella called #440 ordered butter

10:00 A.M.

Out on #2115

Juf

Jacob called #1065 <sup>(Southumb, Ill.)</sup> asked for Capt. Smith  
"Not In"

10:15 A.M.

In on #2115

Juf

Jacob told "Smitty" to call Murray and  
show him the boxes the "wheels" came in - so he  
can pack them up for shipment.

11:30 A.M.

Out on #2115

Juf

Jacob called #226 <sup>(J. H. Cunningham, Millersville, Pa.)</sup> for Breckenridge  
"Not In"

11:50 A.M.

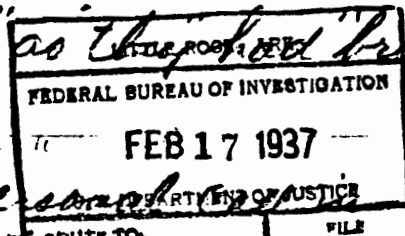
Jacob called #226 — Buz Juf

12:05 P.M.

Jacob called #226 — Made date for 1:15 P.M.  
with Breckenridge at Belvidere to estimate on  
manufacture of "table tops" so they had broke  
the old ones up"

12:10 P.M.

Ella called 2746 W — pl. soap which she mentioned "They have gone out"



2-16-37

12:20 P.M.

Out on #2115

Prof.

Ello called #2142 ordered butter and eggs.

1:05pm

Out # 2115

WTR

Maid called 80 and <sup>(Mr H. P. Collins Medical Arts Bldg)</sup> carried in conversation with another woman about a baby outfit.

1:40pm

In #2115

WTR

Mr. Hawkins called for Jacob. Maid informed he was not at home and she didn't know where he could be located.



2-16-37

7:05pm

In #2115

20TH

Man calling: Hello! Who is this?

Jacob: Jacob talking.

John: This is John. I got those things.

Jacob: Well, good! Fine!

John: If you can get the other receipts I  
can get the other stuff.

Jacob: Now, let's see -- Rose got his ---  
(Interrupted)

John: What else you got -- mine? -- you get  
those receipts.

Jacob: Where are you now? Little Rock?

John: No, I just got in town.

Jacob: Let's see -- Rose got some --  
(Interrupted.)

John: I tell you what, will check up  
on it tomorrow when I bring the stuff.

2-16-37

8:05 pm

In #2115

WTM

Man giving name "Blackie" called Jacobs  
saying he wanted to come up to Jacobs  
house to give him a report. Jacobs urged  
him to report tomorrow as he was in  
bed sick, having a sore chest. He now  
closed the conversation saying; "Things  
don't look so hot up there."

2-15-37

9:55am Out #2115 WTH  
1065 (Southern Bell  
(line busy)

9:56am Out #2115 WTH  
1065 (Roose Johnson)  
Man calling, asked for "Roose" who  
was not there.

11:08am Out #2115 WTH  
2142 (Belvedere Dairy)  
Woman ordered two quarts of sweet milk.

11:44am Out #2115 WTH  
2142  
Man called and gave instructions for  
"Marvin" to send "11 roosters" (chickens)  
to ~~the~~ M (undistricted) hotel.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.	
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2-15-37

1:14 pm

Out #2115

ZWTM

(Jacobs placed long distance call to  
<sup>(Godfrey)</sup>  
Cadillac - 5974, Detroit, Mich.)

Answering party: Hello!

Jacobs: Hello, this is Jacobs at Hat Springs.

A. P.: Well hello Jake. Hear you had a  
little tough luck.

Jacobs: Oh, a little - those things will  
happen. Say, I saved back the centers  
of my ~~new~~ wheels and I want to see  
if I can get me some rims.

A. P.: Oh, I think so, Jake.

Jacobs: Now what will that run for me to  
send the centers up and get the rims?

A. P.: Wait a minute, I'd better let you talk  
to Mrs. W. Indirect. Just a minute.

(Party referred to connect.)

Jacobs: Hello, Blutch, they didn't get my  
bowls, I had 'em in the safe and  
I want to know what it would cost

2-15-37

(Call from 2115 at 1:14pm)

We to get my wheels fixed up -  
the rims, you know, I've got the  
Centers.

Blutch: Why, yes, Jake we can do that, sure.  
It won't cost you much.

Jacobs: Well now what will that run up to?  
They didn't take, the Centers, legs and  
tops of tables - I've got all that stuff.

Blutch: Well now, let's see (indistinct figuring);  
that will run about \$100 a rim. I think  
you are going to get started up soon?

Jacobs: Well, I'm just figuring on getting my  
saw tools - it isn't straightened out  
yet - may get in jail.

Blutch: Well, I tell you Jake, we can fix that  
up for you in good shape in no time; just  
express it up. Send all the stuff you  
got; the boxes, legs, etc., and I'll put  
a man on it right away and you will  
have it back in ten days.

1-15-37

(Call from #2115 at 1:14 pm) WTM

Jacob: I'm getting it up to you right away.

Blutch: In the meantime, if you see you  
are going to get started, call me and let  
me know, and I'll send you some  
new stuff — you know — for higher up.  
I may get down there soon, to take some  
baths. I am feeling kinda down.

Jacob: Come on down — the race open up  
soon and the people are coming in.

Blutch: So you think you are getting things  
straightened out down there?

Jacob: Well, I think they will. They are  
trying to impeach ~~the~~ our man, but  
I don't think they will.

(Conversation closed with several goodbyes  
bidings / good bye.)

2-15-37

1:30pm

Out #2115

WTH

1088 (Pole Furniture Co.)  
(line busy)

1:31pm

Out #2115

WTH

Jaeger called back if Mrs. Horn (phonetic) Pole  
"had done anything up at Cedar", saying  
"we are ready for some of it - tell him to  
drop them and see what they are ready for."

1:35pm

In #2115

WTH

Man called Jaeger about giving notes  
to Mrs. Bergard (phonetic) about giving  
up a building. Apparently Mr. Bergard  
is owner of building.



2-15-37

8:50 pm Out #2115 WTM

#1335 (listed to Miss Hazel March, Secretary to  
Mayor McLaughlin.)

Note: The following conversation was carried  
on between a man with voice ~~very~~ believed  
to be identical with that of Mayor McLaughlin  
~~and~~ with a woman whose voice is  
believed to be identical with that of Miss  
March. No names were called and the  
conversation was in a whisper.

Woman (answering): Hello.

Man: You are in - you want me to call you  
back?

Woman: Please.

9:20 pm Out #2115 WTM

#1335 (see above call)

Note: Following conversation between same  
voices as above call and carried on in  
a whisper.

Man: Are you out?

2-15-37

(Call from #2115 at 9:20pm)

WTR

Woman: Yes.

Man: I am at Jakes - coming in close, Indistinct -  
feel it coming on me.

Woman: Must be a disease.

Man: Well, no consolation, you are the only one I  
know who can satisfy it when it comes on.  
(Pause) (Pause)

Man: Say who is that blonde girl I see down  
there at the Chamber of Commerce

Woman: Let's see - - is she red headed or blonde?

Man: Well, I expect more than blonde

Woman: I don't know what her name is.

Man: She was over at the Eastman last night -  
very aggressive - Very aggressive

Woman: Uh, huh,

Man: Saw her out at Hilbom's (phonetic). I was  
out there yesterday afternoon - (Interrupted)

Woman: Yes, and so were we.

Man: Yes she is that aggressive kind, kinda  
singled me out of the herd. You know how  
th. Brown do? Then some one and single

him out of the head.

Woman: First thing some morning ~~and~~  
I'll wake up and then she will sit.

Man: Oh yes, yes.

(Pause) (Pause)

Woman: Interested?

Man: Oh my goodness no. I am simply  
interested in someone I am all the  
time calling up and annoying.

Woman: Who do you annoy?

Man: You know — the one I adore more than  
anything.

(The conversation following consisted of  
encumbered expressions and small talk  
in which the man expresses his affection  
for the woman)

Man: Well, I am going on down and I'll call  
you.

Woman: Where are you going?

Man: Out home — I'll call you.

2-14-37

3:00 A.M.

Out on #2115

Man called #2184 made date with woman who answered - Will see her in 1/2 hour.

3:15 A.M.

Out on #2115

Man called #33 (Lori) told "Bill" to come to #116 Cedar St.

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11:14 am

On # 2115

WTM

Party calling: Hello! How are you? (Note: This voice is similar to that of Mayor McLaughlin)

Answering Party: O.K.

P.C.: Nice sunny day isn't it? You going to be around there all the time?

A.P.: No — not all of the day.

P.C.: Well, I may want to get in touch with you, but I don't know when — but I'll want to get you.

A.P.: Well — about seven I'll be here or at the Belvedere.

P.C.: Well I want to know positively that I can get you at either place at that time.

A.P.: All right.

(Answering party was a man and was not identified.)

2-14-37

12:08pm.

In # 2115

WTM

Answering Party (Man): Hello!

Party calling (Woman): Is he there?

A. P.: No he isn't.

P. C.: How are you feeling?

A. P.: Oh, all right. He called me this morning and said he would see me afterwards.

P. C.: Did he say he would see you this morning?

A. P.: No. He said this afternoon.

P. C.: Well, all right. I just didn't know where he was.

(Neither party identified themselves)

2-14-37

2:17pm

In #2115  
(no answer)

WTH

2:30pm

In #2115  
(no answer)

WTH



2-14-37

4:15 P.M.

In case # 2115

J.H.F.

Helen "Mr Jacobs I'm getting ready to leave at 5:00 and wanted to see you before I go."

Jacob: "Well I don't believe I can make it as I was out last night and didn't return until 4:00 A.M. - Have several people here now."

Helen "Well I just wanted to ask - If you leave here and open up any place else will you give me a job - somewhere else - where ever you go."

Jacob: "Well I don't believe I'll leave but I'll keep you in mind."

Helen "Please do as I am getting tired of everything"

Jacob: "OK I will"

Note (This girl is probably the same one who was on a party with Jacobs several nights ago and made a call to his house to see if she had left her keys there)

2-14-37

5:55 P.M.

In on #2115

J.P.G.

Party who identified himself as "Johnny" called (not Johnny Morris) wanted to see Jacobs, who claimed he was in bed and did not expect to get up. Jacobs' tone of voice indicated he was not overanxious to meet Johnny.

Johnny "I heard some very good information from up there - There won't be any impeachment they may vote 2 for and 2 against with 1 neutral of course then the house won't act."

Jacobs "Yeah"

Johnny "Say I just got to have some money from you as I am broke and my room rent is due"

Jacob "I'll see you at the Southern about 2 tomorrow We generally do a little clerical work between 12 and 2"

Johnny "OK"

2-14-37

7:25 pm

Out #2115

WTM

#300

Man calling - woman answered, neither identified. Man asked if any one called him there. She replied negative.

7:26 pm

Out #2115

WTM

Mr. Laughlin (Mayor) placed long distance call to Crip (phonetic) Hall, Little Rock.

Mr. Laughlin: Crip (phonetic) - he - you might tell that big fellow we got two boys and one in the Senate that will vote any way he wants and they are here for him.

Hall: Now, he, I tell you, I am laying out of that fight. He's going to lose that. You want me to tell him in the morning?

Mr. Laughlin: Yes, you can tell him they are for his use - they will go any way he wants them.

2-14-37

(Call from 2115 at 7:26 pm)

Hall: All right. I'll tell him in the morning.

McLaughlin: I was over in one of these small towns this afternoon - in a filling station and a fellow was in there and he made a crack about that bill that didn't sound so good. When he went out I asked who he was. They told me he was a Undestinct. Now you know elections are made in these filling stations.

Hall: Now just between you and me, I told him he had better put some amendments on that bill - let the Senate pick one and the house pick one, if he wants that thing go through. Now, this is confidential, the press hasn't gotten this, but he is going to be concerned that in his speech. I'll talk ~~to~~ to Wheatly.

2-14-37

(Call from #2115 at 7:26pm)

McLaughlin: These boys talked to me and said he was in trouble, and said they would help him — if it came through me.

Hall: I think it can pass the Senate, if —  
(interrupted)

McLaughlin: Yes but that bank refused bill has got a God damn lot of fire in it.

Hall: Well, now let me get it clear; you want me to tell him you have these boys who will vote for him — go all the way with him?

McLaughlin: Yes, you can tell him that. I'll guarantee that — they'll vote anything and say anything he wants them to.

Hall: All right. I'll tell him in the morning. You want me to call you and tell you.

2-14-37

(Call from #2115 at 7:26pm)

Mr. Laughlin: Yes, call me in the  
morning I will be in my office.

2-14-37

8:45 P.M.

Out on #2115

Inf.

Mayor called #1335

No Answer

8:46 P.M.

Out on #2115

Inf.

Mayor called #1335

No Answer



2-13-37

9:25 a.m. In on # 2115

Bms.

Jacobs: "Hello."  
(Judge Earl Witt)

Mayor: "Early just called me and said they arrested all the boys that were booking yesterday. I reckon we better stop all booking until this thing is over."

Jacobs: "All rightie, thanks."

Mayor: "All right."

NOTE

9:28 a.m. - Out on 2115

Bms.

Jacobs called # 210 (Ohio Cigar Store)

Jacobs: "Is Mrs. Young there?"

Man: "No."

Jacobs: "Is Brownie there?"

Man: "Yes," He calls Brownie to phone.

Brownie: "All right."

Jacobs: "Brownie they called me up and told me we's have to quit booking so don't book any in the store today, if you see any bets take em across to a hotel room, you know."

Brownie: "Ok. thanks Mr Jacobs."

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
FEB 15 1937	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
ROUTE TO	FILE

2-13-37

9:31 A.M. Out on 2115

BMS

Jacobs: "1117"

Man: "Kentucky <sup>2</sup> Tap Room." (Could not catch name.)

Jacobs: "Is 'Doc' there?"

Man: "No."

Jacobs: "When he comes in tell him not to do any looking around the store today, just got a call about it, tell him I'll be around later."

Man: "Thanks, Mr Jacobs, I sure will."

9:33 A.M. Out on 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: "1065" (This is the Southern Grill)

Man: "Hello."

Jacobs: "The Roscoe <sup>(Roscoe Johnson)</sup> come down yet?"

Man: "Yes."

Roscoe: "Hello."

NOTE

Jacobs: "They called us & told us to quit looking everywhere."

Roscoe: "Who called you?"

Jacobs: "Leo called me and said the Judge told him we'd better quit looking"

9:33 a.m. (Cont'd) (Outon 2115)

JMS.

Jacobs: the horses today." "If you see any  
bets around though, take em down  
the street or across to the hotel,  
don't pass em up."

Roscoe: "Sure, I know." Say I picked up  
some good money on the last race  
yesterday, made 5 even. Old man  
Jack (phonetic) wanted 2000, another  
fellow had 1000. I had two and  
Smitty had 2.50."

Jacobs: "You musta won."

Roscoe: "We did, two to one."

Jacobs: "That's good, listen if Ray comes  
around take him and a couple  
more over to a room and take  
their bets."

Roscoe: "All right, you coming around?"

Jacobs: "No, I'm going to Belvedere to pay off."

Roscoe: "OK, see you later."

2-13-37

10:18 A.M. Out on 2115 Bms

Man: Evidently a negro called 2746 W.

Man at 2746 W answered.

Man: "Hello Krieger (phonetic) tell Dewey to come down to Miss Ella, she got something she wants to carry up to the house."

The "Miss" Ella referred to above is Ella the negro maid for W S Jacobs.

11:27 A.M. Out on 2115 Bms

Maid called 2746 W Personal conversation.

11:45 A.M. In on 2115 Bms

Man called wanted Jacobs

12:13 P.M. In on 2115 Bms

A Mr Young called wanted Jacobs  
maid informed Jacobs at Belvedere.

2-13-37

12:40 P.M. Out on 2115

Brms.

Ella, the maid called Marie at 80 for a personal conversation, during the course of the conversation the following was stated:

Ella: "You know Mr. Jacobs has got a house up the street now."

Marie: "Yeah I know it was Mr Wrights (phonetic) house."

Ella: "Sam is working up there this morning." The house she refers to is 2746 W, address at this time is unknown.

1:00 P.M. Out on 2115

Brms.

Ella called 2746 W, no answer.

1:02 P.M. In on 2115

Brms.

Mr Young calling Mr Jacobs. (Out)

He asked maid to have Jacobs call him at 210.

1:06 P.M. Out on 2115

Brms.

Ella called 80 personal conversation

2-13-37

5:00 P.M.

Room #2125 Jsf

Helen "Did you find any keys up there"

Jacob "No you must have lost them some where else"

Helen "I'm here over the week end at the Majestic"

Jacob "Well I may see you before you go back"

Helen "Do that - give me a ring 248 (phone or room #?)

Jacob "OK I will"

7:35 P.M.

In 012 2115

Bms.

Jacobs: "Hello."

Meyer: "Well whatdyeknow?"

Jacobs: "No, I haven't heard a thing today."

Meyer: "I just wondered if there was anything to what Harrison told you in that letter."

Jacobs: "No, I don't think so, he's trying to get elected to some sort of political job, nothing to it. Seems to be quite a few people in town today."

Meyer: "Yeah, picking up, well that's all I wanted to know."

Jacobs: "OK. I'll see you later."

2-13-35

8:01 P.M. Out on 2115

QMS.

Jacobs: "210"

Man: "Hello."

Jacobs: "Is Blackie around?"

Man: "No."

Jacobs: "How was everything today, was anybody around."

Man: "No, we singled them all out and kept the place thinned out today."

Jacobs: "Make any bets?"

Man: "Oh yeah, couple \$10.<sup>00</sup> and the rest \$2.<sup>00</sup> ones."

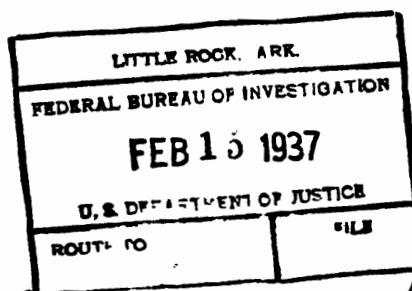
Jacobs: "That's good, I'll see you then."

Man: "Ok."

9:37 P.M. In on 2115  
No Answer.

QMS.

2-12-37



a.m.  
11:45 ~~PM~~

In on 2115

Bms.

Jacobs:

"Hello."

Man:

"Well I've got those figures up, do you want to show each man's salary separate."

Jacobs:

"Yes, we've got to pay the Government 2% on everything we paid out last year including individual salaries."

Man:

"I've got all the salaries listed and each man's name by his salary, is that what you wanted."

Jacobs:

"I think so but call Johnny at 109 to make sure, he's gotta make up those returns. They've got to be exact this year not approximately as last year."

Man:

"Ok I'll call Johnny."

Jacobs:

"What happened in Police Court this morning about those bookies."



2-12-37

<sup>am</sup>  
11:45 (In on 2115 Cont's page 2)

Bms

Man: I met the Mayor while ago just as he came in, he said they were coming up this morning.

Jacobs: "You haven't heard the results yet?"

Man: "No."

Jacobs: "They found some racing sheets in the place didn't they?"

Man: "Yeah."

Jacob: "That's bad, they ought not to leave those laying around."

Man: "I told Judge Ledgewood about this, I explained to him we didn't have no looking going on, the lights hadn't even been turned on back in the room but twice."

Jacobs: "Dutch Akers came by yesterday and said he heard they were putting knock out drops, 'show fly'"

2-12-37

11:45<sup>AM.</sup> Cont'd - (On on 2/15 page 3) Dms.

Jacobs: in the beer at the bar. What about that?"

Man: "Well, he" (evidently, the bar tender) "admitted he had put some 'sheep fly' drops in a couple of drunkards beer, said they were bar room pests, made them both sick at the stomach. He said he got the drops at the drug store, just for these two."

Jacobs: "I don't know where Dutch gets all his information, you'd think a hundred people had been drugged to hear him."

Man: "Well I'll call Johnny about this tax business, its going to amount to quite a bit. The salaries alone amount to \$42,000 I know, I've got the figures here, in

2-12-37.

11:45 AM (Cont'd - In on 2115 page 4) BMS.

Man: fact to be exact it is \$42,376.<sup>00</sup>  
That's a lot of money.

Jacobs: "Yeah, the other will run it  
up some more, before you  
get it all up and turn it  
in let me see it and see if  
we can't cut it a little."

The last paragraph of the above conversation would indicate that W. S. Jacobs was planning to connive in some manner to falsify his statement of expenses for the year in an effort to defraud the Government. He was evidently talking to one of his employees at the Ohio or Southern as some mention was made yesterday of detectives coming to the Ohio, a cigar store & gambling den.

2-12-37

11:57 a.m.

In on #2115 *Prof.*

Hilke (phonetic) called Jacob and stated he had taken "that party" out to see the house

Jacob "OK"

Hilke "I'll let you know all about it when you come down"

Jacob "OK"

12:03 P.M.

Out on #2115 *Prof.*

Johnny Morris called #116 - spoke to Bill Etk (phonetic)  
Bill - do you want each man separate or the whole  
payroll together because I had some part  
time men and in order to make up for that I  
gave some others credit even though they only  
worked three months - I gave them credit for  
a year.

Johnny: That's all right for last year but this year  
must have each man and the amount -  
Keep the horse book separate from the gamb-  
ling

Bill "OK"

2-12-37

12:57 P.M. Out on #2115

Ellan called #80 - personal conversation during which they indicated they knew some women who had been approached by an investigator and asked to testify. The man told this woman to be sure and tell the truth or she would go to jail for several years.

1:03 P.M. Out on #2115

Ellan call Margret on #2746 W - said Mr. Jacobs wanted "Sam" to clean up the house at 174 Cedar St after the paperhangers finish

1:06 P.M. Out on #2115

Ellan called #440 ordered groceries

1:07 P.M. Out on #2115

Ellan called #860 ordered groceries

1:10 P.M. Out on #2115

Ellan called #440 ordered groceries

1:17 P.M. Out on #2115

Ellan called #2142 ordered chicken for herself - not to be charged to Jacobs.

2-12-37

2:45 P.M.

Out on #2115

Inf.

Ellan #1989 of personal conversation

5:30 P.M.

In on #2115

B.M.S.

MAID: "Hello"

MAN: "Is Mr. Jacobs there."

MAID: "No, will you leave your number."

MAN: "No, that's all right."

This was probably the Mayor as it sounded very much like his voice.

7:25 P.M.

In on #2115

Inf.

Girl told Leo that Nat Wilson was trying to locate him — Nat at home telephone #3217

7:30 P.M.

Out on #2115

Inf.

Leo called #3217 and spoke to man who he addressed as "Mack" — Mack evidently testified yesterday before committee re: poll tax  
Leo: "Look as if things are falling away there"  
Mack: "Yes it is disgusting it seems as if they

7:30 P.M. call continued Inf.

are having more trouble turning the thing loose  
and wish they had not started it.

Leo: "They don't have nothing at all" "There was no  
face there yesterday that disappointed me"

Mack: "I told them that the reason for the drop in  
poll tax was due to the fact that the women didn't  
sum to vote on off elections"

Leo: "You made a very good witness"

Mack: "They didn't look at the papers"

Leo: "They don't want the truth - I hear it is going  
to turn out very good for the officials"

Mack: "Yes I guess so - I didn't want to talk to you  
during the mess but knew if you wanted me  
for anything you would call"

Leo: "They were trying to show some official graft  
but couldn't find any - Our friends in  
office will be stronger than ever."

Mack: "I guess they will"

Leo: "OK Thanks for the call"

Mack: "OK"

2-12-37

7:35 P.m.

Out on #2115 *Inf*  
Leo called #1335 (girl friend)  
No Answer



Post Office Box 1489,  
Little Rock, Arkansas,  
February 20, 1937.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. E. J. Connelley, Inspector,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Post Office Box 2889,  
Miami, Florida.

Re: BREKID.

Dear Sir:

Confirming my telephonic conversation with you today, please be advised that the telephone taps on telephones 123, 446 and 648, listed to the Police Department and Mayor's Office in Hot Springs, have not yet been replaced. On February 18, 1937 the legislative investigating committee that was conducting an investigation of Hot Springs and adjoining counties submitted their report to the State Legislature. This report stated that the investigation conducted by them had resulted in them learning that Circuit Judge Earl Witt had been intoxicated in public; that they had discovered that gambling was openly operated; that Mayor McLaughlin and others of the city administration practically compelled city employees to vote their ticket in the last election; that they found that persons in the custody of the Hot Springs Police Department were mistreated, citing particularly the death of John Dickson; alleging further that witnesses had testified to having been criminally assaulted while in custody of the Police Department.

In summarizing their findings, the committee report stated that in view of the open and notorious gambling in Hot Springs, and conditions found there, it was their opinion that Circuit Judge Earl Witt was guilty of neglect of duty in not investigating these conditions and reporting them to the proper officials for prosecution. I am attaching hereto a newspaper clipping taken from the Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tennessee, dated February 19, 1937, setting out in detail the report submitted by the legislative investigating committee, and the minority report submitted by State Representatives Fred Jones and Pat Robinson, who were in opposition to the findings of the majority of the committee. The matter of impeaching Judge Witt was referred to the judiciary committee. On February 19, 1937 it was referred back to the Legislature as a committee of a whole, to pass on whether Judge Witt should be impeached.

On the morning of February 18, 1937, prior to the report of the legislative committee being published, Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers telephonically communicated with me concerning other matters, and during

RECORDED

&

INDEXED

7-76-3-26

FEB 20 1937

Mr. Connelley -

Feb. 20, 1937.

the course of the conversation, mentioned that the places in Hot Springs would re-open on Saturday night, February 20, 1937. From the conversations that have been overheard over telephone 2118, the unlisted telephone of W. S. Jacobs, it appears that Jacobs still has no suspicion that his telephone is tapped. In view of the above it is believed that the taps can be re-established on telephones 123, 446 and 648 without undue danger, in the next two or three days. It probably would be advisable to have this done on or about Tuesday, February 23, 1937, inasmuch as Monday is a legal holiday, and the installation of taps on that day might arouse suspicion in the neighborhood.

Special Agent D. P. Sullivan is under transfer to Washington, D. C., but unless I am instructed to the contrary by the Bureau or by you, he will not leave this Field Division until he is replaced by another man.

It has been noticed in the past two weeks that the number of telephone calls handled by the Police Department has increased daily, and there will probably be a great increase in such telephone calls from now to the end of the racing meet, which begins on March 1, 1937 and terminates on or about April 8, 1937. In order that the taps on the telephones of the Police Department and Mayor's Office may be satisfactorily handled, it is suggested that an additional man be assigned to this surveillance, making a total of four agents to maintain this "plant" on a twenty-four hour basis.

It probably would also be advisable at this time to establish a tap on the residence telephone of Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers, but no positive action will be taken in this matter until further advice is received from the Bureau or from you.

Very truly yours,

JOHN B. LITTLE,  
Special Agent in Charge.

DPS:cpw  
7-2  
cc - Bureau  
Cincinnati

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

LL:AM

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to: **LITTLE ROCK**

FBI DETROIT

FEBRUARY 18, 1937

4-21 PM EST AM

SAC LITTLE ROCK

PHONE. <sup>K</sup>AUGUSTINE LOVEIDE ALIAS <sup>X</sup>AUGUSTINE LOVEIDE - INFORMATION  
CONCERNING. RETEL BUICK SEDAN MOTOR SIX THREE ONE EIGHT FIVE FOUR  
EIGHT EIGHT BEARING THIS YEARS MICHIGAN TAGS VV NINE EIGHT FOUR  
NINE REGISTERED TO AUGUSTINE LOVEIDE, TWO ONE NINE TWO BELVIDERE  
AVENUE, DETROIT. LOVEIDE HAS NO CRIMINAL RECORD AND IS NOT  
WANTED AT DETROIT. NO REPORT OF THEFT OF INSTANT AUTOMOBILE.

REINECKE

END

cc-BUREAU ✓

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

7-576-3-27	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
FEB 20 1937 A. M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
ONE	FILE

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

*Edward G. Brundage*

*7944  
10133  
4786*

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	FOREIGN
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE CABLE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED CABLE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT CABLE
NIGHT LETTER	LETTER
SHIP RADIOGRAM	RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired, otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication

# Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial  
Cables



All America  
Cables

Radio  
which are hereby agreed to  
FEBRUARY 18 1937

RECEIVER'S NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
CHECK \_\_\_\_\_  
TIME FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
STANDARD TIME \_\_\_\_\_

12:30 P M

Form 1

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof,  
LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS  
DAY LETTER

JBL:IN

H H REINECKE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
911 FEDERAL BUILDING  
DETROIT MICHIGAN

NOT SPRINGS PD REPORTS SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS RESIDING THERE UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES  
INCLUDING PARTY DRIVING BUICK SEDAN MOTOR NUMBER SIX THREE ONE EIGHT FIVE FOUR EIGHT  
EIGHT THIS YEAR MICHIGAN LICENSE VV NINE EIGHT FOUR NINE REGISTERED AUGUSTINE LOVIE  
TWO ONE NINE TWO BELVEDERE DETROIT ADVISE WHETHER CAR STOLEN OR LOVIE WANTED

63185488

RECORDED & INDEXED

7-576-3-  
LITTLE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FEB 20 1937  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CC BUREAU





CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	FOREIGN
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE CABLE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED CABLE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT CABLE
NIGHT LETTER	LETTER
SHIP RADIOGRAM	RADIOGRAM

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof,

**Postal Telegraph**  
THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial Cables Mackay  
All America Cables  
Radio

which are hereby agreed to

RECEIVER'S NUMBER  
CHECK  
TIME FILED  
STANDARD TIME

Form

12:30 P M

DAY LETTER FEBRUARY 18 1937

LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS

JBL:IN

E P GUINANE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
320 FEDERAL BUILDING  
BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA

HOT SPRINGS PD REPORT SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS RESIDING THERE UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES INCLUDING PARTY DRIVING THIS YEAR MODEL BUICK THIS YEAR ALABAMA TAGS NUMBER ONE AND THREE FOUR NAUGHT SIX C ASCERTAIN WHETHER CAR STOLEN IDENTITY OF OWNER AND WHEN

WANTED

BUREAU

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

7-576-3-  
FEB 20 1937  
ONE 8

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	FOREIGN
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE CABLE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED CABLE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK-END CABLE LETTER
SHIP RADIOGRAM	RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired, otherwise message will be transmitted in a full-rate communication

# POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE TELEGRAM

FEBRUARY 18 1937

DOS: CKB

BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA

J B LITTLE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
500 RECTOR BUILDING  
LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS

*See 29-396  
2-10-37 J. J. Foreman*

RETEL CURRENT ALABAMA LICENSE ONE ONE THREE DASH FOUR NAUGHT SIX C ISSUED HARRY PERIMAN OF HURTSBORO ALABAMA LAST NOVEMBER FOR NINETEEN THIRTY SEVEN MODEL PLYMOUTH SEDAN MOTOR P FOUR DASH TWO ONE NINE THREE ONE STOP PERIMAN IS A MERCHANT AT HURTSBORO DEPARTED LAST SUNDAY WITH HIS FATHER FOR HOTSPRINGS ARKANSAS PRESUMABLY ACCOUNT ILL HEALTH BELIEVED STOPPING SIX TWO FOUR PROSPECT AVENUE IN HOTSPRINGS NO RECORD AUTO LICENSES LOST STOP PERIMAN KNOWN PERSONALLY BY SHERIFF AT SEALE ALABAMA WHO RECOMMENDS HIM

CHG GOV RATE: OFF BUS  
320 Federal Building.  
CC-Bureau

RECORDED  
INDEXED

7-576-3-30  
FEDERAL B. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FEB 18 1937 A. M.  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
ONE *AD* FILE



CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
TELETYPE	DOMESTIC
DAY	1
NIGHT	2
SHIP RADIOGRAM	DEFERRED CABLE
SHIP RADIOGRAM	NIGHT CABLE
SHIP RADIOGRAM	LETTER
SHIP RADIOGRAM	RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired, otherwise messages will be transmitted as a full-rate communication

# Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial Cables

Mackay



All America Cables

Radio

which are hereby agreed to

FEBRUARY 18 1937

STANDARD TIME

11:55 A M

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof,  
LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS

JBL:IN

J L FLOOD  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
629 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING  
OMAHA NEBRASKA

HOT SPRINGS PD REPORTS SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS RESIDING THERE UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES  
INCLUDING PARTY DRIVING LAST YEAR ~~QUICK~~ CLUB SEDAN MOTOR NUMBER FOUR THREE ONE THREE  
FIVE NAUGHT NINE NINE BEARING LAST YEAR NEBRASKA LICENSES TWO NINE DASH FOUR FOUR FIVE  
NAUGHT REGISTERED ROBERT E ~~GOODE~~ BLAIR NEBRASKA ADVISE WHETHER CAR STOLEN OR GOODE WANTED

CC BUREAU ✓

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

LITTLE

7-576-3-31

FEB 20 1937  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FILE

STANDARD FORM NO. 14A  
APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT  
MARCH 10, 1925

Western Union

# TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7-1428

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Omaha, Nebraska  
February 18, 1937

*Edw. L. Brennan*

J B LITTLE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
500 RECTOR BUILDING  
LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS

RETEL ROBERT E. GOODE NEBRASKA NINETEEN THIRTYSIX LICENSE AS DESCRIBED ISSUED  
GOODE ON BUICK SEDAN AS DESCRIBED YOUR WIRE STOP NO RECORD CARS THEFT OR THAT  
GOODE WANTED BLAIR NEBRASKA STOP GOODE WAS EMPLOYED BY CHRIS ZANDER REPUTABLE  
SECOND HAND CAR DEALER BLAIR TO DRIVE AUTOMOBILES TO CALIFORNIA FOR SALE STOP  
ZANDERS PRACTICE WAS TO REGISTER SUCH CARS IN DRIVERS NAME TO FACILITATE  
TRANSPORTATION STOP SUGGEST CONTACT W. D. AUTOMOBILE PROTECTIVE BUREAU CHICAGO F  
POSSIBLE THEFT IN CALIFORNIA IF CIRCUMSTANCES HOT SPRINGS WARRANT

JSB/dr  
cc - Bureau ✓

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

FLOOD

7-576-3-32	
FEB 20 1937 A.M.	
FILE	



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WMM:EE

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

February 19, 1937.

Transmit the following message to: **LITTLE ROCK**

**JULIUS SILVERMAN ETAL INFORMATION CONCERNING LAST YEARS DO TAGS NUMBER  
ONE SIX TWO FOUR NAUGHT FIVE REGISTERED AS REPORTED YOUR TELEGRAM  
LOCAL POLICE HAVE NO RECORD THEFT INSTANT CAR AND REPORT SILVERMAN AND  
GODFREY WA UNKNOWN AND NOT WANTED NEITHER PARTY LISTED CITY DIRECTORY  
UNDER NAME SILVERMAN OR GODFREY DIRECTORY LISTS ISRAEL SCHER DELICATESSEN  
OPERATOR AS RESIDENT THREE ONE TWO ELEVENTH STREET SOUTH EAST AND SHOWS  
ONE TWO THREE NAUGHT FOURTEENTH STREET SOUTH WEST NON EXISTENT POLICE  
REPORT SCHER UNKNOWN DISCREET INQUIRY SCHERS ADDRESS DEVELOPED HE IS  
SILVERMANS FRIEND BUT CLAIMS KNOWS NOTHING CONCERNING SILVERMAN OR HIS  
WHEREABOUTS**

**HOTTEL**

cc - Bureau

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

7-576-3-33	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
FEB 19 1937 P.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
ONE	FILE

M

Per

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	FOREIGN
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE CABLE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED CABLE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK-END CABLE LETTER
SHIP RADIOGRAM	RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired, otherwise message will be transmitted in a full-rate communication

# Postal Telegraph

## THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial  
Cables



All America  
Cables

Mackay

Radio

RECEIVER'S NUMBER
CHECK
TIME FILED
STANDARD TIME

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS      DAY LETTER      FEBRUARY 18 1937      11:55 A M

JBL:IN

G HOTEL  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
4244 U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON D C

HOT SPRINGS PD REPORTS SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS RESIDING THERE UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES  
INCLUDING PARTY DRIVING LAST YEAR CHEVROLET MOTOR M FIVE SEVEN ONE TWO SIX FOUR TWO  
LAST YEAR DC TAG ONE SIX TWO FOUR NAUGHT FIVE REGISTERED JULIUS SILVERMAN THREE ONE  
TWO ELEVENTH STREET SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON DC ADVISE WHETHER CAR STOLEN OR SILVERMAN  
WANTED STOP HOT SPRINGS PD ALSO HOLDING GW GODFREY PROBABLY CONNECTED SAME OUTFIT  
GIVING RESIDENCE ONE TWO THREE NAUGHT FOURTEENTH STREET SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON DC USING  
NAME JACK NICHOLS AND CLAIMS ARRIVED BY PLANE FROM WASHINGTON LAST NIGHT PD BELIEVES  
GODFREY PROBABLY FUGITIVE IN VIEW ALIAS AND LARGE BANKROLL ADVISE WHETHER WANTED

LITTLE

CC BUREAU  
0 *Braden*  
*Hot Springs*

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

7-576-3-34

FEB

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ONE

FILE

Washington Field Division, Room 4244,  
Washington, D. C.

February 23, 1937.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Little Rock, Arkansas.

Re: JULIUS SILVERMAN, et al  
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your telegram dated February 18,  
1937.

This is to advise you that Special Agent W. S. McKinley ascertained that 1936 D. C. tags No. 162405 were registered in the name of Julius Silverman, 312 - 11th Street, S.E., Washington, D. C. Investigation at the Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C., disclosed that they have no record of the theft of instant car and further report that Silverman and Godfrey, with aliases, are unknown to them and are not wanted by them.

A search of the City Directory disclosed that neither party is listed therein under the name of Silverman or Godfrey. However, the City Directory lists Israel Scher as a delicatessen operator and gives his residence as 312 - 11th Street, S.E. and further shows that 1230 - 14th Street, S.W. is non-existent. The Metropolitan Police report that Scher is unknown to them and discreet inquiry at Scher's address disclosed that he is Silverman's friend, but claims that he knows nothing concerning Silverman or his whereabouts.

The above information was furnished your division by teletype dated February 19, 1937. There being no further investigation to be conducted by this division, this case is being considered as referred upon completion to the Division of Origin.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED

&

INDEXED

GUY HOTTEL,

Special Agent in Charge.

GH:KE  
62-3509

cc - Bureau

*Edward G. Bremer*

7-576-3-35  
*[Signature]*

404 New York Building  
Saint Paul, Minnesota

February 23, 1937

7-30

Special Agent in Charge  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Sir:

BREXID

Reference is made to the Los Angeles  
Division letter of February 17, 1937, in which Frank B.  
Thompson is mentioned.

This individual is well known in St. Paul and throughout the State of Minnesota. At one time he appeared to be actively associated with Leon Glickman and Morris Roisner, both of St. Paul, and who are notorious racketeers. Thompson is a reputed Republican but was also quite powerful in the Democratic party particularly when the O'Connor regime was in power in St. Paul. Thompson is also known to have been very friendly with the late Jack Peifer in this case. During the late spring and summer of 1936, Thompson resided at the Lowry Hotel in St. Paul and occupied an elaborate suite. He is reported to have made a good deal of money in Oklahoma through oil promotion schemes and to be worth at least a million dollars. Recently a reputable businessman in St. Paul confidentially informed me that he is presently keeping company with a girl who had the position of a manicurist in the Lowry Hotel and who, through her position, several years ago met Thompson, Glickman and many of the other leading racketeers in the Twin Cities. She told this businessman that several years ago, Thompson endeavored to have her come to Chicago to entrap Dick Lilly, President of the First National Bank in Saint Paul, so that he could be blackmailed for \$10,000. The girl refused the proposition, however.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

7-576-3-36

pub

This information is being furnished to show that Thompson, while in St. Paul, has been acquainted and has apparently done business with the criminal element.

Very truly yours,

C. W. STEIN  
Special Agent in Charge

OWS:IM

CC Bureau ✓  
Los Angeles  
Kansas City  
Chicago  
Cincinnati

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Post Office Box #1469,  
Little Rock, Arkansas,  
February 24th, 1937.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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

RE: BREKID

Dear Sir:

As a result of the activities of telephone employees in the vicinity of the plant located at 205 1/2 Cedar Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas, covering the telephone tap on the residence phone of W. S. Jacobs, #2115, the tap was disconnected at 10:30 A. M., on February 22nd, 1937 by Special Agent J. M. Jones. The activities of these telephone employees seem to be centered in inspecting the lines and making necessary repairs in the neighborhood and so far as Agent Jones could determine, no attention was being given to the tap, nor was the tap discovered. It was deemed advisable, however, to disconnect the tap until the neighborhood activities in this respect are completed. The Bureau will be immediately advised upon the reinstatement of this tap, which is expected in the next day or so.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED.

Very truly yours,

JOHN B. LITTLE,  
Special Agent in Charge.

7-576-3-37

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEB 25 1937

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JEL:DAN

7-2

cc: Mr. Connelley, Cincinnati  
Cleveland

PARTIALLY  
DEINDEXED  
THIS SERIAL ONLY  
9/19/57 23

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-12114-1017



POSTAL

FEB 18 1937

W22 92 GOVT DL COLLECT

LITTLEROCK ARK 18 1253P

DIRECTOR

FEDL BUR OF INVESTIGATION US DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHN D  
HOTSPRINGS PD REPORT SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS OCCUPYING ENTIRE APARTMENT  
HOUSE TOGETHER UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES NOT CONNECTED WITH  
GAMBLING OR RACING INTERESTS THERE STOP DRIVING CARS REGISTERED  
R A RADCLIFF KANSASCITY KANSAS ROBERT E GOODE BLAIR NEBRASKA  
AUGUSTINE LOVINE DETROIT MICHIGAN JULIUS SILVERMAN WASHINGTON DC  
STOP ALSO HOLDING GW GODFREY ALIAS JACK NICHOLS POSSIBLY  
CONNECTED FOREGOING INDIVIDUALS ON DRUNKENNESS  
GIVING ADDRESS ONE TWO THREE NAUGHT FOURTEENTH STREET SOUTHWEST  
WASHINGTON DC ADVISE WHETHER ANY RECORD THESE INDIVIDUALS WANTED  
BASED ON NAME AND ADDRESS STOP RESPECTIVE FIELD DIVISIONS REQUESTED  
CHECK DETERMINE WHETHER CARS INVOLVED STOLEN  
LITTLE.

340P

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

7-576-3-38  
Copy to  
U.S.  
LAW  
ONE  
Mud

acted on the 18th  
by the 2nd.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

Chas. G. ...

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
February 24, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Investigation being conducted  
at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

I contacted SAC Little at the Little Rock Office by telephone and inquired as to when Agent Sullivan, who is under transfer to the Bureau, would report to Washington, and was informed by Little that in a telephonic conversation with Inspector Connelley, Connelley had indicated that he did not want Sullivan to leave Hot Springs until some Agent had arrived there to replace him. It is to be noted that Sullivan is the only Agent on this plant who is familiar with the entire background of the Bremer Case, and consequently, it is virtually impossible to replace him at Hot Springs with an Agent of equal potential value to the Hot Springs investigation. If Agent Sullivan is removed and any slip occurs during the remainder of the investigation at Hot Springs, Connelley will, of course, be in a position where he can claim that the Bureau's interference in this situation resulted in the failure of the investigative efforts. Consequently, I do not believe it advisable to take Sullivan out of Hot Springs at this time.

After discussing this situation with you, a telegram was sent to the Little Rock Office canceling the transfer of Sullivan to the Bureau, and in accord with your authorization, Agent Chipman is being assigned to the supervision of the desk which was to be occupied by Sullivan.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.

RECORDED

7-576-3-39  
FEB 25 1937  
TOLSON  
OFF. CLERK  
FOUR  
ONE



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**U. S. Department of Justice**  
Post Office Box 1469  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
February 23, 1937

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: BREKID *Hot Springs Arkansas*

Dear Sir:

With reference to the above styled matter,  
I am enclosing herewith the following newspaper clippings:

New Era, Hot Springs, Arkansas, for  
February 17, 1937.  
Sentinel Record, Hot Springs, Arkansas,  
for February 17, 1937.  
Arkansas Democrat, Little Rock, Arkansas,  
for February 18, 1937, (4 and photo).  
Sentinel Record, Hot Springs, Arkansas,  
for February 18, 1937, (3).  
New Era, Hot Springs, Arkansas, for  
February 18, 1937, (2).  
New Era, Hot Springs, Arkansas, for  
February 19, 1937.  
Sentinel Record, Hot Springs, Arkansas,  
for February 19, 1937, (3).  
New Era, Hot Springs, Arkansas, for  
February 19, 1937.  
Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock, Arkansas,  
for February 19, 1937.  
Arkansas Democrat, Little Rock, Arkansas,  
for February 20, 1937.  
Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock, Arkansas,  
for February 20, 1937.  
Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tennessee,  
for February 22, 1937.

RECORDED

Very truly yours,

INDEXED

*John B. Little*  
JOHN B. LITTLE  
Special Agent in Charge

7-576-3-40

FEB 26 1937

BID:ADM  
7-2

*ONE file*  
24 MAR 1937

HOT SPRINGS, (ARK.) NEW ERA

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 17, 1937.

## REPORT IS DUE TOMORROW ON INQUIRY HERE

### House Committee Has Completed Investigation

Little Rock, Feb. 17. (P)—Representative Ike Murry of Dallas, member of the committee investigating alleged lawlessness in the 18th (Hot Springs) judicial district, said today the committee would submit its report to the House probably tomorrow morning.

Murry said the committee had completed its investigation and was rounding out its final report today.

"We plan to deliver the report tomorrow. If something should hinder us from completing it, it will be withheld until early next week," he said, "but we do not look for any delay."

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
FEB 23 1937	
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	RECEIVED
FOOTNOTES	

7-576-3-40

THE SENTINEL-RECORD, HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS.

Wednesday Morning, February 17, 1937.

**Ledgerwood Fines Two  
Heavily, Sentences Trio**

Municipal Judge Ledgerwood yesterday meted out to five offenders a \$100 fine, a \$50 fine and three 30-day sentences.

Charged with possessing non-tax paid liquor, Dora Bunch, 52, 334 Bower St., received the \$100 fine when Deputy Revenue Agents C. B. Lovell, Jr., and Charles Robbins testified she poured out a quantity of the whiskey before permitting them to enter her home on a raid.

Fred Eagle, 28, negro, pleaded self defense when charged with aggravated assault in connection with the beating of a negro woman companion but he got the \$50 fine.

Sentences of 30 days were given James Kennedy, about 50, visitor, accused of stealing several cans of motor oil from the Burke garage, 209 Central avenue, and to Billy Cannon and Ben Tacket, local men, arrested in the theft of two game chickens.

RE: BREKID

JUL 11 1937 APR	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
FEB 23 1937	
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
ROUTED TO	FILE

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-18-37

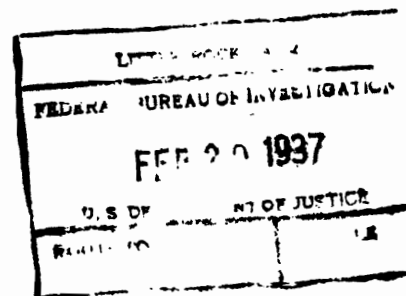
# Judge Witt's Removal Asked

Recommending that impeachment proceedings be voted against Circuit Judge Earl Witt of the 18th Judicial District by the House of Representatives, "for high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct in office," three members of the special House investigating committee filed a majority report with the clerk today.

The three committeemen who filed the majority report were Rep. W. M. Thompson of Independence, chairman, Rep. Lee Nichols of Logan, and Rep. Ike Murry of Dallas county.

The two other members of the committee, Rep. Fred Jones of Montgomery, and Rep. Pat Robinson of LaFayette, filed a minority report defending the circuit judge and declaring they did not believe the investigation had "been fair and impartial".

The majority's report, in its recommendation for voting for impeachment proceedings by the House, charged that Judge Witt "had brought his office into disrespect and disrepute by appearing in public places in the city of Hot Springs upon numerous occasions while under the influence of intoxicating liquors to such an extent that he had lost the normal control of mental and physical faculties".



# Majority Report Filed With House Says Jurist Guilty of "Misconduct"

The majority report also charged that the judge appeared in his court in a drunken condition during the trial of a case in the Garland county courthouse at Hot Springs while serving on the bench in a case styled Jordan vs. Woodcock & Lawson. The report said that "by exercise of ordinary diligence or reasonable in-

vestigation" the judge would have known of operation of many gambling houses in Garland county. The jurist neglected or refused to order search or seizure of the gambling houses and equipment, the report continued.

The report said that charges of misconduct by election officials in the Garland county primary of August, 1936, were "publicly and judicially" called to Judge Witt's attention, and that he neglected or refused to call the attention of the grand jury to the charges.

The majority report follows: "We, your committee appointed under authority of House Resolution No. 6 to investigate alleged laxity of law enforcement in the City of Hot Springs and the Eighteenth Circuit of Arkansas, beg leave to submit the following report:

"We began our labors immediately after our appointment, and continued to take testimony for almost four weeks. We were greatly handicapped at first, by the attitude of those being investigated and those citizens who would be benefited by such investigation. The report was freely circulated about Hot Springs that no real investigation was contemplated, and that the city officials and gambling interests would be able to block the investigation. In view of existing conditions, many of those who could have given valuable testimony, feared to do so, or at least expressed such fear, because of the dread of reprisals on the part of the lawless element of the city, as well as on the part of those in authority. It was not until the agents of the Revenue Department had raided the leading gambling houses of the city of Hot Springs did both sides become convinced that the committee was in earnest. From that time, the task

"Throughout our investigation, we have had the assistance of the State Department of Revenues, which department has furnished us the services of auditors, stenographers, and investigators. Without their assistance, we could not have functioned except at very great expense to the House of Representatives. The investigators furnished us by the department interviewed witnesses and presented them to us. From those statements we were able to determine what witnesses were material and to have them brought before us. We desire to thank them for their assistance and co-operation. Our thanks are also due our able attorney, Mr. John R. Thompson, for his efforts and his services in assembling testimony and in examining witnesses and to our efficient

## MAJORITY REPORT FILED WITH HOUSE

(Continued from Page 1)

clerk and stenographer, Miss Geneva O'Glee, for her untiring efforts and assistance during our deliberations.

Gambling Rampant.

"Every city of the size and importance of Hot Springs, has its gambling problem to a greater or less degree. So long as men and women are possessed of the gambling instinct, society must deal with this problem. But we seriously doubt if there is a city anywhere that deals with the problem as it is dealt with in Hot Springs. All states have anti-gambling laws and a greater or lesser effort is made on the part of the legal authorities to enforce these laws. But in the city of Hot Springs, for the past several years, not only has there been no effort made to enforce the anti-gambling laws of this state, but officials have boldly taken the view that gambling is an industry necessary to the health, peace and safety of Hot Springs and Garland. We find from the city records furnished us by the leading gambling clubs and books of the city and county, that policemen, firemen and other employees of the city and county, as well as relatives of prominent officials of the district, county and city are employed and on the payroll of these gambling houses. These employees con-

P. E. Witt, uncle of Circuit Judge Earl Witt; Archie Ledgerwood, brother of Municipal Judge Vernon S. Ledgerwood; Mrs. Herbert Akers, wife of Chief of Detectives Herbert (Dutch) Akers; T. G. (Curley) Evans, policeman, watchman at Belvedere and Holiness preacher.

"In order to entrench themselves safely in control of local government, such leading gambling resorts as Belvedere Club and Book, Southern Club and Book, Kentucky Club and Book, and other clubs controlled by the W. S. Jacobs interests, have resorted to the practice of making gifts of large dividends to prominent people of the city, as one of Mr. Jacobs' partners, Mr. Sam Watt, expressed it, "In order to obtain their influence, I suppose." Mr. Watt was reluctant to give the names of these "influential" people, but when forced to answer the question, named the following: Archie Ledgerwood, 25 per cent divided on Belvedere and Southern Club; L. D. Cooper, wholesaler and former president of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce; Douglas Hotchkiss, secretary of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and at that time a member of the State Racing Commission, each of whom was made a present of \$3,375 in the year 1936.

"Presented" Interest.

"We had before us Archie Ledgerwood, after Mr. Watt, who owns 15 per cent of the Belvedere and Southern, and who is the bookkeeper at Belvedere, had testified that W. S. Jacobs had made a present of 25 per cent interest in these clubs and books to Ledgerwood. Ledgerwood told us a fantastic story about how he came to own this large interest in these two gambling houses. He told us that he returned from El Paso, Tex., in 1931, where he had spent about nine years taking a cure for tuberculosis, and went to work for the Jacobs interest at a salary of \$50 a week. That after he had worked about one year, Mr. Jacobs was so impressed with his work that he offered to sell him a 25 per cent interest in the "bank roll" of the Belvedere and the Southern Club for \$15,000.



That he went to one Ed Ballard, a famous gambler and backer of gamblers, who lived at West Baden, Ind., and succeeded in borrowing this large sum of money on his plain note, agreeing to repay Ballard the money in October, 1936, with 10 per cent interest, and a bonus of 25 per cent of his part of the net earnings of the two clubs and books. He further stated to us that he repaid this money to Mr. Ballard while Ballard was on a visit to Hot Springs about October, 1936.

Paid \$20,500.

"Pressed further, he stated that he paid Ballard the large sum of \$20,500. Asked if he paid it with a check, he said that he no longer kept money in banks, that he paid this in cash, that he took no receipt, and destroyed the note immediately after it was paid. Further questioning developed the fact that about two days after Ledgerwood paid this large sum of money, Ballard and a former partner with whom Ballard had previously quarreled were both found shot to death in a room of the Arlington hotel. He stated that the verdict was that the other man killed Ballard and then killed himself. At any rate, no further investigation seems to have been made.

"Records of different gambling houses submitted to us show that the smaller concerns pay semi-monthly fines of \$100 each, while large establishments like the Belvedere and others, where the real money is won and lost, pay no fines. For example, one establishment, operated by George Pakis and others, had net earnings last year of approximately \$15,000, and paid these fines twice a month while the Belvedere with net earnings of \$40,000 after paying enormous salaries running from \$5 to \$20 per day, and the Southern Club and Book with dividends of \$50,000, last year paid no fines. The Jacobs interests alone earned net dividends of approximately \$332,000 last year, yet none of his clubs or books paid any fines, according to the records submitted to us by them. The practice of making large gifts to prominent people and relatives of public officials, the payment of large salaries to policemen and firemen, and other "philanthropic" activities of Mr. Jacobs, have certainly paid him large returns at the expense of somebody.

#### Political Activities.

"The above mentioned alliances between public officials and those who run rough-shod over the state's penal laws could not exist in any other sub-division of government in this country. But when we come to consider the system by which these public officials keep themselves in office, a system by which the voice of free people cannot make itself heard or felt at the polls, we can readily understand why such conditions can perpetuate themselves. The committee called before it the records of the tax collector of Garland county, and the records of the secretary of the Democratic county central committee

of Garland county. From those records, we learned that in a county with a population of about 44,000 people, 11,800 poll tax receipts were issued. Of this number, more than 2,000 were issued upon written order to the tax collector. The records of the secretary of the central committee showed that of the judges and clerks of election, the following were employees of gambling houses: Matt Picchi, Loyd Lemons, Buddy Wakelin, Louis Longinotti, Pat Pollard, Cecil Parker, George Hinkle, Cecil Brock, Norwood Phillips, Gordon Henderson, Jack McJunkin and Floyd Banski.

The following were also employees of the city or county government: Cecil Brock, Jack McJunkin, Tex Rutherford and two or three others.

"Witnesses testified that Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, who seems to dominate the politics of the county called in various employees of the city of Hot Springs and gave them lists of names for whom they were to obtain order for poll tax receipts. That having obtained those orders, receipts were issued by the tax collector and delivered to the mayor who sent the purchaser of these receipts to the city clerk who in turn paid him the amount he had paid for these receipts. At the proper time these receipts were delivered to the voter whose name appeared thereon. If it was found that such voter could be counted upon to vote the so-called 'administration ticket.' It was also shown that on the day before the election was held, in August, 1936, Mayor McLaughlin called a meeting of employees of the city, judges and clerks of election, and other persons identified with the city administration, and made them a speech, in which he told them that all employees who did not go down the line for the administration ticket from governor to constable would be looking for a job the morning after the election.

#### Business Men Warned.

"He also asked them to say to all business men of the city that if they wished to do well in their respective businesses, not only they, but their employees had better vote the administration ticket. That after this meeting, he called those selected to serve as judges and clerks of election to meet him in his private office for instructions as to their duties on election day. What those instructions were, we were unable to find out. We can only conjecture from the results.

"The testimony further showed that one man who had an order from one of the candidates for governor not supported by the administration, to watch the count in the Third ward in the city of Hot Springs, as provided by Section 12, of Act 123, of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1935, presented his credentials to the judges and clerks of that ward and was admitted, it being thought that he had come from the Little Rock headquarters of the candidate. About midnight, he was recognized by a visitor as a resident of the city, and on one pretense or another, an effort was made to send him downtown. When he informed them that he could not leave the polling place without violating his obligation, and refused to be sent out, he was informed that unless he vacated the polling place he would be forcibly thrown out. He left. Another man testified that he was engaged in hauling voters to the polls who were supporting an anti-administration candidate, when about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, he was arrested and thrown into the city jail, where he was kept until the next day, when he was released without any charges being filed against him.

#### Buy Poll Tax Receipts.

"While there were 11,800 poll tax receipts issued, only approximately 6,600 votes were cast in that primary election, or about 5,200 voters either stayed at home, did not vote, or their votes were not counted. It is claimed by those opposing the administration, that many good citizens did not attempt to vote for the reason they felt their votes would not be counted, or if counted at all, would be counted for those for whom they did not vote. It was also testified that in some specific instances, business houses operated by those not in sympathy with the local set-up were boycotted. Some members of the committee contacted a number of business and professional people who refused to testify before the committee and give valuable information in their possession for the reason as they claimed, that it would be dangerous to their persons and to their businesses, and force them to seek a location elsewhere.

"The records of the tax collector of Garland county show that several policemen and officers of the city of Hot Springs bought large blocks of poll tax receipts, some of which they were unable to deliver. One policeman bought a list of 175, 39 of which he was unable to deliver for some cause or another, and our investigators were able to get possession of those undelivered receipts and same are now in our possession. Those city officials include George McLaughlin, brother of the mayor, and clerk of the police court, Mrs. Fannie McLaughlin, city health nurse; Charles Sellars, city policeman, and several others. Also large lists were purchased by operators of gambling houses, including Roscoe Johnson, closely allied with the W. S. Jacobs interests, and several others.

#### Mistreatment of Prisoners.

Your committee had before it several young women who testified to ill treatment received at the hands of policemen while confined in the Hot Springs city jail. One young man from the country near the city, also told of barbarous treatment received by him while in prison. The testimony of one of the girls was

that her downfall was attributable to the chief of detectives, one Akers, who she claims seduced her when she was voluntarily in his custody at the city jail. Since that time she has been sent to the Girls' Industrial School twice and to the State Farm for Women several times. The committee is not unmindful of the fact that these girls' testimony is weakened by their prison records, but call attention to the further fact that the best people seldom get in jail, and in the recent trial of "Lucky" Luciano in New York, after he was extradited from Hot Springs, Prosecutor Dewey convicted and sent him to prison for a period of 30 to 50 years on charges supported only by the evidence of women of this reputation or worse. Since we have listened to the evidence of witnesses who testified as to the brutal treatment received by one John Dickson, and have seen the pictures of his broken, burned and bleeding body, treatment received at the hands of members of the Hot Springs police force, we see nothing unreasonable in the statements of these girls. One of the policemen accused by some of these girls, T. G. (Curly) Evans, made an affidavit published in the Hot Springs newspapers, in which he denied these charges, and sought to bolster his defense with the pious claim that he is a "Holiness" preacher, yet the records of Belvedere Club show that this man is on the payroll of that club as a watchman at a salary of five dollars a day, or until that place was closed a few days ago. Prison records nowhere reveal a case that will compare with the Dickson case, a case no doubt without a parallel in the history of prison systems, yet when it became apparent that this man was going to die, he was denied the privilege of seeing his father, his aunt, or even a doctor, not connected with the city administration.

It is obvious to us, from the facts set out above, that such intolerable conditions could not exist in a community where the courts function as the constitution and the law contemplates. The law requires that at the opening of each term of the Circuit court, the Circuit judge shall instruct the Grand Jury to investigate all treasons, felonies, misdemeanors and breaches of the penal laws of which they may have knowledge or may receive information, the law also contemplates that he shall specially instruct them as to felonies which he knows or has reason to know are being practiced in his jurisdiction. It is inconceivable that the Circuit judge of the Eighteenth Judicial District would not know that gambling operations which are felonies under our State laws have been carried on in Hot Springs and Garland counties during the fourteen years which the present Circuit Judge has been on the bench in his district.

"These are facts which are not only well known to people in all parts of this state, but this information extends throughout the country. Many magazine articles have been published throughout the country calling attention to these conditions, and yet nothing has been done about it. The newspapers occasionally call attention to raids made on negro crap games and other small dives, but the records before us show that the larger gambling concerns have been nurtured and encouraged in that jurisdiction.

#### Says Judge Bet on Races.

"But worse still, evidence has been brought before us, showing that at least one relative of the Circuit judge holds a remunerative position with Belvedere and the Southern Club. Other witnesses testified to

seeing the circuit judge, Honorable Earl Witt, placing bets on different games at some of these gambling places. Other witnesses have testified to seeing him on the streets of Hot Springs in a drunken condition, and still others testified to seeing him in his courts apparently intoxicated. A former prosecuting attorney of the district testified that he held a conference with Judge Witt and Mayor McLaughlin soon after the prosecuting attorney took office, in which an agreement was had under which these gambling houses were to operate under quasi sanction of law, on condition that they pay a fine of ten dollars each week in municipal court.

"Later, on complaint that the county was getting no revenue from these houses, it was agreed that they should pay a fine of \$100 each month to the city, and an additional \$100 each month to the county. But the records of Belvedere, and the testimony of its bookkeeper, Mr. Sam Witt, shows that neither Belvedere nor Southern Club ever paid a fine either to the county, or to the city. We wonder if the fact that a brother of the municipal judge and an uncle of the circuit judge both worked for these clubs, and the further fact that 'influential' citizens of the city of Hot Springs, drew large dividends as gifts from these clubs had anything to do with the fact that no fines were ever assessed against them.

bank statement for about two months of 1936.

"3. We cannot too strongly condemn the cruel and inhuman practices of the police and other officials of Hot Springs in their treatment of prisoners who are unfortunate enough to fall into their clutches. We do not confine this condemnation to the police officials alone, for in the Dickson case, in particular, the circuit judge, the mayor of Hot Springs, the municipal judge, and the city physician are guilty of either wanton neglect of their duties, or of actual non-feasance in failing to give this case proper attention after same was called to their attention.

"We think that this crime can only be corrected by having the present judge vacate the bench, allow the chief justice of the supreme court or the governor to appoint a special judge and a special prosecuting attorney to prosecute, let the judge appointed for that purpose appoint new jury commissioners, let a new grand jury be empaneled, a new investigation be made of the whole situation, embracing violation of the gambling laws which are made felonies under the statutes, misfeasance and nonfeasance in office on the part of the mayor of Hot Springs, the municipal judge, the chief of police, the chief of detectives, the sheriff of Garland county and the former sheriff of Garland county, the mistreatment of prisoners, not only in the Dickson case, but any others that may come to their attention and that he continue to preside until said cases are tried and finally disposed of. That the acting prosecuting attorney prosecute these cases to a final conclusion, and in order that he be not hindered in his work, the sheriff of the county should disqualify and let the judge appointed as above, appoint a special sheriff to bring in witnesses and summon jurors that may be needed. We see no other way in which a just, fair and impartial investigation may be had as to misconduct on the part of local officers in Garland county and the city of Hot Springs.

"This committee has no power under the law to impeach local officers, and we are fully convinced that only by the method outlined above, can we expect a sweeping investigation of law violation in the 18th Judicial District.

"As to the circuit judge, that is an entirely different matter.

"Article 15, Sections 1, 2 and 3, of the constitution of the state of Arkansas, provides that all state officers, the governor, judges of the supreme and circuit court, chancellors and prosecuting attorneys, shall be liable to impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct in office, but the judgment shall go no further than removal from office and disqualify to hold any office of honor, trust or profit in this state. These sections also provide that the House of Representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment, and the impeachment shall be tried by the Senate. They also provide that the governor upon a joint address of two-thirds of the members elected to each House of the General Assembly for a good cause may remove judges of the supreme court and circuit court, chancellors and prosecuting attorneys.

"5—Chapter 88 of Crawford and Moses Digest provides the method of procedure in impeachment of all public officers. The General Assembly of 1913 undertook to provide a method by which prosecuting attorneys and other officers might be indicted and removed from office, but the supreme court of this state later decided that this statute was in conflict with the constitutional provisions above cited, hence we have no method by which constitutional officers may be reached except by impeachment in the manner provided by these provisions of the constitution."

"Judge Witt was informed by members of this committee on several occasions, that the committee would be glad to give him a hearing at any time he cared to appear before the committee, and one member of the committee made a special trip to Hot Springs to see and confer with him looking to his appearance before us. He found the judge physically indisposed at the time, but was informed that Judge Witt would be able to appear before us later on. Although we remained in session for almost another week, he did not appear, but on the last night on which we met to take testimony, he sent us a short affidavit which was published in the daily press at the time, containing about a dozen lines, the substance of which was: That he had never bet in a gambling house in Hot Springs in his life. That he had never dined or danced in Belvedere in his life, and that those who had testified to his drinking and intoxication had been exaggerated. Much of the testimony taken by us and published in the press, concerning his conduct was not specifically denied, and his defense to the charge of drunkenness would not be accepted as a defense in the trial of a criminal charge of drunkenness in any court of this state.

"The courts of this country are the bulwark of a free government and a free people, and when they fail to function, as they seem to have failed in the Eighteenth Judicial District of Arkansas, and specially in Garland county the lives and liberties of the people are in jeopardy. The wearer of judicial ermine, like Caesar's wife, should be above reproach, and the high office of circuit judge should not be prostituted to selfish ends, as it seems has been done in the case of Judge Witt.

"41. We found so many things to take up our time in making investigation of conditions in Garland county, that we could not take up the matters set out in House Resolution No. 8 as they referred to Montgomery county. We had some testimony before us that slot machines were being operated in the county but were taken out soon after we began our work. Court records also reveal some bad conditions in the county with reference to shortages in county accounts, and possibly some laxity on the part of the court in properly looking after county affairs, but to go fully into all matters that were brought to our attention would have required more time than the committee had at our disposal, and for this reason we had little time to give to the Montgomery county situation. We recommend, however, that if the laws of the state have been violated in this regard, the prosecuting attorney should take proper action at the proper time.

"2. This committee has exercised all the powers given us by law to obtain the testimony of witnesses and records of gambling houses and of the tax collector of Garland county, the city clerk of Hot Springs, and the secretary of the Democratic county central committee of Garland county. All these officials have been courteous and prompt in complying with our requests, and have been of much help in getting the records we needed. The mayor has given us little information concerning his property and records of his income, confining this information to his income tax report for 1935, his Garland county tax receipt, and his



***Judge Criticised and  
Defended by Probers***



**JUDGE EARL WITT.**

# Minority in Claim Inquiry Was Not Fair

## Two Members of House Committee to Submit Separate Report.

Stating to the House of Representatives that they do not believe "a fair and impartial investigation" has been made by the committee in connection with charges against Circuit Judge Earl Witt of the Eighteenth Judicial district, two members of the House investigating committee were to file a minority report today.

They were Rep. James Fred Jones of Mount Ida, Montgomery county, and Rep. Pat Robinson of Lewisville, Lafayette county.

"No testimony was offered the committee that Judge Earl Witt had any connection whatever with the gambling interests in Garland county," the minority report said.

"Two witnesses," stated that they had seen the judge of the circuit court under the influence of intoxicating liquors while conducting the trials on which they served as jurors. None of the other 22 jurors who served on these two cases were brought before the committee, although their names were known to the committee, and although some members of the committee desired their testimony.

"We are unable to connect Judge Witt with any election irregularities."

(Continued on Page 2.)

## MINORITY WILL CLAIM INQUIRY WAS NOT FAIR

(Continued from Page 1)

ties," the report said. The minority members recommended that the Fifty-first General Assembly "postpone indefinitely" further action on any grounds for the interposition of constitutional power by the assembly.

The report follows:

"We, the undersigned members of your committee, beg leave to make the following report:

"We entered upon the duties assigned to us under House Resolution No. 6, and at the end of our investigation, we are unable to agree with the report of some members of the committee.

"We found that gambling was being conducted in Hot Springs, openly and to a greater extent perhaps than anywhere else in the state. But as to the comparison between the gambling in Hot Springs and other resort cities, no testimony was adduced before your committee. We find that various clubs, where gambling was conducted, including Belvedere Club, several men were employed who are either directly or indirectly related to officials of the city of Hot Springs and the Eighteenth Judicial district. However, no testimony was offered the committee that Judge Earl Witt had any connection whatever with the gambling interests in Garland county; and we know of no law, and none has been cited to the committee, holding any man responsible for the conduct of his less fortunate relations.

### Partisanship Charged.

"When the committee was appointed under House Resolution No. 6, we understood our duty to be to investigate alleged laxity of law enforcement in Hot Springs and the Eighteenth Judicial district. We did not expect the witnesses to be carefully selected and their testimony sifted before the committee would be permitted to hear their testimony. We are not unmindful of the fact that where there exists two restless political factions in any city the size of Hot Springs, most any kind of testimony may be obtained, in order to reach a desired result, with far less effort and expense than has been exerted and expended in this investigation. We feel that from the trend of the testimony given before your committee, the witnesses brought before the committee were carefully selected for the sole purpose of attempting to impeach the circuit judge of the Eighteenth Judicial district.

"We trust that every member of the House of Representatives will read carefully the testimony submitted to the committee.

"The record of the testimony will show that two witnesses who served as jurors on two separate cases being tried in the Eighteenth Judicial circuit, stated that they had seen the judge of the circuit under the influence of intoxicating liquors while conducting the trials on which they served as jurors. None of the other 22 jurors who served on these two cases were brought before the committee, although their names were known to the committee, and although some members of the committee desired their testimony and requested their testimony. In connection with line of testimony, your attention is respectfully directed to the testimony of one witness who was an avowed opponent of Circuit Judge Witt, but who stated emphatically that, although he had lived in Hot Springs 60 years, he had never seen Judge Witt intoxicated, nor did he bear any such reputation.

### Clear Judge Witt.

"The record reflects that three or four persons who have served on grand juries in the Eighteenth Judicial circuit, testified before the committee that they did not remember having heard the circuit judge of the Eighteenth Judicial circuit instruct the grand juries, on which they served, as to the gambling laws, as well as other criminal laws of the state. Your committee had before it the signatures of fifty-four persons who stated that while serving on grand juries in Garland county, and in the Eighteenth Judicial circuit, they had, at various times, heard Judge Witt charge the grand jury specifically as to the gambling laws, as well as to the other criminal laws, of the state. However, it is a striking fact that none of these 54 persons were summoned before the committee, although the testimony of some of these persons was desired, and was also requested. However, this request was refused, and none were allowed to appear.

"We are unable to agree that Judge Earl Witt has ever been guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors, or nonfeasance or malfeasance in office because of the ill-treatment accorded prisoners in the city jail at Hot Springs while in custody of the city police of that city.

"We find that Judge Earl Witt has done his duty in such cases when such cases have been brought to his jurisdiction. We also find that after Judge Witt assumed office as circuit judge of the Eighteenth Judicial circuit, the fines for misdemeanors of setting up, keeping or exhibiting gambling devices in Hot Springs were raised from \$10 to not less than \$100, as provided by law, under Sec. No. 2630, of C. & M. Digest of the statutes of the state of Arkansas.

"We are unable to connect Judge Witt with any election irregularities that may have existed in the Eighteenth Judicial circuit. None of the evidence, selected as it was, charged Judge Witt with buying poll tax receipts, spending money to influence votes, or in any other way violating the laws of the state of Arkansas relating to elections. We fail to find anything unusual in the evidence that a so-called 'administration ticket' was voted in Hot Springs and Garland county. We find that such has always been the case in city, county and even in recent state elections when one political faction is arrayed against another.

#### Deny Impeachment Grounds.

"We would respectfully direct the attention of the House to the testimony of Jay Rowland, who was an opponent of Judge Earl Witt in the last election in which Judge Witt was elected. In Garland county, Judge Witt received 3,886 votes and Mr. Rowland received 2,491 votes. Mr. Rowland is now president of the Garland County Bar Association, and we respectfully refer to his statement relative to the race between himself and Judge Witt in 1934, which is as follows, to-wit: 'In 1934, I was the opponent of Circuit Judge Earl Witt in the primary election. At that time my friends and supporters had complete control of the election machinery of Garland county. If Earl Witt stole any votes in that election, I would like to know how it could have been done. I think he won his race fairly and squarely on his record.' (Signed) Respectfully, Jay M. Rowland."

"After having completed our labors, we desire to thank the members of the House for their patience with us while we have labored earnestly and sincerely in our efforts to make a full, complete and fair and impartial investigation of the alleged laxity of law enforcement in Hot Springs and the Eighteenth Judicial circuit; being ever mindful of the fact that only such evidence should have been brought before the committee, that if true would be grounds for impeachment. However, we feel that a full, complete, fair and impartial investigation has not been made. Judge Witt was not allowed to appear by counsel, neither was he allowed to be present with his counsel and present and cross-examine witnesses. We feel that no member of your committee has purposely failed in making a fair, impartial, full and complete investigation of the charges contained in the House Resolution, but we do feel that an over-zealous urge has closed the eyes of some members of the committee to the credibility of witnesses who were ready and anxious to wreak vengeance upon their political foes; that an over-zealous desire has closed one ear to many voices and opened the other to whisperings and envious gossip and selfish desires, dignified by solemn oath.

"In view of the fact that a considerable sum has already been expended in this investigation, and in view of the fact that a much greater sum must be expended, if the recommendations of some members of this committee are adopted; and in view of the further reasons as set out in this report of your committee, we the undersigned members, on our respective oaths of office, report that we find no just grounds for the interposition of constitutional power by this body, and we recommend that further action on this matter, by the Fifty-first General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, be indefinitely postponed."

PAT ROBINSON,  
FRED JONES.

## Hearing on KTHS Is Postponed to April 20

Hot Springs—The Federal Communications Commission hearing on a petition to transfer the chamber of commerce radio station, KTHS, to Little Rock, has been postponed until April 20, G. T. Cotham, attorney for the chamber, which is seeking to halt the transfer, announced.

Attorney Cotham said he obtained the postponement through Paul D. P. Spearman, Washington legal advisor for the chamber of commerce, so as to keep it pending the decision of Chancellor Frank Dodge, Little Rock, who has under advisement a local chancery suit between the chamber and Col. T. H. Barton, El Dorado, to whom a former C. of C. board contracted to sell the station.

Cotham also said he had been advised by Spearman that station KLRA of Little Rock had filed with the FCC another petition, seeking to restrain the transfer to Little Rock.

Thursday Morning, February 18, 1937.

### Report on Spa Probe Expected In House Today

Little Rock, Feb. 17.—(AP)—Representative Ike Murry of Dallas, member of the committee investigating alleged lawlessness in the 18th (Hot Springs) judicial district, said today the committee would submit its report to the House probably tomorrow morning.

Murry said the committee had completed its investigation and was rounding out its final report today.

"We plan to deliver the report tomorrow. If something should hinder us from completing it, it will be withheld until early next week," he said, "but we do not look for any delay."

#### PARKER-SIGLER CIRCLE.

The Parker-Sigler circle of First Methodist church was delightfully entertained Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Mary Lyell, with Mrs. J. Q. Holder as assisting hostess. Mrs. Cecil Ledgerwood presided and Mrs. W. B. Phillips had charge of the devotional, giving a very beautiful one. Mrs. Holder and Mrs. Kathryn Yater Smith read parts.

### Farris to Open Office At Oaklawn Plant Today

Ed Farris, secretary of the State Racing Commission will open his office at the Oaklawn race track today to issue licenses to trainers and jockeys.

Farris announced last night that State Veterinarian Stubbs would be with him here to give a saliva test to the winning horse of every race.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
FEB 21 1937 BREAK ID.	
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ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-20-37

## House to Act On Spa Probe As Committee

Consideration Delayed  
Until Monday When  
Report Is Returned.

Future action in the Hot Springs investigation today is in the laps of the entire membership of the House of Representatives as a result of developments yesterday afternoon when the judiciary committee secured adoption of a motion to put the matter before the House for consideration as a committee-of-the-whole.

Rep. Carleton Harris of Jefferson county secured adoption of his motion with but little debate when he announced that his committee had voted, 27 to 2, that the two reports from the five-member investigating committee be considered by the entire House instead of the 33-member judiciary committee.

Three of the members of the committee authorized to investigate lawlessness in Hot Springs and the 18th judicial district (Garland and Montgomery counties) found conditions bad and recommended the impeachment of Circuit Judge Earl Witt and the selection of a special court officials to investigate charges against officials whose conduct is subject to review before circuit courts. The majority report was signed by Chairman W. M. Thompson of Batesville, the Rev. Lee Nichols of Booneville and Rep. Ike Murry of Fordyce.

The minority report signed by Rep. Pat Robinson of Lewisville and Rep. J. F. Jones recited that a fair and impartial investigation has not been made.

### Debate on Action.

Following the surprise move yesterday by the judiciary committee the House members engaged in a free-for-all discussion as to what to do with the reports. "We cannot vote intelligently unless we have the testimony," Chrisp of Pulaski said in support of a motion to have the testimony taken by the committee printed. Ward of Lee wanted the House to convene as a committee-of-the-whole to consider the report.

Speaker John M. Branford told the House members: "Everybody is beating around the bush; you just as well decide now what you are going to do."

The discussion ended with adoption of a motion to delay action until Monday.

A few minutes later Rep. Ernest Maner of Garland county gained the floor on point of personal privilege and inquired if the Rev. Lee Nichols, Logan representative, was in the House and added: "I hope he is for I want him to hear what I have to say."

Nichols was not present to hear Maner's charge that he had "insulted" Hot Springs citizens. From his home in Booneville the minister-legislator said that Maner's charge was based on misinformation.

### "Insult" Charged.

Maner charged that Nichols, a member of the investigating committee, "insulted" Mrs. Earl Witt, wife of the circuit judge, and others while they were in the House Thursday to hear the inquiry reports read.

The Hot Springs representative asserted that Mrs. Witt and two women relatives were his guests in the chamber and Nichols had attempted to eject them. He also accused the Booneville lawmaker of making "slurring remarks about a group of Hot Springs' best citizens who came over here to testify before the investigating committee."

Nichols, who had returned to his home at Booneville when Maner made the charges, said while the investigating committee reports were being read, a Miss Witt, seated directly in front of him, turned around and said:

"You ought to be up at Booneville preaching the gospel instead of down here scandalizing people."

Nichols said she continued to "mumble" and that finally he told her he would call the sergeant at arms to have her put out if she did not cease annoying him.

"You've got no constitutional right to sit here and berate a member of the legislature," the representative said he told Miss Witt.

He reported she took a copy of the report earlier in the day from the chief stenographer's desk and that the stenographer had difficulty repossessing it.

"I told Maner at noon today what took place," Nichols said, "and he replied: 'Well, nevertheless, she is a lady.'"

Nichols reported he had no objections to the visitors in the House chamber but declared he did object to being singled out for heckling.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
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ARKANSAS GAZETTE,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
DATE: 2-20-37

## ALL OF HOUSE WILL PASS ON WITT CHARGES

### To Decide if Judge Shall Be Tried.

Whether Circuit Judge Earl Witt of Hot Springs shall be impeached and tried by the Senate will be decided by the House, meeting in Committee of the Whole next week.

This action was decided on yesterday when members of the House Judiciary Committee reported that it would be a waste of time and effort for them to consider the report of a House investigating committee which recommended impeachment of Witt on charges of official misconduct.

#### Controversy Centers About Witt's Wife and Sister.

Bitterness of the situation resulting from the Hot Springs investigation became evident yesterday when Representative Ernest Maner of Hot Springs, member of Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin's political organization, charged Representative Lee Nichols, secretary of the Investigating Committee, with having insulted the wife and sister of Judge Witt in the House chamber Thursday. His remarks were made in the absence of Representative Nichols, a Baptist minister, who had gone to his home at Booneville for the week-end.

Informed of Maner's remarks, Nichols said over the long-distance telephone that Judge Witt's sister had started the affair by gratuitously insulting him.

Nichols said that Maner had been misinformed relative to his remarks to the women visitors. He said that while the Hot Springs Investigating Committee reports were being read in the House, Miss Witt, seated directly in front of him, had turned and said to him: "You ought to be up at Booneville preaching the Gospel instead of down here scandalizing people."

He said Miss Witt continued to "mumble," and that finally he told her he would call the sergeant-at-arms and have her put out if she did not cease annoying him. "You've no constitutional right to sit here and berate a member of the legislature," Nichols said he told Miss Witt.

Earlier in the day, Nichols said, Miss Witt had taken a copy of the report from the chief stenographer's desk, and that the chief stenographer had difficulty repossessing it.

"I told Maner at noon today what took place," Nichols said, "and he replied: 'Well, nevertheless, she is a lady.'"

Nichols added that he had no objections to the visitors in the House chamber, but he did object to being singled out for heckling.

Maner obtained the floor during the afternoon session on a point of personal privilege. He said that Nichols had insulted the wife and sister of Judge Witt while they were guests in the House chamber on the previous day by telling them they had "no constitutional right to be in the House chamber." Maner added that he had accosted Nichols later and had called him "a damned liar to his face."

#### Judiciary Committee Returns Reports to House.

The Judiciary Committee voted, 27 to 2, to return to the House the majority and minority reports of the special committee appointed to investigate the situation in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit.

The reports were referred to the Judiciary Committee by Speaker Bransford after they had been read Thursday. The committee met during the noon recess yesterday and decided that it would "expedite matters" if the reports were considered by the whole House.

Harris of Jefferson, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, reported the action taken by his committee. Speaker Bransford said that while the proper procedure in cases where impeachment was recommended is for the Judiciary Committee to consider the reports, he saw no reason why they should not be considered by the whole House.

In announcing the action taken by the committee, Harris said that "I didn't want these reports referred to my committee in the first place, although I didn't want to shirk any responsibility. If our committee were to take up the reports and decide that evidence to impeach was not sufficient, that would end matters, and members of the House who are not on the committee would have no voice in the matter. By referring the reports to the Committee of the Whole, then everybody will have a voice in the discussions. This is everybody's responsibility."

Chrisp of Pulaski moved that the entire transcript of the hearings be printed and a copy furnished to each member of the House. Someone suggested that printing the transcript would be expensive and foolish, and Chrisp replied "this whole thing is foolish."

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
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Speaking on the Chrisp motion, Harris said that the copy already in the hands of the Investigating Committee would be sufficient for the Committee of the Whole, adding that if a copy were given to each member, "not a half-dozen of you would read it."

The speaker interjected the remark: "Everybody is beating around the bush."

Blair of Logan wanted to know if the Committee of the Whole considered the reports, if Judge Witt would have an opportunity to be heard. He was assured that the judge would have that opportunity.

Discussion of the question ended with adoption of a motion by Ward of Lee to

(Continued on Page 2, 7th Col.)

**ALL OF HOUSE  
WILL PASS ON  
WITT CHARGES**

(Continued from Page 1.)

postpone further consideration until Monday.



# HOT SPRINGS NEW ERA

RE:  
= BREKID =

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 18, 1937.

## SPA PROBERS SPLIT

## ON WITT OUSTER

## PROPOSAL

### IMPEACHMENT RECOMMENDED BY MAJORITY

Two Sign Minority Report Asking Postponement

FINDINGS FILED

Three Members Urge Probe of Mayor and Sheriff

Little Rock, Feb. 18. — (AP)—A majority report of the house committee investigating law enforcement conditions in Hot Springs and the 18th judicial district, filed with the house clerk today, recommended impeachment proceedings against circuit Judge Earl Witt of the 18th district.

Only three members of the five-men committee signed the majority report. The two others, in a minority report, disagreed with the majority findings, asked indefinite postponement of the matter in the house and

charged that "a full, complete, fair and impartial investigation has not been made."

The committee majority, which charged Judge Witt with "high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct," consisted of Chairman W. M. Thompson, Independence, who sponsored the investigation resolution, Secretary Lee Nichols, minister-member from Logan, and Rep. Ike Murry of Dallas.

#### NO COMMENT

Neither Judge Witt nor Mayor McLaughlin had any statement to make this afternoon on the reports of the committee.

CONTINUED ON Page #2

Those dissenting from their findings were Reps. Pat Robinson of Lafayette and Fred Jones of Montgomery.

Reading of the two lengthy reports was started in the house this afternoon after Speaker Bransford, referring to the "serious nature" of subject matter, cautioned members to pay close attention.

The majority recommended the voting of impeachment articles against the circuit judge on charges that he had been observed in an intoxicated condition on the streets of Hot Springs and in his court, that he had knowledge of open gambling without taking action, and that he neglected to ask the grand jury to investigate alleged election irregularities in his district.

Asserting that only "selected" witnesses had been brought before the house committee by investigators, the minority said:

"No testimony was offered the committee that Judge Earl Witt had any connection whatever with the gambling interests in Garland county x x x.

"Two witnesses, x x x stated that they had seen the judge of the circuit under the influence of intoxicating liquors while conducting the trials on which they served as jurors. None of the other 22 jurors who served on these two cases were brought before the committee, although their names were known

to the committee, and although some members of the committee desired their testimony and requested their testimony. x x x

"Your committee had before it the signatures of 54 persons who stated that while serving on grand juries in Garland county, and in the 18th judicial district, they had, at various times, heard Judge Witt charge the grand jury specifically as to the gambling laws, as well as the other criminal laws, of the state. However, it is a striking fact that none of these 54 persons were summoned before the committee, although the testimony of some of these persons was desired and was also requested. However, this request was refused and none were allowed to appear.

"We are unable to agree that Judge Earl Witt has ever been guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors, or nonfeasance or malfeasance in office because of the ill-treatment accorded prisoners in the city jail at Hot Springs while in custody of the police of that city.

"We find that Judge Earl Witt has done his duty in such cases when such cases have been brought to his jurisdiction. x x x

"We are unable to connect Judge Witt with any election irregularities that may have existed in the 18th judicial circuit. x x x

"We do feel that an over-zealous urge has closed the eyes of some members of the committee to the credibility of witnesses who were ready and anxious to wreak vengeance upon their political foes; that an over-zealous desire has closed one ear to many voices and opened the other to whisperings and envious gossip and selfish desires, dignified by solemn oath."

The majority report said the committee's time was virtually monopolized by the Garland county inquiry and that it had not had time to go into conditions in Montgomery county, also in the 18th district. It simply recommended with respect to that county that the prosecuting attorney take proper action if laws were violated there.

Referring to exhaustive records subpoenaed by the committee, it said of Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin:

"The mayor has given us little information concerning his property and records of his income, confirming this information to his income tax report for 1935, his Garland county tax receipt, and his bank account for about two months of 1935."

Decrying alleged mistreatment of prisoners in the Hot Springs jail, and in particular the case of John Dickson, prisoner who died on Christmas eve, allegedly from beatings, the majority said:

"We do not confine this condemnation to the police officials alone, for in the Dickson case in particular, the circuit judge, the Mayor of Hot Springs, the municipal judge, and the city physician are guilty of either wanton neglect of their duties, or of actual nonfeasance in failing to give this case proper attention."

It recommended in this connection that the judge vacate the bench, allow the governor to name a special judge and prosecutor, and have the appointed judge name new jury commissioners and that a new grand jury be empaneled to make "a new investigation of the whole situation."

Such an investigation, the committeemen asked, would include "violation of gambling laws, misfeasance and nonfeasance in office on the part of the mayor of Hot Springs, the municipal judge, the chief of police, the chief of detectives, the sheriff of Garland county and the former sheriff of Garland county, the mistreatment of prisoners; that the acting prosecuting attorney prosecute these cases to a final conclusion, and in order that he not be hindered in his work, the sheriff of the county should disqualify and let the judge appoint as above, appoint a special sheriff to bring in witnesses and summon jurors."

"We see no other way in which a just, fair and impartial investigation may be had as to misconduct on the part of local officers in Garland county and the city of Hot Springs," said the majority. "This committee has no power under the law to impeach local officers."

After reviewing the testimony taken in detail, which included charges that some had refused to testify because of fear of reprisals; that relatives of officials and peace officers were employed by gambling houses; that gambling clubs made gifts of dividend-bearing shares to leading citizens; that some gambling establishments paid fines at regular intervals and others did not; that gambling house employees acted as election officials; that poll tax receipts were bought in blocks and distributed by city administration employees; that many citizens did not vote because "they felt their votes would not be counted;" that jail prisoners were mistreated and a girl seduced by a policeman in the city jail; that a relative of Judge Witt was on the payroll of Belvedere and Southern Clubs, gambling resorts; that Judge Witt had been seen participating in games "at some of these gambling places"; that he had been observed in an apparently intoxicated condition on the streets and in court; that he had knowledge of an agreement by which the gambling clubs paid fines at regular intervals, the majority report said:

"We recommend that articles of impeachment be voted by this house against Earl Witt who was regularly elected and qualified and is now acting as circuit judge of the 18th judicial district of the state of Arkansas for high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct in office."

Impeachment was recommended on the following articles:

1. Because of having brought

his office into disrespect and disrepute by appearing in public places in the city of Hot Springs upon numerous occasions while under the influence of intoxicating liquors to such an extent that he had lost the normal control of his mental and physical faculties thereby being drunk in public places.

2. "That he appeared in his said court in a drunken and intoxicated condition, during the trial of a case in the city of Hot Springs and the courthouse of Garland county while serving on the bench as the judge of said court during the trial of a cause then pending and being tried in said court styled and known as Jordan vs. Woodcock and Lawson."

Continued on page 3

HOT SPRINGS NEW ERA-2-18-37

PAGE #2

(RE: BREKID)

3. "That he knew, or by the exercise of ordinary diligence or reasonable investigation that many gambling houses as defined and declared by the statutes of the state of Arkansas to be unlawful were being operated in Garland county, Arkansas, which county is embraced in the 18th judicial district over a long period of time during his tenure of office and the said Earl Witt failed, neglected and-or refused to issue his order to some constable, policeman or sheriff within his jurisdiction to make a search and seize the gambling devices x x x as the law of the state of Arkansas required and makes mandatory of a circuit judge, x x x thereby aiding and encouraging a general breakdown of the laws of the State of Arkansas in his judicial district and in further failing, neglecting and-or-refusing to instruct the grand juries which have been empanelled in Garland county respecting the laws relating to gaming.

4. "That it was publicly and judicially called to his attention and charges were made by the filing of certain election contest cases in his court as judge of the 18th district of Arkansas that gross misconduct by the election officials who conducted certain primary elections held and conducted on the 11th day of August, 1936, and certain candidates in said election before and on the day of the holding of said election were guilty of gross violations of the election laws of the state of Arkansas and gross misconduct and fraud in the conduct of said election and the said Earl Witt failed, neglected and-or refused to call the attention of the grand jury to the said charges when the same convened.

5. "That the same Earl Witt, judge of the 18th judicial circuit, is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct because of the charges specified and set out in Articles 1, 2, 3, and 4, hereof, thereby bringing his court into disrepute and disrespect and lending aid therefore to a general breakdown of the laws of the state of Arkansas."

**ED FARRIS**, SECRETARY OF the State Racing Commission, today opened his office at Oaklawn Park and prepared to issue licenses to trainers and jockeys. He announced that State Veterinarian Stubbs will be here during the meet to give saliva tests to winning horses of every race.

HOT SPRINGS NEW ERA- 2-18-37

PAGE #3

(RE: BREKID)

# NEW-ERA HOT SPRINGS

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS, FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 19, 1937.

## SPA PROBE REPORTS REFERRED TO WHOLE

# HOUSE

RE: BREKID

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
FEB 23 1937	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
ROUTED TO	FILE



# WITT WILL BE PERMITTED TO FACE ACCUSERS

Judiciary Committee  
Relieved At Own  
Request

DEFER ACTION

Legislators May Be-  
gin Final Action  
Monday

Little Rock, Feb. 19.—  
(AP)—The House of Rep-  
resentatives voted today to  
refer to the whole house the  
conflicting reports of the  
special committee which in-  
vestigated law enforcement  
conditions in Hot Springs  
and the 18th judicial dis-  
trict.

Action came on a unani-  
mous voice vote after Chair-  
man Carleton Harris of the  
judiciary committee to  
which the matter was refer-  
red yesterday, said his com-  
mittee had voted 27 to 2  
that the matter be taken out  
of its hands.

"The judiciary is the largest  
house committee and has more work  
than any other," said Harris. "If  
we met and found that the evidence  
was not sufficient to impeach the  
question would never get back to  
this house."

"In the next place, if the com-  
mittee should determine there was  
enough evidence to justify im-  
peachment the whole thing would  
have to be gone over again in the  
house. My committee doesn't want  
to have anything to do with it."

"We would not only have to study  
testimony—that has already been  
taken, but would have to hear  
Judge Witt's witnesses. This is a  
responsibility of the entire house and  
I don't think you should throw it  
into the judiciary committee's lap  
and say 'this is your baby'."

The investigating committee re-  
turned two reports, the majority  
asking impeachment proceedings  
against Circuit Judge Earl Witt of  
the 18th district, and the minority  
asserting it found no basis for such  
action.

The minority asked "indefinite  
postponement" of the matter by the  
house.

On motion of Ward of Lee, fur-  
ther action was postponed in the  
house until Monday morning.

No action had been taken on a  
motion by Chrisp of Pulaski that a

record of the transcript of evidence  
be printed and placed on the desk  
of each member. As a substitute,  
Ward suggested that the house  
meet Monday night and have all of  
the testimony read, holding night  
sessions until it was completed.

Chrisp said "this house should not  
go on record as indicting or con-  
victing a man without going into  
the testimony thoroughly. If you  
want to know the truth about it, I  
think the whole thing is foolish."

Blair of Logan asked if Judge  
Witt would have the right to come  
into the house with his attorney  
and cross-examine all witnesses  
against him.

Speaker Bransford replied "he  
certainly would have that right."

Ward's motion to delay further  
action ended the discussion.

## Report Sharply Divided.

Little Rock, Feb. 19.—(P)—A  
four-weeks legislative investigation  
into alleged lawlessness at Hot  
Springs, world famous health re-  
sort, brought a sharply divided re-  
port today in which the majority  
recommended impeachment pro-  
ceedings against Circuit Judge Earl  
Witt and the minority reported  
there was no basis for such action.

House Speaker John Bransford  
sent both reports to the judiciary  
committee. It will meet next week  
to study the transcript and report  
back to the house, either drawing  
up articles of impeachment or rec-  
ommending that the matter be  
dropped.

"I daresay that after the judi-  
ciary committee deliberates we will  
have another majority and another  
minority report. We'll be right back  
where we started," chair chairman  
Carleton Harris of Pine Bluff. He  
said it would be necessary for the  
judiciary committee to go into the  
matter just as thoroughly as the

The majority report charged the  
54-year-old Judge Witt, presiding  
over the 18th district which includes  
Hot Springs, with appearing on Hot  
Springs streets and in his court ap-  
parently in an intoxicated condi-  
tion, having knowledge of open  
gambling without taking action and  
failing to act in connection with  
alleged voting irregularities in the  
August democratic primary.

It further recommended a special  
grand jury at Hot Springs under a  
temporary circuit judge and prose-  
cutor named by the governor to in-  
vestigate gambling, alleged mistreat-  
ment of city jail prisoners and of-  
ficial conduct of Mayor Leo P. Mc-  
Laughlin, municipal judge, chief of  
police, chief of detectives and pres-  
ent and former sheriffs.

Charging only "selected" witness-  
es had been heard, the minority  
reported a "full, complete, fair and  
impartial investigation has not been  
made," and that testimony did not  
support majority findings against  
Judge Witt.

The committee majority reported  
finding peace officers and relatives  
of officials in the employe of gamb-  
ling houses at Hot Springs. It re-  
viewed testimony relating to alleg-  
ed gifts of stock in Belvedere and  
Southern club gambling rooms to  
prominent citizens.

During the investigation revenue  
department agents stripped palatial  
Hot Springs night clubs of gamb-  
ling equipment valued at \$15,000.  
The devices were burned in a pub-  
lic bonfire at Little Rock. Some of  
the clubs, including swanky Belve-  
dere, were closed. A Hot Springs  
delegation of 147 citizens appeared  
before the investigators to report  
the inquiry had benefitted business  
at the resort city.

Another delegation of Hot Springs  
citizens told the committee that the  
fact Hot Springs was a resort had  
dictated a liberal policy and that  
officers should not be blamed for  
that policy.

NEW ERA-  
HOT SPRINGS, ARK.  
FEB-19-1937.

RE: BREKID

Friday Morning, February 10, 1937.

## Text of Minority Report In Hot Springs Inquiry

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FEB 23 1937  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FOI TO  
FILE

Little Rock, Feb. 18.—(AP)—The text of the Hot Springs investigating committee's minority report, filed in the house today, follows:

We, the undersigned members of your committee, beg leave to make the following report:

We entered upon the duties assigned to us under house resolution No. 3, and at the end of our investigation, we are unable to agree with the report of some members of the committee.

We found that gambling was being conducted in Hot Springs, openly and to a greater extent perhaps than anywhere else in the state. But as to the comparison between the gambling in Hot Springs and other resort cities, no testimony was adduced before your committee. We find that various clubs, where gambling was conducted, including Pelvedere club, several men were employed who are either directly or indirectly related to officials of the city of Hot Springs and the 18th judicial district. However, no testimony was offered the committee that Judge Earl Witt had any connection whatever with the gambling interests in Garland county; and we know of no law, and none has been cited to the committee holding any man responsible for the conduct of his less fortunate relations.

When the committee was appointed under house resolution No. 6, we understood our duty to be to investigate alleged laxity of law enforcement in Hot Springs and the 18th judicial district. We did not expect the witnesses to be carefully selected and their testimony sifted, before the committee would be permitted to hear their testimony. We are not unmindful of the fact that where there exists two restless political factions in any city the size of Hot Springs, most any kind of testimony may be obtained, in order to reach a desired result, with far less effort and expense than has

been exerted and expended in this investigation. We feel that from the trend of testimony given before your committee, the witnesses brought before the committee were carefully selected for the sole purpose of attempting to impeach the circuit judge of the 18th judicial district.

We trust that every member of the house of representatives will read carefully the testimony submitted to the committee.

The record of the testimony will show that two witnesses who served as jurors on two separate cases being tried in the 18th judicial circuit, stated that they had seen the judge of the circuit under the influence of intoxicating liquors while conducting the trials on which they served as jurors. None of the other 22 jurors who served on these two cases were brought before the committee, although their names were known to the committee, and although some members of the committee desired their testimony and requested their testimony. In connection with line of testimony, your attention is respectfully directed to the testimony, of one witness who was an avowed opponent of Circuit Judge Witt, but who stated emphatically that, although he had lived in Hot Springs 60 years, he had never seen Judge Witt intoxicated, nor did he bear any such reputation.

The record reflects that three or four persons who have served on grand juries in the 18th judicial circuit, testified before the committee that they did not remember having heard the circuit judge of the 18th judicial circuit instruct the grand juries, on which they served,

as to the gambling laws, as well as other criminal laws of the state. Your committee had before it the signatures of fifty-four (54) persons, who stated that while serving on grand juries in Garland county, and in the 18th judicial circuit, they had, at various times,

heard Judge Witt charge the grand jury, specifically as to the gambling laws, as well as to the other criminal laws, of the state. However, it is a striking fact that none of these 54 persons were summoned before the committee, although the testimony of some of these persons was desired, and was also requested. However, this request was refused, and none were allowed to appear.

We are unable to agree that Judge Earl Witt has ever been guilty of high crime and misdemeanors, or confessions or malfeasance in office because of the ill-treatment accorded prisoners in the city jail at Hot Springs while in custody of the city police of that city.

We find that Judge Earl Witt has done his duty in such cases when such cases have been brought to his jurisdiction. We, also find that after Judge Witt assumed office as circuit judge of the 18th judicial circuit, the fines for misdemeanors of setting up, keeping or exhibiting gambling devices in Hot Springs, were raised from \$10.00 to not less than \$100.00, as provided by law, under Section 2630, of C. & M. Digest of the statutes of the state of Arkansas.

We are unable to connect Judge Witt with any election irregularities that may have existed in the 18th judicial circuit. None of the evidence selected, as it was, charged Judge Witt with buying poll tax receipts, spending money to influence votes, or in any other way violating the laws of the state of Arkansas relative to elections. We fail to find anything unusual in the evidence that a so-called "administration ticket" was voted in Hot Springs and Garland county. We find that such has always been the case in city, county and even in recent state elections when one political faction is arrayed against another.

CONT'D NEXT PAGE

RE:  
BREKID.

We would respectfully direct the attention of the house to the testimony of Mr. Jay Rowland, who was an opponent of Judge Earl Witt in the last election in which Judge Witt was elected. In Garland County Bar Association, and we respectfully refer to his statement relative to the race between himself and Judge Witt in 1934, which is as follows, to-wit: "In 1934, I was the opponent of Circuit Judge Earl Witt in the primary election. At that time my friends and supporters had complete control of the election machinery of Garland county. If Earl Witt stole any votes in that election, I would like to know how it could have been done. I think he won his race fairly and squarely on his record. (Signed) Respectfully, Jay M. Rowland."

After having completed our labors, we desire to thank the members of the house for their patience with us while we have labored earnestly and sincerely in our efforts to make a full, complete and fair and impartial investigation of the alleged laxity of law enforcement in Hot Springs and the 18th Judicial circuit; being ever mindful of the fact that only such evidence should have been brought before the committee, that if true would be grounds for impeachment, however, we feel that a full, complete, fair and impartial investigation has not been made. Judge Witt was not allowed to appear by counsel, neither was he allowed to be present with his counsel and present and cross-examine witnesses. We feel that no member of your committee has purposely failed in making a fair, impartial, full and complete investigation of the charges contained in the house resolution, but we do feel that an over-zealous urge has closed the eyes of some members of the committee to the credibility of witnesses who were ready and anxious to wreak vengeance upon their political foes; that an over-zealous desire has closed one ear to many voices and opened the other to whisperings and envious gossip and selfish desires, dignified by solemn oath.

In view of the fact that a considerable sum has already been expended in this investigation, and in view of the fact that a much greater sum must be expended, if the recommendations of some members of this committee are adopted; and in view of the further reasons as set out in this report of your committee, we the undersigned members, on our respective oaths of office, report that we find no just grounds for the interposition of constitutional power by this 51st General Assembly, of the State of Arkansas, be indefinitely postponed.

Pat. Robinson.  
Fred Jones.

THE SENTINEL-RECORD  
HOT SPRINGS, ARK.  
2-19-37

RE: BREKID.



Friday Morning, February 19, 1937.

## SHARPLY DIVIDED REPORT RETURNED BY SPA PROBERS

Assailed, Defended



JUDGE EARL WITT

IMPEACHMENT OF  
JUDGE WITT URGED  
BY MAJORITY

TWO FILE OBJECTIONS

Minority Files Report As-  
serting It Found no Basis  
for Action—Both Reports  
Given to House Judiciary  
Committee.

The text of the majority re-  
port on the Hot Springs inquiry  
will be found on page 5.

The text of the minority re-  
port on the Hot Springs inquiry  
will be found on page 13.

Little Rock, Feb. 18.—(AP)—A five  
man committee named by the house  
of representatives to investigate al-  
leged laxity in law enforcement in  
Hot Springs and the 18th judicial  
district divided sharply today when  
a majority of three recommended  
impeachment proceedings against  
Circuit Judge Earl Witt of the 18th  
district and the minority asserted it  
had found no basis for such action.

The majority charged Judge Witt,  
on the basis of testimony taken by  
the investigators, with having ap-  
peared on Hot Springs streets and  
in his court in an apparently intel-  
ligent condition, with having know-  
ledge of open gambling operations in  
Hot Springs without taking any ac-  
tion; and with failing to act in  
connection with alleged voting ir-  
regularities in the democratic pri-  
mary of last August.

The majority further recommend-  
ed that a special grand jury be as-  
sembled in Hot Springs under a  
temporary circuit judge and pros-  
ecutor named by the governor to in-  
vestigate gambling, alleged mis-  
treatment of city jail prisoners, and  
the official conduct of Mayor Leo  
P. McLaughlin, the municipal judge,  
chief of police, chief of detectives,  
and the present and former sheriff  
of Garland county.

"This committee has no power  
under the law to impeach local of-  
ficers," said the majority in this  
connection.

Disagreeing with the recommen-  
dations, the minority charged that  
only "selected" witnesses had been  
heard by the committee, that others  
the minority wanted to hear had  
not been summoned, that the testi-  
mony did not support the majority  
findings with reference to Judge  
Witt, that "a full, complete, fair and  
impartial investigation has not been  
made."

"We do feel that an over-zealous  
urge has closed the eyes of some  
members of the committee to the  
credibility of witnesses who were  
ready and anxious to wreak ven-  
geance upon their political foes,"  
said the minority.

Speaker of the House John Brans-  
ford sent both reports to the judi-  
ciary committee after they had  
been read in the chamber this af-  
ternoon.

Bransford said he was acting on  
advice obtained from the parliamen-  
tarian of the U. S. House of Rep-  
resentatives.

RE:  
BREKID

FEB 19 1937

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
ROUTE 100  
FILE

CONTINUED ON  
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Violent debate over procedure followed the readings in the house. Ike Murry of Dallas, who pointed with Chairman W. M. Thompson of Independence and Secretary Lee Nichols of Logan in signing the majority report, read the majority findings. Pat Robinson of Lafayette who joined Fred Jones of Montgomery in the minority report, read those findings.

Carleton Harris of Jefferson, chairman of the judiciary committee said his group would meet next

week to study the transcript and report back to the house, either drawing up articles of impeachment or recommending that the matter be dropped.

The chairman said the transcript of testimony would be read before the committee meeting in the house chamber. He urged that all representatives attend.

He commented: "We appointed an investigating committee and we are sending this thing back to another committee. It will be necessary for the judicial committee to go into it just as thoroughly as the investigating committee did."

"I daresay that after the judiciary committee deliberates we will have another majority and another minority report. We'll be right back where we started. I don't want this dumped on my committee's lap."

The principal debate centered on a motion by Beck of Clarendon, demanding printed copies of all the testimony for each member of the house.

"That will cost \$10,000," said Speaker Bransford.

"Knowing it will cost \$10,000, I still feel the testimony should be placed before every member," said Beck. "This has been a secret investigation and I want the whole thing brought out in the open."

"Why this whole thing should be kept secret, I cannot understand, for the life of me. I can't ruin any man's name by voting an impeachment charge without all the facts before me."

As a score members clamored for recognition, Foster of Lonoke and Gooch of Cross got in arguments against the Beck motion on grounds that a printed transcript would not be read.

Chrisp of Pulaski asked for a reading of the whole transcript in the house and Toney of Jefferson opposed that on grounds that it would block consideration of legislation for several days. There were suggestions then for night sessions to hear the transcript.

Bransford ended the controversy with a ruling that if the judiciary committee returned impeachment articles, all the testimony would be printed and laid on the desks of members.

In Hot Springs, Judge Witt said he had no comment to make on the committee reports.

The committee was created about four weeks ago, held many secret sessions and a few open ones, to which newsmen and 18th district legislators were admitted.

While it was sitting, the state revenue department under a supreme court order raided gambling houses in Hot Springs, seized and burned gambling equipment valued at several thousand dollars.

The committee majority recommended five impeachment articles against Judge Witt, based on these allegations:

1. That he appeared in public places in Hot Springs while under the influence of liquor.

2. That he appeared in his court "in a drunken and intoxicated condition."

3. That he had knowledge of gambling operations but did not act to stop such operations.

4. That alleged election irregularities were called to his attention and that he did not bring the matter before the grand jury.

5. That because of these things he is "guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct, . . . thereby bringing his court into disrepute and lending aid therefore to a general breakdown of the laws of the State of Arkansas."

The committee majority said it found peace officers and relatives of officials in the employ of gambling houses at Hot Springs.

"These employees," said the report, "consist among others of the following: P. C. Witt, uncle of Circuit Judge Earl Witt; Archie Ledgerwood, brother of Municipal Judge Vernon S. Ledgerwood; Mrs. Herbert Akers, wife of Chief of Detectives Herbert (Dutch) Akers; T. G. (Curley) Evans, policeman, watchman at Belvedere and Holiness preacher."

The majority reviewed testimony relating to alleged gifts of stock in Belvedere and Southern Club gambling rooms to prominent citizens, and said:

Records of different gambling houses submitted to us show that the smaller concerns pay semi-monthly fines of \$100 each, while large establishments like Belvedere and others, where the real money is won and lost, pay no fines. . . .

"The Jacobs interests alone earned net dividends of approximately \$332,000 last year, yet none of his clubs or books paid fines, according to the records submitted to us by them."

"The practice of making large gifts to prominent people and relatives of public officials, the payment of large salaries to policemen and firemen, and other 'philanthropic' activities of Mr. Jacobs, have certainly paid him large returns at the expense of somebody."

The majority charged manipulation of election machinery, intimidation of voters, service of gambling house workers as election officials, mistreatment of prisoners in Hot Springs jail and abuse of women by police, referring particularly to the story of a woman's farm inmate that she had been seduced at the city jail by a policeman.

The John Dickson case, in which Dickson, a prisoner, died allegedly as a result of beatings, for which seven policemen were indicted, was discussed in detail.

"We find that various clubs, where gambling was conducted, including Belvedere club, several men were employed who are either directly or indirectly related to officials of the city of Hot Springs and the 18th judicial district. However, no testimony was offered the committee that Judge Witt had any connection whatever with gambling interests in Garland county; and we know of no law, and none has been cited to the committee, holding any man responsible for the conduct of his less fortunate relations. . . .

"We did not expect the witnesses to be carefully selected and their testimony sifted before the committee would be permitted to hear their testimony. We are not unmindful of the fact that where there exists two restless political factions in any city the size of Hot Springs, most any kind of testimony may be obtained, in order to reach a desired result, with far less effort and expense than has been exerted and expended in this investigation. We feel . . . the witnesses brought before the committee were carefully selected for the sole purpose of attempting to impeach the circuit judge of the 18th district."

"Two witnesses . . . stated they had seen the judge of the circuit court under the influence of intoxicating liquors while conducting trials on which they served as jurors. None of the other 22 jurors who served on those cases were brought before the committee."

The minority charged it had asked that these others be heard, and said "One witness who was an avowed opponent of Circuit Judge Witt stated emphatically that although he had lived in Hot Springs 60 years he had never seen Judge Witt intoxicated, nor did he bear such a reputation."

Referring to testimony of grand jurors that they did not recall any instructions about gambling law violations, the minority said:

CONTINUED ON  
PAGE #3.

RE:  
BREKIZ

"Your committee had before it the signatures of 54 persons who stated that while serving on grand juries in Garland county they had at various times heard Judge Witt charge the grand jury specifically as to the gambling laws. . . .

"It is a striking fact that none of these 54 persons were summoned before the committee although the testimony of some of these persons was desired, and was also requested. However, this request was refused, and none were allowed to appear.

"We are unable to agree that Judge Earl Witt has ever been guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors or nonfeasance or malfeasance in office because of the ill-treatment accorded prisoners in the city jail at Hot Springs while in custody of the city police of that city.

"We find that Judge Witt has done his duty in such cases when such cases have been brought to his jurisdiction. We also find that after Judge Witt assumed office as circuit judge the fines for misdemeanors of setting up, keeping or exhibiting gambling devices in Hot Springs was raised from \$10 to not less than \$100, as provided by law.

"We are unable to connect Judge Witt with any election irregularities that may have existed in the 18th district. . . .

"We feel that a full, complete, fair and impartial investigation has not been made. Judge Witt was not allowed to appear by counsel, neither was he allowed to be present with his counsel and present and cross-examine witnesses.

"We feel that no members of your committee has purposely failed to make a fair, impartial, full and a complete investigation of the charges contained in the House resolution, but we do feel that an overzealous urge has closed the eyes of some members of the committee to the credibility of witnesses who were ready and anxious to wreak vengeance upon their political foes; that an over-zealous desire has closed one ear to many voices and opened the other to whisperings and envious gossip and selfish desires, dignified by solemn oath."

The minority closed with a "report that we find no just grounds for the interposition of constitutional power by this body. And we recommend that further action on this matter, by the 51st general assembly of the state of Arkansas, be indefinitely postponed."

THE SENTINEL-RECORD  
HOT SPRINGS ARK.  
FEB-19-1937.

→ RE: BREKID. ←

Friday Morning, February 19, 1937.

## Text of Majority Report In Hot Springs Inquiry

Little Rock, Feb. 18—(AP)—The text of the majority report of the Hot Springs investigating committee follows:

We, your committee appointed under authority of house resolution No. 6 to investigate alleged laxity of law enforcement in the city of Hot Springs and the eighteenth judicial circuit of Arkansas, beg leave to submit the following report:

We began our labors immediately after our appointment, and continued to take testimony for almost four weeks. We were greatly handicapped at first, by the attitude of those being investigated and those citizens who would be benefitted by such investigation.

The report was freely circulated about Hot Springs that no real investigation was contemplated, and that the city officials and gambling interests would be able to block the investigation. In view of existing conditions, many of those who could have given valuable testimony, feared to do so, or at least expressed such fear, because of the dread of reprisals on the part of the lawless element of the city, as well as on the part of those in authority.

It was not until the agents of the revenue department had raided the leading gambling houses of the city of Hot Springs did both sides become convinced that the committee was in earnest. From that time, the task of getting witnesses to testify became much simpler.

Throughout our investigation, we have had the assistance of the state department of revenue, which department has furnished us the services of auditors, stenographers, and investigators. Without their assistance, we could not have functioned except at very great expense to the house of representatives. The investigators furnished us by the department interviewed witnesses and presented them to us.

From those statements we were able to determine what witnesses were material and to have them brought before us. We desire to thank them for their assistance and co-operation. Our thanks are also due our able attorney, Mr. John R. Thompson, for his efforts and his services in assembling testimony and in examining witnesses and to our efficient clerk and stenographer, Miss Geneva O'Glee, for her untiring efforts and assistance during our deliberations.

**Gambling**  
Every city of the size and importance of Hot Springs has its gambling problem to a greater or less degree. So long as men and women are possessed of the gambling instinct, society must deal with this problem. But we seriously doubt if there is a city anywhere that deals with the problem as it is dealt with in Hot Springs. All states have anti-gambling laws and a greater or lesser effort is made on the part of the legal authorities to enforce these laws. But in the city of Hot Springs, for the past several years, not only has there been no effort made to enforce the anti-gambling laws of this state, but officials have boldly taken the view that gambling is an industry necessary to the health, peace and safety of Hot Springs and Garland county.

We find from the city records furnished us by the leading gambling clubs and books of the city and county, that policemen, firemen and other employees of the city and county, as well as relatives of prominent officials of the district, county and city are employed and on the payroll of these gambling houses.

These employees consist among others of the following: P. A. Witt, uncle of Circuit Judge Earl Witt, Archie Ledgerwood, brother of Municipal Judge Verne S. Ledgerwood, Mrs. Herbert Akers, wife of Chief of Detectives Herbert (Dutch) Akers, T. O. (Curley) Evans, policeman, watchman at Belvedere and Holiness preacher.

In order to entrench themselves safely in control of local government, such leading gambling resorts as Belvedere Club and book, Southern Club and book, Kentucky Club and book, and other clubs controlled by the W. S. Jacobs interests, have resorted to the practice of making gifts of large dividends to prominent people of the city, as one of Mr. Jacobs' partners, Mr. Sam Watt, expressed it, "in order to obtain their influence, I suppose." Mr. Watt was reluctant to give the names of these "influential" people, but when forced to answer the question, named the following:

Archie Ledgerwood 25 per cent dividend on Belvedere and Southern Club; L. D. Cooper, wholesaler and former president of Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce; Douglas Hotchkiss, secretary of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, and at that time a member of state racing commission, each of whom were made a present of \$3,375.00, in the year 1936.

We had before us, Archie Ledgerwood, after Mr. Watt, who owns 15 per cent of the Belvedere and Southern, and who is the bookkeeper at Belvedere, had testified that W. S. Jacobs had made a present of 25 per cent interest in these clubs and books to Ledgerwood. Ledgerwood told us a fantastic story about how he came to own this large interest in these two gambling houses.

RE-BREKID

UNITED STATES ARK.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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FEB 23 1937

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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He told us that he returned from El Paso, Texas, in 1931, where he had spent about nine years taking a cure for tuberculosis and went to work for the Jacobs interest at a salary of fifty dollars a week. That after he had worked about one year, Mr. Jacobs was so impressed with his work that he offered to sell him a 25 per cent interest in the "bank roll" of the Belvedere and the Southern clubs for \$15,000. That he went to one Ed Ballard, a famous gambler and broker of gamblers, who lived at West Baden, Indiana, and succeeded in borrowing this large sum of money on his plain note, agreeing to repay Ballard the money, in October, 1936, with 10 per cent interest, and a bonus of 25 per cent of his part of the net earnings of the two clubs and books.

He further stated to us that he repaid this money to Mr. Ballard, while Ballard was on a visit to Hot Springs about October, 1936. Pressed further, he stated that he paid Ballard the large sum of \$20,500.00. Asked if he paid it with a check, he said that he no longer kept money in banks, that he paid this in cash, that he took no receipt, and destroyed the note immediately after it was paid.

Further questioning developed the fact that about two days after Ledgerwood paid this large sum of money, Ballard and a former partner with whom Ballard had previously quarreled were both found shot to death in a room of the Arlington hotel. He stated that the verdict was that the other man killed Ballard and then killed himself. At any rate, no further investigation seems to have been made.

Records of different gambling houses submitted to us, show that

the smaller concerns pay semi-monthly fines of \$100 each, while large establishments like Belvedere and others, where the real money is won and lost, pay no fines. For example, one establishment, operated by George Pakis and others had net earnings last year of approximately \$15,000, and paid these fines twice a month, while the Belvedere with net earnings of \$40,000, after paying enormous salaries running from five dollars to twenty dollars per day, and the Southern Club and book with dividends of \$50,000, last year paid no fines. The Jacobs interests alone, earned net dividends of approximately \$332,000 last year, yet none of his clubs or books paid any fines, according to the records submitted to us by them.

The practice of making large gifts to prominent people and relatives of public officials, the payment of large salaries to policemen and firemen and other "philanthropic" activities of Mr. Jacobs have certainly paid him large returns at the expense of somebody.

#### Political Activities.

The above mentioned alliances between public officials and those who run rough shod over the state's penal laws could not exist in any other sub-division of government in this country. But when we come to consider the system by which these public officials keep themselves in office, a system by which the voice of free people cannot make itself heard or felt at the polls, we can readily understand why such conditions can perpetuate themselves.

The committee called before it the records of the tax collector of Garland county, and the records of the secretary of the democratic county central committee of Garland county.

From those records, we learned that in a county with a population of about 44,000 people, 11,800 poll tax receipts were issued.

Of this number, more than 2,000 were issued upon written order to the tax collector. The records of the secretary of the central committee showed that of the judges and clerks of election, the following were employees of gambling houses: Matt Picchi, Loyd Lemons, Buddy Wakelin, Louis Longinotti, Pat Pollard, Cecil Parker, George Hinkle, Cecil Brock, Norwood Phillips, Gordon Henderson, Jack McJunkin and Floyd Bansk.

The following were also employees of the city or county government: Cecil Brock, Jack McJunkin, Tex Rutherford and two or three others.

Witnesses testified that Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, who seems to dominate the politics of the county called in various employees of the city of Hot Springs and gave them lists of names for whom they were to obtain order for poll tax receipts. That having obtained those orders, receipts were issued by the tax collector, and delivered to the mayor who sent the purchaser of these receipts to the city clerk who in turn paid him the amount he had paid for these receipts. At the proper time these receipts were delivered to the voter whose name appeared thereon, if it was found that such voter could be counted upon to vote the so-called "administration ticket."

It was also shown that on the day before the election was held, in August, 1936, Mayor McLaughlin called a meeting of employees of the city, judges and clerks of election, and other persons identified with the city administration and made them a speech, in which he told them that all employees who did not go down the line for the administration ticket from governor to constable would be looking for a job the morning after the election.

He also asked them to say to all business men of the city that if they wished to do well in their respective businesses, not only they, but their employees had better vote the administration ticket. That af-

ter this meeting, he called those selected to serve as judges and clerks of election to meet him in his private office for instructions as to their duties on election day. What those instructions were, we were unable to find out. We can only conjecture from the results.

The testimony further showed that one man who had an order from one of the candidates for governor not supported by the administration, to watch the count in the Third ward of the city of Hot Springs, as provided by Section 12, of Acts 123, of the acts of the general assembly of 1935, presented his credentials to the judges and clerks in that ward and was admitted, it being thought that he had come from the Little Rock headquarters of the candidate. About midnight, he was recognized by a visitor as a resident of the city, and on one pretense or another, an effort was made to send him down town.

When he informed them that he could not leave the polling place without violating his obligation, and refused to be sent out, he was informed that unless he vacated the polling place, he would be forcibly thrown out. He left. And another man testified that he was engaged in hauling voters to the polls who were supporting an anti-administration candidate, when about two o'clock in the afternoon, he was arrested and thrown into the city jail where he was kept until the next day, when he was released without any charge being filed against him.

While there were 11,800 poll tax receipts issued, only approximately 6,600 votes were cast in that primary election, or about 5,200 voters either stayed at home, did not vote, or their votes were not counted. It is claimed by those opposing the administration, that many good citizens did not attempt to vote for the reason they felt their votes would not be counted, or if counted at all, would be counted for those for whom they did not vote. It was also testified that in some specific instances, business houses operated by those not in sympathy with the local set-up were boycotted. Some members of the committee contacted a number of business and professional people who refused to testify before the committee and give valuable information in their possession for the reason as they

claimed, that it would be dangerous to their persons and to their businesses, and force them to seek a location elsewhere.

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The records of the tax collector of Garland county show that several policemen and officers of the city of Hot Springs bought large groups of poll tax receipts, some of which they were unable to deliver. One policeman bought a list of 175, 39 of which he was unable to deliver for some cause or another, and our investigators were able to get possession of these undelivered receipts and same are now in our possession. These city officials include George McLaughlin, brother of the mayor and clerk of the police court; Mrs. Fannie McLaughlin, city health nurse, Charles Sellars, city policeman, and several others. Also, large lists were purchased by operators of gambling houses, including Roscoe Johnson, closely allied with the W. B. Jacobs interests, and several others.

#### Mistreatment of Prisoners

Your committee had before it, several young women who testified to ill-treatment received at the hands of policemen, while confined in the Hot Springs city jail. One young man from the country near the city, also told of barbarous treatment received by him, while in prison. The testimony of one of the girls was that her downfall was attributable to the Chief of Detectives, one Akers, who she claims seduced her when she was voluntarily in his custody at the city jail. Since that time, she has been sent to the girls' industrial school twice and to the state farm for women several times.

The committee is not unmindful of the fact that these girls' testimony is weakened by their prison records, but call attention to the further fact that the best people seldom get in jail, and in the recent trial of "Lucky" Luciano in New York, after he was extradited from Hot Springs, Prosecutor Dewey convicted and sent him to prison for a period of thirty to fifty years on charges supported only by the evidence of women of this reputation or worse.

Since we have listened to the evidence of witnesses who testified as to the brutal treatment received by one John Dickson, and have seen the pictures of his broken, burned and bleeding body, treatment received at the hands of members of the Hot Springs police force, we see nothing unreasonable in the statement of these girls. One of the policemen accused by some of these girls, T. G. (Curley) Evans, made an affidavit published in the Hot Springs newspapers, in which he denied these charges, and sought to bolster his defense with the pious claim that he is a "Holiness" preacher, yet the records of Belvedere club show that this man is on the pay-roll of that club as a watchman at a salary of \$4.00 a day, or until that place was closed a few days ago.

Prison records nowhere, reveal a case that will compare with the Dickson case, a case no doubt without a parallel in the history of prison systems, yet when it became apparent that this man was going to die, he was denied the privilege of seeing his father, his aunt, or even a doctor, not connected with the city administration.

#### Courts

It is obvious to us, from the facts set out above, that such intolerable conditions could not exist in a community, where the courts function as the constitution and the law contemplates. The law requires that at the opening of each term of the circuit court, the circuit judge shall instruct the grand jury to investigate all treasons, felonies, misdemeanors and breaches of the penal class of which they may have knowledge or may receive information, the law also contemplates that he shall specially instruct them as to felonies which he knows or has reason to know are being practiced in his jurisdiction.

It is inconceivable that the circuit judge of the 18th judicial district would not know that gambling operations which are felonies under our state laws have been carried on in Hot Springs, and Garland county during the 14 years which the present circuit judge has been

on the bench in his district. These are facts which are not only well known to people in all parts of the state, but this information extends throughout the country. Many magazine articles have been published throughout the country calling attention to these conditions and yet nothing has been done about it. The newspapers occasionally call attention to raids made on negro crap games and other small dives, but the records before us show that the larger gambling concerns have been nurtured and encouraged in that jurisdiction. But worse still, evidence has been brought before us, showing that at least one relative of the circuit judge holds a remunerative position with Belvedere and the Southern club.

Other witnesses testified to seeing the circuit judge, Honorable Earl Witt, placing bets on different games at some of these gambling places. Other witnesses have testified to seeing him on the streets of Hot Springs in a drunken condition, and still others testified to seeing him in his courts apparently intoxicated.

A former prosecuting attorney of the district testified that he held a conference with Judge Witt and Mayor McLaughlin soon after the prosecuting attorney took office, in which an agreement was had under which these gambling houses were to operate under quasi-protection of law, on condition that they pay a fine of ten dollars (\$10.00) each

week in municipal court. Later, on complaint that the county was getting no revenue from these houses, it was agreed that they should pay a fine of \$100.00, each month, to the city, and an additional \$100.00, each month, to the county. But the records of Belvedere, and the testimony of its bookkeeper, Mr. Sam Watt, shows that neither Belvedere nor Southern Club ever paid a fine either to the county, or to the city. We wonder if the fact that a brother of the municipal judge and an uncle of the circuit judge both worked for these clubs, and the

further fact that "influential" citizens of the city of Hot Springs, drew large dividends as gifts from these clubs had anything to do with the fact that no fines were ever assessed against them.

Judge Witt was informed by members of this committee on several occasions, that the committee would be glad to give him a hearing at any time he cared to appear before the committee, and one member of the committee made a special trip to Hot Springs to see and confer with him looking to his appearance before us. He found the judge physically indisposed at the time, but was informed that Judge Witt would be able to appear before us later on. Although we remained in session for almost another week, he did not appear, but on the last night on which we met to take testimony, he sent us a short affidavit which was published in the daily press at the time, containing about a dozen lines, the substance of which was: That he had never bet in a gambling house in Hot Springs in his life, and that those who had testified to his drinking and intoxication had been exaggerated. Much of the testimony taken by us and published in the press, concerning his conduct was

not specifically denied, and his defense to the charge of drunkenness would not be accepted as a defense in the trial of a criminal charge of drunkenness in any court of this state.

The courts of this country are the bulwark of a free government and a free people, and when they fail to function, as they seem to have failed in the eighteenth judicial district of Arkansas and especially in Garland county the lives and liberties of the people are in jeopardy.

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ard. The wearer of the judicial ermine, like Caesar's wife, should be above reproach, and the high office of circuit judge should not be prostituted to selfish ends, as it seems has been done in the case of Judge Witt.

1. We found so many things to take up our time in making investigation of conditions in Garland county, that we could not take up the matters set out in house resolution No. 6 as they referred to Montgomery county. We had some testimony before us that slot machines were being operated in the county but were taken out soon after we began our work. Court records also reveal some bad conditions in the county with reference to shortages in county accounts, and possibly some laxity on the part of the court in properly looking after county affairs, but to go fully into all matters that were brought to our attention would have required more time than the committee had at our disposal, and for this reason we had little time to give to the Montgomery county situation. We recommend, however, that if the laws of the state have been violated in this regard, the prosecuting attorney, should take proper action at the proper time.

2. This committee has exercised all the power given us by law to obtain the testimony of witnesses and records of gambling houses and of the tax collector of Garland county, the city clerk of Hot Springs and the secretary of the Democratic County Central committee of Garland county. All these officials have been courteous and prompt in complying with our requests, and have been of much help in getting the records we needed. The mayor has given us little information concerning his property and records of his income, confining this information to his income tax report for 1935, his Garland county tax receipt, and his bank statement for about two months of 1936.

3. We cannot too strongly condemn the cruel and inhuman practices of the police and other officials of Hot Springs in their treatment of prisoners who are unfortunate enough to fall into their clutches. We do not confine this condemnation to the police officials alone, for in the Dickson case, in particular, the circuit judge, the mayor of Hot Springs, the municipal judge, and the city physician are guilty of either wanton neglect of their duties, or of actual non-feasance in failing to give this case proper attention after same was called to their attention. We think that this crime can only be corrected by having the present judge vacate the bench, allow the gov-

ernor to appoint a special judge and a special prosecuting attorney prosecute, let the judge appointed for that purpose appoint new jury commissioners, let a new grand jury be empaneled, a new investigation be made of the whole situation, embracing violation of the gambling laws which are made felons under the statutes, misfeasance and non-feasance in office on the part of the mayor of Hot Springs, the municipal judge, the chief of police, the chief of detectives, the sheriff of Garland county and the former sheriff of Garland county, the mistreatment of prisoners, not only in the Dickson case, but any others that may come to their attention and that he continue to preside until said cases are tried and finally disposed of.

That the acting prosecuting attorney prosecute these cases to a final conclusion, and in order that he be not hindered in his work, the sheriff of the county should disqualify and let the judge appointed above, appoint a special sheriff to bring in witnesses and summon jurors that may be needed. We see no other way in which a just, fair and impartial investigation may be had as to misconduct on the part of local officials in Garland county and the city of Hot Springs. This committee has no power under the law to impeach local officers, and we are fully convinced that only by the method outlined above, can be expected a sweeping investigation of law violation in the 18th judicial district.

As to the circuit judge, that is an entirely different matter.

4. Article 15, sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas provides that all state officials, the governor, judges of the supreme and circuit courts, chancellors and prosecuting attorneys shall be liable to impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct in office, but the judgment shall go no further than removal from office and disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust or profit in this state. These sections also provide that the house of representatives shall have sole power of impeachment, and the impeachment shall be tried by the senate. They also provide that the governor upon a joint address of two-thirds of the members elected to each house of the general assembly for a good cause may remove judges of the supreme court and circuit court, chancellors, and prosecuting attorneys.

5. Chapter 88 of Crawford and Moses' digest provides the method of procedure in impeachment of all public officers. The general assembly of 1913, undertook to provide a method by which prosecuting attorneys and other officers might be indicted and removed from office but the supreme court of this state later decided that this statute was in conflict with the constitutional provisions above cited, hence we have no method by which constitutional officers may be reached except by impeachment in the manner provided by these provisions of the constitution.

#### Recommendations.

We recommend that articles of impeachment be voted by this House against Earl Witt who was regularly elected and qualified and is now acting as circuit judge of the 18th judicial district of the State of Arkansas for high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct in office committee as follows, to-wit:

Article 1: The said Earl Witt, judge of the 18th judicial circuit of Arkansas, as aforesaid, is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors in office and should be impeached and removed therefrom because of having brought his office into disrespect and disrepute by appearing in public places in the City of Hot Springs upon numerous occasions while under the influence of intoxicating liquors to such an extent that he has lost the normal control of his mental and physical faculties, thereby being drunk in public places.

Article 2: That the said Earl Witt, judge of the 18th judicial district of Arkansas, is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct in office to such an extent as to bring his court into disrespect and disrepute in that he appeared in his said court in a drunken and intoxicated condition during the trial of a case in the city of Hot Springs in the courthouse of Garland county while serving on the bench as the judge of said court during the trial of a case then pending and being tried in said court styled and known as Jordan vs. Woodcock and Lawson.

Article 3: That the said Earl Witt, judge of the 18th judicial circuit of Arkansas, is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct in office in that he knew or by the exercise of ordinary diligence or reasonable investigation that many gambling houses as defined and declared by the status of the state of Arkansas to be unlawful were being operated in Gar-

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land county, Arkansas, which county is embraced in the 18th judicial district over a long period of time during the tenure of office and the said Earl Witt failed, neglected and/or refused to issued his order to some constable, policeman or sheriff within his jurisdiction to make a search and seize the gambling devices being then and there contained and used in said gambling houses located in his district as aforesaid and publicly burn the same as the law of the state of Arkansas required and makes mandatory of a circuit judge, therefore being guilty of malfeasance and gross misconduct and bring his court into disrepute and disrespect and thereby aiding and encouraging a general breakdown of the laws of the State of Arkansas in his judicial district and in further failing, neglecting and/or refusing to instruct the grand juries which have been empaneled in Garland county respecting the laws relating to gaming.

Article 4: That the said Earl Witt, judge of the 18th judicial district is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct in office in that it was publicly and judicially called to his attention and charges were made by the filing of certain election contest cases in his court as judge of the 18th judicial district of Arkansas that gross misconduct by the election officials

who conducted certain primary elections held and conducted in county on the 11th day of August, 1936, and certain candidates in said election before and on the day of the holding of said election were guilty of gross violations of the election laws of the State of Arkansas and gross misconduct and fraud in the conduct of said election and the said Earl Witt, judge as aforesaid failed/or refused to call the attention of the grand jury to the said charges when the same convened after they were judicially called to and/or refused to instruct said grand jury concerning the laws regarding the charges aforementioned

Article 5: That the said Earl Witt, judge of the 18th judicial circuit, is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct because of the charges specified and set out in articles 1, 2, 3 and 4 hereof, thereby bringing his court into disrepute and disrespect and lending aid therefore to a general breakdown of the laws of the state of Arkansas.

After having completed our labors, we desire to thank the members of the House for their many kind suggestions which we have received from time to time and for their patience with us while we have sincerely labored at a great sacrifice of time and with great hardship to ourselves to make as fair, full and complete investigation as it was possible for us to make during the limited time we have labored in this matter.

Very sincerely,  
Chairman, W. M. Thompson  
Vice-Chairman, Fred Jones.  
Secretary, Lee Nichols.  
Ike Murry.  
Pat Robinson.

THE SENTINEL-RECORD  
HOT SPRINGS  
ARKANSAS  
FEBRUARY-19-1937.

= RE: BREKID =

(PAGE # 5)

HOT SPRINGS, (ARK.) NEW ERA

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 19, 1937.

## UNDER THE DOME AT LITTLE ROCK

Little Rock, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Steaks may prove to be the deciding factor in the location of the state highway department's divisional shops, now located in Wynne.

State Senator E. C. (Tuck) Gathings, West Memphis, this week admitted—that he had been buying steak dinners for other members of the upper house as a part of his lobbying efforts to have the shops moved to Forrest City.

"Sure I have been buying steak dinners for some of the senators. I want their good will when the question of moving the shops comes up," Gathings said.

Observers were of the opinion, though, that Gathings' efforts were to repay St. Francis county for the support given him in the primary election of 1934, when he was elected, while others took it to mean that the West Memphis senator was building his fences for re-election in 1938.

While Gathings bought steak dinners for fellow members, Senator J. L. (Beck) Shaver, Wynne, occupied his time in aiding Governor Carl E. Bailey in shaping his legislative program and depending upon gubernatorial favor to keep the shops at Wynne.

Shaver served as an intermediary in settling the legislative dispute between the governor and the lieutenant governor and he is reported to be the one who originated the compromise move.

The long predicted split in the House of Representatives investigating committee on gambling and law violation in Garland and Montgomery counties was shown when two reports were filed by the five man board.

The minority report was signed by Representative Pat Robinson of Lewisville and James Fred Jones of Mount Ida, while the committee chairman William Thompson of Batesville, Ike Murry, Fordyce, and Lee Nichols, Booneville, signed the majority report.

The Thompson-Murry-Nichols report asked that Circuit Judge Earl Witt be impeached for misconduct in office.

The Jones-Robinson report commented on the selection of witnesses and asked why a larger number of persons who might have given the investigators information were not called.

The minority report suggested to the House, that the investigation be dropped.

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LITTLE ROCK, ARK.	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
FEB 23 1937	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
ROUTE TO	FILE

# PLACING JUDGE — EARL WITT ON TRIAL FAVORED

## Probers' Report To Committee.

**Impeachment of Circuit Judge Earl Witt of Hot Springs, was recommended to the House yesterday by a majority of the Special Committee appointed to investigate alleged laxity of law enforcement in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, but a minority report was filed contending that evidence did not justify the recommendation.**

The reports were referred to the Judiciary Committee by Speaker Bransford. Chairman Carlton Harris of Jefferson, said hearing would be held next week in the House chamber, the time to be announced later.

Other members are:  
Kenneth Coffelt, Saline, vice chairman.

Golden Blount, White.  
Ben D. Brickhouse, Pulaski.  
Russell J. Baxter, Drew.  
John K. Buft, Carroll.  
Claude Cowart, Baxter.  
John W. Cloer, Washington.  
John E. Coates Jr., Pulaski.  
S. A. Gooch, Cross.  
Robert L. Kendrick, Franklin.  
Herman Horton, Craighead.  
Keelin Anthony, Jefferson.  
G. P. Houston, Cleburne.  
James Fred Jones, Montgomery.  
Woody Murrey, Boone.  
Lyman Mikel, Sebastian.  
E. L. McHaney Jr., Pulaski.  
I. T. ("Ike") Murry, Dallas.  
J. Frank Holmes, Washington.  
Jack Machen, Columbia.  
A. B. Arbaugh, Newton.  
C. C. Raley, Clay.  
J. Ford Smith, Woodruff.  
Max Smith, Cleveland.  
Boyd Tackett, Pike.  
William M. Thompson, Independence.  
John R. Vesly, Hempstead.  
W. L. Ward, Lee.  
Robert H. Wood, Izard.  
Carl E. Wright, Clark.  
Ivy W. Crawford, Mississippi.  
Means Wilkinson, Sebastian.  
Russell C. Roberts, Faulkner.

It was conceded that the recommendation of the Judiciary Committee would have an important effect on the action of the House.

On the bill seeking to repeal legalized race track gambling last week, the committee members split, 16 to 16 with two absent or not voting. The vote was:

For — Blount, Butt, Cloer, Coffelt, Gooch, Horton, Houston, Woody Murray, Ike Murray, Raley, Roberts, Thompson, Wilkinson, Wood, Wright, Wilkinson.

Against—Brickhouse, Baxter, Cowart, Coates, Kendrick, Anthony, Jones, Mikel, McHaney, Machen, Arbaugh, J. Ford Smith, Max Smith, Tackett, Ward, Crawford.

Absent or not voting—Holmes and Vesey.

The majority report recommending Judge Witt's impeachment was signed by Representatives W. M. Thompson of Independence county, Lee Nichols of Logan and I. T. ("Ike") Murry of Dal-

Pat Robinson of Lafayette, and James Fred Jones of Montgomery, signed the minority report.

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PLACING JUDGE  
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## PLACING JUDGE EARL WITT ON TRIAL FAVORED

(Continued from Page 1.)

will have access to the Investigating Committee's records, should recommend adoption of the majority report, "I will see that every member of this House has an opportunity to study the full report." If the House should vote impeachment proceedings, the case would be tried before the Senate, with the chief justice of the Supreme Court as the presiding officer.

### Report Charges Many Offenses to Judge Witt.

The majority report said that Judge Witt should be impeached on the following grounds:

"That he had brought his office into disrepute by 'being drunk in public places.'"

"That he had appeared in his court in a drunken condition in the trial of a case known as Jordan vs. Woodcock and Lawson."

"That he made no attempt to check gambling in Hot Springs although he must have known that it existed."

"That he made no effort to punish Hot Springs residents guilty of violating the law in last summer's Democratic state primary."

As proof that Judge Witt could not have been ignorant of the fact that open gambling was going on in Hot Springs, in defiance of the law, the report said:

"A former prosecuting attorney of the district testified that he held a conference with Judge Witt and Mayor McLaughlin soon after the prosecuting attorney took office, in which an agreement was had under which these gambling houses were to operate under quasi sanction of law, on condition that they pay a fine of \$10 each week in Municipal Court. Later, on complaint that the county was getting no revenue from these houses, it was agreed that they should pay a fine of \$100 each month to the city, and an additional \$100 each month to the county. But the records of Belvedere, and the testimony of its bookkeeper, Mr. Sam Watt, shows that neither Belvedere nor Southern Club ever paid a fine either to the county or to the city. We wonder if the fact that a brother of the municipal judge and an uncle of the circuit judge both worked for these clubs, and the further fact that 'influential' citizens of the city of Hot Springs, drew large dividends as gifts from these clubs had anything to do with the fact that no fines were ever assessed against them."

After describing conditions in Hot Springs as "intolerable," the committee majority said that it appeared obvious that such conditions could not exist in a community where the courts function as the constitution and the law contemplate. The report said that it was inconceivable that Judge Witt should not have known that gambling operations were being carried on during the 14 years that he has been on the bench. It called attention to the fact that the judge's uncle, P. C. Witt, was employed by the Club Belvedere, a gambling resort just outside Hot Springs.

### Calls Attention To Gambling Houses' Pay Rolls.

Much of the report was devoted to a review of testimony that previously had been published.

It said that policemen, firemen and other employees of the city and county as well as "relatives of prominent officials of the district, county and city are employed and on the pay roll of these gambling houses."

In addition to Judge Witt's uncle, the report listed Archie Ledgerwood, brother of Municipal Judge Verne S. Ledgerwood; Mrs. Herbert Akers, wife of the Hot Springs chief of detectives; and T. G. ("Curly") Evans, policeman, watchman at the Club Belvedere and Holiness preacher.

The report pronounced "fantastic" the story by Archie Ledgerwood as to how he acquired a large and extremely profitable interest in two gambling houses.

### Report Tells of Mr. Jacobs' Many 'Philanthropies.'

The report called attention to the different treatment accorded large and small gambling houses. It said that the smaller establishments paid semi-monthly fines of \$100 each while large establishments like the Belvedere paid no fines.

The report said that "the Jacobs interests alone earned net dividends of approximately \$332,000 last year, yet none of his clubs or books paid any fines, ac-

cording to the records submitted to us by them. The practice of making large gifts to prominent people and relatives of public officials and the payment of large salaries to policemen and firemen and other "philanthropic" activities of Mr. Jacobs certainly have paid large dividends at the expense of somebody."

It continues:

"In order to entrench themselves safely in control of local government, such leading gambling resorts as Belvedere Club and book, Southern Club and book, Kentucky Club and book, and other clubs controlled by the W. S. Jacobs interests, have resorted to the practice of making gifts of large dividends to prominent people of the city, as one of Mr. Jacobs' partners, Sam Watt, expressed it, 'in order to obtain their influence, I suppose.' Mr. Watt was reluctant to give the names of these 'influential' people, but when forced to answer the question, named the following: Archie Ledgerwood, 25 per cent dividend on Belvedere and Southern Club; L. D. Cooper, wholesaler and former president of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce; Douglas Hotchkiss, secretary of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and at that time a member of the state Racing Commission, each of whom were made a present of \$3,375 in 1936."

### Fraud in Conduct Of Elections Charged.

The report denounced the "system by which these public officials keep themselves in office, a system by which the voice of a free people cannot make itself heard or felt at the polls."

It said that the records showed that in Garland county, with about 44,000 population, 11,000 poll tax receipts were issued. It said that records of the secretary of the Garland county Democratic Committee showed that many of those who acted as judges and clerks in the August primary were employees of gambling houses.

It continued:

"Witnesses testified that Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, who seems to dominate the politics of the county, called in various employees of the city and gave them lists of names for whom they were to obtain order for poll tax receipts. That having obtained these orders, receipts were issued by the tax collector and delivered to the mayor, who sent the purchaser of these receipts to the city clerk, who in turn paid him the amount he had paid for these receipts. At the proper time these receipts were delivered to the voter whose name appeared thereon, if it was found that such voter could be counted upon to vote the so-called 'administration ticket.'"

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"It was also shown that on the day before the election was held, in August, 1936, Mayor McLaughlin called a meeting of employees of the city, judges and clerks of election, and other persons identified with the city administration and made them a speech, in which he told them that all employees who did not go down the line for the administration ticket from governor to constable would be looking for a job the morning after the election. He also asked them to say to all business men of the city that if they wished to do well in their respective businesses, not only they, but their employees had better vote the administration ticket. That after this meeting, he called those selected to serve as judges and clerks of election to meet him in his private office for instructions as to their duties on election day. What those instructions were, we were unable to find out. We can only conjecture from the results.

"While there were 11,800 poll tax receipts issued, only approximately 6,600 votes were cast in that primary election, or about 5,200 voters either stayed at home, did not vote, or their votes were not counted. It is claimed by those opposing the administration that many good citizens did not attempt to vote for the reason they felt their votes would not be counted, or if counted at all, would be counted for those for whom they did not vote.

#### **Takes Cognizance of Charges Of Terrorism.**

The committee took cognizance of charges that the McLaughlin administration employs a system of terrorism in the following language:

"We were greatly handicapped at first, by the attitude of those being investigated and those citizens who would be benefited by such investigation. The report was freely circulated about Hot Springs that no real investigation was contemplated, and that the city officials and gambling interests would be able to block the investigation. In view of existing conditions, many of those who could have given valuable testimony, feared to do so, or at least expressed such fear because of the dread of reprisals on the part of the lawless element of the city, as well as on the part of those in authority. It was not until the agents of the Revenue Department had raided the leading gambling houses of Hot Springs did both sides become convinced that the committee was in earnest. From that time, the task of getting witnesses to testify became much simpler."

In another place, the report says:

"It was also testified that in some specific instances, business houses operated by those not in sympathy with the local set-up were boycotted. Some members of the committee contacted a number of business and professional people who refused to testify before the committee and give valuable information in their possession for the reason as they claimed, that it would be dangerous to their persons and to their businesses, and force them to seek a location elsewhere."

The majority also called attention to charges that Hot Springs police have been guilty of gross brutality and immorality and stressed the case of John Dickson who was shown by an autopsy to have suffered terrible injuries while he was a prisoner of the Hot Springs police.

#### **Investigation of All Hot Springs Officials Urged.**

As a remedy for present conditions in Hot Springs, the committee recommended:

"We cannot too strongly condemn the cruel and inhuman practices of the police and other officials of Hot Springs in their treatment of prisoners who are unfortunate enough to fall into their clutches. We do not confine this condemnation to the police officials alone, for in the Dickson case, in particular, the circuit judge, the mayor, the municipal judge, and the city physician are guilty of either wanton neglect of their duties, or of actual non-feasance in failing to give this case proper attention after same was called to their attention. We think that this crime can only be corrected by having the present judge vacate the bench, allow the governor to appoint a special judge and a special prosecuting attorney to prosecute, let the judge appointed for that purpose appoint new jury commissioners, let a new Grand Jury be empaneled, a new investigation be made

of the whole situation, embracing violation of the gambling laws which are made felonies under the statutes, misfeasance and non-feasance in office on the part of the mayor, the municipal judge, the chief of police, the chief of detectives, the sheriff and the former sheriff, the mistreatment of prisoners, not only in the Dickson case, but any others that may come to their attention and that he continue to preside until said cases are tried and finally disposed of. That the acting prosecuting attorney prosecute these cases to a final conclusion, and in order that he be not hindered in his work, the sheriff of the county should disqualify and let the judge appointed as above, appoint a special sheriff to bring in witnesses and summon jurors that may be needed. We see no other way in which a just, fair and impartial investigation may be had as to misconduct on the part of local officers in Garland county and the city of Hot Springs. This committee has no power under the law to impeach local officers, and we are fully convinced that only by the method outlined above, can we expect a sweeping investigation of law violation in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit.

#### **No Time to Investigate Montgomery County.**

The report dismissed the Montgomery county situation by saying that it had not had time to properly investigate the situation there although there was evidence of bad conditions in the county's government. The report recommended that the prosecuting attorney take proper action.



### Judge Witt Treated Unfairly, Minority Charges.

The minority report, signed by Representatives Jones and Robinson, said that the two legislators found that gambling had been conducted openly in Hot Springs but that "no testimony was offered the committee that Judge Witt had any connection with the gambling interests in Garland county and we know of no law holding any man responsible for the conduct of his less fortunate relations."

The minority said: "We feel that the witnesses brought before the committee were carefully selected for the sole purpose of attempting to impeach the circuit judge."

The report said that although two former jurors said that they had seen Judge Witt under the influence of intoxicating liquors while presiding over his court, none of the other 22 jurors who served on these two cases were brought before the committee, although their names were known to the committee.

The report called attention to the testimony of a witness who was an avowed opponent of Judge Witt and who testified that he had lived in Hot Springs 60 years, he never had seen the judge intoxicated nor did he bear such a reputation."

The minority said that the committee had before it signatures of 54 persons who, while serving on grand juries, had heard Judge Witt charge the grand juries specifically as to the gambling laws.

It called attention to the fact that after Judge Witt assumed office, fines for gambling were increased to those provided by law.

The report said that: "We are unable to connect Judge Witt with any election irregularities that may have existed in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit."

The report called attention to the expense of carrying out recommendations of the committee majority would be large and recommended that further action be indefinitely postponed.



*The Commercial Appeal*  
*Memphis, Tenn.*  
*Feb. 22, 1937*

## LEADERS HINT ACTION TO DROP WITT TRIAL, HOT SPRINGS INQUIRY

House Indicates Impeachment  
Proceedings May Be 'Indefinitely Postponed'

### ACTION EXPECTED TODAY

Jammed Calendar, Lack of  
Funds Given as Reasons

### TO HAVE NIGHT SESSIONS

Hearing for Jurist Would Cost  
\$100,000, Political Heads  
Say—Only \$60 Now in Con-  
tingent Fund

BY W. D. SISSON

From The Commercial Appeal  
Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, Feb. 21.—Reliable sources indicated here tonight that further investigation of reported lawless conditions in Hot Springs, including any impeachment proceedings against Judge Earl Witt, will be indefinitely postponed tomorrow by the House of Representatives.

The House voted Friday to devote Monday to consideration of the two reports of the House committees investigating conditions in the eighteenth judicial district, of which Hot Springs is a part. The majority report, signed by three members, recommended impeachment charges against Judge Witt, while the minority report signed by two members asked indefinite postponement.

### House Calendar Jammed

Political leaders said tonight that a resolution will be introduced tomorrow asking that action be indefinitely postponed on the grounds that less than three weeks of the session remain with many important bills still demanding consideration. The calendar is so jammed that night sessions will be started tomorrow night in an effort to clear the more important bills still pending.

Lack of money in the House contingent fund is another reason for asking postponement. Less than \$60 remains, and it is estimated conservatively that an impeachment trial would cost at least \$100,000. Judge Witt would be privileged to appear with counsel and his witnesses. It is said trial of the charges would take at least two weeks.

### Report Charged Drunkenness

The majority report of the committee recommended impeachment on grounds that Judge Witt has been seen on the streets of Hot Springs in an intoxicated condition; that he conducted court while under the influence of liquor; that he failed to act on charges of law violations in the last Democratic primary, and that he allowed gambling to run wide open in Hot Springs.

The minority report said that witnesses appearing before the committee were carefully selected and their testimony sifted before they were allowed to appear, and that charges against Judge Witt were not sustained.

When the resolution asking investigation of Hot Springs was voted in the first week of the present session sentiment was overwhelmingly in favor of the investigation but it is known to have undergone a decided change during the past few weeks.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 23 1937
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ROUTED TO

### Probe Appears Shelved

There is every indication that the Arkansas House of Representatives will shelve the impeachment proceedings against Circuit Judge Witt growing out of the recent investigation of vice conditions in Hot Springs.

The attitude seems to be that with only three weeks of the session to go and with much legislation to be considered, the House does not want to push a situation that could result at most in the removal of one officer—and there have been many complaints that the hearing resulting in a majority committee report for impeachment was a closed proposition.

Moreover, some legislators feel that the spotlight has been turned on the conditions as they existed, that the good people of Hot Springs are aroused and the salutary effect the investigation has had is sufficient without making a "goat" out of Judge Witt.

In other words, the legislature is about to bow out and put it right back in the hands of voters of Hot Springs. But civic conscience is lulled as time elapses. There is left only the flimsy hope that the men who permitted conditions to exist that brought on brutal beating of prisoners and countenanced open vice have been impressed with the proceedings. That assumption, however, demands more credulity than most of us have to spare.

**MRS. HENRY S. YOKUM,**  
325 West Oak St.  
**EL DORADO, ARK.**



**STATE OFFICE**  
Room 334 Donaghey Bldg.  
**LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

25050

Hot Springs Arkansas  
February 25, 1937

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover  
Chief of Bureau, Investigation  
United States Department Justice  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The inclosed clipping from this morning's issue of our state's leading newspaper prompts me to bring to your attention a number of recent developments in connection with the reign of crime, corruption and terror in our National Park. The other inclosed newspaper clippings will serve to give you the story better than I could repeat it. This morning's news story as you will see draws the Federal Government into our picture, even though it may be a vain and impractical hope.

That there are aspects of this whole situation, such as evasions of income Taxes by the ones receiving the large pay off, and the harboring of national criminals here ( who were being sought by the Federal Government) that should command more attention from the Federal Government many of us are convinced. You, though may know far more about this than we do. The point just now is that with efforts to get some action ~~making~~ that will make possible the breaking up of official corruption at some point so that the paralysis of our courts will be lifted, we are turning to you for some help. - We have taken you at your word as quoted from your address before the New York Herald Tribune Conference last March, in which you said, " Just so long as there is no highly active opposition to crime in a community, just so long will that community be crime ridden." About a dozen of us here, jeopardizing our lives, our businesses, our future have furnished the active opposition. We have been persecuted, censured by the local newspapers ( which are owned by the same publisher and who is an agent of the corrupt administration) for befouling our own " fair city" which is so notoriously known from one end of the continent to the other as " the Haven of the criminal and friend of the felon". We have done everything that we possibly could to aid the committee who did the investigating. Their report as you will see from the inclosed Post Dispatch account furnished sufficient evidence for the ~~charges~~ charges of impeachment, but note the complete reversal in vote. It would take more than a page to give you all the reasons for this. The accepted expalnation on the streets of Hot Springs is " the use of money"

**RECORDED & INDEXED**

Now, you are probably wondering in all this account what we want you to do. We feel, following this morning's newspaper story, that it would have a very salutary effect if you continued on

*Eleanor B. Roseman*      *Hot Springs Arkansas*

---

\* *Hot Springs Arkansas*      *Linger Till*  
\* *Hot Springs Arkansas*      *Black*

*Leah*      *Hot Springs Arkansas*

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\* *Hot Springs Arkansas*      *Linger Till*  
\* *Hot Springs Arkansas*      *Black*

the scene down here, even for just one day, and even though you didn't do a thing but get some information. The full import of the whole situation cannot be told you in letter. The one thing this arrogant, ruthless and brutal political machine fears above everything else is the Federal Government. They think that the fact that you have done nothing up to the present time, ~~is a pretty good indication that you are going to continue to let them alone.~~ There are lawyers and others here who can supply you with an amazing amount of information, included among them if the Superintendent of our National Park.

Wont you give us a little encouragement?

May I hear from you at once?

25051

Sincerely yours,

*Murel Wood*

Mrs. Scott Wood  
box 315  
Hot Springs Arkansas

I am now past president of the Arkansas Congress of Parents & Teachers, having served 4 years the limit of time allowed by our By-Laws. My husband is an ex circuit judge, having served two terms, and voluntarily retiring from office 15 years ago to renew his legal practice. He has always been on the side of law enforcement (and so conduct his court) and an enemy of the criminal, the racketeer and gangster or thief.

acknowledged and  
forwarded  
to see if any foot  
prints could be  
found

EW 1/137



...a special grand jury be assembled under a temporary Circuit Judge and a prosecutor named by the Governor to investigate gambling, alleged mistreatment of city jail prisoners, and the official conduct of Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, the Municipal Judge, Chief of Police, Chief of Detectives, and the present and former Sheriff of Garland County.

Judge Witt, at Hot Springs, declined to comment. Speaker of the House John Bransford referred both majority and minority reports to the Judiciary Committee.

#### Gambling in Hot Springs.

"We seriously doubt if there is a city anywhere that deals with the gambling problem as it is dealt with in Hot Springs," the majority report said. For the last several years not only has no effort been made to enforce the anti-gambling laws, but officials have boldly taken the view that gambling is an industry necessary to the health, peace and safety of Hot Springs and Garland County."

Gambling houses operated openly, the committee found, under a system of fine payment that amounted to licensing. A former Prosecuting Attorney of Garland County was quoted as saying that after he took office he attended a conference with Judge Witt and Mayor McLaughlin, agreeing that gambling houses would be allowed to operate under quasi sanction of the law on condition that they pay a fine of \$10 a week in Municipal Court. Later, when complaint was made that the county was receiving no revenue, the "fines" were changed to \$200 a month for each establishment and divided by the city and county.

However, the Belvedere, most elaborate of the numerous gambling places, and the Southern Club, both operated by the R. S. Jacobs interests, which paid such handsome "dividends" to the brother of the Municipal Judge and to the Chamber of Commerce officials, was not found to have paid "fines."

#### "Dividends" for Influence.

Information about such "dividends" was obtained by the committee from Sam Watt, partner of Jacobs and bookkeeper for the Jacobs establishments, who reluctantly testified that they were paid "in order to obtain their influence, I suppose."

Whereas Bookkeeper Watt told the committee Jacobs had made a

Governor to appoint a special Judge and a special Prosecuting Attorney, let the Judge appointed for that purpose appoint new jury commissioners, and let a new grand jury be impaneled so that a complete investigation may be made of the whole situation."

The report then recommended that articles of impeachment be voted against Judge Witt for "high crimes, misdemeanors and gross misconduct in office."

The report also included charges that young woman prisoners in the Hot Springs jail were abused by policemen and that one such policeman was employed as a gambling house watchman.

The investigating committee was appointed four weeks ago. While it was in session, the State Revenue Department, under a State Supreme Court order, raided Hot Springs gambling houses and seized and burned gambling equipment valued at \$15,000.

The majority report was signed by Representatives W. M. Thompson, chairman; Lee Nichols and Ike Murray. Those dissenting were Representatives Pat Robinson and Fred Jones.

#### Majority Report in Detail.

The majority report of the committee says:

"In the City of Hot Springs, for the last several years, not only has there been no effort made to enforce the anti-gambling laws of this State, but officials have boldly taken the view that gambling is an industry necessary to the health, peace and safety of Hot Springs and Garland County. We find from the city records furnished us by the leading gambling clubs, and books of the city and county, that policemen, firemen and other employees of the city and county, as well as relatives of prominent officials of the district, county and city are employed and on the payroll of these gambling houses. These employees consist among others of the following: P. A. Witt, uncle of Circuit Judge Earl Witt; Archie Ledgerwood, brother of Municipal Judge Verne S. Ledgerwood; Mrs. Herbert Akers, wife of Chief of Detectives Herbert (Dutch) Akers; T. O. (Curley) Evans, policeman, watchman at Belvedere and holiness preacher.

houses submitted to us, show that the smaller concerns pay semi-monthly fines of \$100 each, while large establishments like the Belvedere and others, where the real money is won and lost, pay no fines. For example, one establishment, operated by George Pakis and others, had net earnings last year of approximately \$15,000. And paid these fines twice a month, while Belvedere with net earnings of \$40,000, after paying enormous salaries running from \$5 to \$20 per day, and the Southern Club and book with dividends of \$50,000, last year paid no fines.

"The Jacobs interests alone earned net dividends of approximately \$332,000 last year, yet none of his clubs or books paid any fines according to the records submitted to us by them. The practice of making large gifts to prominent people and relatives of public officials, the payment of large salaries to policemen and firemen and other 'philanthropic' activities of Mr. Jacobs have certainly paid him large returns at the expense of somebody.

#### Job for Election Judges.

"The above mentioned alliances between public officials and those who run rough-shod over the State's penal laws could not exist in any other sub-division of government in this country.

"But when we come to consider the system by which these public officials keep themselves in office, a system by which the voice of free people cannot make itself heard or felt at the polls, we can readily understand why such conditions can perpetuate themselves.

"The committee called before it the records of the tax collector of Garland County, and the records of the secretary of the Democratic County Central Committee of Garland County. From those records, we learned that in a county with a population of about 44,000 people, 11,800 poll tax receipts were issued. Of this number, more than 2000 were issued upon written order to the tax collector.

"The records of the secretary of the Central Committee showed that the judges and clerks of election, the following were employees of gambling houses: Matt Picchi, Loyd Lemons, Buddy Wakelin, Louis Longinotti, Pat Pollard, Cecil Parker, George Hinkle, Cecil Brock, Norwood Phillips, Gordon Henderson, Jack McJunkin and Lloyd Banski. The following were also employees of the city or county government: Cecil Brock, Jack McJunkin, Tex Rutherford and two or three others.

ed. It is claimed by those opposed to the administration that many good citizens did not attempt to vote for the reason they felt their votes would not be counted, or if counted at all, would be counted for those for whom they did not vote.

"It was also testified that in some specific instances, business houses operated by those not in sympathy with the local set-up were boycotted. Some members of the committee contacted a number of business and professional people, who refused to testify before the committee and give valuable information in their possession for the reason that they claimed, that it would be dangerous to their persons and to their businesses, and would force them to seek a location elsewhere.

"The records of the Tax Collector of Garland County show that several policemen and officers of the city of Hot Springs bought large groups of poll tax receipts, some of which they were unable to deliver.

"One policeman bought a list of 175, 39 of which he was unable to deliver for some cause of another, and our investigators were able to get possession of these undelivered receipts and same are now in our possession. These city officials include George McLaughlin, brother of the Mayor and clerk of the Police Court, Mrs. Fannie McLaughlin, city health nurse; Charles Sellers, city policeman, and several others. Also, large lists were purchased by operators of gambling houses, including Roscoe Johnson, closely allied with the W. S. Jacobs interests, and several others.

#### Mistreatment of Prisoners.

"Your committee had before it several young women who testified to ill-treatment received at the hands of policemen while confined in the Hot Springs City jail. One young man from the country near the city, also told of barbarous treatment received by him, while in prison.

"The testimony of one of the girls was that her downfall was attributable to the Chief of Detectives, one Akers, who she claims seduced her when she was voluntarily in his custody at the City Jail. Since that time, she has been sent to the girls' industrial school twice and to the State Farm for Women several times.

"One of the policemen accused by some of these girls, T. G. (Curly) Evans, made an affidavit published in the Hot Springs news papers, in which he denied these charges, and sought to bolster his defense with the pious claim that he is a 'Holiness' preacher, yet the records of Belvedere Club show that this man is on the payroll of that club as a watchman at a salary of \$5 a day, or until that place was closed a few days ago.



We Will Do Our Part.

# Arkansas Gazette



Registered U S Patent Office.

VOL. 118—NO. 98.

CONFESSION ROCK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1937.—TWENTY-TWO PAGES.

FEDERAL  
AT HOT SPRINGS  
TO BE SOUGHT

Committee Would



Puckett, Sr., Edward White and Calvin Wilkens.

The role of the Demoniac will be carried by John Allen Wilkins. The archangels Gabriel and Raphael will be played by Thomas Pepper and Adolph Lefton. The role of Blind Bartimaeus will be played by Erskine Bottoms, the part of Calaphas, the high priest, by James Edward Johnson, and that of Nicodemus by Nathan Jones. The role of Pontius Pilate will be carried by Dr. Harry R. Freeman.

The Angel Grace will be played by Melvis Bullocks; the Angel Mercy by Katie Phipps; while Justice will be carried by Jordan M. Horne. The Virgin Mary will be played by Myrtle B. Stilson; Simon the Cyrenian, by Dougle Wilson, and the penitent thief by Jerome



**BRR!**  
**Momma!**  
**to varn**

Hot Springs authorities scoffed today at reports federal control of the city may be sought as an aftermath of the legislative investigation.

The Gazette said the legislature may be asked to extend the boundaries of Hot Springs National Park to include all of the city of Hot Springs and to turn over to the federal government jurisdiction to police the entire area.

"Under the proposed plan," reported the newspaper, "the state would relinquish to the federal government police powers in the national park area and presumably law enforcement would be turned over to the United States Department of Justice."

This development followed a visit of a delegation of Hot Springs citizens to Gov. Carl E. Bailey's office after the house of representatives discarded a Hot Springs law enforcement investigation.

The thought is silly and foolish, Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin of Hot Springs commented on extension of the park boundaries to include the city of more than 20,000 population. He would not discuss the matter further.

Superintendent Libbey declared last night the plan is "stunning in its magnitude," adding he had no knowledge of what the attitude of the government would be.

"I have no authority to commit the United States government on such a proposition," he said.

He reported a Hot Springs committee attempted to call upon him last night but said no contact was made.

Hot Springs National Park is the nation's oldest federal reservation. It recently was enlarged under a government act and now covers 1,009 square acres or slightly more than one and a half square miles. The park has been under federal jurisdiction for 106 years.

Gov. Bailey and members of the Hot Springs committee visiting him refused yesterday to comment on their conference.

The Gazette said Wood also conferred with Rep. W. M. Thompson, who headed the Hot Springs investigation and other members of the committee. Thompson and two other members unsuccessfully asked impeachment proceedings against Circuit Judge Earl Witt on official misconduct charges.

The majority report also proposed special grand jury inquiry of local authorities at Hot Springs with reference to gambling and alleged general lax law enforcement.

"For my actions," said Thompson, "I have no apology, and shall keep this issue before the people of the state until it can be disposed of as all such conditions as exist in Hot Springs are disposed of when the people know the facts."

st quarter of the south-  
Section 8-14-20 in Ne-  
ther Permits.

Staples obtained permit  
abandon the W. F. Davis  
ated 300 feet north, and  
of the southeast corner of  
quarter of the northwest  
ction 23-6-15 in Grant  
Parks obtained permit to  
don the Lynn Smith No.  
660 feet north and 225  
the southwest corner of  
quarter of the southeast  
ction 24-15-26 in Miller  
King Oil Corporation ob-  
to plug and abandon the  
er No. 1 test located 200  
and 330 feet east of the  
er of the southwest quar-  
theast quarter of Section  
Miller county. The same  
ined permit to plug and  
E. G. Anderson No. 1  
50 feet east and 200 feet

south of the northwest corner of the  
southwest quarter of the northeast  
quarter of Section 16-14-27 in Miller  
county.

The Lion Oil Refining Company ob-  
tained permit to plug and abandon the  
Wilson No. 2 test located 450 feet from  
the west line of the north half of the  
south half of the northeast quarter of  
the northwest quarter of Section 17-  
16-15 in Union county. The King Oil  
Corporation obtained permit to plug  
and abandon the Kitchens, Rhea &  
Fullenwider No. 1 test located 500 feet  
south and 566 feet west of the north-  
east corner of the southeast quarter of  
the northwest quarter of Section 13-17-  
22 in Columbia county. L. L. Sugar ob-  
tained permit to plug and abandon the  
George Dunn No. 1 test located in the  
northwest corner of the northwest  
quarter of the southeast quarter of Sec-  
tion 16-16-15 in Union county.

The King Oil Corporation filed log  
of the C. H. Schroeder No. 1 test lo-  
cated 200 feet north and 330 feet east

of the southwest corner of the south-  
west quarter of the northeast quarter of  
Section 24-14-28 in Miller county. Don  
Keever filed log of the A. E. Slaughter  
No. 1 test located 330 feet north and  
330 feet west of the southeast corner  
of the southeast quarter of the south-  
east quarter of Section 9-17-16 in  
den filed log of the P. C. Grayson No.  
2 test located in the northwest quarter  
of the southeast quarter of Section 21-  
15-19 in Ouachita county. The King  
Oil Corporation filed log of the E. G.  
Anderson No. 1 test located 350 feet  
east and 200 feet south of the north-  
west corner of the southwest quarter

of the northeast quarter of  
16-14-27 in Miller county.

LEGISLATIVE GIFT  
Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 20 (AP)  
J. Kingery, clerk of the Geo-  
of Representatives, thanked

## THE SEMI-WEEKLY

Published Tuesdays

Goes to People No

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# BLOSS

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## To Save In Bloss' Home Furnishings

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loads of new goods make selection today as good as it was  
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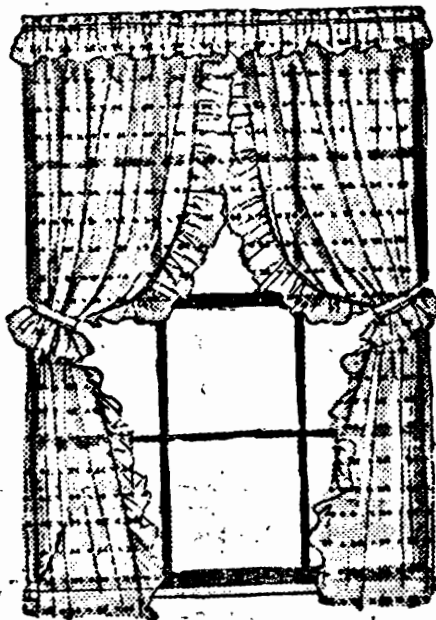
Although low in price, Bloss  
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1.98  
Values **1.19**

To 2.50  
Values **1.19**



Also Tailored Booth Net  
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uffy Marquisette and Grenadine curtains in Ruffled Pris-  
a styles that will add new beauty and color to your windows.  
a long and exceptional values at these low prices.

59c Quality Homespun Crash  
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49c Crash Cretonnes, a Yard  
A marvelous quality for making draperies,  
slipcovers and cushions. Color- **29c**

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**39.85**  
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Money"  
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One of America's foremost make  
sent us these beautiful rugs for  
our February Sale because we  
so many from him at the regu-  
price! They are "Mill-Trials" b-  
sensational values. Choose from  
the newest patterns and colors.

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standing features of our Febru-  
Sale! Luxurious quality, modern  
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9 feet wide and may be had in any len-  
Unusually deep pile, very re-  
sistent. Solid shades **4.8**

5.98 9x12 Ft. Felt Base Ru-  
Waterproof felt base rugs in tile and fic  
patterns in good colorings. **4.9**



h of the northwest corner of the hwest quarter of the northeast rter of Section 16-14-27 in Miller sky.

he Lion Oil Refining Company obed permit to plug and abandon the son No. 2 test located 450 feet from west line of the north half of the h half of the northeast quarter of northwest quarter of Section 17-5 in Union county. The King Oil poration obtained permit to plug abandon the Kitchens, Rhea & enwider No. 1 test located 500 feet h and 566 feet west of the north- corner of the southeast quarter of northwest quarter of Section 13-17- a Columbia county. L. L. Sugar obed permit to plug and abandon the rge Dunn No. 1 test located in the hwest corner of the northwest ter of the southeast quarter of Sec- 16-16-15 in Union county.

ne King Oil Corporation filed log he C. H. Schroeder No. 1 test lo- d 200 feet north and 330 feet east

of the southwest corner of the south- west quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 24-14-28 in Miller county. Don Keever filed log of the A. E. Slaughter No. 1 test located 330 feet north and 330 feet west of the southeast corner of the southeast quarter of the south- east quarter of Section 9-17-16 in den filed log of the P. C. Grayson No. 2 test located in the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 21-15-19 in Ouachita county. The King Oil Corporation filed log of the E. G. Anderson No. 1 test located 350 feet east and 200 feet south of the north- west corner of the southwest quarter

### T. K. BEEMIS

Prescott, Ark.  
Representing  
Hamilton Trust Fund  
Sponsored by  
Hamilton Depositors Corp.

of the northeast quarter of Section 16-14-27 in Miller county.

#### LEGISLATIVE GIFT.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 20 (AP)—Andrew J. Kingery, clerk of the Georgia House of Representatives, thanked the Gen-

eral Assembly for giving his two-weeks-old son a silver service—and a name. Accepting the gift, Kingery said: "We had not decided what name to give the little fellow, but since you have had the gift engraved 'Andrew Jackson Kingery Jr.' that will be his name."

## THE SEMI-WEEKLY ARKANSAS GAZETTE

Published Tuesdays and Fridays Each Week

Goes to People Not Reached by a Daily Newspaper

Subscription Rate ..... \$1.00 a Year  
Advertising Rate — Only 56c Per Column Inch

Published by the Gazette Publishing Co.

Publishers of The Daily and Sunday Arkansas Gazette

# BLASS

**\$1 A Week**

**Buy Anything\* In This Great February Sale of Home Needs**

\* Provided That Your Payments Do Not Extend Over More Than 24 Months.

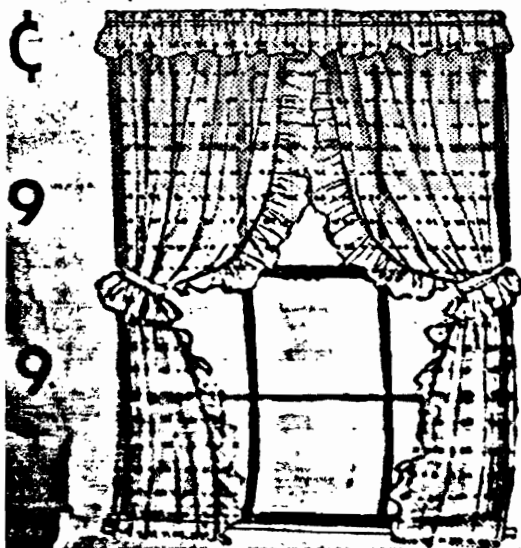
# A Few More Days

## Save In Blass' Home Furnishings Sale

Make selection today as good as it was values are amazing.

Although low in price, Blass quality has not been sacrificed. You can buy with conscience—and at department store savings.

## Curtain Sale



Adding curtains in Ruffled, Prismatic and color to your windows. Optional values at these low prices.

**59c Quality Homespun Crash**  
The new colorings and the new checks and plaids that are so fashionable for spring drapes ..... **49c**

## \$60 9x12 Foot Rugs

A Big February Sale Feature

**39<sup>85</sup>**  
"Pin Money" Payments

One of America's foremost makers sent us these beautiful rugs for our February Sale because we buy so many from him at the regular price! They are "Mill-Trials" but sensational values. Choose from the newest patterns and colors.

## \$35 Axminster Rugs

A rug value that is one of the outstanding features of our February Sale! Luxurious quality, modern and all-over patterns, handsome colors...

**31<sup>45</sup>**

**Broadloom Carpeting, Sq. Yd.**  
8 feet wide and may be had in any length. Unusually deep pile, very soft.

**7.50 Waffle Hair Rug B. J.**



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 21, 1937.

#### ARKANSAS' HOUSECLEANING.

The past week at Little Rock commands attention. Arkansas has been doing good things. First, the official declaration of war on the sinister status quo at Hot Springs. Second, the decisiveness with which a censorious thrust at Commonwealth College was repulsed. Third, the enlightened move to repeal the anti-evolution law.

The country as a whole will be primarily interested in the administration's determination to rid the State of an eyesore and re-establish Hot Springs in its proper stature as a national spa.

The resort has long been notorious. It was obvious, of course, that such brazen lawlessness could exist only by permission of the governing powers—the city hall, the courts, the agencies of law enforcement. As invariably happens, the partnership between lawlessness and the personnel of law and order chafes at restraint. Corruption is voracious. Its appetite grows on what it feeds. That is the story of Hot Springs.

It is a tale that is ending. A legislative committee appointed to investigate conditions has done a searching job. It has produced the evidence of shocking corruption. It has found a court of record blandly complacent. It has found the municipal government shot through with graft. It has found policemen on the underworld's pay roll. Its report is a withering, chapter-and-verse indictment.

The committee has outlined a course of action for the conspirators, bringing them to justice, and the ballot to the citizens who have, in

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 21, 1937.**

*Case for Remaking Supreme*

**ROOSEVELT DEFERS**

*Decisions, Denies Method*

**OF COUNSEL FOR THE**





## Committee Would Protect Visitors.

of all. The idea believes it would increase property value and a rapid growth in the city's population.

The source declined to name others in the group which consulted with Libby, but said there was "quite a number."

The National Park Service maintains a small force of park rangers in Hot Springs for police purposes. They patrol the park and enforce national park regulations but do not make arrests outside the government reservation.

Belvedere to Reopen.

W. J. Jacobs announced he would reopen his Club Belvedere Saturday night. The place was closed several weeks ago after revenue agents stripped it of gambling equipment. Seven other raided gambling houses remain closed.

### Effort to Be Made to Secure Federal Protection for Resort.

Several members of the legislature, who said they were not ready to talk for publication, confirmed reports yesterday that a bill probably will be introduced soon to enlarge the Hot Springs National Park area and to cede criminal jurisdiction in the area to the federal government.

An act was passed in 1933 to cede exclusive jurisdiction of all lands "now or hereafter included in Hot Springs National Park" to the federal government.

The act provided that this grant of jurisdiction should not prevent the execution of any civil or criminal state process on any person within the park area. It reserved the right for the state to tax all structures and other property in private ownership within the National Park area.

Ceding criminal jurisdiction to the federal government would not interfere with the other operations and functions of the municipal government of Hot Springs, a legislator said. The Municipal Court still would have jurisdiction over civil matters, but violation of criminal laws would be handled before the United States commissioner, or in federal court, it was said.

### McClellan Will File Bill To Enlarge Hot Springs Park.

Washington, Feb. 24 (AP).—Representative John L. McClellan of Malvern, Ark., said tonight he was preparing to introduce a bill to extend boundaries of the Hot Springs National Park area, but the city of Hot Springs would not be included. The bill, McClellan said, had nothing whatever to do with "any political controversy" over government-



We Will Do Our Part.

VOL. 118—NO. 98.

## FEDERAL POLICE AT HOT SPRINGS TO BE SOUGHT

### Committee Would Protect Visitors.

Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 24 (AP).—A Citizens Committee which conferred with Donald S. Libbey, Hot Springs National Park superintendent today, proposed a plan for the federal government to take over police jurisdiction of the city. Recently seven members of the Hot Springs Police Department were indicted on charges of second degree murder.

A member of the committee, who would not permit use of his name said the plan contemplated no change in civil jurisdiction.

Superintendent Libbey said he told the group that any "formal application" by the state for the federal government to take over jurisdiction of Hot Springs would be transmitted to the director of the National Park Service.

It was said that the proposed federal police jurisdiction would extend only to the city limits and would not affect Oaklawn race track or "clubs" outside the city limits. Under the proposal the federal police would enforce all municipal and state criminal statutes within the city proper.

#### Protection Sought.

A member of the committee said that the proposed plan would not interfere with any other functions of the municipal government. There would be no ceding of private or public property to the federal government, he said, and property owners would continue to pay taxes to the city and state as at present.

"As things now stand, the federal government invites the visitor to Hot Springs, but does little or nothing to protect him after he gets here," said the informant.

"This plan, if it could be put into effect, would assure protection for residents and visitors alike and once and for all would end the turmoil and excitement that so frequently disrupts the community."

"It is not aimed at any individual or group. It is intended for the good of all. The man who originated the idea believes it would result in greatly increased property value and a rapid growth in the city's population."

The source declined to name others in the group which consulted with Libbey, but said there was "quite a number."

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THE ARKANSAS GAZETTE, LITTLE ROCK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1937.

## ON CASE PRINCIPALS



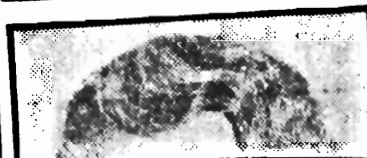
## Life Terms For Widow And Her Lover

### 'Child Marriage' In Arkansas Revealed

Special to the Gazette.  
Hardy, Feb. 24.—A "child marriage" in Arkansas was revealed here today with the announcement of the marriage of Miss Pearl Lynch, 14, and

## To Organize Ouachita Valley Group

### New Registrar



## State D. A. R. Critical Of Labor College

Special to the Gazette.  
Fayetteville, Feb. 24.—Arkansas Daughters of the American Revolution condemned Commonwealth College of Fayette county today prior to election of officers who will serve for the next two years. Eleven of the Arkansas chapters represented "deplored and condemned" teachings at the college. Two chapters ignored the "so-called college" while four chapters reserved opinion.

Tuesday's session ended the two-day convention in Fayetteville. Members voted to send the 1937 census of the state.

Mrs. Charles Henry Miller, Little Rock, vice regent; Mrs. D. P. Elliott, Jonesboro, corresponding secretary; Mrs. William F. Lake, Hot Springs, treasurer; Mrs. Lawrence Butt, Roughton, librarian; Mrs. Davis M. Biggs, Proctor, historian; Mrs. George Norman, Hamburg, queen, genealogist; Mrs. F. Short, De Queen, parliamentarian; Mrs. Allen, Reporter.

# The Sentinel

FULL REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OVER THE WORLD

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS, FRIDAY MORNING



Hot Springs is said to be losing considerable patronage because of the condition of our airport. A Chamber of Commerce committee is investigating the situation. Hot Springs should have modern airport facilities.

## LEGISLATIVE PROBE OF SPA VOTED BY HOUSE; INVESTIGATORS NAMED

SOLONS IN FIERY DEBATE



REP. W. M. THOMPSON  
Independence



REP. J. R. CAMPBELL  
Garland

IMPEACHMENT ARTICLES AGAINST OFFICIALS HINTED

GRAVE CHARGES MADE

Resolution For Law Enforcement Inquiry Adopted After Fiery Debate 72-21 Witt Not Opposed to "Fair" Investigation.

Little Rock, Jan. 14. (AP)—Legislative investigation of law-enforcement in the City of Hot Springs, internationally known health resort, and in the judicial district in which it is located, was voted by the Arkansas house of representatives today. The action followed fiery debate involving grave charges against officials in the Hot Springs area.

### WITT'S STATEMENT.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt said last night that he had "no objection to any full and fair investigation: the legislature might want to make of the Eighteenth Judicial District."

He issued this statement:

"I certainly have no objection to any full and fair investigation the legislature might want to make of the Eighteenth Judicial District. I have no apprehension as to the outcome of such investigation, and I know the people of Garland and Montgomery counties will fully understand the local source from which this request has come and the motive that has prompted it."

Rep. William M. Thompson of Independence county asked the inquiry "to determine whether articles of impeachment should be filed against the circuit judge and others," charging the Judge Earl Witt, with active participation in behalf of "machine" candidates in the democratic primary of last August. Thompson alleged there were vote frauds in the primary and professional gamblers were named polling officials.

Wide open gambling, the resolution charged, was conducted in Hot Springs "in a manner that is so open and notorious that the cry of the dealers has been heard by the people of the State of Arkansas that such conditions could not exist without the lawlessness and the alliance between the lawless and the officials, including."

"The only purpose delay can serve will be to give the Hot Springs gamblers time to get their money to work."

Nichols of Logan, backing investigation, and Campbell of Garland, attacking the resolution, carried the burden of debate in a heated afternoon session before final adoption.

Campbell, at one point, said: "I've heard it said that this was sponsored by Governor Bailey but I don't believe a word of it."

"The situation in Hot Springs has been a gradual growth, beginning when the people started winking at law violations and officers started neglecting their duty," said Nichols.

"If something is not done about it, my and your inalienable rights will be affected. They regard human life as meaning practically nothing in Garland county. Criminal classes have undoubtedly been in close alliance with the officers and judiciary of Hot Springs."

The Logan legislator referred to the recent death of John Dickson, Hot Springs jail prisoner, which resulted in indictment of seven policemen there, and said:

"I make the prediction that if the house doesn't get behind them, they will turn those men loose. I can prove it is the custom and habit of the officialdom of Hot Springs to torture men. Where (Charles) Luciano was arrested, the whole gang down there tried to thwart investigation."

"J. Edgar Hoover in a national magazine article said that Chicago in its Capone era didn't have anything on Hot Springs. A department of justice agent told me the was not a more dangerous point in the United States for his age than Hot Springs and not a safer place for the criminal element."

"If these charges are proved, it is our purpose to see that the circuit judge is impeached."

Campbell told the house he had "heard this same charge of unfair elections ever since I have been in public life."

"There is not a bit of truth in the allegations they are making," he said. "About the John Dickson case, I say to you that the Hot Springs police department and that of every city in the United States resorts to what they call third degree methods in their zeal to protect law-abiding citizens. I'm not condoning any policeman for using brutality in handling any prisoner in his custody. It may have been natural for those policemen to retaliate against the man who knocked their police chief in the head, disabling him for life."

"The only question here is whether local self-government in the counties shall be broken down."

"We have as fine a circuit judge as you will find anywhere in Arkansas or the United States."

Campbell said the proposed investigation would cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 and added: "These probes don't amount to a hill of beans. They just furnish an avenue for some one to make a big raid on the treasury."

The Thompson resolution made the following allegations:

1. That it was common knowledge that open gambling houses were conducted in Hot Springs.
2. That slot machines were operated near the public schools and frequented almost exclusively by school children.
3. That public officials are owners or part owners of some of the gambling devices.
4. That public officials receive pay for part-time services in gambling houses.
5. That the 18th Judicial District circuit judge was violated.
6. That Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin of Hot Springs threatened to employ public officials and employ in gambling houses that if they did not "the entire machine" in the city.

# Wave NSF Opposed to Investigation

Jan. 14. (AP)—Legislation for investigation of law-enforcement in the City of Hot Springs, internationally known resort, and in the judicial district in which it is located, was reported by the Arkansas house of representatives today. The action followed fiery debate involving grave charges against officials in the Hot Springs area.

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Rep. William M. Thompson of Independence county asked the inquiry "to determine whether articles of impeachment should be filed against the circuit judge and others," charging the Judge Earl Witt, with active participation in behalf of "machine" candidates in the democratic primary of last August. Thompson alleged there were vote frauds in the primary and professional gamblers were named polling officials.

Wide open gambling, the resolution charged, was conducted in Hot Springs "in a manner that is so open and notorious that the cry of the dealers may be heard in the street." "It is the general belief of the people of the State of Arkansas that such conditions of general lawlessness could not exist without some sort of alliance between the law enforcement officials, including the judiciary, and the criminal classes," said the resolution.

Rep. James R. Campbell of Hot Springs described the charges as "frivolous, unfounded, unjustified and inspired by our political enemies."

The Hot Springs area returned large majorities against the nomination of Governor Carl E. Bailey in the August primary.

The House considered the resolution by a vote of 79 to 54. The House also passed a resolution to refer the matter to the committee on the judiciary.

Rep. Thompson said he would fight for postponement of a case being tried in our courts in Arkansas without giving the defendant time to make a proper investigation of the charges preferred against him.

Campbell charged open horse race betting in Little Rock and in the Rock conditions had been urged. Thompson said he did not know of the Little Rock conditions referred to and replied on the motion to postpone.

was one of the best places for the criminal element.

"If these charges are proved, it is our purpose to see that the circuit judge is impeached."

Campbell told the house he had "heard this same charge of unfair elections ever since I have been in public life."

"There is not a bit of truth in the allegations they are making," he said. "About the John Dickson case, I say to you that the Hot Springs police department and that of every city in the United States resorts to what they call third degree methods in their zeal to protect law-abiding citizens. I'm not condoning any policeman for using brutality in handling any prisoner in his custody. It may have been natural for those policemen to retaliate against the man who knocked their police chief in the head, disabling him for life."

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1. That it was common knowledge that open gambling houses were conducted in Hot Springs.
2. That slot machines were operated near the public schools and frequented almost exclusively by school children.
3. That public officials are owners or part owners of some of the gambling devices.
4. That public officials receive pay for part-time services in gambling houses.
5. That the 18th Judicial District circuit judge, Earl Witt, was elected in 1936, in the selection of poll officials.
6. That the primary election laws were violated in 1936, in the selection of poll officials.
7. That Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin of Hot Springs threatened city and county officials and employees of gambling houses that if they did not vote "the entire machine ticket" they could not work in the city of Hot Springs.
8. That the "political machine of Garland county" printed 10,000 marked ballots and that election clerks handed these ballots to voters in the August primary.
9. That the "political machine" purchased 4,000 tax receipts and distributed them to transients and other illegal voters.
10. That the circuit judge, Earl Witt, was elected in 1936, in the selection of poll officials.
11. That the circuit judge of the 18th Judicial District, Earl Witt, was elected in 1936, in the selection of poll officials.
12. That a "nation-wide scandal" was out of the "murder of a prisoner in the city jail of Hot Springs."
13. That there is "gross discrimination" in the treatment of prisoners, leading "the general public to believe that certain notorious criminals can obtain notorious protection under public officials at Hot Springs."
14. That "it is alleged that certain murders committed by certain said protected criminals have never been investigated."
15. That local authorities sought to prevent extradition of Charles "Lucky" Luciano from Hot Springs.

The resolution also charged that the circuit judge, Earl Witt, was elected in 1936, in the selection of poll officials.



that such lawlessness could not exist without some sort of alliance between the law enforcement officials, including the judiciary, and the criminal classes," said the resolution.

Rep. James R. Campbell of Hot Springs described the charges as "frivolous, unfounded, unjustified and inspired by our political enemies."

The Hot Springs area returned large majorities against the nomination of Governor Carl E. Bailey in the August primary.

The house authorized the investigation by a vote of 72 to 21.

Earlier, by a vote of 48 yeas and 46 nays, it rejected a motion by Campbell seeking postponement of action until next Tuesday.

The resolution authorized appointment of an investigating committee of five house members and appointment of an attorney by the governor to aid the inquiry, proposed to cover the 18th judicial district, composed of Garland and Montgomery counties.

Speaker Bransford tonight named to the committee Thompson, chairman, Jones of Montgomery, vice-chairman, Nichols of Logan, Robinson, of LaFayette and Murray of Dallas.

Fighting for postponement, Campbell told the house: "I never knew of a case being tried in our courts in Arkansas without giving the defendant time to make a proper investigation of the charges preferred against him."

Campbell charged open horse race betting in Little Rock and inquired why no investigation of Little Rock conditions had been urged.

Thompson said he did not know of the Little Rock conditions referred to and replied on the motion to postpone.

P. McLaughlin of Hot Springs threatened city and county officials and employees of gambling houses that if they did not vote "the entire machine ticket" they could not work in the city of Hot Springs.

8. That the "political machine of Garland county" printed 10,000 marked ballots and that election clerks handed these ballots to voters in the August primary.

9. That the "political machine" purchased 4,000 tax receipts and distributed them to transients and other illegal voters.

10. That Gibson Witt, Jr., and Curtis Ridgeway "made a deal" by

which Ridgeway agreed to withdraw from the race for prosecuting attorney against Witt if the latter would appoint him deputy prosecutor if elected. Witt was nominated prosecuting attorney in the August primary and was elected at the general election.

11. That the circuit judge of the 18th district took an active part in the campaign in behalf of candidates endorsed by the "political machine."

12. That a "nation-wide scandal" grew out of the "murder of a prisoner in the city jail of Hot Springs."

13. That there is "gross discrimination" in the treatment of prisoners, leading "the general public to believe that certain notorious criminals can obtain protection" under public officials at Hot Springs.

14. That "it is alleged that certain murders committed by certain said protected criminals have never been investigated."

15. That local authorities sought to prevent extradition of Charles "Lucky" Luciano from Hot Springs.

16. That "the murderers of two enrollees of a C. C. C. camp in the said judicial district have been protected by officers charged with the duty of apprehending and prosecuting them."

Rep. Ernest Maner, Hot Springs, issued the following statement tonight:

"The resolution has passed. All I have to say is that Judge Witt will welcome a full and impartial investigation. To know him is to know his real worth. He will soon have completed two decades of service to his people as their respected judge. Never in all these years has his integrity been attacked by the people he serves—the citizenship of Garland and Montgomery counties. They won't attack it now. I regret that those who do not know him see fit to question him."

**ASH!**  
**ue Tonight!**

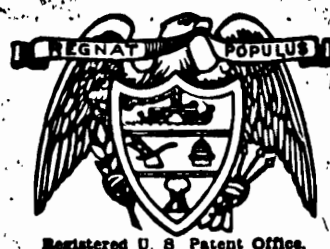


RECOAL PARK. AD

MU

GRANDPA'S  
A THREE  
WHAT DO  
WE COULD  
YOU G

# Arkansas Gazette.



LITTLE ROCK, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1937.—EIGHTEEN PAGES.

PRICE DAILY OR  
STATE A

THE ARKANSAS GAZETTE, LITTLE ROCK, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1937.

## One Killed As Autos Collide At Camden

### Trades Pianos With Flood's Assistance

Charleston, Mo., Feb. 22 (AP).—The recent flood took Finley Johnson's piano away—but it brought him another just as good. Finley's home is in the Birds Point-New Madrid flood-

## Body of Farm Youth Found Near Newport

## State D. A. R. To Open Meet At Texarkana

## One Killed As Train Strikes Auto

postponed two weeks ago. The  
ing cases were disposed of  
pleas:

H. O. Shaw, forgery, sen-  
tenced to five years; Clyde  
Simmons, disposing of  
property, one year; L. B.  
Robert Coleman, Negroes,  
years each, grand larceny  
each; John Thomas, four  
years.

Syd Waters was



Will Do Our Part

SUNDAY IN ARKANSAS 5c; OUTSIDE THE  
D ON TRAINS DAILY 5c - SUNDAY 10c.

## HOUSE AGAINST IMPEACHMENT OF JUDGE WITT

### Exoneration Move Wins, 70-20.

Circuit Judge Earl Witt of Hot Springs, of the Eighteenth Judicial District, was exonerated of official misconduct by the House yesterday. The vote was 70 to 20 for adoption of a recommendation of the House Committee of the Whole against impeachment proceedings.

Practically the entire day was devoted consideration of a motion by Ward of Lee not to vote impeachment. Majority and minority reports of the Special Committee appointed to investigate reports of laxity in the enforcement of laws in the district, which includes Garland and Montgomery counties, had been referred to the Committee of the Whole after the Judiciary Committee declined to consider them. The Ward motion was seconded by McHaney of Pulaski.

The special committee spent more than four weeks investigating allegations of connivance between law enforcement officers and the "lawless elements of Hot Springs." The majority report of the committee, signed by Chairman W. M. Thompson of Independence, Lee Nichols of Logan and I. T. ("Ike") Murry of Dallas, recommended the impeachment proceedings be voted against Judge Witt. The minority report, signed by Pat Robinson of Lafayette and James Fred Jones of Montgomery, declared evidence was insufficient to impeach.

Charges outlined in the resolution adopted by the House January 14 by a vote of 71 to 21, were that Judge Witt had appeared on the street and on the bench in an intoxicated condition, that he had taken no steps to prevent open gambling at Hot Springs and that he failed to cause an investigation of alleged fraud in last summer's state primary election.

#### Vote by Which Judge Witt Is Exonerated.

After the Committee of the Whole had voted, 66 to 15, to adopt the Ward motion, the committee was dissolved.

Ammons  
Blair  
Coates  
Eddy  
Horton of Craighead

Kendrick  
Perryman  
Speaker Bransford  
Total, nine.

Then a record vote was taken on the committee's recommendation. The vote follows:

The vote follows:

**For Exoneration.**

For Exoneration.	
Abington	Lanester
Arbaugh	Launhus
Baker	Ledford
Baxter	Macchen
Beck	Maner
Bell	McGraw
Boyers	McHane
Bradford	McInturff
Brickhouse	Mikie
Brown	Moore
Bryson	Nyberg
Buerkle	Piant
Burris	Price
Campbell	Furviance
Chapman	Raley
Cheyne	Rice
Chripp	Roberts
Coffelt	Robinson
Coleman	Sampler
Coondrey	Shaw
Cowart	Sikes
Crawford	Smith of Cleveland
Darnell	Smith of Woodruff
Forehand	Tabler
Grider	Tackett
Grisham	Thomas
Hargrave	Tibbles
Harris	Toland
Holmes	Toney
Horton of St. Francis	Walker
Houston	Warfield
Hudnall	Wear
Jones	Woodrose
King	Wright
Crackling	Van Dalsem
Cunningham	Vesey
Gooch	Wilkinson
Graham	Wood
Murray of Boone	
Murry of Dallas	
Total 30.	
Absent or not voting:	
Anthony	Johnson
Blair	Kendrick
Coates	Perryman
Eddy	Speaker
Horton of Craighead	Transfort
	Total, nine.

## Woman Accused In Fatal Gunplay

Special to the Gazette.

Fayetteville, Feb. 22.—Omer Faubus, about 35, died in a hospital here today after having been shot late Saturday night in a fight at "Pat's Place," a restaurant and dance hall operated by Ralph Melvin McKinney, near Greenland, five miles south of here. Officers said that Mrs. Jessie McKinney, wife of the restaurant proprietor, admitted that she shot Faubus while he was fighting with her husband. She was quoted as saying that she saw him smash McKinney's glasses and feared that her husband would be blinded.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Tom Pearson allowed Mrs. McKinney to make bond after he had filed voluntary manslaughter charges against her today. Officers who were called to the place after Faubus had been shot said that they learned that earlier in the night, McKinney had an altercation with Lloyd Osborn of Fayetteville. They said that they were told that Osborn left, declaring that he was going to Fayetteville, get some friends and return and "clean out the place." They said that Faubus was one of the men who returned to McKinney's establishment with Osborn and that the fight and shooting followed.

### Groups 3 and 4 of Bankers' Association to Amalgamate.

Special to the Gazette.

Fayetteville, Feb. 22.—Groups 3 and 4 of the Arkansas Bankers Association were formed into Group 3 at a meeting held here today attended by 225 bankers. Frank D. Pape of Van Buren, was elected chairman. The new group will consist of members from 14 counties. Montgomery will replace Searcy county.

Other officers chosen were Ross Martin, Bentonville, vice chairman; and A. W. Wiler, Fort Smith, secretary-treasurer. A convention nominating committee was selected composed of Dick Simpson, Eureka Springs, and Clyde Hiatt of Charleston. Members of the Legislative Committee are Horace Wagner, Mulberry; Means Wilkinson, Greenwood; Art Lewis, Fayetteville; Wayne Stone, Rogers, and J. A. Burns, Hartford.

Speakers included F. B. Brady, vice president of the Commerce Trust Company, Kansas City; and G. S. Neal of Russellville, president of the Arkansas Bankers Association. Fort Smith was selected as the next meeting place.

### Record Claimed for University Men's Bible Class.

Special to the Gazette.

Fayetteville, Feb. 22.—The University Men's Bible Class of the Central Presbyterian church in Fayetteville is believed to be the oldest and largest class of its kind in the state. It has been functioning under this name since 1918 when Dr. Harrison Hale, head of the Chemistry Department at the University of Arkansas, became teacher. Average attendance has increased yearly, with an average of 74 for the last 10 years. The last five Sundays in the last year...



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#### Clarksville Defendant Accused Of Attacking Mine Operator.

Special to the Gazette.  
Clarksville, Feb. 22.—James Carte, 22, was released on \$500 bond here today following his arrest Saturday on charges that he attacked and seriously injured David A. McKinney, coal mine operator. It was charged that he struck McKinney in the back of the head, rendering him unconscious for several hours. Carte will be given a hearing Saturday on charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace. It was said that the two had an altercation several weeks ago.

#### Paragould Poll 4 to 1 Against Supreme Court Change.

Special to the Gazette.  
Paragould, Feb. 22.—Balloting for and against the president's Supreme Court change proposal, conducted by the Paragould Daily Press and Semi-Weekly Soliphone, showed 114 votes for and 45 against yesterday.

Arkansas  
Gazette  
March 11-1936

azette.

It generally accepted that this house was rented by Karpis and his gang by the city attorney. It is related to the owner and that city officials were in regular touch with the crime-shield and tipped Karpis off about the raid.

We Will Do Our Part

PAGES.

PRICE: DAILY OR SUNDAY IN ARKANSAS 5c; OUTSIDE THE STATE AND ON TRAINS DAILY 10c-SUNDAY 15c.

## CAPTURED BY G-MEN



Department of Justice agents who surrounded this comfortable farm house on a hilltop near Hot Springs, fired tear gas bombs into it and then occupied it in a raid about which they were highly secretive. Members of the raiding party declined to confirm or deny a report that a man and two women were captured in the house or to discuss a report that they were seeking Alvin Karpis. One of the bombs ignited a bed. The partially burned mattress is shown in the left foreground. It was thrown out a window and the blaze beaten out.

## AT LEAST ONE OUTLAW TAKEN IN SWIFT RAID

### U. S. Officers Seek Karpis, Campbell.

Special to the Gazette.

Hot Springs, March 30.—It was learned here late tonight that federal officers who raided a cottage on Lake Catherine, six miles southeast of Hot Springs early this morning, arrested at least one man.

The prisoner, or prisoners, were rushed away immediately. It is believed that they were taken either to Kansas City or Cleveland.

It was learned that the federal officers were looking for a man named Campbell, as well as for Karpis. Campbell is said to have been implicated in a train robbery, and to have been an associate of Karpis.

Also it was learned that the federal officers who made the raid this morning included postal inspectors and Kansas Highway Patrol officers as well as men from the Department of Justice Bureau of Investigation.

### Raiders Say They Failed To Capture Karpis.

A squad of not less than 15 government agents, brought here in airplanes and cars from Ohio, Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas, raided a two-story house at Lawrence Station, southeast of Hot Springs and on the road to Malvern early this morning.

They had hoped to capture Alvin Karpis, the nation's public enemy No. 1, and his chief lieutenant, Harold Hunter, alias Fred King.

Although the government men announced that they found no one in the house there was an apparently well-founded report that they captured a man and a woman. It was believed that if any prisoners were taken, they were rushed to the Hot Springs airport and taken away in a plane. It was established that several planes arrived and left the airport during the early morning hours.

Hot Springs police said that they knew that Karpis and one of his gangsters occupied the house several weeks ago. This was proved by fingerprints. They believed, however, that the gunmen left hastily after police paid a visit to the house.

The raided house which is close to Potash Sulphur Springs, is located on a hill that commands a view of Lake Catherine and of the surrounding country, including roads that lead to the house.

### Visitors to Scene of Raid Meet Frosty Reception.

In the raid the federal officers crept close to the house and then shot out the windows with guns that fired tear gas.

The sound of the shooting caused the persons living in that section to hurry to the doors. They met with a frosty reception.

First to arrive at the road that leads from the Hot Springs-Malvern highway to the house was Mac McGuire, 44. He was stopped at the entrance to the grounds and compelled to remain with his hands behind his back. He was compelled to stand there for about a half-hour, he estimated.

Other persons

### Observer Declares Two Persons Taken Prisoner.

The government men repeated (almost too emphatically, the correspondent thought) that no one was in the house when they broke into it.

However, a man who is well-known to Hot Springs officers and whom they consider thoroughly reliable, told Chief Wakelin and Detective Akers that he saw a car coming out of the grounds containing a government officer who seemed to be guarding a man and a woman.

### Hot Springs Police Learn They Had Narrow Escape.

Hot Springs officers learned several weeks ago that Karpis was in this vicinity. They received their first tip on a Sunday when a car stopped in front of a drug store on lower Central avenue and a man went inside to buy bandages and antiseptics. A clerk in the store suggested that the person for whom they were intended might need the services of a physician.

His suggestion was received so coldly that the clerk became suspicious and notified the police.

Police learned that the occupants of the car had rented a cottage on Lake Hamilton. They went out there the same afternoon but found the cottage apparently deserted. Since they did not have a search warrant, they did not attempt to enter.

Later they learned that Karpis and one of his men were inside the house at the time, prepared to kill the officers if they had attempted to enter.

The occupants of the cottage left immediately following the visit of the police.

Fingerprints obtained from the cottage were said to have established that Karpis had been there.

Hoping to throw the thugs off their guard, however, the police announced that their visit to the cottage was due to a mistaken tip and that they had learned that the cottage was occupied by a well-known and highly respected business man of Toledo, O.

### Negro Girl Identifies Photograph of Hunter.

Following their visit to the house, the Hot Springs police officers interviewed a young Negro girl who formerly had worked at the house as a maid.

She said that three weeks ago a man and a woman came there and said that they had rented the house and asked if she would like to continue to stay there and work for them.

The girl told them that she wanted to go back to school and so declined the offer.

She was shown a photograph of Hunter and asked if it resembled the man to whom she had talked.

"Yes, that looks just like him," was the reply. She said that he was the only man she had seen at the place.

The house is owned by E. E. Woodcock of Hot Springs, who is in Louisiana at present. His son, Ernest, said that his father had leased the house about six weeks ago and that it had been occupied for about two weeks. He did not know who leased the house nor how many persons had been occupying it.

Today's raid was made without knowledge of either Garland county or Hot Springs officers.

### Karpis Reported to Have Been Frequent Visitor.

It was reported here today that Karpis and his men have been frequent visitors to Hot Springs. It was said that they came here in planes sometimes, but more frequently in cars.

Karpis has long been hunted in connection with the kidnapping of Edward G. Bremer, brewer of St. Paul, Minn.



...the house which is close to Potash Sulphur Springs, is located on a hill that commands a view of Lake Catherine and of the surrounding country, including roads that lead to the house.

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The sound of the shooting caused persons living in that section to hurry to the scene. They met with a frosty reception.

First to arrive at the road that leads from the Hot Springs-Malvern highway to the house was Mac McGuire, 45. He was stopped at the entrance to the grounds and compelled to remain within sight of several armed men hiding behind trees. He was compelled to stand there for about a half-hour, he estimated.

Other persons living in the vicinity were forbidden to enter the grounds.

When news of the raid reached Hot Springs police headquarters, Chief Joe Wakelin, Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers, Lieut. Cecil Brock and newspapermen hurried to the scene.

In the rear of the raided house they were met by a squad of five government men, none of whom would reveal his name.

The man who appeared to be in charge of the quintette, told Chief Wakelin that no one was in the house.

The Gazette correspondent noted that a room on the second floor had been damaged by fire. On the ground beneath a window of the room were a partly burned mattress and pillows. He asked as to the cause of the fire and one of the government men replied that the fire had started when gas bombs and flares were shot into the house. He added that he and his companions had rushed in and extinguished the flames.

All the members of the raiding party were well equipped for their work. Each wore a bullet-proof vest and carried a gas mask.

When the correspondent asked permission to look around, one of the federal officers snapped:

"Don't go in front of the house."  
"Why not?" asked the newspaper man.  
"You might meet with a warm reception. Some of our men are in there who might not recognize you."

#### Police Call Identification Photograph of Hunter.

Following their visit to the house of the federal officers, the police called on the woman who had been seen at the house and asked her to identify the man who had been seen at the house. She was shown a photograph of Hunter and asked if it resembled the man to whom she had talked.

"Yes, that looks just like him," was the reply. She said that he was the only man she had seen at the place.

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Karpis has long been hunted in connection with the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, brewer of St. Paul, Minn., who paid \$200,000 to obtain his release.

Special to the Gazette.  
Booneville, March 30.—Albert Holder, 35, Blue Mountain farmer, charged with the murder of Baxter Ribelin on February 1, took the stand in Circuit Court here tonight. Ribelin, widely known Blue Mountain merchant and planter, died at a Paris hospital the day following the shooting.  
"Ribelin was shot five times with a .38 caliber revolver. Following the shooting Holder drank part of a small bottle of carboic acid. He surrendered to Justice C. M. McCormick, south of Blue Mountain, and collapsed. Holder, who had been ill from influenza, was kept in a Paris hospital several weeks before he recovered sufficiently to stand trial.

trial.  
" May Plead Temporary Insanity.  
" Testimony by several witnesses pointed out that the defense would attempt a plea of temporary insanity. Eleven state witnesses and 13 witnesses for the defendant were heard today.  
" State witnesses included Dr. John Smith of Paris, who testified as to bullet wounds in Ribelin's body. Dr. Feather, employe of Leitwisch drug store, Magazine said that he sold a holder carbolic acid and the morning of February 1. Dr. Smith of Magazine testified that he sold Holder a gun on the morning of February for \$15.

for his.

Sid Littleton and Hiram Loyd said that Holder was in Blue Mountain the day of the shooting. Clifford Land, W. W. Tennis, L. K. Weems, Ribelin's father-in-law, and Charlie McCormick testified that Holder entered the store about 4:30 in the afternoon. Ribelin asked regarding Holder's health. Holder's reply was that he had been sick from influenza for several weeks.

After the shooting, McCormick, Land and Tennis went for help and L. K. Weems remained with Ribelin. Rea Anderson saw Holder leave the store and put the gun in his pocket.

The following character witnesses were offered by the state: B. F. Yandell, Jessie Tennis, Jeff Smith and Jess Tillery. Ed Wilkes testified that he took Holder to Magazine from Blue Mountain on the morning of the shooting.

**Tells of Surrender.**  
H. L. Sanderson of Verbeck, Okla., testified for the defense. C. M. McCormick, justice of the peace, testified that Holder came to his home and said that he wanted to surrender and that he had killed Baxter Ribelin. He gave the gun to McCormick and sat down in a chair and suffered a convulsion.

C. E. McCormick of Magazine testified he talked to Holder on the morning of the shooting. Holder asked him where he could buy a gun and he told him that Bill Beason probably had one. John Callahan, cashier of the bank, said that Holder drew \$15 from the bank on February 1.

Dr. S. F. McConnell of  
who was the first physician to  
holder, testified that the  
suffering from acid  
but had no  
poison  
holder

Don't Remember All Events  
Lawyers piled Molder

Defense lawyers asked questions as to what events recall of the day Ribbin had Holder said he remembered him drawing \$18 from the Magazine, food for stock, and the floor.

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He did not buy hardware store or buy. After lunch at his home at did not remember any of the afternoon of the shooting. Dr. S. P. McD.

the alien  
remembered Dr. the next day  
taining him the lawyer  
point the hypothesis  
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# Warren Labor Case Delayed To April 15

Washington, March 30 (P).—Hearing was continued today by the National Labor Relations Board until April 13, on complaints of unfair labor practices by the Bradley Lumber Company of Warren, Ark.

The question of whether the company's business affects interstate commerce was involved in the hearing. Should it be held so, the board probably would order further hearings either at New Orleans or at Warren.

The Carpenters Union filed the complaint against the company in an effort to require the Arkansas firm to treat with it upon labor demands.

A Chancery Court injunction halted hearing in the case at Warren after the company unsuccessfully sought in federal court to restrain the board from hearing the suit.

**Work Order Issued for New  
De Queen School Building.**

De Queen, March 30.—A work order has been issued by PWA and the local School Board to start construction of the new junior high school building here within the next 10 days.

The sum of \$28,000, plus \$360.81 earned interest, has been placed to the credit of the board and the remainder of the money, totaling \$50,900 will be made available soon. Gravier and Harper of Alexandria, La., are scheduled to arrive this week to begin construction.

The building will be south of the present high school building, on a nine-acre tract. It will be of tile construction, one story, and will contain several classrooms, an auditorium seating 2,000 and a gymnasium.

and a gymnasium. A limited athletic field is under con-

# Judge Refuses To Disqualify Himself

Special to the Gazette. *Continued from page 1*  
**Hope, March 30.**—County Judge H. M. Stephens refused to disqualify himself despite a charge of partisanship to hear the Hempstead county liquor referendum contest case in Court at Washington today.

The question of the judge's qualification turned out to be the sole issue at the hearing. The judge overruled the contestees' motion that he retire, and the contestees obtained a week in which to file a writ of prohibition with the Circuit Court to force the disqualification issue.

The contest hearing was reset for April 20 in County Court.

On the disqualification issue, lawyers for the contestees put Judge Stephens on the witness stand and drew from him the admission that he signed the petition calling for a county vote on the liquor question; that he attended prohibition rallies, and that he publicly expressed prohibition views.

The contestees' lawyers tried to prove that Judge Stephens would be unable to judge the contest case without bias or partisanship.

The suit to contest the election brought by N. P. O'Neal and nine other Hempstead county citizens, alleging corrupt, fraudulent and unfair practices in 12 of the county's 36 precincts and challenging 127 votes.

The county balloted for retention of legal sales of liquor by a majority of nine votes in the February 18 election.

**Released on \$500 Bond After  
Shooting Near Morrilton.**

Morrilton, Ark., March 10 (AP).—W. O. Littleton, 35, was charged with assault with intent to kill and released on \$500 bond today in the shooting of a

**Bentonville Advertising  
Blossom Pilgrimage.**

Bentonville, March 30.—The i  
ville Chamber of Commerce is  
out hundreds of folders giving p  
to the coming Apple Blossom F  
age. The folder is in the appl  
som colors. The Rev. J. Abner S  
and R. H. Crosby of the Ben  
High School faculty are the com  
in charge of entertainment for t  
ple blossom visitors. An archway  
apple blossom colors will be erecte  
Highway 71, in Bentonville, and  
mittee will welcome visitors and  
them to the most beautiful orch

## Test of Oil Well Near Delayed Until Today.

Hope, March 30.—Test of the K. Fitzwater No. 1, Lafferty, nine south of Hope, was postponed today till tomorrow when drillers encounter difficulty with the water connect they attempted to drill the plug afternoon.

"Steve" Brodie, Ray Hamilton  
Bobbie Martin.

## Batesville Fans Telegraph To Don Lockard.

Batesville, March 30.—Batesville basketball fans this afternoon telegraphed \$25 to Don Lockard, forward of the University of Arkansas basketball team, telling him "see sights of New Orleans while you're there."

Lockard was a star on the Bad High School quintet before going Kansas. His parents, Mr. and M. L. Lockard, live here.

### Miss Purray Wins on Sl Track at Tropical Park

Tropical Park, Fla., March 30  
Miss Purray, consistent mare from  
Liberty Lane stable, ridden by J.  
Joe Rosen, led all the way over a  
track to win the Pertinax purse  
and a sixteenth feature, witness  
7,500 at Tropical Park this afternoon.  
El Puma was a threatening second  
length back of the winner and  
lengths in advance of Donna  
in the field of seven.

The six-year-old daughter of  
chase, first outsider to win after  
favorites had scored, paid \$10.80  
outfooted her opposition all the  
but was under a hard hand rid-  
deen through the final third  
Her time

El Puma, after improving his time to 1:48 2-5, was carried half mile, was carried

first half mile, wide by the winner at the and hung despite vigorous urg and Hanford in the final sixteenth Silver Stock Farm's Sweet S overcame Pipes

ing \$13.20, overcame a  
manding lead to win by a  
the sixth race, a mile and  
The latter, staunchly suppo  
was shut off going in  
ushed off

turn, and then rushed on the run through the back ing at the end. Jerry H. third. Macchetti's Salut

W. V. Fischer  
public choice paying \$4.  
his field in the mile and  
seventh race. He won by  
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difficulty with the water connection they attempted to drill the plug after noon.

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### Miss Purray Wins on SI Track at Tropical Park

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The six-year-old daughter of chase, first outsider to win after favorites had scored, paid \$19.80 outfooted her opposition all the but was under a hard hand ride Rosen through the final three tenths of a mile. Her time 1:48 2-5.

El Puma, after improving his tion to get into striking distance at first half mile, was carried all wide by the winner at the home and hung despite vigorous urging Hanford in the final sixteenth.

Silver Stock Farm's Sweet Susan, ing \$13.20, overcame Pipes Pal's manding lead to win by a length the sixth race, a mile and a sixte The latter, staunchly supported f ite, was shut off going into the turn, and then rushed off his fe the run through the backstretch, ing at the end. Jerry H. was a di third.

W. V. Fischetti's Salut D'Amour public choice paying \$4.70, outh his field in the mile and a sixte seventh race. He won by four ten raised up, after setting the pace thro out. Prohibition was second and chesta third.

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C. E. McCormick of Magazine testified he talked to Holder on the morning of the shooting. Holder asked him where he could buy a gun and he told him that Bill Beason probably had one. John Callahan, cashier of the bank, said that Holder drew \$15 from the bank on February 1.

Dr. S. P. McConnell of Booneville, who was the first physician to examine Holder, testified that Holder was suffering from acid burns in the mouth but had not swallowed any of the poison. Dr. McConnell testified that Holder showed no signs of insanity that night nor the next morning. Dr. I. H. Sewell of Paris testified that Holder had been in a Paris hospital suffering from a mental and physical condition.

#### Doesn't Remember All Events.

Defense lawyers plied Holder with questions as to what events he could recall of the day Ribelin was shot. Holder said he remembered his trip to Magazine, drawing \$15 from the bank, buying feed for stock, buying carbolic acid to clean the floors, and leaving for Blue Mountain with Bert Sewell, who took him to his home.

He did not remember going to the hardware store or buying the pistol. After lunch at his home at noon he did not remember any of the events of the afternoon of the shooting. He remembered Dr. S. P. McConnell examining him the next day he said.

point the lawyer for the de- hypothetical question phase brought out the case and the day, point- things he re- member.

The sum of \$28,000, plus \$360.81 earned interest, has been placed to the credit of the board and the remainder of the money, totaling \$50,900 will be made available soon. Gravier and Har- of Alexandria, La., are scheduled to arrive this week to begin construction.

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CLARK COAL COMPANY  
Sole

CLARK COAL COMPANY  
Sole  
The largest and best equipped mines in the  
largest field, employing approximately  
150 men, have sold their interest. The  
mine has been changed from the Clark  
McWilliams Coal Company to the Blue  
Blaze Coal Company.  
Stockholders of Blue Blaze  
Company include A. N. Ragon, J. S. Ragon,  
W. F. Ragon, W. E. Ragon,  
David McGraw and Richard McGraw.



# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1937—44 PAGES

## HOUSERS HOT SPRINGS OFFICIALS ALLIED WITH GAMBLING

Arkansas House Report  
Says Relatives and City  
Employees Are on Gam-  
bling House Payrolls.

## NOTE INTIMIDATION, POLICE BRUTALITY

Committee Urges Ouster  
of Judge, Charging He  
Placed Bets, Appeared on  
Streets Intoxicated.

The Associated Press.  
LITTLE ROCK, Feb. 19.—Relatives of prominent city and county officials were found to be on the payrolls of Hot Springs gambling establishments which also made gifts of large dividends to prominent people of the Arkansas resort was disclosed yesterday with the filing of a legislative committee report on its investigation of law enforcement.

The majority report, signed by three of the five committee members, recommended impeachment of Circuit Judge Earl Witt of the eighteenth judicial district, who had failed to obtain a grand jury investigation of gambling during his 14 years on the bench and who was accused of insobriety and failure to instruct a grand jury to make an inquiry into recent alleged election frauds.

Judge Witt's uncle, P. A. Witt, was one of the group found on gambling house payrolls. Others included Archie Ledgerwood, brother of Municipal Judge Verne S. Ledgerwood; Mrs. Herbert Akers, wife of Chief of Detective "Dutch" Akers; and T. O. Evans, policeman and oiliness preacher.

Purported "Gifts" to Citizens.  
Last year, it was charged, Douglas Hotchkiss, secretary of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and a member of the State Racing Commission and L. D. Cooper, merchant and former president of the chamber of Commerce received presents of \$3375 each. Ledgerwood was said to have received a 5 per cent "dividend" from each of two gambling establishments.

Two members of the committee report in which they stated "a full, complete, fair and impartial investigation has not been made."

The majority recommended that a special grand jury be assembled under a temporary Circuit Judge and a prosecutor named by the Governor to investigate gambling, alleged mistreatment of city jail prisoners, and the official conduct of Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, the

## In Cars Still

WOOD, the majority report said, himself, told what was described as a "fantastic story" of borrowing \$15,000 from Ed Ballard, West Baden, Ind., gambler, to buy an interest. Last October, Ledgerwood said, according to the report, he paid Ballard \$20,500 in cash for principal and interest at Hot Springs.

Two days later, Ballard and a former partner were found shot to death in a room of the Arlington Hotel. The official verdict was that the former partner had killed Ballard and then killed himself.

Vote Intimidation Charged.  
"The alliances between public officials and those who run roughshod over the State's penal laws could not exist in any other subdivision of government in this country," the majority report stated.

In explanation of how it was possible at Hot Springs, the committee gave the results of an exhaustive investigation which showed from city and county records that poll tax receipts had been bought by policemen and gambling house employees thus providing apparent means of qualification for phantom voters.

Citizens opposed the plan to the

election last August feared to go to the polls, it was said, and others considered it useless because they thought their ballots would not be counted. One worker against the administration ticket, it was related, was put in jail for the day when he was found operating an automobile used to take voters to the polls. No charge was placed against him.

Mayor McLaughlin, Hot Springs political power, was said to have called a meeting of all city employees before the August election and threatened them with loss of their jobs unless they supported the administration ticket from top to bottom.

The names of 12 gambling house employees were found in the Democratic Central Committee's list of election judges and clerks. The list also contained the names of six city or county employees. In one instance a watcher at the polls opposed to the administration was threatened with bodily harm if he did not leave. He did so.

Criticism of Judge Witt.

"It is inconceivable that the Circuit Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial District would not know that gambling operations, which are felonies under our State laws, have been carried on in Hot Springs and Garland County during the 14 years which the present Circuit Judge has been on the bench in his district," the report said.

"These are facts which are not only well known to people in all parts of this State, but this information extends throughout the country. Many magazine articles have been published throughout the country calling attention to these conditions and yet nothing has been done about it."

"We think this crime can only be corrected by having the present Judge vacate the bench, allow the Governor to appoint a special Judge and a special Prosecuting Attorney, let the Judge appointed for that purpose appoint new jury commissioners, and let a new grand jury be impaneled so that a complete investigation may be made of the entire situation."

## Gifts to Prominent Citizens

"In order to entrench themselves safely in control of local government, such leading gambling resorts as Belvedere Club and Book, Southern Club and Book, Kentucky Club and Book, and other clubs controlled by the R. S. Jacobs interests, have resorted to the practice of making gifts of large dividends to prominent people of the city, as one of Mr. Jacobs' partners, Mr. Sam Watt expressed it, 'in order to obtain their influence, I suppose.'"

"Mr. Watt was reluctant to give the names of these 'influential' people, but when forced to answer the question, named the following: Archie Ledgerwood, 25 per cent dividend on Belvedere and Southern clubs; L. D. Cooper, wholesaler and former president of Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce; Douglas Hotchkiss, secretary of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and at that time a member of the State Racing Commission, each of whom was made a present of \$3375 in the year 1936."

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"Pressed further, he stated that he paid Ballard the large sum of \$20,500. Asked if he paid it with a check, he said that he no longer kept money in banks, that he paid this in cash, took no receipt, and destroyed the note immediately after it was paid."

"Further questioning developed the fact that about two days after Ledgerwood paid this large sum of money, Ballard and a former partner with whom Ballard had previously quarreled were both found shot to death in a room of the Arlington Hotel. He stated that the verdict was that the other man killed Ballard and then killed himself. At any rate, no further investigation seems to have been made."

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## Advice on Election

"Witnesses testified that Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, who seems to dominate politics of the county called in various employees of the city of Hot Springs and gave them lists of names for whom they were to obtain orders for poll tax receipts. That having obtained those orders, receipts were issued by the tax collector and delivered to the Mayor who sent the purchaser of these receipts to the city clerk who in turn paid him the amount he had paid for these receipts."

"At the proper time these receipts were delivered to the voter whose name appeared thereon, if it was found that such voter could be counted upon to vote the so-called administration ticket. It was also shown that on the day before the election was held, in August, 1936, Mayor McLaughlin called a meeting of employees of the city, judges and clerks of election, and other persons identified with the city administration and made them a speech, in which he told them that all employees who did not go down the line for the administration ticket from Governor to Constable would be looking for a job the morning after the election. He also asked them to say to all business men of the city that if they wished to do well in their respective businesses, not only they, but their employees had better vote the administration ticket. That after this meeting, he called those selected to serve as judges and clerks of election to meet him in his private office for instructions as to their duties on election day."

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"What those instructions were, we were unable to find out. We can only conjecture from the results."

"The testimony further showed that one man who had an order from one of the candidates for Governor not supported by the administration, to watch the count in the Third Ward of the City of Hot Springs presented his credentials to the judges and clerks in that ward and was admitted, it being thought that he had come from the Little Rock headquarters of the candidate."

"About midnight he was recognized by a visitor as a resident of the city and on one pretense or another, an effort was made to send him downtown. When he informed them that he could not leave the polling place without violating his obligation and refused to be sent out, he was informed that unless he vacated the polling place, he would be forcibly thrown out. He left."

"And another man testified that he was engaged in hauling voters to the polls who were supporting an anti-administration candidate, when about 2 o'clock in the afternoon he was arrested and thrown into the city jail where he was kept until the next day, when he was released without any charge being filed against him."

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UIS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1937—44 PAGES

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"About midnight he was recog- nized by a visitor as a resident of the city and on one pretense or an- other, an effort was made to send him downtown. When he informed them that he could not leave the polling place without violating his obligation and refused to be sent out, he was informed that unless he vacated the polling place, he would be forcibly thrown out. He left.

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"It was also testified that in some specific instances, business houses operated by those not in sympathy

"It is inconceivable that the Cir- cuit Judge of the Eighteenth Judi- cial District would not know that gambling operations, which are felonies under our State laws, have been carried on in Hot Springs and Garland County during the 14 years which the present Circuit Judge has been on the bench in his dis- trict. These are facts which are not only well known to people in all parts of this State, but this in- formation extends throughout the country. Many magazine articles have been published throughout the country calling attention to these conditions, and yet nothing has been done about it.

## Big Clubs Not Fined.

"A former prosecuting attorney of the district testified that he held a conference with Judge Witt and Mayor McLaughlin soon after the prosecuting attorney took office, in which an agreement was had under which these gambling houses were to operate under quasi sanction of law, on condition that they pay a fine of \$10 each week in Municipal Court.

"Later, on complaint that the county was getting no revenue from these houses, it was agreed that they should pay a fine of \$100 each month to the city, and an ad- ditional \$100 each month to the county.

"But the records of Bel- vedere and the testimony of its bookkeep- er, Mr. Sam Watt, show that neither Belvedere nor Southern Club ever paid a fine either to the county or to the city. We wonder if the fact that a brother of the Municipal Judge and an uncle of the Circuit Judge both worked for these clubs, and the further fact that 'influential' citizens of the city of Hot Springs drew large dividends as gifts from these clubs, had any- thing to do with the fact that no fines were ever assessed against them.

"We think that this crime can only be corrected by having the present Judge vacate the bench, allow the Governor to appoint a

special Judge and a special Prose- cuting Attorney prosecute, let the Judge appointed for that purpose appoint new jury commissioners, let a new grand jury be empaneled, a new investigation be made of the whole situation.

"We recommend that articles of impeachment be voted by this House against Earl Witt, who was regularly elected and qualified and now is acting as Circuit Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial District of the State of Arkansas for high crimes and misdemeanors and gross misconduct in office.

The Judiciary Committee today returned the investigating commit- tee's reports to the House, and Chairman Carleton Harris an- nounced his committee had voted, 27 to 2, that the matter be taken out of its hands. The House post- poned further action until Monday morning.

The minority charged that only "selected" witnesses had been heard by the committee, that those whom the minority wanted to hear had not been summoned, that the tes- timony did not support the major- ity finding with reference to Judge Witt, and that "a full, complete, fair and impartial investigation has not been made."

"We feel that an over-zealous urge has closed the eyes of some members of the committee to the credibility of witnesses who were ready and anxious to wreak ven- geance upon their political foes," said the minority.



March 8, 1937.

RECORDED

7-576-3 - 41

25049

Mrs. Scott Wood,  
Box 315,  
Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Dear Mrs. Wood:

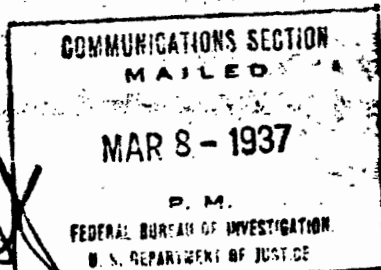
I wish to acknowledge receipt of your communication of February 25, 1937, enclosing newspaper clippings, concerning conditions which are alleged to exist at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Please be advised that I am instructing Mr. Chapson Fletcher, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, 500 Hector Building, Little Rock, Arkansas, to arrange for an interview in the immediate future, so that you may furnish any information in your possession which may pertain to a violation of any law coming within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau to the agent who calls upon you.

Very truly yours,  
For the Director,

Harold Nathan,  
Assistant Director.

cc Little Rock (Enc copies of incoming letter. No copies of newspaper clippings enclosed)



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

FILE NO. 62-1118

REPORT MADE AT <b>Kansas City, Missouri</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2-24-37</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2-18-37</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>W. A. GIDDENS</b>
TITLE <b>SUSPICIOUS PERSONS, HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS, DRIVING FORD CAR, MOTOR NUMBER 1661403.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING.</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Kansas City Field Division, Police Department, Kansas City, Kansas and, Kansas City, Missouri have no record of R. A. Radcliff and have no theft report on Ford car, Motor #1661403.

R.U.C.

REFERENCE:

Telegram from Little Rock Field Division

DETAILS:

In telegram of reference the Little Rock Field Division advised that the Police Department, Hot Springs, Arkansas, had reported several individuals residing in Hot Springs under suspicious circumstances, including a party driving Ford car, Motor Number 1661403, bearing 1937 Kansas license 1-2099, registered in the name of R. A. Radcliff, 1418 Ruby Street, Kansas City, Kansas. The Little Rock Field Division requested information as to whether this car was stolen or if Radcliff was wanted.

L. G. Westphal, Auto Theft Bureau, Police Department, Kansas City, Kansas, advised the writer by telephone that the Auto Theft Bureau, Kansas City, Kansas, has no record of a Ford car, motor #1661403 as having been stolen. Mr. Westphal further advised their license books show that 1937 Kansas license 1-2099 had been issued to one R. A. Radcliff, whose address was shown as 1418 Ruby Street, Kansas City, Kansas.

After examining the Identification records of the

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Dwight Brantley</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	7-576-342 FEB 27
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 2 - Little Rock 2 - Kansas City	FEB 23 PM 7:40
COPIES DESTROYED 11 MAR 25 1965	

Kansas City, Kansas Police Department, Mr. Westphal further stated that he could not locate any record of R. A. Radcliff or R. A. Ratoliff.

Special Agent F. I. Jahn ascertained at the Auto Theft Bureau, Kansas City, Missouri, that that Bureau has no record of instant Ford car.

Special Agent Jahn also ascertained at the Identification Bureau of the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department that that Bureau has no record of anyone by the name of R. A. Radcliff or R. A. Ratoliff.

The substance of the foregoing information was furnished the Little Rock Division by telegram on February 18, 1937.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION  
TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Post Office Box 1469  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
February 22, 1937

g

TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

Reference is made to my circular letter of November 30, 1936 requesting that you be on the look-out for a 1935 Ford V-8 Tudor Sedan, Motor Number 18-1384688 which automobile is black in color with green wire wheels.

It has been ascertained that this automobile is now carrying 1936 Arkansas license 141-596 and, therefore, it would be appreciated if you will watch for this license. In the event any information is received concerning this automobile we would appreciate your immediate advice by telephoning Little Rock 5734 collect or telegraphing this office, the address of which is 500 Rector Building.

Very truly yours,

*John B. Little*  
John B. Little  
Special Agent in Charge

BLD:ATB  
21-58

cc: Bureau  
Rising

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&  
INDEXED

7-576-3-43

FEB 23 1937	
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
FILE	

*Edward G. Bremer*

Division of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Post Office Box 812  
Chicago, Illinois

February 26, 1937

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

It is noted in letter of February 20th, 1937 of the Little Rock Field Division that Agent D. P. Sullivan has been ordered to Washington Field Division for assignment.

Agent Sullivan is now in charge of the detail under my supervision making inquiry undercover as to the situation at Hot Springs, Arkansas where we are maintaining several taps. The situation there now is that as soon as we make certain additional checks on telephones and particularly as to additional taps on certain houses of prostitution we will initiate some open inquiry. We expect to check particularly on two houses which Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin is reputed to own. In open inquiry we will try later to successfully show the harboring of Alvin Karpis by Herbert Akers as well as the general corrupt set up which made this possible.

It is believed that Agent Sullivan should remain at Hot Springs at least until Agent J. L. Madala can replace him for the time of the undercover inquiry. When the open inquiry is started Agents Madala and Sullivan should both be there for this work.

Will you please so arrange the assignments of Agents Madala and Sullivan so that either or both can be there for the further undercover inquiry and both to be there when open inquiry is made.

Very truly yours,

E. J. CONNELLEY  
Inspector

EC:lem  
CC-Cincinnati  
Little Rock  
Cleveland  
7-22

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&  
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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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9/14/5 - 23

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Dawsey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schick	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

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Mr. Nathan  
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Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
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Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

TELETYPE

DECODED COPY

FBI LITTLEROCK 2-27-37 5-30 P DAN

DIRECTOR

BREKID. TAP RENEWED AT HOTSPRINGS 6 PM. YESTERDAY ON POLICE  
TELEPHONE 123 AND CHIEF OF POLICE TELEPHONE 446 AND MAYORS  
TELEPHONE 648.

TAP ON RESIDENCE W S JACOBS 2115 DISCONTINUED AT PRESENT TIME  
DUE TO REPAIR ACTIVITIES BY TELEPHONE EMPLOYEES IN VICINITY. WILL  
ADVISE WHEN RENEWED WHICH IS EXPECTED IN NEAR FUTURE

FLETCHER

END

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&  
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7-576-3-45  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAR 2 1937 P.M.  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
TAMM ONE FILE

PARTIALLY  
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THIS SERIAL ONLY  
4/19/57 23

DECODED COPY FILED IN 15-17114

Post Office Box #1469  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
February 8, 1937

Special Agent in Charge  
New York City, New York

RE: BREKID. *Edward G.*

Recently information was received that one Jim Farr (may be Pharr) is now in Hot Springs, Arkansas, acting as a bodyguard and employee of W. S. Jacobs, who controls all gambling, et cetera in Hot Springs.

Farr is said to be a gangster and killer from New York City.

It is suggested that inquiry be made concerning this person and information obtained as to his identity, et cetera, and the same provided the Little Rock Division at your earliest convenience. It is also requested that if possible a photograph be obtained and forwarded for the use of this Division. It is possible that this person is wanted by the State authorities of New York or by the New York City Police Department.

Very truly yours,

JOHN B. LITTLE,  
Special Agent in Charge.

BLD:IM  
7-2  
62-38

cc Bureau  
Cincinnati

COPIES DESTROYED  
11 MAR 25 1965

7-576-3-



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Cincinnati, Ohio.

L.R. FILE NO. 7-2

REPORT MADE AT <b>Little Rock, Arkansas</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>3/1/37</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/11-20, 23/37</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>B. L. DAMRON</b> cpw
TITLE <b>GEORGE TIMINEY; DR. JOSEPH P. MORAN, with aliases - FUGITIVE, I. O. No. 1232; ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - Victim.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPING; HARBORING OF FUGITIVES; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE; NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT.</b>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p><i>Handwritten: This tapping</i></p> </div> <div style="width: 65%;"> <p>Interesting conversations overheard through tap on residence telephone of W. S. Jacobs quoted herein, and pertain mostly to gambling activities and legislative investigation. Majority report filed by legislative investigating committee, recommending impeachment of Circuit Judge and grand jury investigation of other officials, but report not accepted by House, which voted against impeachment. Taps being re-installed on telephones of Police and Mayor.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P.</p> <p><b>REFERENCE:</b> Report of Special Agent B. L. Damron, Little Rock, Ark., dated Feb. 23, 1937.</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> As previously reported, the taps on the police and Mayor's telephones in Hot Springs, Arkansas, were temporarily removed on February 10, 1937, because of activities of telephone company employees. Investigation and inquiries in Hot Springs immediately thereafter and during a part of the period covered by this report disclosed no evidence or indications that the existence or location of these taps had been discovered by the telephone company or the subscribers. However, due to the apparent unrest in Hot Springs, caused by the legislative investigation these taps were not reinstated. On February 23, 1937 the legislative investigation terminated and re-installation of these taps was</p> </div> </div>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>Signature</i>		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3- Bureau 2- Cincinnati 1- Cleveland 1- Chicago 1- Mr. Connelley 4- Little Rock		<div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>7-1576-3-46</b></p> <p><b>MAR 5 1937</b></p> <p><b>COPIES DESTROYED</b></p> <p><b>MAR 25 1965</b></p> </div>	



authorized by Inspector Connelley. The taps will therefore be reinstated on the morning of February 24, 1937.

Re: Legislative Investigation  
of Hot Springs, Ark.

A hearing was held by the legislative investigating committee on the night of February 10th, at which time several witnesses testified, and some of their testimony appeared in local newspapers. The substance of interesting testimony, as appearing in the newspapers, was:

L. D. Cooper, former President of the Chamber of Commerce, testified that he owned no interest in the Southern Club, but that he had been receiving checks from W. S. Jacobs for three or four years, the annual checks ranging from \$600.00 to \$1,000.00. He testified that he did not know whether he owned an interest in the Belvedere. He said Mr. Jacobs was one of his best friends and some years ago loaned Jacobs a few hundred dollars to go into the motion picture business. The committee indicated in its questioning of Mr. Cooper, that the books indicated he received 1936 dividends of \$1,500.00 from the Belvedere and \$1,875.00 from the Southern Club. Mr. Cooper claimed that because of his age (75) his memory was not so good, but insisted that he owned no part of the Southern Club.

B. K. Vernon testified that he once worked at the Southern Club, and in 1931 opened a "bookie" on Broadway; that he first started to open on Malvern Avenue, but was told that Judge Witt said there was a gentleman's agreement not to have gambling on Malvern; that the Sheriff and Constable told them to report in court at times and they were fined \$100.00 and costs, they answering to a name given them by the officers.

Walter Ebel, newspaper reporter, testified that Jacobs paid him a weekly salary of \$25.00 "for what publicity I can give the city;" that he once worked for Jacobs four or five years ago and that Jacobs is now an endorser on an automobile note for him. (Note logs showing activities of Ebel.)

Mrs. Gladys Wilson, former Editor of a Hot Springs newspaper called "Public Opinion" and now engaged in the loan business, refused to testify in a public hearing.

The newspapers indicated at this session of the committee a delegation from Montgomery County appeared and introduced a statement in favor of Judge Witt.

According to press releases the committee held another public hearing on the night of February 11, 1937, and then announced the termination of the hearings. At this hearing, according to the newspapers, the following interesting testimony was introduced:

Mr. Samuel M. Yudin testified as to the loss of approximately \$21,000.00 to confidence men and that he learned recently that the money was divided in Hot Springs, and that a relative of an official "was mixed up in it."

John Albright, Hot Springs beer dealer, testified to seeing Judge Earl Witt on the bench and he appeared like he was drinking, but not drunk.

Dr. M. O. Evans, Hot Springs chiropractor, testified that Judge Witt was drunk on the occasion mentioned by Mr. Albright. (Dr. Evans was defeated for State Senator by Walter Wheatley.) Nat W. Burgess, neighbor of Judge Witt, testified that he had seen Judge Witt in a drunken condition.

Ormand Shaw, Superintendent of the Income Tax Division of the State Revenue Department, testified as to the following income tax returns filed with the State:

1934 - Archie Ledgerwood - \$21,264.00 listed as salary from W. S. Jacobs. (This person had previously testified that he gave \$20,000 to his brother, Municipal Judge Verne Ledgerwood, in 1934 as a "gift" and that his share of the Belvedere was purchased with funds borrowed from a man who is now deceased (having been shot recently in the Arlington Hotel) but he destroyed the note.)

1935 - Archie Ledgerwood - \$22,532.63. (No gifts were shown in either return.)

1935 - Leo McLaughlin - \$5,975.04. Net from business, \$220.00, from Liberty Bonds and \$498.32 from rental property, making a net income of \$6,693.36.

1936 - Houston Emory - \$7,800.00 (salary).

No tax returns filed by Municipal Judge Verne Ledgerwood since 1931.

On February 11th, according to the newspapers, a delegation of business and professional men of Hot Springs, which was 147 in number and included 34 professions and businesses, 6 ministers, 12 lawyers, several doctors and bankers, introduced a statement criticizing conditions in Hot Springs. The spokesman of this committee was Mr. Ray S. Smith, real estate dealer and former Secretary of the Democratic Central Committee.

For the purpose of ascertaining if this legislative investigation had been completed, and other purposes, the following activity was conducted by Special Agent J. R. Calhoun, as disclosed by his memorandum:

"In accordance with your request that I secure from Mr. Ike Murry, member of the Arkansas State Legislature from Fordyce, Arkansas, as much information as possible concerning information learned by his committee on conditions in Hot Springs, Arkansas, I thought best to have him invited to my apartment to dinner rather than talk with him at the Hotel Marion in Little Rock, Arkansas, where our presence together might attract attention. Accordingly I had my sister invite Mr. Murry to dinner at the apartment. It may be stated that I formerly resided in Fordyce years ago and my family was acquainted with the Murry family, although I did not know Ike Murry until 1936.

"I met Mr. Murry in the lobby of the Marion Hotel at 5:45 P.M., on February 17, 1937, in accordance with arrangements made with him by my sister, and we went to my apartment at 1009 West 3rd Street. I did not bring up the subject of Hot Springs, Arkansas, but Mr. Murry, after dinner, mentioned Hot Springs, and I replied that I had been in Washington, D. C., for the past two weeks and had not had time to read the papers as to what had occurred. He then of his own volition told me that his committee was not at all satisfied with the State income tax report of Mayor Leo McLaughlin of Hot Springs, Arkansas, which indicated an income of only \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 presumably for the calendar year of 1935. He asserted that it did not seem reasonable that a "big shot" should have such a small comparative rate when gambling records show that a man named Ledgerwood, a brother of the Municipal Judge at Hot Springs, Arkansas, had received \$20,000.00. Murry continued by stating that the estranged wife of Leo McLaughlin had advised that upon one occasion recently she observed Leo McLaughlin count out about \$98,000.00 in Government Bonds; she did not know the source of the same or where they were placed later by her husband.

"Murry told me H. Grady Manning, Little Rock, Arkansas, head of a chain of hotels which includes the Hotel Majestic at Hot Springs, and the Hotels Marion and Ben McGehee, in Little Rock, had become alarmed at the trend of the Legislative Committee inquiry a short time ago and had telephoned Circuit Judge Earl Witt at Hot Springs, Arkansas, and suggested that Witt resign his position and thereby "turn off the heat" to some extent. Witt told Manning over the telephone that he thought favorably of the suggestion and that he would come to Little Rock that afternoon to see Manning at his office in the Hotel Marion. However, about one-half hour after Manning had talked over the telephone with Judge Witt, he received a call from Mayor Leo McLaughlin, at which time McLaughlin stated emphatically that Judge Witt would not resign and that furthermore, Judge Witt would not come to Little Rock at all that day. Later that afternoon Witt telephoned to Mr. Manning that he would come over immediately to confer with him. McLaughlin learned of this latter conversation and thereupon sent one or two car loads of "bodyguards" to Little Rock and a few of these men watched the approach to the office of Mr. Manning on the mezzanine floor of the Hotel Marion, while others watched the Hotel lobby and some watched outside of the Hotel to intercept Judge Witt. However, Judge Witt did not come to Little Rock at all.

"Further information learned from Murry was that Mayor Leo McLaughlin appeared before the committee and read a prepared statement; he was put under oath as to the substance of this prepared statement but was not subjected to any questioning.

"Murry stated further that he had grown up in Arkansas fairly close to Hot Springs and had always thought of it as a "wide open town", but that he had never thought it possible for a city to be so completely organized as to enable a "ring" to collect contributions from everybody in business there, or to permit such a low class of people to gather there and "fleece" visitors and others.

"Murry told me that his opinion was that Judge Earl Witt was well qualified from a knowledge of law to be a Circuit Judge, but that whiskey had been his downfall, and that he undoubtedly had been put in as Judge by the Hot Springs "ring" because they knew that they could deal with him as they pleased.

"Another thing learned from Murry was that he had heard a rumor, the source of which he could not recall, to the effect that Richard "Dick" Galatas, now serving a term in the



Federal Penitentiary at Alcatraz, was determined to kill Leo McLaughlin as soon as he was free from prison. Murry asked me if I had heard any such rumors; I advised him that I had not. Murry then stated that Galatas was supposed to have been closely associated with the Hot Springs "ring", being a part owner of the Belvedere Club, a gambling resort located just outside the city. I stated to Murry when Galatas was tried at Kansas City, Missouri, testimony was given indicating that Galatas was engaged in some form of gambling at Hot Springs, and had declared that he was going to live there all his life, according to newspaper accounts. Murry asked me if my Bureau had any trouble in securing cooperation with the Police Department at Hot Springs, Arkansas, and I advised him that I had been working on War Risk Insurance cases all together and that my investigation at Hot Springs concerned such cases and inquiries made of the Hot Springs Police in these cases produced cooperation from Chief of Detectives Herbert Akers and Identification Officer Cecil Brock of the Hot Springs Police Department, inasmuch as such inquiries were as to the location of streets or the finding of witnesses for interview.

"Murry asked me if the Bureau had any information to indicate that Alvin Karpis had been in Hot Springs, Arkansas, or had had contact with any of the officials in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and I told him that I personally did not know anything concerning Hot Springs, Arkansas, except regarding War Risk Insurance cases.

"I then stated to Murry casually that the newspaper account for Monday, February 15, 1937, stated that the committee investigating Hot Springs, Arkansas, would make a report on Wednesday night, February 17, 1937, and Murry stated that the committee was endeavoring to have a report by that date. He stated that he would have to go immediately to the Wallace Building in Little Rock to attend a meeting of his committee as it had been called for 7:00 o'clock. I then drove Mr. Murry to the Hotel Marion, where he got out of my car.

"Mr. Murry was in my company from 5:45 P.M. until a few minutes after 7:00 o'clock in the evening; our conversation regarding Hot Springs did not last a long time for the reason that I did not think it advisable to make any inquiry for the reason that he might think that I was endeavoring to get information from him. As I stated previously, my family knew the Murry family in Fordyce, Arkansas, many years ago, but my acquaintance with Mr. Ide Murry is very limited. He has served as room



clerk at the Hotel Kilgore in Fordyce, Arkansas, during the evenings and I have been at that Hotel on perhaps one-half dozen occasions since I was transferred to Little Rock, Arkansas, in May, 1935. I did not know his identity until the 26th day of December, 1936, when he talked with me in the Hotel dining room at Fordyce and mentioned that he was interested in making application for appointment as a Special Agent in the Bureau, as he was an attorney-at-law. I knew previously that there was an Ike Murry who was a member of the Legislature from Fordyce, but I had thought it was his father, Ike Murry, Sr. I do not know anything as to the reliability of Mr. Ike Murry, Jr., the member of the Legislature, but his family has always been well regarded in Fordyce, Arkansas.\*

Subsequent to the above activity by Special Agent J. R. Calhoun, and on February 18, 1937 the committee filed two reports with the House of Representatives. The majority report, signed by Representatives W. M. Thompson (chairman), Lee Nichols and Ike Murry, recommended impeachment proceedings against Circuit Judge Earl Witt, the appointment of a new judge pending impeachment proceedings with new jury commissioners and a new grand jury selected at Hot Springs to investigate misfeasance and nonfeasance in office on the part of officials at Hot Springs. The minority report, submitted by Representatives Pat Robinson and Fred Jones, stated they found no just grounds for further action by the Legislature and recommended that further action be indefinitely postponed. The minority report further stated that they were of the opinion the investigation was not fair or impartial.

On this date both reports were referred by the Speaker, to the Judiciary Committee for appropriate action. However, on February 19, 1937 the Judiciary Committee reported a vote of 27 to 2 on a motion that the matter be taken out of it's hands as they "didn't want to have anything to do with it." The matter was then referred to the House as a Committee of the Whole for appropriate action.

On February 22, 1937 the House, acting as a Committee of the Whole, passed a resolution not to vote impeachment by a vote of 70 to 20 and thus terminated the legislative investigation. The newspaper articles reporting this activity quoted Representative Lee Nichols as stating there were 700 pages of testimony transcribed and 100 pages yet to be typed. Discreet inquiries will be made to

ascertain if this testimony can be obtained and examined in the Little Rock Division.

The following conversations of interest to this investigation are taken from the logs submitted as to the tap on telephone No. 2115, the residence of W. S. Jacobs:

February 11, 1937

12:40 P.M., incoming on No. 2115

J.M.J.

Mr. Bernard Machino (phonetic) of Memphis, Tenn., called on long distance. After exchange of personal greetings, etc --

Bernard: Say, that Chairman of the racing commission Hilliard is a personal friend of mine - you know, he was one of Bailey's first appointees. He lives at Winn, Ark. He is a right guy, and if you want to talk to him you can give me as a reference. I asked him if he knew you and that any favor shown you would be appreciated.

Jacobs: Thanks, I sure need it.

Bernard: You can contact him if you want to, and say I told you to look him up. He told me things may come out OK for you.

Jacobs: Thanks, that's fine.

Bernard: Give my regards to Harry.

Jacobs: OK, good bye.

(The identities of Bernard Machino and Harry are unknown at this time.)

12:50 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

J.M.J.

Jacobs: Called 1065 (Southern Club) and asked Roscoe to look up amount "Phillips" owed at Chicago Club, as he wanted to charge it off on his tax return.

12:55 P.M., incoming on No. 2115

J.M.J.

Roscoe: Advised Phillips owed \$500.00 as of 7-15 -- \$500. on books and \$150. for wire service.

Jacobs: That's right. I knew it was a little over \$1100.

("Roscoe" apparently is Roscoe Johnson. Phillips appears to be Norwood Phillips, part owner of the Chicago Club.)

8:02 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: 1993 (Anna Howard)  
Anna: Hello.  
Jacobs: We need about four girls over here.  
Anna: Oh yeah!  
Jacobs: That's right, the Government regulations say we've got to have a cook, a chambermaid, a house maid, and a house girl.  
Anna: Wouldn't I do?  
Jacobs: Yeah, Ebel's over here, we just finished supper. He says we need five girls. I told him he wouldn't need four or five like you, you could j--z all five of them.  
Anna: Well if he heard what you just said you tell him you were talking to a gal name Smith.  
Jacobs: Well, you could, couldn't you?  
Anna: I don't want but one at a time.  
Jacobs: Wouldn't you go with all of them?  
Anna: Naw, only one. That's you. (Laughs)  
Jacobs: Atta kid. Say, how would you like to go to Glenwood?  
Anna: Swell, and then to Caddo, for a swim.  
Jacobs: I'll be by to git cha in thirty minutes.  
Anna: That'll be swell.

The woman named Anna is evidently Miss Anna Howard, 824 W. Grand, Hot Springs, Arkansas. (Ebel apparently refers to Walter Ebel, newspaper reporter. The identity of Anna Howard is unknown, nor is the address 824 West Grand known to reporting agent.)

8:25 PM, incoming on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Hello.  
Mayor: Have you heard anything?  
Jacobs: Yeah. Have you?  
Mayor: Yeah. Some folks went over tonight that I've been wanting to go.  
Jacobs: Yeah, and some folks went over to the other side today.  
Mayor: So I heard.  
Jacobs: You know this fellow Ebel, I was just gettin first hand dope from him when you called. I don't want my lack of education to get this information mixed up, let me get it straight from Ebel. (He called Ebel and asked him to tell the party on the other end of the wire what happened this morning).

Ebel: Well, this Wilson woman was testifying and they said her testimony was hearsay evidence gathered from friends, and unless she had direct evidence to get off the stand.

Jacobs: Did you hear what Ebel said?

Mayor: Yeah, she's just an old country woman.

Jacobs: Ebel tells me Ray Vantire (phonetic) and some others have gone over tonight.

Mayor: Yeah, I told "Jim" to sit in and listen to everything. How about that other thing. Did you do that today?

Jacobs: You mean Verne (phonetic)? Yeah, we gave him the one, two, three today. He's all right now. What was that some friend told you?

Mayor: Some friends told me about Taylor. He wanted Hinsey (phonetic) Means and Witt impeached.

Jacobs: He's a damn fool.

Mayor: Yeah. I heard a lot of them were playing both sides. Watt is playing both sides, I was talking to him today. He says that over at the Gazette today when Bailey walked in they were all for Bailey. That's natural I reckon, but the folks over in Little Rock are getting God damn disgusted with the committee. They are beginning to see that the whole thing is just a political battle between the "outs" and the "ins".

Jacobs: I'm glad those folks went over there tonight.

Mayor: It's perfect, damn 'em. They're in middle of the pot now, and boiling like hell.

Jacobs: Yeah, and Ebel says Walter Boys (phonetic) over at the Gazette said Wells was the whole show, said Smith and Wells went over but Wood side stepped.

Mayor: Personally I think they are all God damn anxious to find out why you and I are such good friends, they've been trying to figure it out for 15 years. They can't figure how you are my friend if I'm not tied up in gambling.

Jacobs: They're crazy. By the way, two of the boys came up to the Ohio today and ask if we were booking horses there, they told 'em "No." Then they said they better get them two wheels out.

Mayor: Well, that's all right, I'll see about that later.

Jacobs: Well, I'll see you later.

Mayor: All right.

(Ebel apparently is Walter Ebel, newspaper reporter.  
 "Wilson woman" apparently refers to Gladys Wilson, former editor of the newspaper, Public Opinion at Hot Springs.  
 Ray apparently refers to Ray S. Smith, real estate man hereinbefore mentioned. "Jim" apparently refers to



Representative James Campbell. - Verne may refer to Verne Ledgerwood, Municipal Judge. One Roy Taylor was a member of the Grand Jury investigating the John Dickson case. "Hensey" apparently refers to Housley, the County Judge. The identity of Means is unknown. Watt apparently refers to Sam Watt. Bailey apparently refers to Governor Carl Bailey. The identity of Wells is unknown. Smith apparently refers to Brad Smith, former Sheriff, and Wood apparently is Scott Wood.

February 12, 1937

11:45 A.M., incoming on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Hello.  
Man: Well, I've got those figures up. Do you want to show each man's salary separate?  
Jacobs: Yes, we've got to pay the Government 2% on everything we paid out last year, including individual salaries.  
Man: I've got all the salaries listed and each man's name by his salary, is that what you wanted?  
Jacobs: I think so, but call Johnny at 109 (J. H. Morris Ins. Co.) to make sure, he's gotta make up those returns. They've got to be exact this year, not approximately, as last year.  
Man: OK, I'll call Johnny.  
Jacobs: What happened in Police Court this morning about those bookies?  
Man: I met the Mayor while ago just as he came in, he said they were coming up this morning.  
Jacobs: You haven't heard the results yet?  
Man: No.  
Jacobs: They found some racing sheets in the place, didn't they?  
Man: Yeah.  
Jacobs: That's bad. They ought not to leave those laying around.  
Man: I told Judge Ledgerwood about this, I explained to him we didn't have no booking going on, the lights hadn't been turned on back in the room but twice.  
Jacobs: Dutch Akers came by yesterday and said he heard they were putting knock-out drops, "shew fly" in the beer at the bar. What about that?  
Man: Well, he (evidently the bar tender) admitted he had put some "shew fly" drops in a couple of drunkards' beer, said they were bar room pests, made them both sick at the stomach. He said he got the drops at the drug store, just for these two.  
Jacobs: I don't know where Dutch gets all his information. You'd think a hundred people had been drugged to hear him.



Man: Well, I'll call Johnny about this tax business, it's going to amount to quite a bit. The salaries alone amount to \$42,000. I know, I've got the figures here, in fact, to be exact it is \$42,376.00. That's a lot of money.

Jacobs: Yeah, the other will run it up some more. Before you get it all up and turn it in, let me see it and see if we can't cut it a little.

The last paragraph of the above conversation would indicate that W. S. Jacobs was planning to connive in some manner to falsify his statement of expenses for the year, in an effort to defraud the Government. He was evidently talking to one of his employees at the Ohio or Southern, as some mention was made yesterday of detectives coming to the Ohio, a cigar store and gambling den.

(Telephone 109 is listed to the Morris Insurance Agency, 802½ Central Avenue.)

12:03 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

J.M.J.

Johnny Morris: Called 116 (Miller's Cigar Store). Spoke to Bill Erk (phonetic).

Bill: Do you want each man separate or the whole payroll together, because I had some part time men and in order to make up for that, I gave some others credit, even though they only worked three months. I gave them credit for a year.

Johnny: That's all right for last year, but this year's must have each man and the amount. Keep the horse book separate from the gambling.

Bill: OK.

7:30 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

J.M.J.

Leo called #3217 (Mack Wilson, County Clerk) and spoke to man who he addressed as "Mack". Mack evidently testified yesterday before committee regarding poll tax.

Leo: Look as if things are falling away there.

Mack: Yes, it is disgusting. It seems as if they are having more trouble turning the thing loose, and wish they had not started it.

Leo: They don't have nothing at all. There was no face there yesterday that disappointed me.

Mack: I told them that the reason for the drop in poll tax was due to the fact that the women didn't seem to vote on off elections.

Leo: You made a very good witness.  
 Mack: They didn't look at the papers.  
 Leo: They don't want the truth. I hear it is going to turn out very good for the officials.  
 Mack: Yes, I guess so - I didn't want to talk to you during the mess, but knew if you wanted me for anything you would call.  
 Leo: They were trying to show some official graft, but couldn't find any - our friends in office will be stronger than ever.  
 Mack: I guess they will.  
 Leo: OK, thanks for the call.  
 Mack: OK.

(This conversation appears to be between Mayor Leo McLaughlin and Mack Wilson, County Collector, the latter of whom testified before the legislative investigating committee.)

February 13, 1937

9:25 A.M., incoming on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Hello.  
 Mayor: Earl (Judge Earl Witt) just called me and said they arrested all the boys that were booking yesterday. I reckon we better stop all booking until this thing is over.  
 Jacobs: All rightie, thanks.  
 Mayor: All right.

9:28 A.M., outgoing on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: (Called 210 (Ohio Cigar Store)). Is Mr. Young there?  
 Man: No.  
 Jacobs: Is Brownie there?  
 Man: Yes (He calls Brownie to phone.)  
 Brownie: All right.  
 Jacobs: Brownie, they called me up and told me we'd have to quit booking, so don't book any in the store today, if you see any bets take 'em across to a hotel room, you know.  
 Brownie: OK, thanks, Mr. Jacobs.

9:33 A.M., outgoing on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: 1065 (Southern Grill)  
 Man: Hello.  
 Jacobs: Has Roscoe (Johnson) come down yet?  
 Man: Yes.  
 Roscoe: Hello.

Jacobs: They called me and said the Judge told him we'd better quit booking the horses today. If you see any bets though, take 'em down the street or across to the hotel. Don't pass 'em up.

Roscoe: Sure, I know. Say I picked up some good money on the last race yesterday, made five even. Old man Jack (phonetic) wanted 2000, another fellow had 1000. I had two and Smitty had two fifty.

Jacobs: You musta won.

Roscoe: We did, two to one.

Jacobs: That's good. Listen, if Ray (Tom Ray?) comes around, take him and a couple more over to a room and take their bets.

Roscoe: All right, you coming around?

Jacobs: No, I'm going to Belvedere to pay off.

Roscoe: OK, see you later.

("Smitty" apparently refers to Captain Wm. Smith, associate of Jacobs.)

7:35 P.M., incoming No. 2115

J.M.J.

Jacobs: Hello.

Mayor: Well, whatdyeknow?

Jacobs: No, haven't heard a thing today.

Mayor: I just wondered if there was anything to what Harrison told you in that letter.

Jacobs: No, I don't think so, he's trying to get elected to some sort of political job, nothing to it. Seems to be quite a few people in town today.

Mayor: Yeah, picking up. Well, that's all I wanted to know.

Jacobs: OK I'll see you later.

(The identity of Harrison is unknown.)

8:01 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

J.M.J.

Jacobs: 210 (Ohio Cigar Store)

Man: Hello.

Jacobs: Is Blackie around? (Blackie (J.R.?) Brennan).

Man: No.

Jacobs: How was everything today, was anybody around?

Man: No, we singled them all out and kept the place thinned out today.

Jacobs: Make any bets?

Man: Oh yeah, couple \$10 and the rest \$2 ones.

Jacobs: That's good, I'll see you then.

Man: O.K.

February 14, 1937

7:26 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

W.T.M.

McLaughlin (Mayor) placed long distance call to Crip Hall (phonetic), Little Rock, Ark. (Secretary of State)

McLaughlin: "Crip (phonetic) - Leo - you might tell that big fellow we got two boys and one in the Senate that will vote any way he wants and they are here for him.

Hall: Now, Leo, I tell you, I am laying out of that fight. He's going to lose that. You want me to tell him in the morning?

McLaughlin: Yes, you can tell him they are for his use - they will go any way he wants them.

Hall: All right. I'll tell him in the morning.

McLaughlin: I was over in one of these small towns this afternoon - in a filling station, and a fellow was in there and he made a crack about that bill that didn't sound so good. When he went out I asked who he was. They told me he was a - - (indistinct) - -. Now you know elections are made in these filling stations.

Hall: Now just between you and me, I told him he had better put some amendments on that bill - let the Senate pick one and the house pick one, if he wants that thing to go through. Now this is confidential, the press hasn't gotten this, but he is going to recommend that in his speech. I'll talk to Wheatly.

McLaughlin: These boys talked to me and said he was in trouble, and said they would help him - if it came through me.

Hall: I think it can pass the Senate, if - (interrupted)

McLaughlin: Yes, but that bank refund bill has got a God damn lot of fire in it.

Hall: Well, now let me get it clear; you want me to tell him you have three boys who will vote for him -- go all the way with him?

McLaughlin: Yes, you can tell him that. I'll guarantee that - they'll vote anything and say anything he wants them to.

Hall: All right. I'll tell him in the morning. You want me to call you and tell you?

McLaughlin: Yes, call me in the morning. I will be in my office.

("Crip" Hall is the Secretary of State. The "two boys and one in the Senate" apparently refers to State Representatives James R. Campbell and Ernest Maner and State Senator Walter Wheatley. The big fellow apparently refers to Governor Bailey.)

February 15, 1937

1:14 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

W.T.M.

Jacobs placed long distance call to Cadillac 5974, Detroit, Mich.

Answering Party: Hello.

Jacobs: Hello, this is Jacobs at Hot Springs.

A.P. Well, hello, Jake. Hear you had a little tough luck.

Jacobs: Oh, a little - those things will happen. Say, I saved back the centers of my wheels and I want to see if I can get some rims.

A.P. Oh, I think so, Jake.

Jacobs: Now what will that run, for me to send the centers up and get the rims?

A.P. Wait a minute, I'd better let you talk to Mr. W-- (indistinct) Just a minute. (party referred to connects)

Jacobs: Hello, Dutch, they didn't get my bowls. I had 'em in the safe and I want to know what it would cost me to get my wheels fixed up. The rims, you know, I've got the centers.

Dutch: Why, yes, Jake we can do that, sure. It won't cost you much.

Jacobs: Well now what will that run up to? They didn't take the centers, legs and tops of tables - I've got all that stuff.

Dutch: Well now, let's see (indistinct figuring). That will run about \$100 a rim. Think you are going to get started up soon?

Jacobs: Well, I'm just figuring on getting some tools - it isn't straightened out yet - may get in jail.

Dutch: Well, I tell you Jake, we can fix that up for you in good shape in no time. Just express it up. Send all the stuff you got, the base, legs, etc., and I'll put a man on it right away and you will have it back in ten days.

Jacobs: I'm getting it up to you right away.

Dutch: In the meantime, if you see you are going to get started, call me and let me know, and I'll send you some new stuff - you know - for higher ups. I may get down there soon, to take some baths. I am felling kinda down.

Jacobs: Come on down - the races open up soon, and the people are coming on in.

Dutch: So you think you are getting things straightened out down there?

Jacobs: Well, I think they will. They are trying to impeach our man, but I don't think they will.

(Conversation closed with usual biddings of good bye.)

Mayor Leo McLaughlin called Hazel Marsh, his secretary, at 9:20 P.M., this date from Mr. Jacobs' residence and the conversation indicated intimate relations between the two.



February 16, 1937

7:05 P.M., incoming on No. 2115

W.T.M.

Man calling: Hello! Who is this?  
Jacobs: Jacobs talking.  
John: This is John. I got those things.  
Jacobs: Well, good! Fine!  
John: If you can get the other receipts I can get the other stuff.  
Jacobs: Now, let's see -- Roscoe got his -- (interrupted)  
John: What else you got -- rims? You got those receipts.  
Jacobs: Where are you now? Little Rock?  
John: No, I just got in town.  
Jacobs: Let's see -- Roscoe has some (interrupted).  
John: I tell you what - we'll check up on it tomorrow when I bring the stuff.

(The above conversation apparently refers to the return of books seized in the raid by State Revenue Agents.)

February 17, 1937

10:25 A.M., incoming on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Hello.  
Wooten: Jake, Gil Wooten, Arkansas Bank. Need a little pocket change this morning?  
Jacobs: Sure do.  
Wooten: Well, come on down and bring your receipts. I've got two cashier's checks for you for \$2500 each. I sold your stock.  
Jacobs: Can't I send somebody?  
Wooten: Yeah, I can fix it that way.  
Jacobs: Well, Johnny Morris does the work on my books for me, he'll be down and sign for them.  
Wooten: There'll be a 5% per share Government tax for transfer.  
Jacobs: That's all right. Thanks very much, you'll be well paid.  
Wooten: All right, goodbye.

10:45 A.M., incoming on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Hello.  
Man: Mr. Jacobs, our man got drunk last night and we've got nobody to run the machine today.  
Jacobs: Well, don't let anybody know, if you do it'll be all over town.  
Man: What we gonna do?  
Jacobs: Is Memphis bookies open?  
Man: No, they're closed too.  
Jacobs: Well, take the winners and the scratches from the radio, then call in every once in a while. Nobody'll find out, you can work it out that way.  
Man: OK. That's all right.

5:45 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

J.M.J.

Jacobs called Western Union and sent the following message:

A. R. Conley  
523 Vine St.  
Shreveport, La.

Sorry cannot use your tools

W. S. Jacobs.

(Tools apparently refers to gambling equipment.)

6:55 P.M., incoming on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Hello.

Miller: Mr. Jacobs, this is Bill Miller. There was a Government man checking our beer license today. He said they were going to turn in the report tomorrow and that we could all get our books back.

Jacobs: Yeah, I know it. Johnny got ours back today.

Miller: OK, just though I'd tell you.

(Bill Miller operates the Miller Cigar Store.)

7:22 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Long distance.

L. D. Long distance.

Jacobs: This is Jacobs, 2115, calling Louie Polosky (Tarlowski) at the Albert Pike Hotel or 4-7251, Little Rock.

Poloski: Hello.

Jacobs: How ye be.

Polosky: All right Jake.

Jacobs: Whatdyeknow?

Polosky: The report goes in tomorrow.

Jacobs: In our favor, of course.

Poloski: Nope, 3 to 2 the other way.

Jacobs: You positive of that?

Poloski: No, but I heard they want to shift the responsibility.

Jacobs: We had a couple of flashes that Murray and Nichols had a fight and it was going the other way.

Poloski: Nichols is the fifth man, you know. I heard he wanted to pass the buck to the house. They're gonna take it up in the morning.

Jacobs: There'll be no way of knowing until then, eh?

Poloski: Well, I'm going down to the station now to mail a letter.

If I hear anything on the way back, I'll let you know.

Jacobs: All the boys over here talked to Nichols today, but he's not to be depended on. He took Miller's license over there, if he had taken mine I would have had him arrested, he's liable to get the Government on him for that. I just wish he had taken mine.

Poloski: I'll call you tonight if I hear anything at all, otherwise I'll call you in the morning. If they don't pass on it tomorrow it will be next week. Thompson will probably raise some Cain.

Jacobs: All rightie. Thanks.

(this conversation pertains to the legislative investigating committee.)

7:55 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Mayor Leo McLaughlin called Long Distance.

Leo: Long distance this is 2115 calling Ed Farris in Little Rock Little R. Opr. We have E. L. Farris at 5112 and 3-0483. (Operator called Farris at his home - 3-0483).

Mrs. Farris: Mr. Farris is having dinner at the Hotel Marion.

Operator: Had him paged there.

Farris: Hello.

Leo: Ed, this is Leo.

Farris: Wait, Leo, I'll call you back from a pay station booth. (He did)

Leo: Ed, I called you about two things, first I was talking to Earl a while ago, and he told me what you told him, what Jake had said about me, when you were talking to Jake.

Farris: That's right.

Leo: Jake must have been ribbing you Ed, he must have been clowning or kidding one, you know I never told Jake any such damn thing.

Farris: I didn't think so, but I told Witt just what Jake told me. Jake ought to cut out such bull---, it's liable to put you in the middle.

Leo: Jake must have been ribbing. Was anyone else present?

Farris: Yes, Watt.

Leo: Well, no wonder, Jake and Watt are always ribbing each other.

Ed: Here's the thing Leo. I've got no damn business being in on this thing at all, but I've tried to be a good friend to all of you fellows in Hot Springs.

Leo: I know that, Ed.

Farris: You know too, that Graham (Marion?) Anderson and Judge Witt are both friends of mine, that's why I told Witt what Jake said. Do you want me to tell you over the phone what Jake said.

Leo: Yeah, it's all right, go ahead.

Farris: Well, Jake said you were really in with Governor Bailey, and through him you were going to get some of the representatives.

Leo: You know damn well I didn't make any such statement.

Farris: I know it, and it made me mad.

Leo: The whole thing is this Ed. The investigation really started out on Earl Witt, and before they got through they were investigating me as much as they were Earl. The only ones that knew a damn thing about me are those two preachers. You know about my divorce. That's why I hate to come over to Little Rock. Every time I do those two damn preachers "tail" me, they know every where I go, every room I'm in.

Farris: I know there's a lot of bull--- going around Leo, that's why I've kept quiet to everybody except Witt about what Jake said. Now listen, I'll tell you something else Jake told me. I haven't told anybody this, and am not, except you. He said he heard you talking to Carl Bailey over the phone, he said he was on an upstairs phone listening. I'm not going to tell anybody that.

Leo: Please don't, Jake's crazy as hell. He ought to quit talking like that, that'll put me in the middle sure enough.

Farris: I won't say a word.

Leo: The other thing I wanted to ask you about is why the commission won't let "Doc" work out at the track.

Farris: They just don't want "Doc" out there. They have their own man.

Leo: Well, what about this man Hammett?

Farris: Who?

Leo: It's Hammett or Hammond, he was recommended by Hilliard.

Farris: The commission is opposed to Hilliard.

Leo: Well, please keep us out of the middle on this.

Farris: I'll try to, but the commission don't want to interfere.

Leo: Seller (Cella)(phonetic) did not want to get cross with the commission.

Farris: Now listen, Leo.

Leo: No, I want you to get the whole thing straight, Seller (Cella) was told that the Governor would recommend Ray. Hilliard called me and wanted me to recommend Hammond.

Farris: Suppose you wait a couple of days to see what the commission does.

Leo: What can I tell Hilliard if he calls me?

Farris: Just tell him you are marking time for a few days.

Leo: Thanks, Ed.

Farris: I'll be over there sometime tomorrow and call you.

Leo: OK.

(Ed Farris is Secretary of the Racing Commission.)



February 18, 1937

12:05 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Operator, get me Operator #12, Little Rock. This is Jacobs, 2115.  
Man: Hello. (Probably "The Jew" - Louis Tarlowski, Attorney).  
Jacobs: Watdeyesay?  
Man: I just saw the report, it's 3 to 2 in favor of impeachment.  
Jacobs: Is that public knowledge yet?  
Man: No, but it will be this afternoon. They are going to present it before lunch. Robertson and Jones are going to present a minority report. Thompson, Murray and Nichols form the majority.  
Jacobs: OK, thanks a lot.

12:10 PM, outgoing on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: 648 (Mayor's Office)  
Leo: Hello.  
Jacobs: "The Jew" just called me, said he got a chance to look at the report, it's 3 to 2 for impeachment.  
Leo: Yeah, I just heard.  
Jacobs: OK.

The "Jew" that Jacobs refers to is probably Louis Tarlowski to whom he talked last night.

February 19, 1937

5:55 P.M., incoming on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Hello.  
Man: Jake, Long distance operator No. 18 was trying to get you from Shreveport about the call you put in for Lee Brown.  
Jacobs: I didn't have no call in to Lee Brown.  
Man: That's all I know about it, sorry I bothered you.  
Jacobs: That's all right. Thanks.

5:57 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Called for long distance. She answered.  
Jacobs: Long distance, this is W. S. Jacobs, 2115, operator 18 at Shreveport was calling for me.  
Operator: Just a moment.  
Operator 18: Operator one eight.  
Operator: Mr. W. S. Jacobs is on the line.  
Operator 18: Mr. Jacobs, we were trying to locate Mr. Lee Brown through you.



Jacobs: He's in Houston, Texas.  
Operator 18: Do you know his address?  
Jacobs: Yes, wait'll I get my glasses. (pause) That's W. L. Brown,  
Rhodes Apartments, Houston, Texas. Lee is his nickname.  
Operator: Thank you, Mr. Jacobs.

7:10 P.M., incoming on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Hello.  
Leo: What 'cha know?  
Jacobs: Hey there - things don't look so hot do they?  
Leo: I think things look pretty hot, did you read the New Era  
tonight.  
Jacobs: Yes, about the testimony?  
Leo: Yeah, the whole house is going to sit in as a committee and  
listen to all the evidence, if we can get in our evidence  
Monday I think the house will kill the whole thing.  
Jacobs: I sure hope they do.  
Leo: Well, they're liable to.  
Jacobs: The Democrat was good. Did you read the editorial?  
Leo: Yeah, but it was the article under the editorial that was best.  
The people over there are sick of the whole thing and  
spending the State's money.

Jacobs: Listen, we've got a receipt from Thompson for \$7,000. in  
currency and \$3,500. in checks for checking the Ohio's  
stuff. Johnny was checking up with the Revenue Department  
today and when he went over to get the stuff they could  
not produce the \$7,000. in currency or the \$3,500. in  
checks.

Leo: Have you got the receipt?  
Jake: Sure. Thompson gave a receipt to Johnny.  
Leo: We ought to bring that to light.  
Jacobs: Do you want the receipt.  
Leo: Yes.  
Jacobs: OK, I'll send it over in the morning.  
Leo: What's been done about it?  
Jacobs: Johnny taken it up with the Revenue Department.  
Leo: Why did Thompson give him a receipt for \$7,000.?  
Jacobs: I dunno, but I was sitting by him and seen him write  
out the receipt.  
Leo: Do you mean "Tink" actually gave Thompson \$7000 in currency?  
Jacobs: Well, Thompson gave him a receipt for it anyhow. You know  
there wasn't that much around.  
Leo: Oh! I see. Well?  
Jacobs: You know Tink, he had a box.  
Leo: Well, howdit happen?

Jacobs: Well, Johnny handed him the box and told him there was \$7000. in it in cash and he give him a receipt for it.  
 Leo: Well, keep that receipt, we gonna make the son-uv-uh-biches pay that money back.  
 Jacobs: OK, I'll see yuh.

(The conversation as to the receipt given Johnny Morris by Representative Thompson is to be noted, apparently the same being a trick to embarrass Mr. Thompson.)

7:28 P.M., incoming on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Hello.  
 Young: Mr. Jacobs - Tink, you call me?  
 Jacobs: Yeah, you got that receipt from Thompson for \$7000.00?  
 Young: No sir, Johnny's got it.  
 Jacobs: Would you like to collect on it?  
 Young: Yes, sir.  
 Jacobs: Well, Leo is going to collect it for us.  
 Young: Good, I'm going to get 5% interest on the money besides.  
 (Both laugh)  
 Young: Does Leo want to take it on a commission?  
 Jacobs: Yeah. He's probably mad enough though to collect it without any commission.  
 Young: Well, I wish I could collect it. We've got the receipt all right. (Laughs)  
 Jacobs: Yeah, and I was right there when you give him the box, but I turned around so didn't see him count it. (Laughs)  
 Young: (Laughs) Pretty good --- (?) (Sounded like he said gyp or trick).  
 Jacobs: Well, we'll worry them plenty.  
 Young: I'll call Johnny about the receipt.  
 Jacobs: All right.

February 20, 1937

9:46 A.M., incoming on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Jacobs: Hello.  
 Leo: Whatdeyasay?  
 Jacobs: Nothing much, what's the news?  
 Leo: Well, quite a few of the boys were in town last night. Several of them are around here now. You know Monday is a legal holiday. The banks and everything else will be closed, so you better get me three O's up to the house right away. I may not want it, but want to be in a position, you know.

Jacobs: Yeah, is that all you need?  
 Leo: Yes, I may not need that but in case I do, you know,  
 just like that seven I needed.  
 Jacobs: I'll get it now, got a boy you can send over?  
 Leo: Yeah, maybe 30 or 40 minutes.  
 Jacobs: Well, is Washington's Birthday gonna affect the boys over there?  
 Leo: No, they'll work right on.  
 Jacobs: How do things look?  
 Leo: I'm getting things in good shape for you. I'm trying to handle  
 it just like you would want me to.  
 Jacobs: That's fine, well you send one of your boys over.

(It will be noted from the log as to February 10, 1937 that  
 Jacobs had one of his men get \$700 ready and it appears  
 this is the money referred to by McLaughlin, and was paid  
 to someone as a bribe.)

6:25 P.M., incoming on No. 2115

B.M.S.

Man: Wait a minute.  
 Jacobs: Hello.  
 Man: Mr. Jacobs, Houston Emory just got back from Texas. Says  
 he'd take a check for \$1000.00 for both places, here and  
 Belvedere, wants to deal by Tuesday or says deal is off.  
 Says he's interested in some acreage over there and they  
 have a well down 3400 feet and if we don't want to deal  
 by Tuesday it's off.  
 Jacobs: Emory's working both ends, he's putting out a lot of  
 propaganda.  
 Man: You know he turned down my draft of \$1940.00. He owes  
 four thousand out there and \$9700.00 here. I told him  
 \$1000.00 wouldn't go far divided between Cap. Smith,  
 Bill, Harry, Watts, Red, Miller, myself and you.  
 Jacobs: Well, if we took the thousand, how would you boys want to split?  
 Man: That's up to you. Emory says Al is sore about how much  
 he lost.  
 Jacobs: He never lost over here, that son-of-a-bitch has taken more  
 out of here than he ever left here. You fellows can  
 take it but I'll get mine some other way.  
 Man: O.K. Mr. Jacobs.

(Houston Emory is the former Prosecuting Attorney. It  
 would appear from this conversation that Emory owes a  
 gambling debt of \$13,400.00, and offered to pay the same  
 with land in Texas.)

6:45 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

J.M.J.

Jacobs: Called 600 (Residence of Leo McLaughlin)  
Jacobs: Where have you been all day?  
Leo: Working.  
Jacobs: Who ever heard of you working - I was talking to Ebel -  
he has a copy of the receipt and I told him to see you  
about whether it should be printed or not. I didn't  
want him to do anything without your OK. He's got a  
copy - you can break it or not.  
Leo: Well, I've got several contacts tonight and want to  
talk it over first. The truth is going to come out  
now. They have allowed him to bring his witnesses - and  
everyone in town will go over and testify for him.  
Jacobs: OK, see you tomorrow.

6:52 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

J.M.J.

Jacobs: Called 3548 (Walter Ebel, newspaper reporter.)  
Jacobs: I was talking to that fellow (Leo) he wants a little time  
to think it over, so don't cut loose until he says so.  
Ebel: OK, I won't.  
Jacobs: He is at his home now.  
Ebel: I may call him.

(This conversation apparently refers to publication of the  
receipt given by Representative Thompson to Johnny Morris  
for \$7,000.00 in cash, and \$3,500.00 in checks.)

7:08 P.M., outgoing on No. 2115

J.M.J.

Jacobs called 210 (Ohio Cigar Store) and asked for Mr. Young.  
Jacobs: What kind of fellows hang around your place?  
Young: All kinds, why?  
Jacobs: Well, one of them took me out and got me drunk - Do you  
think you'll get your \$7000 back?  
Young: Ha Ha I should - what's doing about that?  
Jacobs: Well, I'm waiting for some folks to decide.  
Young: I should get it.  
Jacobs: Yes, I saw Nichols pick it up.  
Young: And I got a receipt.  
Jacobs: I told Ebel to wait on that - I told Rogers they took 7000  
in cash and 3500 checks.  
Young: That's correct. Ha! Ha!  
Jacobs: It might be good publicity.

Young:

Well, it won't look good if they have to make good the \$7,000.

Jacobs:

How's business?

Young:

Plenty of people but very little money, we could do better if we wanted to, but I wonder if it's advisable.

Jacobs:

No. I'll see what can be done, and will call you if it's OK for Monday.

P-E-N-D-I-N-G



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR  
EAT:CDW

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
**Washington, D. C.**

March 2, 1937.

Time - 3:03 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. S. E. Hays, who said he worked for the Postal Telegraph Company, called me from Hot Springs, Arkansas, and wanted to know if we could get an Agent over to see him at once, in that the matter which he has in mind is very important. I told him that we have an office at Little Rock, and he said he tried to get in touch with that office, but could get no one.

I told him we would get in touch with our Little Rock Office and have him interviewed within the next hour or so.

Time - 3:06 P.M.

I telephoned SAC Fletcher at the Little Rock Office about the above matter, and he said he would have someone interview Mr. Hays at once.

He said that Mr. Hays must be mistaken about calling the office and getting no answer, because someone has been there all day.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

7-576-3-47	
INVESTIGATION	
MAR 4 1937 A.M.	
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
TAMM	ONE

Post Office Box #2118  
Detroit, Michigan  
March 5, 1937

Special Agent in Charge  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Re: AUGUSTINE LOVEIDE, alias  
Augustine Loveide.  
Information Concerning.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your telegram of February 18, 1937, requesting information as to whether or not Buick sedan, motor #63185488, bearing 1937 Michigan tags #VV-9849 and registered in the name of Augustine Loveide, 2192 Belvidere Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, was stolen.

Please be advised that the registration records as maintained at the Detroit Police Department indicate that the above described automobile, bearing the tags mentioned, was registered in the name of Augustine Loveide, 2192 Belvidere Avenue, Detroit.

The Auto Squad of the Detroit Police Department advised that there is no report of theft on this automobile, and the Identification Division of the Police Department informed that there is neither a criminal record under either name nor any indication of any individual bearing these names being wanted by that department.

A check of the indices maintained at the Detroit Division reflected no information concerning Loveide.

A summary of the above was furnished your Division by teletype on February 18, 1937.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED & INDEXED

LL:AM  
62-870

cc-Bureau

Jay C. Newman  
Special Agent in Charge 1937

7-576-3-48
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MARCH 5 1937
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED  
DIVISION ONE  
MARCH 5 1937

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
Post Office Box 1469,  
Little Rock, Arkansas,  
March 1, 1937.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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

Re: BREKID.

Dear Sir:

The records of the Little Rock Field Division indicate that the Bureau, by teletype of November 20, 1936, authorized the installation of a tap on the two telephones of the Police Department, and the telephone of Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin, all located in the City Hall at Hot Springs, Arkansas, and also authorized the expenditure of a maximum of \$50.00 per month for the rental of a suitable plant. This plant is located at 207 Laurel Street, and was rented at a monthly rental of \$50.00. It appears, however, that the agents maintaining this plant are expending the sum of \$55.00 per month as monthly rental of the premises located at 207 Laurel Street, but the records of the Little Rock Field Division indicate only the original authority from the Bureau to expend the sum of \$50.00 per month. This excess of \$5.00 per month is due to the fact that the property was rented with all utilities paid by the landlord, who, after the plant had been in operation for some time, complained that the utilities were very high, and the agents therefore reimbursed him in the sum of \$5.00 to take care of the large utility bills. It will be noted that this plant or tap is in operation 24 hours a day, which occasions almost constant use of the electricity and gas.

In order that the records might be complete in this matter, it is requested that the Bureau authorize the expenditure of a sum not to exceed \$60.00 per month for the maintenance of the tap on telephones 123 446 and 648 at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Very truly yours,

CHAPMAN FLETCHER,  
Special Agent in Charge.

BLD:cpw  
7-2

cc - Cincinnati  
Mr. Connelley

DEINDEXED  
THIS SERIAL ONLY  
9/19/57 23

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

7-576-3-49  
MAR 5 1937  
TAMM  
ONE

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-12114-10224

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 1469,  
Little Rock, Arkansas,  
March 1, 1937.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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

Re: BREKID.

Dear Sir:

The records of the Little Rock Field Division indicate that by teletype of December 20, 1936 the Bureau granted authority for the installation of a telephone tap on the residence telephone of William S. Jacobs, 116 Cedar St., Hot Springs, Arkansas, telephone 2115, and this tap has been in operation since February 5, 1937, and until February 22, 1937, when the same was disconnected for a temporary period.

The records of the Little Rock Field Division fail to indicate any authority from the Bureau as to the expenditure of money for the monthly rental of a suitable plant from which this telephone tap could be maintained. For the completion of the records of the Little Rock Division, it is requested that the Bureau authorize the Little Rock Field Division to expend not to exceed \$50.00 per month for the rental of a suitable plant from which this tap may be maintained. As it will be noted from the telegram from the Little Rock Division to the Bureau under date of February 5, 1937, the plant covering this tap is located at 205<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Cedar Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas, which premises, I am advised by Special Agent D. P. Sullivan, is rented for \$50.00 per month from Mrs. Sam Davis, of 209 Cedar Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Very truly yours,

*Chapman Fletcher*  
CHAPMAN FLETCHER,  
Special Agent in Charge.

BLD:cpw  
7-2

cc - Cincinnati  
Mr. Connelley

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

7-574-50
<i>[Handwritten initials and signatures]</i>

PARTIALLY  
INDEXED

3/15/37

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

IMC:RAM

7-576-3-50

March 17, 1937.

RECORDED

7-576-3-50

Special Agent in Charge,  
Little Rock, Arkansas.

RE: GEORGE TIMINEX, DR. JOSEPH P.  
MORAN, with aliases, FUGITIVE -  
I. O. #1232 et al - EDWARD  
GEORGE BREMER, VICTIM; KIDNAPING;  
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE;  
HARBORING OF FUGITIVES; NATIONAL  
FIREARMS ACT.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your two letters of March 1,  
1937, requesting authority to make certain expenditures in  
the maintenance of plants at 207 Laurel Street and 209 Cedar  
Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas, in connection with the tele-  
phone taps which have been installed at Hot Springs. You are  
hereby authorized to expend an amount not to exceed \$50 per  
month to maintain the plant at 209 Cedar Street and an amount  
not to exceed \$60 per month to maintain a plant at 207 Laurel  
Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

In connection with this matter, your attention is  
directed to the necessity of obtaining prior Bureau authority  
before expenditures of this nature are made.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

CC - Cincinnati  
Tacoma

(under cover  
of letter)

Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Pennington

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
MAR 18 1937  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*[Handwritten signature]*

*Received  
Cincinnati  
OPR*

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-12114