SUBJECT: LOUIE, LOUIE

(THE 60's SONG)
DESCRIPTION OF FOLLOWING FILE MATERIAL

Louie Louie The 60's song
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (145-New)(P)

DATE: 2/17/64

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PHONOGRAPH RECORD
"LOUIE LOUIE" DISTRIBUTED
BY LIMAX MUSIC, NYC, N.Y.

TRANSMITTED HEREWITH ARE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR EXAMINATION
BY THE FBI LABORATORY:

Lyrics of "Louie Louie" as published by Limax Music.

Record "Louie Louie" (under obscene cover).

Reported obscene lyrics for "Louie Louie." (Under
obscene cover).

On 10/2/64, advisers SA
referred complaint from Sarasota
High School, advising that captioned record is very popular with the
high school students, and he has been furnished lyrics for the song,
which are very obscene.

He determined that this record is very
popular, is a best seller in the area, and is played by the local
radio stations. He said the record is a calypso-type song, and the
words are hard to recognize. However, with a copy of the obscene words
refer to, it sounds like the lyrics are identical with the
enclosed obscene lyrics.

Radio Station WKXY, furnished what Limax Music Company claims to
be the actual lyrics of the song, which is Enclosure #1. However,
said the lyrics of the song do not seem to be the
same.

Enclosures were furnished to SA
by 145-2961-1

BELIEF
Bureau (Enc. 3)
ENCLOSURE

190-49342-4
Laboratory is requested to determine if enclosed record, "Louie Louie", can be considered obscene for purposes of prosecution under ITOM statute.

The three enclosures may be retained by the Laboratory or destroyed, if, after examination, it appears they will be of no further use.
REO 217/64.

The following items are being returned to the Tampa Office under separate cover by the Bureau Laboratory:

lyrics of "Louie Louie" as published by Limax Music.
Record of "Louie Louie" (under obscene cover).
Reported obscene lyrics for "Louie Louie," (under obscene cover).

You should determine from whom of Sarasota High School obtained the lyrics for instant song, which was allegedly considered very obscene and which he made available to you. Following an interview with you should discuss this matter with the appropriate USA to determine if he considers the material obscene for the purpose of prosecution under ITCH Statute.

For your information, the Department recently received a copy of the record "Louie Louie" from FBI Laboratory, Room 7012 with a request that it be reviewed to determine if it was of an obscene nature. The Department advised that they were unable to interpret any of the wording in the record and therefore could not make any decision concerning the matter and so advised the individual who made the record available to them for review.

SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.
Letter to SAC, Tampa
RE: UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD "LOUIE LOUIE"

For further information, an FBI release dated 2/12/64 indicated that the "Government" has dropped investigations it had been conducting into complaints that a popular rock-and-roll record has obscene lyrics.

"The complaints charged that the record "Louie Louie" as recorded on the Vano label by the waitress, had off-color lyrics which could be detected when the 45 r.p.m. platter was played at 33-1/3 r.p.m."

"Investigations of the record were started by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Post Office and Justice Departments after complaints were received from about a half dozen persons, including Indiana Governor Matthew N. Welch.

"All three Governmental agencies dropped their investigations because they were unable to determine what the lyrics of the song were, even after listening to the records at speeds ranging from 16 r.p.m. to 75 r.p.m."

"Following completion of your investigation of this matter, the obscene material should be made available to the FBI Laboratory for appropriate disposition and you should advise the Bureau results of your investigation.

NOTE:

TP by letter 2/17/64 made available above mentioned items concerning a record named "Louie Louie" and requested that Lab determine if enclosed record could be considered obscene for purposes of prosecution under Title Statute. Mr. Edward J. Peace of the Department advised on 2/26/64 that his office had received a copy of the "Louie Louie" record from for examination to determine if they considered the record obscene. He stated that there office was unable to interpret the wording on this record since same was very garbled and they advised Office of same. He stated that at this time they were taking no action concerning this record."
UPI-132

WASHINGTON--THE GOVERNMENT HAS DROPPED INVESTIGATIONS IT HAD BEEN CONDUCTING INTO COMPLAINTS THAT A POPULAR ROCK-AND-ROLL RECORD HAS OBSCENE LYRICS.

THE COMPLAINTS CHARGED THAT THE RECORD "LOUIE LOUIE," AS RECORDED ON THE VANE LABEL BY THE KINGSMEN, HAD OFF-COLOR LYRICS WHICH COULD BE DETECTED WHEN THE 45 R.P.M. PLATTER WAS PLAYED AT 33-1/3 RPM.

INVESTIGATIONS OF THE RECORD WERE STARTED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC), THE POST OFFICE AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS AFTER COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED FROM ABOUT A HALF DOZEN PERSONS, INCLUDING INDIANA GOVERNOR MATTHEW E. WELSH.

ALL THREE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES DROPPED THEIR INVESTIGATIONS BECAUSE THEY WERE UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT THE LYRICS OF THE SONG WERE, EVEN AFTER LISTENING TO THE RECORDS AT SPEEDS RANGING FROM 16 RPM TO 78 RPM.

2/12-2419PES

WASHINGT0N CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
Memorandum

TO:    DIRECTOR, FBI
DATE:  3/4/64

FROM:  SAC, TAMPA (145-84)(P)

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PHONOGRAPH RECORD
"LOUIE LOUIE" DISTRIBUTED
BY LIMAX MUSIC, NYC.
ITOM

ReTplet 2/17/64 and Bulet 2/28/64.

Please note Miami incorrectly carried as office of origin,
Tampa letter of reference.

There is nothing of pertinent interest to Miami in this case. Miami disregard.
To: FBI, Tampa (145-New)  
Date: March 4, 1964

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT; 
PHONOGRAM RECORD 
"LOUIE LOUIE" DISTRIBUTED 
BY ZIMAX MUSIC, NYC. 

ITCN: 
CO: MIAMI 

Examination requested by: 
Tampa 

Reference: 
Letter 2/17/64 and Bureau letter to Tampa 2/28/64 

Examination requested: 
Document 

Remarks: 

Enclosures (4) (1, ALSO SUBMITTED, 2 Lab report) 
1 - Miami - Enclosure (Lab report) 

MAILED 25 
MAR 5 - 1964 
COMM-FBI
REPORT

of the

FBI

LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Tampa (145-New)

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PHONOGRAPH RECORD
"LOUIE LOUIE" DISTRIBUTED
BY LIMAX MUSIC, INC.
ITON

Specimens received from FBI, Tampa, 2/18/64

Q1 WAND Record entitled "LOUIE LOUIE (Richard Berry)
THE KINGSMen" on one side and "HAUNTED CASTLE (LYNN EASTON)
THE KINGSMen" on the other side

ALSO SUBMITTED: Xerox copy of obscene words to record
"LOUIE LOUIE" and Xerox copy of published
lyrics to record "LOUIE LOUIE"

Result of examination:

The recording on Q1 was not associated with material
of a similar nature which has been forwarded previously to the
Laboratory.

The lyrics of the song on the record, Q1, was not
definitely determined in the Laboratory examination.

Specimen Q1 and the "ALSO SUBMITTED" material are
returned herewith.
Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PHONOGRAPH RECORD "LOUIE LOUIE" DISTRIBUTED
BY LIMAX MUSIC, NYC.

(examined in Miami)

Examination requested by:

Examination requested:

Result of Examination:

1. N.F. Q1 en OS.
2. Not determined whether wording on Q1
dame as published lyrics for "Louie Louise"
or whether same as obscene wording of lyrics
listed as also submitted material.

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 WAND Record entitled "LOUIE LOUIE (Richard Berry) THE KINGSMEN"
on one side and "HAUNTED CASTLE (LYNN EASTON) THE KINGSMEN" on
the other side

ALSO SUBMITTED: Xerox copy of obscene words to record "LOUIE LOUIE"
and xerox copy of published lyrics to record
"LOUIE LOUIE"

ALL

\[\text{badly damaged} \]

\[\text{submitted return to} \]

\[\text{in Electronic Section - temporary will be destroyed} \]
Herbert J. Miller, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

SUBJECT: Obscenity, Wall Record No. 443-A
"Louie, Louie"

Enclosed is a copy of a citizen complaint concerning the subject record. It is requested that you arrange an interview of _____ to verify his finding that the record lyrics are obscene.

We request that you advise us of your findings from your current investigation of a complaint originating from Florida alleging that the record has obscene lyrics.

Enclosure

Enclosure
Mr. Robert F. Kennedy  
Attorney General USA  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Who do you turn to when your 'teen age daughter buys and brings home pornographic or obscene materials being sold along with objects directed and aimed at the 'teen age market in every City, Village and Record shop in this Nation?

My daughter brought home a record of "LOUIE LOUIE" and I, after reading that the record had been banned from being played on the air because it was obscene, proceeded to try to decipher the jumble of words. The lyrics are so filthy that I cannot enclose them in this letter.

This record is on the WAND label # 143-A and recorded by the KINGSMEN "American Production by Ken Chase and Jerry Dennon" and there is an address 1650 Broadway New York, N.Y.

I would like to see these people, The "artists", the Record company and the promoters prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

We all know there is obscene materials available for those who seek it, but when they start sneaking in this material in the guise of the latest 'teen age rock & roll hit record these morons have gone too far.

This land of ours is headed for an extreme state of moral degradation what with this record, the biggest hit movies and the sex and violence exploited on T.V.

How can we stamp out this menace? ? ? ?

Yours very truly,

[Redacted]

FEB 7 1964

CRIMINAL DIVISION
Lou-ii Lou-ii Oh, no. Grab her way down low.
(Repeat ) This line least clear.

There is a fine little girl waiting for me.
She is just a girl across the way.
Then I take her all alone,
She's never the girl I lay at home.

(Chorus)

Tonight at ten I'll lay her again
We'll fuck your girl and by the way
And ... on that chair I'll lay her there.
I felt my bone ... ah ... in her hair.

(Chorus)

She had a rag on, I moved above.
It won't be long she'll slip it off.
I held her in my arms and then
And I told her I'd rather lay her again.

Chorus.
Enclosed herewith for information of Indianapolis and Tampa are two copies each of a self-explanatory letter received at the Bureau from the Department wherein they request that [redacted] be interviewed concerning a letter he wrote to the Department on 1/30/64 indicating that he had examined a phonograph record that had been purchased by his daughter entitled, "Louie Louie," and found same to be obscene. Two copies of [redacted] letter to the Department are also enclosed for information.

The Department has requested that they be advised of results of current investigation being conducted in Florida where a similar record was reported as being obscene by [redacted] at Sarasota, Florida, Tampa case entitled "Unsub; Phonograph Record "Louie Louie" Distributed by Limax Music, NYC, ITON."

Indianapolis at [redacted] interview and obtain any evidence he might have that would indicate the record "Louie Louie" to be obscene and thereafter present facts to local USA to determine if he would entertain prosecution for violation of the ITON Statute.

Tampa expedite investigation at Sarasota, Florida, concerning the record "Louie Louie" and make extra copy.
Airtel to SACs, Indianapolis
Tampa
Re: UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD

of your report available to Bureau for dissemination to the Department. For information of Indianapolis, the Department recently received a copy of the record "Louie Louie" from [redacted] with a request that it be reviewed to determine if it was of an obscene nature. The Department advised that they were unable to interpret any of the wording in the record and, therefore, could not make any decision concerning the matter and were so advising the individual who made the record available to them for review.

For further information, an UPI release dated 2/12/64 indicated that the "Government had dropped investigations it had been conducting into complaints that a popular rock-and-roll record has obscene lyrics.

"The complaints charged that the record "Louie Louie," as recorded on the Wane Label by the Kingsmen, had off-color lyrics which could be detected when the 45 r.p.m. platter was played at 33-1/3 r.p.m.

Investigations of the record were started by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Post Office and Justice Departments after complaints were received from about a half dozen persons, including Indiana Governor Matthew K. Welsh.

"All three Governmental agencies dropped their investigations because they were unable to determine what the lyrics of the song were, even after listening to the records at speeds ranging from 16 r.p.m. to 78 r.p.m."

NOTE: Department in receipt of letter from [redacted] complaining that record "Louie Louie" being sold locally and believed to be obscene. Department desires [redacted] interviewed to verify that record lyrics are obscene. Department also requested that they be advised of results of investigation being conducted by the Tampa Office regarding similar record where [redacted] Sarasota, Florida turned over copy of record to local authorities with obscene lyrics for same. Investigation being conducted by Tampa and Indianapolis Offices to determine if ITOM violation exists.
To: FBI, San Diego (145-New)  

Date: April 2, 1964

Re: WAID 1650 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NEW YORK ITOM

Examination requested by: San Diego
Reference: Letter 3/17/64
Examination requested: Document
Remarks: Unless advised to the contrary within sixty days, specimen Q1 will be disposed of in the laboratory.

Enclosures (3) (3 Lab Report)
- Tampa (145-New) Enclosure (Lab report)
  1 - 80-662 (obscene material)
  2 - 145-961 DUPLICATE YELLOW
To: FBI, San Diego (145-New)

Re: WAND
1650 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Specimens received

2/19/64

Q1 One 45 rpm WAND phonograph record entitled "LOUIE LOUIE (Richard Berry) THE KINGSMEN" on one side and "HAUNTED CASTLE (Lynn Rasten) THE KINGSMEN" on the other side.

ALSO SUBMITTED: Photocopy of reported lyrics to record "LOUIE LOUIE"

Result of examination:

An additional copy of the phonograph record described above as specimen Q1 was submitted by the Tampa Office with a letter dated 2/17/64 and captioned "Unknown Subject; Phonograph Record 'LOUIE LOUIE' Distributed by Limax Music, NYC., ITOM."

Because the lyrics of the song on the record, Q1, could not be definitely determined in the Laboratory examination, it could not be determined whether Q1 is an obscene record.

Specimen Q1 and the ALSO SUBMITTED material are retained in the Bureau's Files.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
   Attn: FBI Laboratory

FROM: SAC, INDIANAPOLIS (145-335) (P)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD
          RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN
          ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"

DATE: 3/27/64

ReBuairtel, 3/16/64.

Enclosed for the Bureau, under obscene cover, one wand
record entitled "LOUIE LOUIE," and one sheet typed lyrics
allegedly transcribed from record "LOUIE LOUIE".

On 3/24/64, age daughter of
advised about November, 1963, she purchased a record under Wand
label at Blanchard's, a record shop in Crown Point,
Indiana.

Record is entitled "LOUIE LOUIE" and is a 45 rpm.
Other wording on record is as follows:

1650 Broadway, New York, N.Y.

143-A
50083
Limax Music BMI
Time 2:24

Louie Louie
(Richard Berry)
The Kingsmen
A Jerden Production by KEN CHASE and JERRY DENNON.

Record was publicly displayed, was routinely priced,
and was not suspected of being obscene when purchased.
Sometime after buying the record, heard from various acquaintances the record had obscene lyrics if the "LOUIE LOUIE" side were played at a speed of 33 1/3 instead of the normal 45 rpm. About 1/29/64, a coworker gave a typed sheet of lyrics which were allegedly transcribed from the record when played in this manner, and which appear obscene.

She said the record was widely played in the area and was once ranked first on the WLS Radio (Chicago) record survey.

She said she played the record in the manner described above and the lyrics seem to follow very closely to the words on the typewritten sheet. She said the typed page was a transcription by some unknown person in Crown Point area and was not furnished with the record.

FBI Laboratory requested to examine enclosed record and determine its obscene character when played at 33 1/3 rpm instead of 45 rpm. Typed alleged translation enclosed for assistance.

Although complete release obtained, record should not be destroyed until final opinion of the USA is obtained.

On 3/24/64, AUSA LESTER R. IRVIN, NDI, Hammond, Indiana, advised facts to date indicate possible violation Section 1465, Title 18, if records lyrics are obscene, and he would consider prosecution whenever that determination is made.

Furnish Indianapolis results of examination into obscene character of this record so AUSA IRVIN may be advised.
Re: UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD
RECORD BY THE KINGSN
ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"
ITON

Examination requested by:

Examination requested:

Result of Examination:

\[\text{Specimens submitted for examination:}
\]

\[\text{1} \] Yard record entitled "Louis Louis (Richard Barry) the Kingsmen" on one side and "Haunted Castle (Yvnn Haston) the Kingsmen" on the other side.

\[\text{2} \] Also submitted: Typewritten lyrics to record "Louis Louis"
louie-louie

Chorus: Oh, Louie, Louie, Oh, No,
Get her way down low.

Oh, Louie, Louie, Oh, Baby,
Get her down low.

A fine little girl awaiting for me
She's just a girl across the way
Well I'll take her and park all alone
She's never a girl I'd lay at home.

(Chorus Repeat)

At night at 10 I lay her again
Fuck you girl, Oh, all the way
Oh, my bed and I lay her there
I meet a rose in her hair.

(Chorus Repeat)

Ok Lets give it to them,right now!

She's got a rag on I'll move above
It won't be long she'll slip it off
I'll take her in my arms again
I'll tell her I'll never leave again.

(Chorus Repeat)

Get that Broad out of here!
To: FBI, Indianapolis (145-335)  
Date: April 17, 1964

Re: Phonograph Record  
Recorded by the Kingsmen  
Entitled "Louis Louie"  

Examination requested by:  
Indianapolis

Reference:  
Letter 3/27/64

Examination requested:  
Document

Remarks:  
For your information, the record, Q2, was played at various speeds but none of the speeds assisted in determining the words of the song on the record.

The laboratory should be advised when the record, Q2, is no longer needed in connection with captioned case and may be disposed of in the laboratory.

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)  
1 - [redacted]  
Room 5714  
1 - Bufe (80-862)  

MAILED 5  
APR 16 1964  
COMM-FBI  

b7c  
(6)
REPORT of the
FBI LABORATORY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Indianapolis (145-335)
Re: UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD
RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN
ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"
ITOM

Specimens received 2/30/64

Q2 Hand record entitled "Louie Louie (Richard Barry) the
Kingsmen" on one side and "Haunted Castle (Lynn Easton)
the Kingsmen" on the other side

ALSO SUBMITTED: Typewritten lyrics to record "Louie Louie"

Result of examination:

Two additional copies of the phonograph record
described above as specimen Q2 have been submitted to the
Laboratory. One of the previous records was submitted by
the Tampa Office with a letter dated 2/17/64, and captioned
"Unknown Subject; Phonograph Record 'LOUIE LOUIE' Distributed
By Limax Music, NYC; ITOM." The other record was submitted
by the San Diego Office with a letter dated 3/17/64 and
captioned "WAND, 650 Broadway, New York, New York; ITOM."

Because the lyrics of the song on the record, Q2,
could not be definitely determined in the Laboratory
examination, it could not be determined whether Q2 is an
obscene record.

Specimen Q2 and the ALSO SUBMITTED material are
retained in the Bureau's files.
Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD
RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN
ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"

Examination requested by: Indianapolis (145-335)
Examination requested: Document
Result of Examination:

1. Audio copies QV sub fur
   1. Sub Tampa, let 2/17/64, Re: UNSUB, Phonograph
      Record "Louie Louie" Distributed By Mario Music
      NYC: 7001"
   1. Sub San Diego, let 3/17/64, Re: WAND, 1650
      Broadway
      New York, N.Y. 17 CO!
2. Not possible to determine words in hand
   at various reports.

Specimens submitted for examination

QV
Ward record entitled "Louie Louie (Richard Berry) the Kingsmen"
   on one side and "Haunted Castle (Lynn Easton) the Kingsmen" on
   the other side

ALSO SUBMITTED: Typewritten lyrics to record "Louie Louie"
REFERENCES:

Tampa letter to Director, 2/17/64.
Bureau letter to Tampa, 2/28/64.
FBI Laboratory report to Tampa, 3/4/64.

ENCLOSURES:

TO BUREAU

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

Original copy of obscene words to
(1) Record "Louie Louie" (under obscene cover).
(2) Reported obscene lyrics for "Louie Louie" (Under
obscene cover).

ADMINISTRATIVE:

[Signature]

[Space for copies made]

[Number of copies made]

[Space for special agent in charge]

[Special agent in charge]

[Space for do not write in spaces below]

[Record number]

[Date]

[Agency]

[Request record]

[Date forwarded]

[How forwarded]

[Signature]

[Space for disseminator record]

[Space for notations]
TP 145-84

The two obscene enclosures are being returned to the FBI Laboratory for appropriate disposal, according to Bureau instructions.

An extra copy of this report is being furnished the Bureau for dissemination to the Department of Justice, as instructed by the Bureau.
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE MATTER

advised that phonograph record "Louie Louie" recorded by the Kingsmen was very popular among Sarasota students as of February 10, 1964, and allegedly has obscene lyrics. Portions of the lyrics on this record are slurred and not recognizable.

AUSA, Tampa, Florida, advised there is no apparent Federal violation involving the obscene lyrics.

DETAILS

On February 10, 1964, AUSA received a complaint from Sarasota Junior High School, advising that obscene
lyrics for a popular phonograph record are being freely distributed among the students of his school.

AT SARASOTA, FLORIDA

advised SA on February 10, 1964, that inquiries by his department determined that a phonograph record, recorded by the Kingsmen, and distributed by Limax Music Company, New York City, New York, is presently very popular among local students. He said one side of this record, which is recorded at a speed of 45 revolutions per minute, is entitled, "Louie Louie." He said this is a calypso type song and most of the words are very hard to recognize. In fact, it is impossible to identify some of the words in this song listening to the record normally.

Sarasota Junior High School, furnished him a hand written copy of what is supposed to be the lyrics for the "Louie Louie" record. He found the lyrics at the Junior High School and has determined that many of the students have copies of these lyrics and that all of the students know about them.

he played the record, "Louie Louie" and found that these hand written lyrics appeared to be the actual lyrics of the song, and where the words in the record are slurred, the words in the written lyrics are very obscene.

WKXY, Sarasota, furnished him what the Limax Music Company claims to be the actual lyrics of the song, "Louie Louie". He said these printed lyrics, furnished by Limax Music Company, are certainly not the same as the obscene lyrics he received from the Junior High School and do not appear to be the lyrics being sung in the record.

On February 28, 1964, the Bureau advised that the Department of Justice recently received a copy of the record "Louie Louie" from with a request that it be reviewed to determine
if it was of an obscene nature. The Department advised that they were unable to interpret any of the wording in the record and, therefore, could not make a decision concerning the matter.

On February 17, 1964, the following items were submitted to the FBI Laboratory:

Lyrics of "Louie Louie" as published by Limax Music.

Record "Louie Louie" (under obscene cover).

Reported obscene lyrics for "Louie Louie." (Under obscene cover).

On March 4, 1964, the FBI Laboratory reported as follows:
REPORT
of the
FBI LABORATORY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Tampa (145-HQ)

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PHONOGRAPH RECORD
"LOUIE LOUIE" DISTRIBUTED
BY LYNX MUSIC, NYC.

Specimen received from FBI, Tampa, 2/13/64

Q1. HAND Record entitled "LOUIE LOUIE (Richard Berry)
THE KINGSEY" on one side and "HAUNTED CASTLE (LYNN RASTON)
THE KINGSEY" on the other side.

ALSO SUBMITTED: Xerox copy of obscene words to record
"LOUIE LOUIE" and xerox copy of published
lyrics to record "LOUIE LOUIE"

Result of examination:

The recording on Q1 was not associated with material
of a similar nature which has been forwarded previously to the
Laboratory.

The lyrics of the song on the record, Q1, was not
definitely determined in the Laboratory examination.

Specimen Q1 and the "ALSO SUBMITTED" material are
returned herewith.
On March 2, 1964, the "Louie Louie" record is no longer popular in the Sarasota area and apparently is of no further interest to the teen-agers. They said the obscene lyrics for this record that were distributed by the students at the local high school and junior high school are no longer being distributed or even discussed. They added there was never an indication that the obscene lyrics were being distributed commercially.

On March 4, 1964, Sarasota Junior High School, advised SA he obtained a handwritten copy of the obscene lyrics from one of his students who came to him voluntarily, stating he had found the lyrics on school property. He said his inquiry then determined that the obscene lyrics were "all over the school." He said he and his staff found several handwritten and typed copies of the obscene lyrics in the possession of junior high school students. However, the lyrics were never mimeographed or printed, or in any way indicated they were being commercially distributed.

He said he heard from students that the obscene lyrics originated in a college somewhere and were being passed verbally and by handwritten copy from friend to friend. He said there is absolutely no evidence of any commercial distribution of the obscene lyrics and apparently the matter is of no further interest of the local students, since he has heard nothing about it, nor have any copies of the lyrics been found for some time.

AT TAMPA, FLORIDA

On March 23, 1964, this matter was discussed with Assistant United States Attorney JOE H. MOUNT by SA Concerning the obscene lyrics, obtained at the Sarasota, Florida, Junior High School, Mr. MOUNT stated he would decline any prosecutive action inasmuch as there is no evidence of any commercialization or interstate transportation in connection with these obscene lyrics.
He further advised that inasmuch as no one had been able to decipher the complete lyrics on the record "Louie Louie," he is stating no opinion as pertains to the record itself.
LOUIE  LOUIE

Fine little girl waits for me get your thrills across the way girl I dream about is all alone she never could get away from home

Every night and day I play with my thing I fuck your girl all kinds of ways. In all night now meet me there I feel her low I give her hell

Hey you bitch. Hey loverboy now hold my bone, it won't take long to leave it alone, Hey Senorita I'm hot as hell I told her I'd never lay here again.
The lyrics, as published by Jumbo Music:

Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
A fine little girl, she wait for me -
Me catch the ship across the sea -
I sailed the ship all alone -
I never think I'll make it home.
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Three nights and days we sailed the sea -
Me think of girl constantly -
On the ship I dream she there -
I smell the rose in her hair.
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Me see Jamaica moon above -
It won't be long me see me love -
Me take her in my arms and then-
I tell her I never leave again.
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
UNSUB: PHONOGRAPH RECORD
RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN
ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"

OLIMPAX Music

REFERENCE: Bureau airtel, dated 3/16/64.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

Extra copy furnished to Bureau for dissemination to Department.

APPROMED  SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

2 - Bureau (145-2961)
1 - USA, Fort Wayne
1 - Indianapolis (145-335)

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY
REQUEST RECORD
DATE FWD.
HOW FWD.

58 JUN 2 1964

A* (COVER PAGE)
UNIVERSAL STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Fort Wayne (Attn: AUSA LESTER R. IRVIN Hammond, Indiana)

Report of: 
Date: 5/20/64

Field Office File No.: IP 145-335
Bureau File No.: 145-2961

Office: Indianapolis

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECT; PHONOGRAPH RECORD RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"

Character: INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE MATTER

Synopsis: Record by Kingsmen entitled "LOUIE LOUIE" purchased Crown Point, Indiana, alleged to have obscene lyrics. FBI Laboratory unable to determine words of lyrics and cannot determine it to be obscene. AUSA, Hammond, declines prosecution.

DETAILS:
On March 13, 1964, HERBERT J. MILLER, JR., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, enclosed a copy of letter of a citizen's complaint fromLabel

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
furnished a 45 rpm record entitled "Louie Louie" which he said had been purchased by his daughter at a Crown Point, Indiana record shop. Wording on the record is as follows:

"1650 Broadway
New York, New York

143-A
50083
Limax Music EMI
Time 2:24

Louie Louie
(Richard Berry)
The Kingsmen
A Jerden Production by
Ken Chase and Jerry Denneen"

his daughter had turned this record over to him after learning it allegedly had obscene lyrics.
age daughter of 

1963, she purchased a phonograph record under Wand Label at Blanchard's, a record shop in Crown Point, Indiana. 

The record is entitled "Louie Louie" and is a 45 rpm. 

She said this record was publicly displayed, was routinely priced, and was not suspected of being obscene when purchased. Sometime after buying the record, she heard from various acquaintances the record had obscene lyrics, if the "Louie Louie" side were played at a speed of 33 1/3rd instead of the normal 45 rpm. About January 29, 1964, a co-worker gave her a typed sheet of lyrics which were already transcribed from the record when played in this manner. She described these words as obscene and furnished a typed sheet of paper bearing these alleged words. 

She said the record was widely played in the area and was once ranked first on the WLS Radio (Chicago) Record Survey. 

She said she played the record in the manner described above and the lyrics seemed to follow very closely the words on the typewritten sheet. She said the typed page was a transcription by some unknown person in the Crown Point area and was not furnished with the record.
On March 24, 1964, Assistant United States Attorney LESTER R. IRVIN, Hammond, Indiana, advised facts to date indicate possible violation of Section 1465, Title 18, if the record lyrics are found to be obscene. He stated he would consider prosecution whenever that determination is made.

On March 27, 1964, the record and typewritten sheet of lyrics was forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for examination.

On April 17, 1964, the FBI Laboratory advised the record was played at various speeds but none of the speeds assisted in determining the words of the song on the record.

On May 13, 1964, Assistant United States Attorney LESTER R. IRVIN advised he would decline prosecution in this case since the FBI Laboratory is unable to determine this record is obscene.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (145-2961)  
(Attn: FBI LABORATORY)

FROM: SAC, INDIANAPOLIS (145-335)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; PHONOGRAM RECORD  
RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN  
ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"  
ITOM

Reurlet, 4/17/64.

On 5/13/64, AUSA LESTER R. IRVIN, Hammond, Indiana,  
said he would decline prosecution since FBI Laboratory unable  
to determine this record is obscene.

Record no longer needed in connection with case and  
may be disposed of in the Laboratory.

---

5 3 JUN 1 1964
Enclosed herewith for the FBI Laboratory is one 45 r.p.m. recording entitled "Louie Louie" sung by the "Kingsmen". This is a Wand recording labeled 145-A 50083; on the other side of the recording is a recording entitled "Haunted Castle" sung by the "Kingsmen", labeled 143-B 50084. Also enclosed for the FBI Laboratory is an envelope marked obscene containing the type written words believed to be heard during the singing of "Louie Louie", when this record is played on 33 r.p.m.

Enclosed for the New York Office is an envelope marked obscene containing the words, several of which are obscene, as believed to be heard when the recording "Louie Louie" is played on 33 r.p.m.

For the information of the FBI Laboratory and the New York Office, AUSA ROBERT J. GRACE, EDM, 839 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, on 3/30/65, contacted both the Detroit FBI Office and the Federal Communications Commission, located in the Federal Building, Detroit, regarding a 45 r.p.m. record entitled "Louie Louie" (RICHARD BERRY) and sung by the "Kingsmen". This record is a Wand recording with the address of 1650 Broadway, New York, New York. The one side of this record contains the song "Louie Louie" and the other side of the record "Haunted Castle" (LYNN FANSTON) and both are sung by the "Kingsmen". "Louie Louie" is numbered 143-A 50083 and "Haunted Castle" is numbered 143-B 50084. Both recordings are listed as being a Jerden Production by KEV CHASE and JERRY BENNON.
For your information, the Department of Justice has previously received a copy of the record "Louie Louie" from [redacted] with a request that it be reviewed to determine if it was of an obscene nature. The Department advised that they were unable to interpret any of the wording in the record and, therefore, could not make a decision concerning the matter.

For your information, the USA's at Tampa, Florida, and Hammond, Indiana, have declined prosecution.
REPORT
of the
FBI
LABORATORY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Detroit (145–420)

Re: UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording
"Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITOM

Specimens received 4/26/65

Q3 One WAND 45 r.p.m. recording bearing on one side the
title "Louie Louie (Richard Berry) THE KINGSMEN"

ALSO SUBMITTED: Sheet of paper bearing typewritten words

Result of examination:

Three additional copies of the phonograph record
described above as specimen Q3 have been submitted to the
Laboratory. One of the previous records was submitted by
the Tampa Office with a letter dated 2/17/64 and captioned
"UNSUB; Phonograph Record 'Louie Louie' Distributed By
Limax Music, NYC; ITOM"; one record was submitted by the
San Diego Office with a letter dated 3/17/64 and captioned
"WAND, 1650 Broadway, New York, New York; ITOM"; and one of
the previous records was submitted by the Indianapolis
Office with a letter dated 3/27/64 and captioned "UNSUB;
Phonograph Record Recorded By The Kingsmen Entitled
'Louie Louie'; ITOM."

Because the lyrics of the recording "Louie Louie"
could not be definitely determined in the Laboratory exami-
nation, it was not possible to determine whether this
recording, Q3, is obscene.

In accordance with your request, specimen Q3 is
returned herewith. The "ALSO SUBMITTED" material is retained.
RECORDED
4/29/65

(2)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

File # 145-2961
Lab. # D-478135 AV

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording
"Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITOM

OO: Detroit

Examination requested by: FBI, Detroit (145-420) 4/22/65
Examination requested: Document
Date received: 4/26/65

Result of Examination:

1. Add. copies Q3 Search Tampanet 3/17/67 Re: Audio
   Phonograph Record "Louie Louie" Distributed by
   King Recordings, Inc., 145-335; Indianapolis, Ind. 3/17/64
   Re: WAND, 1650 Broadway, New York, N.Y.;
   E-TOM, 145-335; Indianapolis, Ind. 3/17/64
   Re: Unabridged Phonograph Record, Recorded by Dick
   "Kingsmen" Entitled "Louie Louie" From "Bufile 145-2961"

Specimens submitted for examination

Q2 One WAND 45 r.p.m. recording bearing on one side the
   title "Louie Louie (Richard Berry) THE KINGSMEN"

ALSO SUBMITTED: Sheet of paper bearing typewritten words

RETURN Q2

Lab report

5/1/65

80-662 (Obscene Material)
Transmit the following in (Type in plaintext or code)

Via

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Mr. Belmont</td>
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<td>Mr. Mohr</td>
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<td>Mr. Delach</td>
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<td>Mr. Calahan</td>
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<td>Tele. Room</td>
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<td>Miss Holmes</td>
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<td>Miss Candy</td>
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</table>

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (145-2961)
FROM: SAC, DETROIT (145-420) (P)

UNSUB; 45 p.m.
Recording "Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITOM
(CO: DETROIT)

Re FBI Laboratory letter to Detroit dated 5/17/65, and Detroit letter to Bureau dated 4/22/65.

For the information of the New York Office, the FBI Laboratory advised Detroit by referenced letter that the Department of Justice has previously received a copy of the record, "Louie Louie" from with a request that it be reviewed to determine if it was an obscene matter. The Department advised that they were unable to interpret any of the wording in the record and, therefore, could not make a decision concerning the matter. Also, that the AUSA at Tampa, Fla. and Hammond, Indiana, have declined prosecution.

Also, for the information of the New York Office, the FBI Laboratory advised that because the lyrics of the recording, "Louie Louie" could not be definitely determined in the Laboratory examination, it was not possible to determine whether this recording is obscene.

Referenced Detroit letter requested New York to contact the Wand Co. regarding "Louie Louie" record in an effort to obtain the lyrics in this recording. New York is requested to expedite this investigation.

SA the Detroit Office discussed the case with AUSA ROBERT J. GRACE, EDM 839 Federal Bldg., Detroit, as to the Laboratory report in this matter. He stated he would defer his prosecutive opinion in this case regarding the recording "Louie Louie", until completion of investigation by the New York Office.

58 JUN 7 1965

3 - Bureau
2 - New York
1 - Detroit

Special Agent in Charge

MAY 28, 1965

47
DATE INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
6/18/65 3/29 - 6/11/65

POSSIBLE ITEM

UNSUB; 4:30 p.m.
Recording "Louie Louie"

REFERENCES: Detroit letter to the Bureau, dated 4/22/65.
Bureau letters to Detroit (two), dated 5/17/65.
Detroit letter to the Bureau, dated 5/25/65.
New York letter to Detroit, dated 5/26/65 (Interoffice).

ENCLOSURES

TO BUREAU

One (1) recording of "Louie Louie", and one (1)
Xerox copy of words to song "Louie Louie" as interpreted by
instant report. The lyrics contain obscene language.

APPROVED

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COMPILANTS

EXP. PROC.
LEAD

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Will maintain contact with Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT J. GRACE, Eastern District of Michigan, 839 Federal Building, for prosecutive action that his office may take in this case.

ADMINISTRATIVE

One copy of this report is being furnished for the information of the New York Office, inasmuch as that office has conducted investigation and may be requested to conduct additional investigation at a later date.

One copy of this report is being furnished the Federal Communications Commission, 1029 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, inasmuch as this recording of the song, "Louie Louie" was played over local radio stations in the Detroit area, and the Federal Communications Commission authorities had received a complaint regarding this recording.
UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
45 r.p.m. Recording "Louie Louie"

POSSIBLE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE MATTER

USA's Office, EDM, Federal Building, Detroit, Mich., advised receiving complaints concerning recording "Louie Louie", sung by the "Kingsmen". Claims were made to USA's Office, and SAC Office, Detroit, that obscene language was contained in this recording. The record was produced by the Wand Management Corporation, NYC, NY. FBI Laboratory, Washington, D. C., advised it was not possible to determine whether this recording is obscene. Complainants advised that when this record is played on 33 r.p.m. some teenagers claim they detect obscene language. AUSA ROBERT J. GRACE, EDM, Federal Building, Detroit, Mich., advised he is awaiting opinion from Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., regarding what action should be taken in regard to this recording.

DETAILS:

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The following investigation is predicated upon information received from Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) JAMES F. FINN, Chief, Criminal Division, Eastern District of Michigan, 809 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, on March 29, 1965, in that he advised he had received a telephone
call from Fuhrmann Junior High School, Warren, Michigan, advising him that a recording known as "Louie Louie" contains obscene language. According to Mr. FINN, it is a 45 r.p.m. recording, which is being played on local Detroit area radio stations. AUSA ROBERT J. GRACE, Eastern District of Michigan, 839 Federal Building, also contacted the Detroit Office of the FBI, and the Federal Communications Commission, 1029 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, regarding the record entitled "Louie Louie", sung by the "Kingsmen".

On March 30, 1965, AUSA ROBERT J. GRACE, Eastern District of Michigan, 839 Federal Building, also contacted the Detroit Office of the FBI, and the Federal Communications Commission, 1029 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, regarding the record entitled "Louie Louie", sung by the "Kingsmen".

On March 30, 1965, SA and Field Supervisor, Assistant Engineer in Charge, Federal Communications Commission, 1029 Federal Building, Detroit, also was invited by Mr. GRACE to appear in his office to listen to this recording. The record was made available to Mr. GRACE by Mr. GRACE's office concerning the recording.

They stated that they had the record with them and claimed that this record is a 45 r.p.m. recording of the song, "Louie Louie". They stated that this record has become very popular over the radio stations which cater to the teenage "rock and roll" fans in the greater Detroit area, and is considered to be "a best seller".

- 2 -
They stated that when this record is played on 33 r.p.m. speed, obscene and suggestive words can be interpreted in this song. They made available a copy of the words to this song as they interpreted the song after listening to it played numerous times on the 33 r.p.m. speed. When this record was played in the Office of AUSA GRACE on March 30, 1965, the aforementioned individuals listened to it being played numerous times both on a 45 r.p.m. speed and a 33 r.p.m. speed. Mr. GRACE advised they were not able to discern any of the obscene language and found the record played on both speeds as being quite unintelligible.

On March 31, 1965, John C. Fuhrmann Junior High School, 5155 14 Mile Road, Warren, Michigan, telephonically contacted the Detroit FBI Office to advise that he had found a sheet of paper on a student at this school which contained obscene words to the song, "Louie Louie". He stated he questioned the student and the student told him that this is a popular song, and when played on a 33 r.p.m. speed, the obscene and suggestive words can be fairly interpreted in the song "Louie Louie". He stated that he found out that many teenagers in the Warren, Michigan area are buying this record and playing it on the 33 r.p.m. speed.

Mr. GRACE advised on March 30, 1965, that he contacted the Dearborn, Michigan Radio Station WKNR, which caters to teenagers and plays mostly "rock and roll" records. The station manager advised Mr. GRACE he would telegraph the record company in New York City to obtain the lyrics to "Louis Louis". The Radio Station WKNR received a telegram from Septer Records, New York City, New York, giving the correct copyrighted lyrics to "Louis Louis" and they are as follows:

"LOUIS LOUIS OH YEA AWAY WE GO
YEA YEA YEA YEA LOUIS LOUIS OH BABY AWAY FINE LITTLE GIRL
SHE WAITS FOR ME ME CATCH THE SHIP ACROSS THE SHIP SEA I
SAILED THE SHIP ALL ALONE I NEVER THINK ILL MAKE IT HOME
LOUIS LOUIS AWAY WE GO THREE NIGHTS AND DAYS WE SAIL THE
SEA ME THINK OF GIRL CONSTANTLY ON THE SHIP DREAM SHE
THERE I SMELL THE ROSE IN HER HAIR LOUIS LOUIS OH BABY
AWAY WE GO ME SEE JAMAICA MOON ABOVE IT WONT BE LONG ME
SEE ME LOVE ME TAKE HER IN ARMS AND THEN I TELL HER I
NEVER LEAVE AGAIN LOUIS LOUIS OH YEA AWAY WE GO"

- 3 -
The record that made available to the Detroit FBI Office is a 45 r.p.m. recording entitled, "Louie Louie", (RICHARD BERRY), sung by the "Kingsmen". This is a Wand recording labeled 143-A 50083; on the other side of the record is a recording entitled, "Haunted Castle" (LYNN EASTON), sung by the "Kingsmen", labeled 143-B 50084. The address on the record for the Wand Management Corporation is 1650 Broadway, New York, New York. The songs "Louie Louie" and "Haunted Castle" are both sung by the "Kingsmen". Both recordings are listed as being a Jerden Production by KEN CHASE and JERRY DENNON.

The Detroit FBI Office submitted the record to the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D. C.. The FBI Laboratory in a communication to the Detroit FBI dated May 17, 1965, advised that three additional copies of the phonograph record have been submitted to the Laboratory. One of the previous records was submitted by the Tampa FBI Office, and this recording was distributed by Limax Music, New York City, New York. Another record was submitted by the San Diego FBI Office, produced by Wand, 1650 Broadway, New York, New York. The third record was submitted by the Indianapolis FBI Office, which was recorded by the "Kingsmen" entitled "Louie Louie".

The FBI Laboratory advised that because the lyrics of the recording "Louie Louie" could not be definitely determined in the Laboratory examination, it was not possible to determine whether the recording is obscene.

The New York FBI Office by communication dated May 26, 1965, advised the Detroit FBI Office that on May 19, 1965, Wand Management Corporation, 254 West 54th Street, New York City, New York, made available to the New York Office one 45 r.p.m. recording entitled "Louie Louie", (RICHARD BERRY), sung by the "Kingsmen", Wand recording 143-A 50083; reverse side "Haunted Castle" (LYNN EASTON) sung by the "Kingsmen", Wand recording 143-B 50084.
made available autostat copies of the following:

1. The words to the song "Louie Louie".

2. A letter to the President of Wand Records dated February 13, 1964, from the Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C., concerning complaints received by the Federal Communications Commission concerning the broadcasting of the record "Louie Louie".

3. A letter from the Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C., dated February 14, 1964, setting forth the complete background concerning the production of the record "Louie Louie".


The Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C., subsequently granted a clearance to the record "Louie Louie". She explained that for approximately two years her company has been receiving unfounded complaints concerning the recording "Louie Louie". She advised that to the best of her knowledge, the trouble was started by an unidentified college student, who made up a series of obscene verses for "Louie Louie" and then sold them to fellow students. Stated, that it is her opinion that a person can take any 45 r.p.m. recording and reduce its speed to 33 r.p.m. and imagine obscene words, depending upon the imagination of the listener.

The words to the song, "Louie Louie" as furnished by are as follows:
"LOUIE - LOUIE"

"LOUIE, LOUIE...OH YEA, A-WAY WE GO
YEA, YEA, YEA, YEA, YEA
LOUIE, LOUIE...OH BABY, A-WAY WE GO"

"A FINE LITTLE GIRL - SHE WAIT FOR ME
ME CATCH THE SHIP - A-CROSS THE SEA
I SAILED THE SHIP - ALL A-LONE
I NEVER THINK - I'LL MAKE IT HOME"

"LOUIE, LOUIE....A-WAY WE GO"

"THREE NIGHTS AND DAYS WE SAILED THE SEA
ME THINK OF GIRL CONSTANT-LY
ON THE SHIP - DREAM SHE THERE
I SMELL THE ROSE - IN HER HAIR"

"LOUIE, LOUIE....OH BABY, A-WAY WE GO"

"ME SEE JA-MAI-CA - MOON A-BOVE
IT WON'T BE LONG - ME SEE ME LOVE
ME TAKE HER IN ARMS AND THEN
I TELL HER I NEVER LEAVE A-GAIN"

"LOUIE, LOUIE....OH YEA, A-WAY WE GO"

The letter to the President of Wand Records, dated February 13, 1964, from the Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C., which was made available by

"President
Wand Records
1650 Broadway
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

"The Commission has received complaints to the
effect that certain radio stations have, by playing one of
your records titled 'Louie Louie', featuring The Kingsmen,
DE 145-420

"violated the federal statute which prohibits the broadcast of obscene, indecent or profane language.

"The staff has conducted an inquiry into these complaints. Before terminating its inquiry the Commission would appreciate receiving, as promptly as possible, your comments on this matter, including any information in your possession which might throw light upon either the source or the validity of allegations that the lyrics as sung by the Kingsmen were in any way obscene. We also should appreciate your comment on whether, even though unobjectionable lyrics were used in recording the song, there was improper motivation on the part of the singers or anyone associated with the production of the record in making the recorded lyrics so unintelligible as to give rise to reports that they were obscene.

"Very truly yours,

/s/ Ben F. Waple
"Ben F. Waple
"Secretary"

The letter from [redacted] to [redacted] Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C., dated February 14, 1964, is set forth as follows:

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D. C.

"RE: 8300

"Dear [redacted]

"In reference to our telephone conversation today, I am enclosing two copies of the lyrics, and also two records of 'Louie Louie'. We are sure that upon listening to the record and comparing it to the enclosed lyrics you will find them one and the same.

- 7 -
"Scepter Music, Inc., purchased this master (finished recording) from Craig Corporation - 1021 East Pine Street, Seattle, Washington. We understand that these five young male performers are students at the University of Washington, information concerning them is available from The Publisher of the song who would be responsible for the lyrics is Limax Music, 618 Ridgely Drive, Los Angeles, California.

"All the people connected with the making and the sales of this record are highly reputable business people who are as vitally concerned with this matter as you are and wish to bring to justice anyone connected with the dissemination of libelous information.

"I will appreciate your comparing the enclosed record with any record you may have received. This is the only record we have distributed for sale, and our sale figures do not indicate any infringement by any outside source.

"Our record was made from a two track recording. We will be happy to play the vocal track for any of your representatives who would call on us, and this should clear any misunderstanding as to the lyrics on our record. They will find them to be exactly as on the enclosed lyric sheet.

"May I express our appreciation to you for your fair handling of this matter.

"Sincerely,

The letter from the National Association of Broadcasters Code Authority, Washington, D. C., dated January 28, 1964, is set forth as follows:

"LOUIE, LOUIE"

"NAB's Code Authority has received a number of inquiries and complaints from member stations on the recording 'Louie, Louie' being circulated with a WAND label."
"Here are the facts as we understand them:

"The Code staff has listened to the record on all standard RPM's and has found nothing objectionable in it. In the Code staff's opinion, the lines, delivered in rock and roll and Calypso style, would be unintelligible to the average listener.

"NAB has received from the music publishers copies of the lyrics and has found nothing objectionable in them. However, it also has received from another source a purported set of lyrics which are unfit for broadcast.

"The phonetic qualities of this recording are such that a listener possessing the 'phony' lyrics could imagine them to be genuine."

On June 11, 1965, AUSA GRACE, Eastern District of Michigan, Federal Building, Detroit, stated he would defer his prosecutive opinion in this case regarding the recording "Louie Louie" until he receives an opinion in this case from the United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C."
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (145-2961)

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (145-420)(P)

DATE: 6/21/65

SUBJECT: UNSUB; 45 rpm Recording "Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITEM

OO: DE


On 6/11/65, Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT J. GRACE, Eastern District of Michigan, 839 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, advised that he will defer his prosecutive opinion in this case pending advice of the Department of Justice.

Assistant United States Attorney GRACE was advised of the investigation conducted by the New York Office contained in referenced New York letter to Detroit.

For the information of the Bureau, referenced New York letter disclosed that Wand Management Corporation, 254 West 54th Street, New York, New York, made available words to the song called "Louie Louie" and a letter to the President of Wand Records dated 2/13/64, from the Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C., concerning complaints received by the Federal Communications Commission concerning the broadcasting of the record "Louie Louie".

Wand Management Corporation, 54 West 54th Street, New York, New York, made available words to the song called "Louie Louie".

The New York Office that the FCC, Washington, D.C., subsequently granted a clearance to the record "Louie Louie". She explained that for approximately two years her company has been receiving unfounded complaints concerning the recording. She advised that, to the best of her knowledge, the trouble was started by an unidentified college student who made up a series of obscene verses for this recording and sold them to fellow students. She further stated that it was her opinion that a person can take any 45 rpm recording and reduce its speed to 33 rpm and imagine obscene words, depending upon the imagination of the listener.
Detroit will maintain contact with Assistant United States Attorney GRACE and ascertain what advice his office receives from the Department of Justice in this matter.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Having admired your work and your life for so many years, it is with trepidation that I write to you. But being a mother and a teacher, I have been disturbed by the alarming increase in pornography and abjectly implore your advice.

As a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, dedicated in the fight against pornography, this is how we -- specifically the Flint Junior Woman's Club -- became involved in a war of legal semantics. It all began this winter when a group of vocalists called the "Kingsmen" appeared at a local hall. They plugged their million dollar record "Louie, Louie." In a matter of weeks the record was selling like hot cakes and rising on the "Top 40 Show." We became aware of the dual set of lyrics and that without a doubt, someone had masterminded an "auditory illusion." Our prosecuting attorney with whom we consulted said, in his opinion, there was nothing legally that can be done since he believed you cannot prove which set of lyrics they are singing. This seemed rather irrelevant since they were capitalizing on its obscenity, and when every teenager in the county "heard" the obscene not the copywritten lyric.

Our attempts to have something done about the record were met with frustration. But that is all prologue. We realize the damage is done and the "Louie, Louie" purveyors are getting away with setting a new precedence. That along with the movies, the magazines, the paperbacks -- our kids will now be hit with a fourth front -- records.

We have also been in contact with Mr. Lawrence Gubow, U. S. Attorney in Detroit, and he informed us that your bureau was investigating the record in question. He wasn't too explicit, however. Can you tell us what is being done? What can we do to help? Mr. Hoover, do you think more of these type records are inevitable? Is there perhaps a subliminal type of perversion involved?

In Mr. Gubow's answer to us, he stated that in order for matter to be declared obscene, it must be "objectively obscene." I am confused. How can anything be objectively obscene? Obscenity is not indifferent -- but has definite goals. It is not impersonal and unemotional -- how can it possibly be? By its very nature, obscenity is SUBJECTIVE.
June 18, 1965

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

What are the ground rules in this ridiculous legal game that benefits the pornographers? When does obscenity become pornography? And pornography -- perversion?

We do not conclude that curtailment of Freedom of the Press or that strong legislation is the only alternative. But how do you begin to reverse this trend? Can it ever be done? Is the Miller Bill S.173 a good one? Is it worth petitioning for?

Our club would like to do something positive. Do you think a questionnaire to high school students would be of value? Finding out what a cross-section of students reads - buys - thinks about the flood of obscene materials? Do you think such answers could be valuable or would it be superfluous? If you do think it has some merit, would you be willing to help us to construct such a questionnaire?

Perhaps I have asked all too many impertinent questions, but they are as genuine as is our concern at the alarming rise in venereal disease, perversion, promiscuity and illegitimate births in the teen groups. Is there a correlation to the alarming rise in the access to obscene materials by this same group?

Please, Mr. Hoover, let us know if and when we should take what course of action. We would appreciate any help and information you can give us.

Until I hear from you, I remain,

Most Humbly yours,
June 25, 1965

Dear [Name],

Your letter dated June 18th has been received.

Your interest in writing me is very much appreciated, and I share the concern you feel in the alarming increase in pornography. I strongly believe that the easy accessibility of such material cannot help but divert the minds of young people into unhealthy channels and negate the wholesome training they have already been afforded by their parents. With reference to the record you described, I am unable to make any comment concerning current investigations being conducted by the FBI. You may be assured, however, that this Bureau is continuing to make every effort to discharge its responsibilities with the highest degree of thoroughness and dispatch.

I am enclosing publications which set forth this Bureau's jurisdiction in connection with obscene matter and which contain my further views and suggestions relating to this problem.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (3)
NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. The record "Louie, Louie," is subject of investigation under character of Interstate Transportation of Obscene Matter. Bufiles 145-2961 and 145-2872 contain complaints from numerous individuals, including Kingsmen. It has copyrighted lyrics but off-color lyrics are being circulated, which allegedly can be detected when the 45 r.p.m. platter is played at 33 1/3 r.p.m. It has become very popular in certain areas including the Detroit area, and Detroit airtel 5-25-65 advises that the AUSA in Detroit has deferred his prosecutive opinion in this case until completion of investigation by the New York Office, where Wand is located. The AUSAs at Tampa, Florida, and Hammond, Indiana, have declined prosecution and when the field presented to the Department in early 1964, the Department advised that they were unable to interpret any of the alleged obscene wording in the record.

Enclosures (2)
Poison for our Youth
Combating Merchants of Filth: The Role of the FBI
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE: DETROIT

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: DETROIT

DATE: 7/30/65

INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD: 7/12/65

REPORT MADE BY: SA

CHARACTER OF CASE: 67C

POSSIBLE ITEM: b7C

SYNOPSIS:

UNSUB: 45 r.p.m. Recording "Louie Louie"


ENCLOSURES

TO LOS ANGELES AND SEATTLE

One Xerox copy of referenced report of SA at Detroit, dated June 18, 1965.

LEADS

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

1. Will reinterview of Wand Management Corporation of New York City, 254 West 54th Street, to ascertain if she will make available the vocal track

Approved: PHG

Copies made:
2 - Bureau (145-2961)
1 - USA, Detroit
1 - FCC, Detroit
2 - Los Angeles (Enc.-1)
2 - New York (145-2338)
2 - Seattle (Enc.-1)
2 - Detroit (145-420)

Special Agent in Charge: 145-2961-14

Do not write in spaces below:

REG-55

EX-11

7 AUG 1965

STATSSEC

Property of FBI. This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.
recording of the Wand record of "Louie Louie" to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for referral to the Laboratory for examination and comparison with the finished record.

If refuses to release the vocal track specimen, the Agents should seek her agreement to permit them to make a recording of it or, at least, to listen to it themselves, reporting what they perceive.

2. Attempt to locate the singing team, "The Kingsmen", and interview regarding lyrics they recorded in song "Louie Louie".

SEATTLE

AT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Interview Craig Corporation, Seattle, regarding the recording of "Louie Louie". interviewed as to his dealings in the recording and with the performers, "The Kingsmen" and his knowledge of the origin of the product.

It is noted that Wand Management Corporation, New York City, stated that Scepter Music, Incorporated, purchased the finished recording from Craig Corporation, Seattle.

LOS ANGELES

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Interview Limax Music, Los Angeles, or who ever has knowledge of "Louie Louie" at Limax Music for all information obtainable on the lyrics of this song.

It is noted that Wand Management Corporation, New York City, had advised that Limax Music of Los Angeles is the purchaser of "Louie Louie" and responsible for the lyrics.
DE 145-420

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Will report results of above investigation conducted by Los Angeles, New York and Seattle Offices to Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT J. GRACE, Eastern District of Michigan, 839 Federal Building, Detroit.

ADMINISTRATIVE

One copy of this report is being furnished the Federal Communications Commission, 1029 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, inasmuch as this recording of the song "Louie Louie" was played over local radio stations in the Detroit area, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authorities at Detroit had received a complaint regarding this record.

For the information of all offices conducting investigation in this case, according to the letter received by the United States Attorney's Office from the Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Washington, D.C., the following course of action was recommended by the Office of the Assistant Attorney General:

This request of the Office of the Assistant Attorney General is basically intended to accomplish a definitive investigation on which the Department of Justice can satisfactorily close this case and meet anticipated complaints and inquiries. This perspective will change if these leads (set out above) indicate a basis to consider prosecution. The Department of Justice recommended maximum discreetness should be exercised by FBI investigators both to minimize any appearances of an intended full-scale criminal action and to avoid any public notoriety or attention as to the performers and their related businesses.

-C*-

Cover Page
UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
45 r.p.m. Recording  
"Louie Louie"  

POSSIBLE ITEM  

AUSA ROBERT J. GRACE, EDM, Federal Building, 
Detroit, Mich., advised U.S. Dept. of Justice, 
Washington, D.C., requested additional inves-
tigation regarding lyrics to song "Louie Louie" 
as sung by "The Kingsmen", a vocal singing team 
in order to formulate prosecutive decision in 
this matter.

DETAILS:

At Detroit, Michigan

On July 12, 1965, Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) 
ROBERT J. GRACE, Eastern District of Michigan, 839 Federal Building, 
Detroit, Michigan, advised that the United States Department of 
Justice, Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, 
Washington, D.C., requested the United States Attorney's Office, 
Eastern District of Michigan, to conduct additional investigation.

Mr. GRACE advised that his office received a letter 
dated July 2, 1965, from FRED M. VINSON, JR., Assistant Attorney 
General, Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice, 
Washington, D.C., which disclosed the following:

After a study of investigation conducted by the Detroit 
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Office regarding the record-
ing "Louie Louie" by "The Kingsmen", that additional investigation 
should be conducted in order to bring the case to a logical con-
clusion.
According to the Office of the Assistant Attorney General, citizen complaints have been frequent from several geographic areas concerning the recording "Louie Louie" by "The Kingsmen" and that these complaints will probably reoccur due to the apparent popularity of this song among youngsters.

Also, more congressional inquiries are likely and other United States Attorneys' Offices may become involved in the complaints.

The Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, recommended that Wand Management Corporation, 254 West 54th Street, New York, New York, be reinterviewed to ascertain if she will make available the vocal track recording of the Wand record to the FBI for referral to the FBI Laboratory for examination in comparison with the finished recording. The purpose of doing this is to confirm that the vocal track recording is consistent with the vocal sounds of the finished product.

Also, if refuses to release the vocal track specimen, FBI Agents should seek her agreement to permit them to make a recording of it or, at least, listen to it themselves and report what they perceive according to the letter issued by the Office of the Assistant Attorney General.

The Department of Justice had received information whereby stated that Scepter Music, Incorporated, had purchased the finished recording from Craig Corporation, Seattle, Washington.

Also, that stated Limax Music of Los Angeles, California, is the publisher of the song "Louie Louie" and responsible for the lyrics and that or who ever has knowledge of "Louie Louie" at Limax Music, should be interviewed for all information obtainable on the lyrics of the song.

On July 12, 1965, AUSA Grace requested the Detroit FBI Office that after additional investigation has been conducted, that his office be advised accordingly so that the Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Washington, D.C., can be fully apprised of the facts in this case to effect a prosecutive opinion.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you so much for your reply to my letter of June 18.

After reading your two enclosed publications ("Combating Merchants of Filth," and "Poison For Our Youth"), I feel more enlightened. The frustrations which you must encounter daily, make the ones which we have met seem rudimentary. If it is possible, may we have fifty each of the aforementioned publications for distribution to the members of our club?

Getting back to our mutual friend - "Louie, Louie," I can realize that you are unable to comment on your current investigations. But dauntless we are, and we now have in our possession a recording that was made directly from the WAND release of the Kingsmen's "Louie, Louie." The 45 RPM "Louie" was played at 78 RPM, taped at twice the regular speed and then slowed down so that it now plays somewhere between 45 and 33⅓ RPM. At this speed the obscene articulation is clearer.

The second part of our tape was made from the Kingsmen's recent personal appearance on "Shindig" on Nationwide TV on June 23, 1965, when they sang "Louie, Louie" -- the copywritten lyric -- intelligibly. The comparison is quite interesting since by no stretch of the imagination is the obscene lyric audible.

In your reply you didn't comment on the value of a high school questionnaire. Could you please let us know your thoughts on this?

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

July 14, 1965

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Transmit the following in

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (92-1368) (C)

CHANGED * aka... nee

RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

ReBuartelt to Detroit, 7/20/65.

Title of this case is marked changed in order to set forth the full name of...

Flint, Mich., advised SA on 7/22/65 that Mich.,

had been known... since 1955. At that time, he was...

On 7/14/65, who...

Mich. At the time he was 4 years of age and they resided at...

who was born... and is employed by...

Michigan, since The records of...

contain no derogatory information concerning either...

b7c

b7c

b7c

b7c

b7c

b7c

(3) Bureau Detroit

Enc 108/45 2961-16

7-27-65

DFC

14 JUL 26 1965

Approved: ____________________ Sent _____________ M Per ________

Special Agent in Charge
On 7/23/65, [redacted] advised that the records of his department contain no arrest record for either [redacted] or [redacted].

On 7/23/65, [redacted] advised that they had received a complaint through the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office concerning the record "Louie Louie" and that this complaint had originated from [redacted].

[redacted] advised he knew of no derogatory information concerning [redacted].

On 7/24/65, [redacted] advised that he knew of no derogatory information concerning the Detroit indices contain no information identifiable with [redacted] or [redacted].

It is recommended that the Bureau should comply with the request of [redacted].
Dear [Name],

I read your letter of July 14th upon my return to the city and want to thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing.

In response to your request, I am forwarding, under separate cover, 25 copies each of the publications you desire. I regret, however, that budgetary limitations preclude furnishing the number for which you asked.

With respect to the value of a high school questionnaire, I have always refrained, as a matter of long-standing policy, from commenting as you suggested. I regret I cannot be of help in this instance but trust you understand.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Detroit (92-1368) 
Reurairtel 7-24-65

1 - [Blacked out] - Room 4724 (sent direct)

USC Material - 25 copies each of
Combatting Merchants of Filth: The Role of the FBI
Poison for our Youth

NOTE: Bufiles contain nothing derogatory concerning correspondent. A field check by the Detroit Office determined there is no information to preclude furnishing the reprint material she requested.
Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (145-2961)

(ATTN: FBI LABORATORY)

DATE: 8/23/65

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (145-2338) (RUC)

SUBJECT: UNSUB: 45 rpm Recording

"Louie Louie"

POSSIBLE ITOM

(00: DETROIT) 67C

Retep of SA at Detroit, 7/30/65.

There is enclosed herewith for the FBI Lab a copy of a tape recording of the song "Louie Louie" by "The Kingsmen" for examination in comparison with the finished recording previously furnished to the FBI Lab. The purpose of doing this is to confirm that the vocal recording furnished herewith is consistent with the vocal sounds of the finished product.

It is requested that the FBI Lab retain the enclosed recording until the conclusion of this case, after which it is to be returned to the NYO so that it may be returned to the Wand Management Corp., 254 W. 54th St., NYC.

On 8/23/65, Wand Management Corp., 254 W. 54th St., NYC, declined to make available to the FBI Lab, without a court order, the sound track from which the Wand record, "Louie Louie" was recorded.

On 8/23/65, had no objection to making a copy of the original recording from which the record "Louie Louie" 143-A was made and the enclosed recording was made in the studios of Ward Management Corp., 254 W. 54th St., NYC, in the presence of and other officials and technicians of the above corporation.

Enclosure

EX 110 5 AUG 24 1965

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan
explained that she had been mistaken when she had previously advised that the record "Louie Louie" had been made from a two track recording. She stated it had not been made from a two track recording but from a one track monaural recording. Subsequently, her sound engineers had simulated a stereo version and this had led her to believe that she had a two track recording of the original "Louie Louie."

stated that there is no separate voice track recording for the record "Louie Louie" and that the enclosed sound track is a copy of the sound recording from which the Wand record "Louie Louie" 143-A was made. She further explained that to aid the listener in listening to this sound track, her sound engineers had made the enclosed recording with the intent of bringing out the voice sounds to the best of their ability.
RECORDED
8/26/65

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: UNSUB; 45 rpm Recording
"Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITEM
00: DETROIT

Examination requested by: SAC, NEW YORK (145-2338) L 8/23/65
Examination requested: Document

Date received: 8/24/65

Result of Examination: A comparison of (K) with (Q) disclosed no audible differences.

Specimens submitted for examination

K1 Tape made from the original recording from which the record "Louie Louie" 143-A was made in the studios of Wand Management Corp., 254 W. 54th St., NYC.

ALSO SUBMITTED: Mimeographed copy of the words to "Louie Louie"

2 = DE (145-420)
To: FBI, New York (145-2338)  
Date: September 16, 1965

Re: UNSUB; 45 rpm Recording  "Louie Louie"  
POSSIBLE ITEM  
00: Detroit

Examination requested by: New York  
Reference: Letter 8/23/65  
Examination requested: Document

Remarks:

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)  
2 - Detroit (145-420) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
To: FBI, New York
Re: UNSUB; 45 rpm Recording "Louie Louie" POSSIBLE ITOM

Specimens received 8/24/65

K1 Tape made from the original recording from which the record "Louie Louie" 143-A was made in the studios of Wand Management Corp., 254 W. 54th St., NYC

ALSO SUBMITTED: Mimeographed copy of the words to "Louie Louie"

Result of examination:

A comparison was made of the recording on the tape described above as specimen K1 with the recording on the disk, submitted by the Detroit Office and described as specimen Q3 in this case and no audible differences were noted.

Specimen K1 and the "ALSO SUBMITTED" material are retained.

[Signature]

[Redacted]

MAIL ROOM [ ] TELETYPewriter UNIT [ ]
Mr. GRACE stated that he had received a telephone call from Michigan, regarding this record. She appeared on 3/30/65, at the office of ROBERT J. GRACE with Michigan.

Both of Mr. GRACE along with SA Detroit, and Assistant Engineer in Charge, Federal Communications Commission, 1029 Federal Building, Detroit.

They stated that they had the above-mentioned record with them and that this record is a 45 r.p.m. recording of the song "Louie Louie". They stated that this record has become very popular over the radio stations which cater to the teenage "rockin' roll" fans in the greater Detroit area and is considered to be "a best seller". They stated that when this record ("Louie Louie") is played on 33 r.p.m. speed, obscene and suggestive words can be interpreted in this song. They made available a copy of the words to this song as they interpreted the song after listening to it played numerous times on the 33 r.p.m. speed.

Also on 3/31/65, John C. Fuhrmann Junior High School, 5155 14 Mile Road, Warren, Michigan, telephonically contacted the Detroit FBI Office to advise that he had found a sheet of paper on a student at this school which contained obscene words to the song "Louie Louie". He stated he questioned the student and the student told him that this is a popular song and when played on a 33 r.p.m. speed, the obscene and suggestive words can be fairly interpreted in the song "Louie Louie".

All stated that teenagers are "buying up" the record "Louie Louie" and believed by them to be playing it on 33 r.p.m. speed.
Mr. GRACE on 3/30/65, contacted Dearborn, Michigan, Radio Station WKNR which caters to teenagers and plays mostly "rockin roll" records. He stated he would telegraph the record company in New York City to obtain the lyrics to "Louis Louis". The Radio Station WKNR received a telegram from SEPTER Records giving the correct copyrighted lyrics to "Louis Louis" and they are as follows:

"LOUIS LOUIS OH YEA AWAY WE GO
YEA YEA YEA YEA LOUIS LOUIS OH BABY AWAY FINE LITTLE GIRL
SHE WAITS FOR ME ME CATCH THE SHIP ACROSS THE SHIP SEA I
SAILED THE SHIP ALL ALONE I NEVER THINK ILL MAKE IT HOME
LOUIS LOUIS AWAY WE GO THREE NIGHTS AND DAYS WE SAIL THE
SEA ME THINK OF GIRL CONSTANTLY ON THE SHIP DREAM SHE
THEM I SMELL THE ROSEIN HER HAIR LOUIS LOUIS OH BABY
AWAY WE GO ME SEE JAMAICA MOON ABOVE IT WONT BE LONG WE
SEE ME LOVE ME TAKE HER IN ARMS AND THEN I TELL HER I
NEVER LEAVE AGAIN LOUIS LOUIS OH YEA AWAY WE GO"

The FBI Laboratory is requested to examine this record in an effort to discern any obscene words and suggestive overtones that may be contained in this recording when played on 33 r.p.m. speed. It is noted that when this record was played in the Assistant United States Attorney's Office on 3/30/65, it was difficult to get all the words in this song.

It is requested that the FBI Laboratory return this record to the Detroit Office after examination has been completed.

LEAD

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK:

Will contact Wand Company, 1650 Broadway, New York, regarding the recording "Louie Louie" in an effort to obtain the lyrics contained in this record.
Re: UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording "Louie Louie" POSSIBLE ION

00: Detroit

Examination requested by: FBI, Detroit (145-420) 4/22/65
Examination requested: Date received: 4/26/65
Result of Examination: Examination by: ALL b7C

Specimens submitted for examination

One WAND 45 r.p.m. recording bearing on one side the title "Louie Louie (Richard Berry) THE KINOSH" ALSO SUBMITTED: Sheet of paper bearing typewritten words and lyrics.
UNCUT: 4:55 p.m.
Recording "Louie Louie"
Possible ITON
DO: DE

Enclosure for
Bureau: FBI Laboratory

OBSCENE
Lou-ai Lou-ai Oh, no. Grab her way down low.  
(Repeat ) This line least clear.

There is a fine little girl waiting for me.  
She is just a girl across the way.  
When I take her all alone,  
She's never the girl I lay at home...

(Chorus)

Tonight at ten I'll lay her again  
We'll fuck your girl and by the way  
And ... on that chair I'll lay her there.  
I felt my bone ... ah... in her hair.

(Chorus)

She had a rag on, I moved above.  
It won't be long she'll slip it off.  
I held her in my arms and then  
And I told her I'd rather lay her again.

(Chorus)
UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording "Louie Louie"

REFERENCE: Report of SA at Detroit, dated 7/30/65.

LEAD

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN:

Will maintain contact with Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT J. GRACE and obtain and report his decision as to prosecutive action in captioned matter.

Pending Prosecution Over 6 Months  ✔  Pending Over One Year  ❌

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

SERIAL 185-2961 18

18 NOV 1 1965

NOTATIONS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
One copy of this report is being furnished the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Detroit, Michigan, inasmuch as this recording of the song "Louie Louie" was played over local radio stations in the Detroit area, and the FCC authorities at Detroit had received a complaint regarding this record.

Three copies of instant report have been designated for the Detroit Office in view of the fact it is anticipated that other offices having received inquiries concerning "Louie Louie" may request to be furnished with the results of investigation as set forth in instant report.
POSSIBLE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE MATTER

FBI Lab. determined, on 9/16/65, that a tape made from original recording of "Louie Louie", supplied by Wand Management Corporation, when compared with a disc submitted previously by the Detroit FBI Office, contained no audible differences.

Jerdon Music, Inc., furnished information regarding the history of recordings of "Louie Louie" and advised that the present controversial 45 r.p.m. recording was released by "The Kingsmen", in 1963. Jerden Music, Inc., furnished information to Wand Management, which distributes it under the Scepter label, and that the recording was hurriedly produced and the technique was poor but the record definitely was not obscene.

Limax Music Co., published original version of "Louie Louie", in 1957, and presently receives royalties from recording made by "The Kingsmen." Limax Music Co., furnished original lyrics submitted for copywriting, on 3/22/57, and noted they are definitely not obscene and are identical to those published for "The Kingsmen" version. Limax Music Co., furnished editorial published by radio station KEEL, Shreveport, Louisiana, which said expressed his views on the alleged obscenity of "Louie Louie."

members of "The Kingsmen", who recorded the controversial version of "Louie Louie", upon interview reported it definitely contained no obscenity.

- P -
DETAILS:

By communication dated August 23, 1965, the New York Office advised as follows:

On August 23, 1965, Wand Management Corporation, New York City, declined to make available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, without a court order, the sound track from which the Wand record "Louie Louie" was recorded.

She had no objection to making a copy of the original recording from which the record "Louie Louie" 143-A was made and the recording was made in the studios of Wand Management Corporation, 254 West 54th Street, New York City, in the presence of SA [redacted] and other officials and technicians of the above corporation. She made available a mimeographed copy of the words to "Louie Louie" so that they could be followed when listening to the recording.

[Redacted] explained that she had been mistaken when she had previously advised that the record "Louie Louie" had been made from a two-track recording. She stated it had not been made from a two-track recording but from a one-track monaural recording. Subsequently, her sound engineers had simulated a stereo version and this had led her to believe that she had a two-track recording of the original "Louie Louie."

[Redacted] stated that there is no separate voice track recording for the record "Louie Louie" and that the sound track is a copy of the sound recording from which the Wand record "Louie Louie" 143-A was made. She further explained that to aid the listener in listening to this sound track, her sound engineers had made the recording with the intent of bringing out the voice sounds to the best of their ability.

The aforementioned recording, made in the studios of the Wand Management Corporation, on August 23, 1965, was forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory for the purpose of comparing this recording with the disc which had been previously furnished to the Laboratory by the Detroit Office.
"K1 Tape made from the original recording from which the record "Louie Louie" 143-A was made in the studios of Wand Management Corp., 254 W. 54th St., NYC

"ALSO SUBMITTED: Mimeographed copy of the words to "Louie Louie"

"Result of examination:

"A comparison was made of the recording on the tape described above as specimen K1 with the recording on the disk, submitted by the Detroit Office and described as specimen Q3 in this case and no audible differences were noted."
RICHARD BERRY was the original writer and artist of the song, "Louie Louie." It was originally recorded under the Flip record label in 1956 in Los Angeles, California. However, it was not successful.

In 1961 a Seattle group known as the Wailers made a recording under the Etiquette record label. This recording became the #1 hit in the Seattle area. It was distributed nationally, but it was not a hit on the national level.

In 1963 the Wailers' record was being played a great deal by station KGON in Portland, Oregon. The competing station, KISN, was not authorized to play it. KISN prevailed upon the Kingmen to make a recording of "Louie Louie" which they did. KEN CHASE, the Program Director of KISN, sent the tape of the Kingmen's recording and in 1963 this record became the #1 hit in the nation.

aware of the charges that the Kingmen's record was obscene if played at different speeds. He stated the record is not obscene. He pointed out that the Kingmen did not know all of the lyrics and in some instances their recording technique was poor from a professional standpoint. However, he stated definitely it is not obscene. He stated that possibly the rumor that the record was obscene contributed to its sales record; however, he pointed out that if this were true, it was entirely unintentional.

He was advised by the Seattle "Post Intelligence" that the Governor of Indiana had banned the record, and he heard that the management of the Kingmen were planning a lawsuit against the state of Michigan because of its being banned.
Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) 676, 677 with no segregable material available for release to you.

- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) [Redacted], was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

- Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); [Redacted] as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

- Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- For your information:

- The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
Ridgely Drive, Los Angeles, California, telephone 934-4033, voluntarily appeared at the Los Angeles Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in response to a telephonic request for an appointment to see him concerning the song "Louie Louie."

"Louie Louie," which was originally published in 1957. At that time, RICHARD BERRY, who was a singer and performer, is believed to be working in a night club in the Gardena, California area. When BERRY wrote this song, he is believed to be working under the "Flip" label. He said Flip Records, Inc. is still in operation. RICHARD BERRY was accompanied by various studio musicians in the original recording of the song "Louie Louie."

exhibited the original lyrics to this song which had been submitted for copyrighting to Washington, D. C. on March 22, 1957. The copyright registration number was observed to be E Bu 37825. furnished a copy of the sheet music for "Louie Louie" which was compared to the original lyrics and found to be identical. The lyrics of "Louie Louie" as noted in the sheet music are as follows:

Chorus

"LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTTA GO ___
LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTTA GO ___

Verse 1

"A FINE LITTLE GIRL, SHE WAIT FOR ME ___
ME CATCH THE SHIP ___
ACROSS THE SEA ___
I SAILED THE SHIP ___
ALL ALONE ___
I NEVER THINK ___
I'LL MAKE IT HOME. ___

Detroit 4145-420

On 8/25/65 at Los Angeles, California File# Los Angeles 145-755

by b7c Date dicted 8/25/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is leased to your agency, if and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
Chorus
"LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTA GO
LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTA GO"

Verse 2
"THREE NIGHTS AND
DAYS WE SAIL'D THE SEA
ME THINK OF GIRL
CONSTANTLY
ON THE SHIP
I DREAM SHE THERE
I SMELL THE ROSE
IN HER HAIR"

Chorus
"LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTA GO
LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTA GO"

Verse 3
"ME SEE JAMAICA MOON ABOVE
IT WON'T BE LONG
ME SEE ME LOVE
ME TAKE HER IN
MY ARMS AND THEN
I TELL HER I
NEVER LEAVE AGAIN"

Chorus
"LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTA GO
LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTA GO"

it is obvious the lyrics to this record are not pornographic or objectionable in any way. He said the song was distributed nationally and was fairly
About 1962 it was recorded by The Kingsmen for Jerden Records. This recording under the Jerden label occurred in Seattle, Washington and was done with the permission following this particular version of the song, the record became very successful so that it was also recorded under Decca, Mercury and Columbia labels, among others. Wand Record Company of New York subsequently leased or purchased The Kingsmen version of this record.

The Kingsmen version of "Louie Louie" as produced by Wand Record Company, New York City, is the release in issue and there has been some confusion over it. The first indication received that anything was wrong was in January, 1964, when a question arose in Shreveport, Louisiana about the lyrics being pornographic. The radio station in Shreveport requested a copy of the lyrics and indicated they would not play this record over the air without verifying what words were being sung. He said they had received some complaints from listeners and other individuals who claimed the lyrics were pornographic.

He has subsequently received several communications in this regard and hoped the matter could be straightened out. He noted the music is sung in a calypso style, which makes it very difficult to understand. He received complaints that when this record is played at 33 RPM instead of the normal 45 RPM, the pornographic language is obvious. Playing a record at a slower speed would allow the music and speaking pattern down to such an extent that it would be very difficult to understand. He had never heard of such a procedure being done in the past.

Because of his desire to solve this riddle, he obtained a copy of The Kingsmen version of "Louie Louie." He listened to this record on 45 RPM and said it definitely followed the lyrics as they had been originally prepared in 1957. At 33 RPM, he found the language used to be unintelligible. He noted that if a listener had a script to go by which claimed to have the words being sung, the listener might receive the impression he had
actually heard that language being used. He understood there was such a script but had never seen it or obtained a copy of it. He would like to see a copy of the script which some people thought indicated what the lyrics were in the song "Louie Louie."

He is very happy over the success of this record. He does not approve of pornography and would have nothing to do with involvement in such a matter.
On September 13, 1965, furnished the Los Angeles Office with a copy of an editorial on "Louie Louie" by VERN STIERMAN, Radio Station KEEL, Shreveport, Louisiana. This editorial, which is being set forth immediately hereinafter, was in accordance with his views concerning allegations of obscenity in "Louie Louie."

- 10 -
KEEL has, for the past seven years, been the top-rated radio station in Shreveport. We have maintained this position by furnishing the KEEL listening area with tops in entertainment and information. We have lent our support to every worthwhile public service, and we have, at all times, been aware of our responsibility to our audience. An essential part of this responsibility is to make sure that every record, every commercial, every newscast, is in good taste...We can censor the material we put on the air, but we cannot censor the minds of people...little minds think little thoughts, and unfortunately, dirty minds think dirty thoughts....Which leads me to the currently popular record, "Louie, Louie".

Someone, somewhere, with an obscene imagination decided to write lyrics, that in his opinion sounded like the sounds on the recording by the Kingsmen. Then he took it upon himself to object to the lyrics, which didn't exist until he wrote them. He sent these lyrics with the record to the Governor of Indiana. This story was relayed across the country by the news services and little minds all over began to write their own lyrics to the song...lyrics which do not exist on the recording of "Louie, Louie" by the Kingsmen. These are the actual lyrics. Not Shakespeare admittedly, but not obscene by any stretch of the imagination.

Louie, Louie, me gotta go
Louie, Louie, me gotta go

A fine little girl, she wait for me
Me catch the ship across the sea
I sailed the ship all alone
I never think I make it home.

Three nights and days we sailed the sea
Me think of girl constantly
On the ship I dream she there
I smell the rose in her hair.
Me see Jamaica moon above
It won't be long me see me love
Me take her in my arms and then
I tell her I never leave again.
Louie, Louie, me gotta go
by permission, B. M. H. Music, Inc. Copyright 1958.
And, those are the actual lyrics as recorded by the Kingsmen and played by K Double E L. We feel it is unjust to listeners with clean minds, as well as the publisher of the song and producer of the record to take this song off the air. Obscen record's are not played on KEEL, and if someone decides to write nasty lyrics to "Stardust"... we won't play the original "Stardust" for this reason.
Portland, Oregon, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent. He was advised that he could consult an attorney before making any statement, that he did not have to make any statement, and that any statement he did make could be used against him in court.

He volunteered the following information:

He identified himself as a member of the vocal group, the "Kingmen". He said he has been aware for over a year that certain persons profess to hear obscene words in the group's recording of the song, "Louie Louie" but so far as he is concerned the words they claim to hear simply do not exist on that record. He said the recording was originally done on the west coast over a year ago and the group simply selected a standard version of the lyrics. With a short practice session and certainly no deliberate attempt to include any obscene or suggested wording the initial tape recording was made.

The original recording sold poorly for several months on the west coast and was later recorded on the Wand label in New York. Some months after that label went on sale, the talk of obscenity in the recording arose. He said to put an end to this and to establish their own position, the Wand Corporation forwarded a record to the Federal Communications Commission at Washington, D.C., and it is his belief that the Commission replied they observed no obscenity in the unintelligible wording. The Corporation later offered a $1000 reward to anyone who could substantiate the reported obscenity.

There was no deliberate attempt to include any obscenity in the recording and it is his belief only those who want to hear such things can read it into the vocal. He said he has heard others point out where the suggested obscenity exists in the recording but cannot make out what they suggest appears.
Washington, was advised as to the identity of the interviewing agent, that he could consult with an attorney before making any statement, that he did not have to make any statement, and that any statement he did make could be used against him in court.

Identified himself as a member of the "Kingsmen", a vocal group under the management of Seattle, Washington, New York. He said he was aware of the widespread complaint that the "Kingsmen" had spoken obscene words in their recording of the song "Louie Louie". He would swear that this was not deliberately true and that he and the others selected a standard lyric for recording, changed it not at all, and after short practice recorded it at Seattle, Washington around January 1963. He said the record sold on the west coast primarily for several months without criticism and was later put on the Wand label in New York in an exact duplication of the earlier record since it was recorded only once.

For several months on the Wand label nothing was said of the obscenity which some claim to hear, or at least nothing of the complaint had come to their attention, until it was banned from radio and public performance by the Governor of Indiana. He said the "Kingsmen" and their management have attempted to counter the charge but apparently the more said about it the more the talk of the obscenity spreads.

He does not admit to complainants that the words exist even accidentally because he does not believe they do and contended that those who want to hear such things have apparently interpreted an unintelligible sounding of words which were honestly inserted for harmony.
Oregon, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent, that he could consult with an attorney before making any statement, that he did not have to make any statement and that if he did make any statement it could be used against him in court.

He is a member of the vocal group, the "Kingsmen", and that he, with the other members of that group have been aware for over a year that certain people contend their recording of "Louie Louie" contains obscene wording. He said he does not believe this is so since he cannot make out the obscene words in the recording that others suggest are there. He had been told the obscene wording is more understandable at 33 1/3 RPM that the proper 45 RPM speed, but considers this ridiculous because to play the record at a speed other than was intended is to distort the vocal and if any wording thus became an obscenity it would be entirely accidental.

He is certain there was no deliberate intent on his part or that of the others to utter an obscenity in the one and only recording they made of the song and he believes such obscenities are actually non-existent.
Oregan, was advised as to the identity of the interviewing agent, that he could consult with an attorney before making any statement, that he did not have to make any statement, and that any statement he made could be used against him in court.

He volunteered to furnish the following information and identified himself as a member of a vocal group known as the "Kingsmen". He said that group consisting of who is no longer a member of the group, recorded the song "Louie Louie" on April 13, 1963, at the Northwest Recording Studios, 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon. The "Kingsmen" are under the management of Seattle, Washington, and the recording was done for themselves under the label "JERDEN".

He said the song and lyrics had been written about nine years before and those used by the "Kingsmen" were the standard sold at any music publisher. The song was quickly recorded with one or two run-throughs and no change in the standard lyrics was made by any of the vocal group. He said there was certainly no attempt made to inject obscene wording and that he and the others do not believe any such wording exists on the record in spite of those whose minds profess they exist.

The record sold few copies under the "JERDEN" label in the northwest and about five months later, it was pressed on the "Wand" label although it was not re-recorded but the original tape was used.

Around January 15, 1964, the "Kingsmen" received an inquiry from one of the wire services concerning the suggested obscene wording and were told that the Governor of Indiana had banned the playing of the record on the air or in any public performance. A month or so before that an individual unknown to them put through a call to a hotel where they were staying and said he had detected obscenity when the record was played at a rate of 33 1/3 RPM rather than the 45 RPM for which it was intended.
He said they considered this caller had a dirty mind particularly since anything spoken at the lesser RPM could not have been recorded for that speed and would be accidental.

Except for that call the suggestion of obscene wording had never been made although the song as originally recorded had been on sale then for eight months. announces now at each of the appearances of the group that if anyone in the audience is a part of that minority which thinks they will hear dirty songs from the "Kingsmen" they are mistaken but he said it has little effect since those who want to believe the words are in the song apparently will continue to do so.

He said there are unintelligible words or sounds in their vocal where those who want to apparently find the obscenity, but these were honest vocal effects without thought of intended obscenity and that neither he nor the others in the group can hear the suggested obscenity today. He said the result of the action taken by the Governor of Indiana, and similar publicity, has been to spur sales of the record but this the group does not welcome because of its possible long range effect on their careers. The record sold well initially and then fell off until the obscene wording rumor spread when sales again soared. The record to date has sold about 2,000,000 copies.

An interesting development has been that those who hear the obscenity contend it exists only on the 45 RPM version of the song and not on a 33 1/3 album when as a matter of fact the recording is one and the same, both made from the original tape.
The facts of instant case were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT J. GRACE, Detroit, who advised that he desired to review instant report reflecting the most recent investigation of captioned matter prior to rendering his decision as to proseuctive action.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE: DETROIT
OFFICE OF ORIGIN: DETROIT
DATE: 11/30/65
INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD: 11/2 - 29/65

REPORT MADE BY: [REDACTED]
TYPED BY: [REDACTED]

CHARACTER OF CASE: POSSIBLE ITOM 67C


LEAD

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Will maintain contact with Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT J. GRACE and obtain and report his decision as to prosecutive option in captioned matter.

Pending Prosecution Over Six Months: No
Pending Over One Year: No

APPROVED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

145-2961 - 19

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY: [REDACTED]
REQUEST RECD: 11/4/65
DATE FWD: 11/3/65
HOW FWD: [REDACTED]
BY: [REDACTED]

NOTATIONS

[Signature]

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1970-70224-1
DE 145-420

ADMINISTRATIVE

One copy of this report is being furnished the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Detroit, Michigan, inasmuch as this recording of the song "Louie Louie" was played over local radio stations in the Detroit area, and the FCC authorities at Detroit had received a complaint regarding this record.

Three copies of instant report have been designated for the Detroit Office in view of the fact it is anticipated that other offices having received inquiries concerning "Louie Louie" may request to be furnished with the results of investigation as set forth in instant report.
UNKNOWN SUBJECT; 45 r.p.m. Recording "Louie Louie"

Synopsis:
"Louie Louie", This song became a major hit with the Kingsmen version. It is said with this type of rock and roll music, a listener might think he heard anything being said that he imagined. The song did not contain any obscenity.

DETAILS:
Los Angeles, California, telephone voluntarily appeared at the Los Angeles Office of the FBI in connection with the song "Louie Louie." He was not required to say anything, that anything he said could be used against him in a court of law, and that he had the right to consult an attorney of his choice before saying anything.

California.

"Louie Louie" which became a major hit with the Kingsmen version in 1962 or 1963. The sheet music for the song "Louie Louie" and said this was the same as originally written did not contain any obscenity. He does not believe in using obscenity or rough language in any record, and has never done so.

Prior to the Kingsmen version of the record put out by Wand Records, he never received any complaints or indications that someone thought the lyrics were obscene, or that there was another set of lyrics. Thereafter, however, he would occasionally be asked by a friend about the lyrics since someone had apparently prepared a script of obscene lyrics to accompany the song.

With this type of rock and roll music, a listener might think he heard anything being said that he imagined. He has never seen the reported script of obscene language.

- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE

One copy of this report is being furnished the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Detroit, Michigan, inasmuch as this recording of the song "Louie Louie" was played over local radio stations in the Detroit area, and the FCC authorities at Detroit had received a complaint regarding this record.

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DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

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NOTATIONS

[Signature]
POSSIBLE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE MATTER

On 12/2/65, USA ROBERT J. GRACE, Detroit, advised that in his opinion the investigation of instant matter disclosed no evidence of an ITOM violation and that he was, therefore, recommending that no further investigation be conducted.

DETAILS:

On December 2, 1965, Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT J. GRACE, Detroit, stated that he thoroughly reviewed the results of investigation conducted in instant case and was of the opinion that there was no evidence of a violation of the Federal Interstate Transportation of Obscene Matter Statutes. He said that he, therefore, was recommending that no further investigation in this matter be conducted.
SAC, New York (145-2338)

Director, FBI (145-2961)

UNSUB; 45 rpm Recording
"Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITON

OO: Detroit

Reurlet 8/23/65 and FBI Laboratory report D-486786 AV
forwarded to New York on 9/16/65.

In accordance with your request and referenced letter,
the tape recording from the record "Louie Louie" and the
mimeographed copy of the words to "Louie Louie" are returned
herewith. You should be guided by the opinion of the
United States Attorney in determining whether this material
should be returned to
Wand Management Corporation, 254 W. 54th Street, New York City.

Enclosures

October 10, 1966
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY
DATE: 3/17/64
FROM: SAC, SAN DIEGO (145-NEW) (F)
SUBJECT: WAND
1650 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
ITOM

San Diego, California, made available a phonograph record entitled "Louie Louie" together with a copy of the lyrics sung by RICHARD BERRY, both of which are enclosed for the FBI Laboratory.

The record was apparently manufactured by the Wand Corporation, 1650 Broadway, New York City, New York.

The record was received by their office from Imperial Beach, California. A copy of the lyrics were made available by who stated that her daughter received them from a student attending the University of Washington at Seattle, Washington.

He played the record in an attempt to determine if the words were clearly intelligible and were, in fact, obscene. He stated that on the equipment available to him he was unable to ascertain if the lyrics to the song Louie Louie were obscene, and, therefore, made the record and lyrics available to the San Diego Office for examination by the FBI Laboratory.

It is his understanding that the record is available at local record dealers and, in fact, purchased another record entitled Louie Louie

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)(REGISTERED)
2 - San Diego
produced by "Records, Inc., Hollywood, California", also sung by RICHARD BERRY. He played the record but determined that the words which were intelligible were not obscene.

He believes several versions of the same song, "Louie Louie", are available for distribution through record shops, but only the one produced by Wand possibly falls under the purview of obscene matter.

It is requested that the record be reviewed at the FBI Laboratory with regard to its character and also compared with specimens of similar records which may have been submitted to the Laboratory.

He wishes that neither the record nor the copy of the lyrics be returned to him, and, therefore, the Bureau is requested to dispose of the evidence upon completion of its examination.
Specimen received 3/19/64

Q1 One 45 rpm WAND phonograph record entitled "LOUIE LOUIE (Richard Berry) THE KINGSMEN" on one side and "HAUNTED CASTLE (Lynn Kaston) THE KINGSMEN" on the other side.

ALSO SUBMITTED: Photocopy of reported lyrics to record "LOUIE LOUIE"

Result of examination:

An additional copy of the phonograph record described above as specimen Q1 was submitted by the Tampa Office with a letter dated 2/17/64 and captioned "Unknown Subject; Phonograph Record 'LOUIE LOUIE' distributed by Limax Music, NYC.; ITOM."

Because the lyrics of the song on the record, Q1, could not be definitely determined in the Laboratory examination, it could not be determined whether Q1 is an obscene record.

Specimen Q1 and the ALSO SUBMITTED material are retained in the Bureau's Files.
Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: WAND
1650 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Examination requested by: SAC, San Diego (145-New) 3/17/6
Examination requested: Document Date received: 3/19/6
Result of Examination: Examination by: 67C

Specimens submitted for examination:

1. Copy of 45rpm phonograph record entitled on one side "Louie Louie"

ALSO SUBMITTED: Photocopy of lyrics to record "Louie Louie"

Entitle (45rpm phonograph record) entitled "LOUIE LOUIE (Kingsmen) THE KINGSMEN" on one side and "HAUNTED CASTLE/LYNN ENI: THE KINGSMEN" on the other side.

"14-30 (1963 LIMAY MUSIC (BMI) Time, Inc.)
"160-38 "Kingsmen, New York, NY," + A "Kingsmen, Chicago, Ill.," + A
To: FBI, San Diego (145-NEW)

Date: April 3, 1964

Re: WARD
1650 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Examination requested by: San Diego
Reference: Letter 3/17/64
Examination requested: Document
Remarks: Unless advised to the contrary within sixty days, specimen Q1 will be disposed of in the Laboratory.

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
- Tampa (145-NEW) Enclosure (lab report)
  1 - 80-662 (obscene material)
  1 - 145-2972

MAILED 3
APR. 1964
COMM-FBI
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, SAN DIEGO (145-107)(C)

SUBJECT: WAND CORPORATION
1650 Broadway
New York, New York
ITOM

Re San Diego letter to the Bureau dated 3/17/64; and Bureau letter to San Diego dated 4/2/64.

San Diego, California, advised on 5/8/64, that the phonograph record made available to the San Diego Office entitled "Louie, Louie", need not be returned to him and has no objection to its being disposed of by the FBI Laboratory.

No further investigation is to be conducted in this matter.

2. Bureau
1. San Diego

(3) b/c