

alias Clara Feldman, alias Clara Feldmann, alias Mrs. George L. Davis, alias Miss Ruth Johnson, alias Doris Roberts, alias Doris Mansfield, on or about August 12, 1935, from Denver, Colorado, as alleged under Overt Act No. 14 heretofore.

19. That on or about August 12, 1934, the said defendant, Clara Davis, alias Clara Feldman, alias Clara Feldmann, alias Mrs. George L. Davis, alias Miss Ruth Johnson, alias Doris Roberts, alias Doris Mansfield, did knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously, possess, bury and conceal on premises known as Route No. 1, Box 157, occupied by Margaret Martineau and the defendant Alvin H. Scott, at Medford, Oregon, approximately Four Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$4,680.00), the exact amount thereof being to the Grand Jurors unknown, of the original ransom money paid to the said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Unruh, which said money was, as the said defendant Clara Davis, alias Clara Feldman, alias Clara Feldmann, alias Mrs. George L. Davis, alias Miss Ruth Johnson, alias Doris Roberts, alias Doris Mansfield, then and there well knew, part of the original ransom money previously removed by her, the said Clara Davis, alias Clara Feldman, alias Clara Feldmann, alias Mrs. George L. Davis, alias Miss Ruth Johnson, alias Doris Roberts, alias Doris Mansfield, and the defendant Alvin H. Scott, from a place where the same had been buried and concealed on or about August 12, 1935, by said defendants Clara Davis, alias Clara Feldman, alias Clara Feldmann, alias Mrs. George L. Davis, alias Miss Ruth Johnson, alias Doris Roberts, alias Doris Mansfield, and Edward George Feldman, alias Edward George Feldmann, alias Ed Feldman, alias Amel G. Johnson, alias George Feldman, alias "Roberts", alias Alfred Feldman, approximately ten (10) miles east of Laramie, Wyoming, and which said money, as also, the said defendant, Clara Davis, alias Clara Feldman, alias Clara Feldmann, alias Mrs. George L. Davis, alias Miss Ruth Johnson, alias Doris Roberts, alias Doris Mansfield, well knew was part of the original ransom money previously removed by her on or about August 12, 1935 from Denver, Colorado, as alleged under Overt Act No. 14 heretofore.

20. That on or about November 9, 1934, at Summit, California, the defendants Edward George Feldman, alias Edward George Feldmann, alias Ed Feldman, alias Amel G. Johnson, alias George Feldman, alias "Roberts", alias Alfred Feldman, and Clara Davis, alias Clara Feldman, alias Clara Feldmann, alias Mrs. George L. Davis, alias Miss Ruth Johnson, alias Doris Roberts, alias Doris Mansfield, did then and there knowingly, wilfully,

unlawfully and feloniously possess and conceal approximately One Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$1,100.00), the exact amount being to the Grand Jurors unknown, of the original ransom money paid to the said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urechel, the same being a portion of the original ransom money removed from Denver, Colorado by the defendant Clara Davis, alias Clara Feldman, alias Clara Feldmann, alias Mrs. George L. Davis, alias Miss Ruth Johnson, alias Doris Roberts, alias Doris Mansfield, on or about August 15, 1935, as alleged under Overt Act No. 14 hereof.

21. That on or about August 15, 1934, the defendant Clara Davis, alias Clara Feldman, alias Clara Feldmann, alias Mrs. George L. Davis, alias Miss Ruth Johnson, alias Doris Roberts, alias Doris Mansfield, did then and there knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously possess, bury and conceal, and cause to be buried and concealed, approximately Twenty-eight Thousand Four Hundred Dollars, (\$28,400.00), the exact amount thereof being to the Grand Jurors unknown, of the original ransom money paid to the conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urechel, at a place on Green Mountain, approximately six (6) miles northeast of Woodland, Washington, said money being, as the said defendant Clara Davis, alias Clara Feldman, alias Clara Feldmann, alias Mrs. George L. Davis, alias Miss Ruth Johnson, alias Doris Roberts, alias Doris Mansfield, then and there well knew, a portion of the original ransom money which had been previously removed from Denver, Colorado, on or about August 15, 1935, by her, the said Clara Davis, alias Clara Feldman, alias Clara Feldmann, alias Mrs. George L. Davis, alias Miss Ruth Johnson, alias Doris Roberts, alias Doris Mansfield, as alleged under Overt Act No. 14 hereof.

22. That on or about April 1, 1934, the defendant, Edward George Feldman, alias Edward George Feldmann, alias Ed Feldman, alias Axel G. Johnson, alias George Feldman, alias "Roberts", alias Alfred Feldman, at a place on Green Mountain, approximately six (6) miles northeast of Woodland, Washington, did knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously possess, bury and conceal approximately One Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$1,520.00), of the original ransom money paid to the conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urechel, which said money he, the said defendant Edward George Feldman, alias Edward George Feldmann, alias Ed Feldman, alias Axel G. Johnson, alias George Feldman, alias "Roberts", alias Alfred Feldman, then and there well knew was a portion of the original ran-

own money which had previously, on or about August 15, 1935, been removed by the defendant Clara Davis, alias Clara Feldman, alias Clara Feldmann, alias Mrs. George L. Davis, alias Miss Ruth Johnson, alias Doris Roberts, alias Doris Mansfield, from Denver, Colorado, as alleged under Overt Act No. 14 hereof.

23. That on or about September 15, 1934, the defendant Alvin E. Scott did, at a place on Green Mountain approximately six (6) miles north-east of Woodland, Washington, knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously possess, bury and conceal approximately Five Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$5,620.00), the exact amount thereof being unknown to the Grand Jurors, of the original ransom money paid to the said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urschel, which said money he, the said Alvin E. Scott, then and there well knew to be a portion of the original ransom money removed on or about August 15, 1935 from Denver, Colorado, by the defendant Clara Davis, alias Clara Feldman, alias Clara Feldmann, alias Mrs. George L. Davis, alias Miss Ruth Johnson, alias Doris Roberts, alias Doris Mansfield, as alleged under Overt Act No. 14 hereof.

24. That on or about August 15, 1935, the said defendant Edward George Feldman, alias Edward George Feldmann, alias Ed Feldman, alias Amel C. Johnson, alias George Feldman, alias "Roberts", alias Alfred Feldman, did, at the request of the said defendant Ben E. Laska, meet the said defendant Ben E. Laska at Denver, Colorado, and did, then and there, knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously, possess, conceal and pay over to the said defendant Ben E. Laska approximately Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00), the exact amount thereof being to the Grand Jurors unknown, of the original ransom money paid to the said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urschel.

25. That on or about August 14, 1935, at Denver, Colorado, the said defendant Ben E. Laska, did, then and there, knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously, accept and receive from the said defendant Edward George Feldman, alias Edward George Feldmann, alias Ed Feldman, alias Amel C. Johnson, alias George Feldman, alias "Roberts", alias Alfred Feldman, approximately Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00), the exact amount thereof being to the Grand Jurors unknown, of the original ransom money paid to the said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urschel, and he, the said defendant Ben E. Laska, did then and

there knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously, possess and conceal the same, knowing said money to be a portion of the original ransom money paid to said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urechel.

26. That on or about September 18, 1935, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the said defendant Edward George Feldman, alias Edward George Feldman, alias Ed Feldman, alias Amel G. Johnson, alias George Feldman, alias "Roberts", alias Alfred Feldman, did then and there knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously possess, conceal and pay over to the said defendant Ben B. Laska, approximately Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00), the exact amount thereof being to the Grand Jurors unknown, of the original ransom money paid to the said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urechel.

27. That on or about September 18, 1935, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the said defendant Ben B. Laska, did then and there knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously, accept and receive from the defendant Edward George Feldman, alias Edward George Feldman, alias Ed Feldman, alias Amel G. Johnson, alias George Feldman, alias "Roberts", alias Alfred Feldman, approximately Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00), the exact amount thereof being to the Grand Jurors unknown, the same being a portion of the original ransom money paid to the said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urechel, and he, the said defendant Ben B. Laska, did then and there knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously, possess and conceal the same knowing said money to be a portion of the original ransom money paid to the said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urechel.

28. That on or about September 18, 1935, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the said defendant Ben B. Laska, did then and there knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously, possess, conceal and pay over to, or cause to be paid over to, the said defendant James C. Mathers approximately One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), the exact amount thereof being to the Grand Jurors unknown, of the original ransom money paid to said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urechel.

29. That on or about September 18, 1935, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the said defendant James C. Mathers, did then and there knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously, accept and receive from the said defendants Ben B. Laska and Edward George Feldman, alias Edward George

Feldman, alias Ed Feldman, alias Axel G. Johnson, alias George Feldman, alias "Roberts", alias Alfred Feldman, approximately One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), the exact amount thereof being to the Grand Jurors unknown, of the original ransom money paid to said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urschel, and he, the said defendant James G. Mathers, did then and there knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully and feloniously, possess and conceal the same, knowing said money to be a portion of the original ransom money paid to said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urschel;

Contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace, government and dignity of the United States of America.

Assistant United States Attorney

RECEIVED AT 708 THIRDS ST. N.W. WASHINGTON D.C.
12 188 TO 60 1 10 LAST DEPT. OF JUSTICE
DIRECTOR DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FBI
KIDNAPING SUBJECT / ASK A RELEASE
BOLAR BOND

NEWMAN

RECORDED & INDEXED

DEC 19 1934

7-113-1461
DIV. OF INVESTIGATION
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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

WESTERN UNION MESSENGERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF MESSAGES

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

December 16, 1934

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES with
aliases, et al; CHARLES F.
URSCHER - Victim; Kidnaping

Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Baughman _____
Chief Clerk _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Edwards _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Keith _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. Quinn _____
Mr. Schilder _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____

Alvin H. Scott, brother-in-law of Clara Feldmann, was seriously injured in an automobile accident at Roseburg, Oregon on November 2, 1934. Investigation by agents of the Portland, Oregon office developed that he had in his possession at that time \$1,360 of ransom money involved in the instant case. A search of the premises of Alvin H. Scott and [REDACTED] resulted in the recovery of an additional \$6,140 of ransom money. Fugitive complaints were filed against [REDACTED] and Scott on November 6, 1934 at Portland, Oregon and they were taken into custody the same date, being held in default of bond in the amount of \$25,000. Scott was removed from Roseburg, Oregon to Portland, Oregon by the United States Marshal on November 22, 1934. Clara Feldmann and her son, Edward George Feldmann, were taken into custody at Dunsmuir, California November 9, 1934, \$1,100 in ransom currency being recovered from their possession and an additional \$1,520 in ransom currency being recovered at a point near Woodland, Washington as the result of information received from them. Clara and Edward Feldmann were taken to Portland, Oregon on November 10, 1934, where a fugitive complaint was filed against them the same date and each was held in default of bond. On November 12, 1934 Edward Feldmann sent a telegram to Attorney Ben B. Laska at Denver, Colorado, advising him of the detention of Clara and Edward Feldmann, to which Laska replied by letter dated November 13, 1934, in which he furnished certain legal advice.

After interrogation, Edward George Feldmann stated that some time earlier in the summer of 1933 he joined his mother and Albert L. Bates, who was known to him as G. L. Davis, in Denver, Colorado; that about the middle of July, 1933, he proceeded with his mother and Bates to Portland, Oregon to visit relatives; that he and his mother returned to Denver from Portland, accompanied by Alvin H. Scott about August 1, 1933, Scott going back to Portland several days later; that although Bates later returned to Denver he and his mother did not see him and had no knowledge of Bates' arrest until a prisoner, who had just been released from the County Jail in Denver, Colorado, left at their apartment a message to the effect that Bates was in custody and for Clara Feldmann to "look in the suitcase". Feldmann stated that

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Memo for the Dir.

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upon examining the suitcase they found that it was full of \$20 bills; that he and his mother then proceeded to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where they buried the money found in the suitcase in the vicinity of Cheyenne; that they remained in Cheyenne for two or three weeks, maintaining contact with a [REDACTED] family at Denver, which family is directly related to Mrs. George Hurtienne, whose husband, George, is a brother of Clara Feldmann; that shortly after arriving at Cheyenne, Edward Feldmann received word through [REDACTED] that Ben Laska wanted to see him and his mother; that shortly thereafter he called on Laska in Laska's Denver office, at which time Laska informed him that he was defending Bates and that he would call on Edward and Clara Feldmann when he needed money. Feldmann stated that Laska "drilled" him as to what they should do and say to avoid detection; that Laska took from him his Colorado automobile driver's license, which he had taken out under the name of Edward G. Feldmann, together with other miscellaneous papers on which appeared his name and told him that he was doing this so that no one would find out his true name, further telling him to use the alias of Axel C. Johnson. Laska also told Edward Feldmann that he and his mother should go east, stay in large towns and that he, Edward, should secure a job of some sort; that should he ever get into complications he should communicate with him, Laska, in care of a woman attorney who had offices immediately above Laska in the Symes Building, Denver, Colorado. Feldmann also stated that Laska discussed with him the character of the ransom money and made a proposition to him concerning the changing of the "hot" money into good money for a fee of twenty-five percent of the money exchanged.

Thereafter Edward visited Laska on several occasions, on one of which Laska told him that it would be necessary for him to have \$10,000 for expense money in connection with the defense of Bates and that on another visit Laska asked him to draw a diagram showing the location of the money which had been buried. Pursuant to Laska's request for expense money, Feldmann and his mother went to the residence of Laska on some unknown date, were taken to a bedroom in Laska's home where they paid him \$8,000 instead of \$10,000; that upon later learning of the discrepancy in the amount Laska became considerably disturbed. In answer to the request for a diagram indicating the location of the ransom money, Edward Feldmann drew a fictitious diagram so that Laska would have no chance of finding the money. On another occasion, prior to the trial of Albert L. Bates, Edward Feldmann went to Denver from Chicago where he and his mother had been staying and at which time Laska informed him that it would be necessary to deliver to him an additional \$2,000 and that arrangements were made whereby this money could be delivered to Laska at Oklahoma City.

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Thereafter, Feldmann proceeded to Santa Fe, New Mexico, because Laska told him to remain away from Denver "as it was pretty hot". Shortly thereafter Feldmann proceeded to Oklahoma City where he registered at an unknown hotel on an unknown date under the name of A. C. Johnson; that he met Laska in his room at the Biltmore Hotel, pursuant to directions, where he was introduced to an individual referred to by Laska as Mr. Hyde, who, Laska stated, was connected with the Government and who should receive \$1,000 for some assistance he was going to render in the case. Following Laska's instructions, Feldmann on this occasion went into the bathroom of the hotel apartment where he placed beneath the bath rug \$1,000 and came out. Edward Feldmann stated that to the best of his recollection both Laska and Hyde went into the bathroom together and came out with the money; that Feldmann then gave Laska an additional \$1,000; that all of this \$2,000 was a part of the original ransom money as was the \$8,000 which had previously been given Laska.

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Edward Feldmann further informed the agents of an additional trip made by him to Denver, Colorado during the month of August, 1934, at which time he was accompanied by his wife, Betty. On this visit Laska reprimanded him for not advising him in advance of the intended arrival and arranged with the next-door neighbor to store Feldmann's automobile in the neighbor's garage, which was done. Thereafter Laska made reservations at a local hotel for the accommodation of Edward and Betty Feldmann, where they remained for two or three days and nights.

In corroboration of this information given by Edward Feldmann, the Oklahoma City office determined that Laska had registered at the Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City from September 4 until September 6 and again from September 15 to September 28, 1933. He was also registered at this hotel from December 3 until December 5, 1933. No record of a registration by Edward Feldmann under his known aliases could be found, however, and it was reported that the only attorney by the name of Hyde in Oklahoma City, is former United States Attorney Herbert K. Hyde.

The Denver office determined that Edward Feldmann and his wife registered at the Reo Hotel, Denver, on July 17, 1934, under the name of C. A. Johnson and stayed for two days. It was also ascertained that [REDACTED] resides next to Laska, and that [REDACTED] an attorney, has offices in the Symes Building, Denver, Colorado and

Memo for the Director

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occasionally handles business for Laska. It was found, too, that Laska maintains a checking account and a safety deposit box at the Colorado National Bank and that at the Denver National Bank a savings account is maintained in the name of [REDACTED] a sister-in-law of Laska who acts as his secretary, or in the name of [REDACTED]. At the Colorado National Bank there was also reported to be a savings account for [REDACTED].

On the night of December 4, 1934, Clara Feldmann informed agents of the Portland Office of the location of additional ransom currency, which, when found, totaled \$38,460. On December 6, 1934, Clara Feldmann stated that [REDACTED] had buried one portion of the ransom money.

Clara and Edward Feldmann about December 7, 1934, made a full confession of their transactions with Laska, stating that they paid him \$10,000 actual ransom currency in Denver and Oklahoma City; that he instructed them to live in certain places and to assume fictitious names; and that he threatened them in the event any disclosures should be made. Clara and Edward Feldmann admitted knowledge of the nature of the ransom money and admitted its possession; [REDACTED] admitted knowledge of the possession of the money by the Feldmanns and general knowledge of its location. Alvin H. Scott on December 7, 1934, personally revealed the burial place of over \$5,000 of the money but contended that he was unaware of the nature of either this portion of the ransom money or of that which had been found in his possession.

Clara and Edward Feldmann waived removal to Oklahoma City, and on December 8, 1934 Alvin H. Scott and [REDACTED] were ordered removed from Portland to Oklahoma City. Edward Feldmann arrived in Oklahoma City on December 10, 1934 and Clara Feldmann, Scott and [REDACTED] arrived in Oklahoma City on December 11, 1934.

Investigation conducted in Oklahoma City resulted in identifying James C. Mathers, an attorney in Oklahoma City, as the individual who was introduced to Edward Feldmann as "Mr. Hyde". James C. Mathers is the son of James H. Mathers, an attorney who represented some of the defendants in the Urschel case during its trial at Oklahoma City in 1933.

On December 14, 1934, a grand jury at Oklahoma City returned an indictment charging Ben B. Laska, James C. Mathers, Clara Feldmann, Edward Feldmann and Alvin H. Scott with conspiracy to violate the laws of the United States.

Respectfully,

G. N. Lowdon

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

December 15, 1934

EAT

Time: 11:00 am

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. K. L. B.
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. S. J. Tamm
Mr. Tracy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: URSCHEL KIDNAPING CASE

I called Mr. Brantley at Oklahoma City and asked him whether the indictment had been returned in connection with the above case, and he stated he had sent a copy of the indictment to the Division yesterday. The indictment charges both lawyers with conspiracy to violate the Federal Kidnaping Statute. SAC Spears, [redacted] left yesterday at 1:00 o'clock for Denver, and are to arrive there this morning, at which time they are to meet Mr. Nathan. Mr. Brantley stated that they are then going to make arrangements to pick up Laska there. Simultaneous with the taking into custody of Laska at Denver, he is to pick up James C. Mathers in Oklahoma City.

Mr. Brantley stated they had not arrived at any definite conclusions as yet with respect to moving Clara and Ed Feldman out of jail there. I told Mr. Brantley that you had made a notation on a memorandum which I had submitted to you the other day that you did not believe these individuals should be moved; however, that I would discuss the matter further with you. Mr. Brantley informed that the United States Attorney talked the matter over with the Judge yesterday in Spears' presence and also in his, Brantley's presence, and he seemed somewhat inclined to feel that they should be removed. Mr. Brantley stated that unless the Feldmans were kept in the right frame of mind and would testify against Laska and Mathers, it would be impossible to substantiate any charges brought against these men. Mr. Brantley suggested the possibility of returning Clara and Ed Feldman to Portland and holding them there on the theory that we were looking for further evidence, etc.

I told Mr. Brantley to wire the Division when they had taken Mathers into custody.

COPIES DESTROYED
20 MAR 16 1965

RECORDED & INDEXED

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm.

DEC 20 1934

Let me have a complete report of all facts in this case so I will be familiar with it when it breaks.

Tell Nathan & Brantley to release information at Denver & Okla. City simultaneously & to be

certain to handle it in a dignified manner & in the name of the Division. We will not wait

December 17, 1934

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

7-1185

The following information is transmitted herewith, concerning recent developments in the Uischel Kidnaping case:

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Alvin H. Scott, brother-in-law of Clara Feldmann, was seriously injured in an automobile accident at Roseburg, Oregon on November 2, 1934. Investigation by agents of the Portland, Oregon office developed that he had in his possession at that time \$1,360 of ransom money involved in the instant case. A search of the premises of Alvin H. Scott resulted in the recovery of an additional \$6,121 of ransom money. Fugitive complaints were filed against Scott on November 6, 1934, at Portland, Oregon, and they were taken into custody the same date, being held in default of bond in the amount of \$25,000. Scott was removed from Roseburg, Oregon to Portland, Oregon by the United States Marshal on November 22, 1934. Clara Feldmann and her son, Edward George Feldmann, were taken into custody at Dunsmuir, California, November 9, 1934, \$1,100 in ransom currency being recovered from their possession and an additional \$1,520 in ransom currency being recovered at a point near Woodland, Washington as the result of information received from them. Clara and Edward Feldmann were taken to Portland, Oregon on November 10, 1934, where a fugitive complaint was filed against them the same date and each was held in default of bond. On November 1934, Edward Feldmann sent a telegram to Attorney Ben B. Laska at Denver, Colorado, advising him of the detention of Clara and Edward Feldmann, to which Laska replied by letter dated November 13, 1934, in which he furnished certain legal advice.

After interrogation, Edward George Feldmann stated that sometime early in the summer of 1933 he joined his mother and Albert L. Bates, who was known to him as S. L. Davis, in Denver, Colorado; that about the middle of July, 1933, he proceeded with his mother and Bates to Portland, Oregon to visit relatives; that he and his mother returned to Denver from Portland, accompanied by Alvin H. Scott about August 1, 1933, Scott going back to Portland several days later; that although Bates later returned to Denver he and his mother did not see him and had no knowledge of Bates' arrest until a prisoner, who had just been released from the County Jail in Denver, Colorado, left at their apartment a message to the effect that Bates was in custody and for Clara Feldmann to "look in the suitcase". Feldmann stated that

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upon examining the suitcase they found that it was full of \$20 bills; that he and his mother then proceeded to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where they buried the money found in the suitcase in the vicinity of Cheyenne; that they remained in Cheyenne for two or three weeks, maintaining contact with a [redacted] family at Denver, which family is directly related to Mrs. George Hartmann, whose husband, George, is a brother of Clara Feldmann; that shortly after arriving at Cheyenne, Edward Feldmann received word through [redacted] that Sam Laska wanted to see him and his mother; that shortly thereafter he called on Laska in Laska's Denver office, at which time Laska informed him that he was defending Bates and that he would call on Edward and Clara Feldmann when he needed money. Feldmann stated that Laska "drilled" him as to what they should do and say to avoid detection; that Laska took from him his Colorado automobile driver's license, which he had taken out under the name of Edward G. Feldmann, together with other miscellaneous papers on which appeared his name and told him that he was doing this so that no one would find out his true name, further telling him to use the alias of Axel G. Johnson. Laska also told Edward Feldmann that he and his mother should go east, stay in large towns and that he, Edward, should secure a job of some sort; that should he ever get into complications he should communicate with him, Laska, in care of a woman attorney who had offices immediately above Laska in the Symes Building, Denver, Colorado. Feldmann also stated that Laska discussed with him the character of the ransom money and made a proposition to him concerning the changing of the "hot" money into good money for a fee of twenty-five per cent of the money exchanged.

Thereafter Edward visited Laska on several occasions, on one of which Laska told him that it would be necessary for him to have \$10,000 for expense money in connection with the defense of Bates and that on another visit Laska asked him to draw a diagram showing the location of the money which had been buried. Pursuant to Laska's request for expense money, Feldmann and his mother went to the residence of Laska on some unknown date, were taken to a bedroom in Laska's home where they paid him \$8,000 instead of \$10,000; that upon later learning of the discrepancy in the amount Laska became considerably disturbed. In answer to the request for a diagram indicating the location of the ransom money, Edward Feldmann drew a fictitious diagram so that Laska would have no chance of finding the money. On another occasion, prior to the trial of Albert L. Bates, Edward Feldmann went to Denver from Chicago where he and his mother had been staying and at which time Laska informed him that it would be necessary to deliver to him an additional \$2,000 and that arrangements were made whereby this money could be delivered to Laska at Oklahoma City.

Memo for the Attorney General

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Thereafter, Feldmann proceeded to Santa Fe, New Mexico, because Laska told him to remain away from Denver "as it was pretty hot". Shortly thereafter Feldmann proceeded to Oklahoma City where he registered at an unknown hotel on an unknown date under the name of A. C. Johnson; that he met Laska in his room at the Biltmore Hotel, pursuant to directions, where he was introduced to an individual referred to by Laska as Mr. Hyde, who, Laska stated, was connected with the Government and who should receive \$1,000 for some assistance he was going to render in the case. Following Laska's instructions, Feldmann on this occasion went into the bathroom of the hotel apartment where he placed beneath the bath rug \$1,000 and came out. Edward Feldmann stated that to the best of his recollection both Laska and Hyde went into the bathroom together and came out with the money; that Feldmann then gave Laska an additional \$1,000.00; that all of this \$2,000.00 was a part of the original ransom money as was the \$8,000 which had previously been given Laska.

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Edward Feldmann further informed the agents of an additional trip made by him to Denver, Colorado during the month of August, 1954, at which time he was accompanied by his wife, Betty. On this visit Laska reprimanded him for not advising him in advance of the intended arrival and arranged with the next-door neighbor to store Feldmann's automobile in the neighbor's garage, which was done. Thereafter Laska made reservations at a local hotel for the accommodation of Edward and Betty Feldmann, where they remained for two or three days and nights.

In corroboration of this information given by Edward Feldmann, the Oklahoma City office determined that Laska had registered at the Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City from September 4, until September 8 and again from September 15 to September 22, 1953. He was also registered at this hotel from December 3 until December 6, 1953. No record of a registration by Edward Feldmann under his known aliases could be found, however, and it was reported that the only attorney by the name of Hyde in Oklahoma City, is former United States Attorney Herbert K. Hyde.

The Denver Office determined that Edward Feldmann and his wife registered at the Bee Hotel, Denver, on July 17, 1954, under the name of C. A. Johnson and stayed for two days. It was also ascertained that [redacted] resides next to Laska, and that [redacted] an attorney, has offices in the Symes Building, Denver, Colorado and

Memo for the Attorney General

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occasionally handles business for Laska. It was found, too, that Laska maintains a checking account and a safety deposit box at the Colorado National Bank and that at the Denver National Bank a savings account is maintained in the name of [REDACTED] a sister-in-law of Laska who acts as his secretary, or in the name of [REDACTED]. At the Colorado National Bank there was also reported to be a savings account for [REDACTED].

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Clara and Edward Feldmann about December 7, 1934, made a full confession of their transactions with Laska, stating that they paid him \$10,000 actual ransom currency in Denver and Oklahoma City; that he instructed them to live in certain places and to assume fictitious names; and that he threatened them in the event any disclosures should be made. Clara and Edward Feldmann admitted knowledge of the nature of the ransom money and admitted its possession; [REDACTED] admitted knowledge of the possession of the money by the Feldmanns and general knowledge of its location. Alvin H. Scott on December 7, 1934, personally revealed the burial place of over \$5,000 of the money but contended that he was unaware of the nature of either this portion of the ransom money or of that which had been found in his possession.

Clara and Edward Feldmann waived removal to Oklahoma City, and on December 8, 1934 Alvin H. Scott and [REDACTED] were ordered removed from Portland to Oklahoma City. Edward Feldmann arrived in Oklahoma City on December 10, 1934 and Clara Feldmann, Scott and [REDACTED] arrived in Oklahoma City on December 11, 1934.

Investigation conducted in Oklahoma City resulted in identifying James C. Mathers, an attorney in Oklahoma City, as the individual who was introduced to Edward Feldmann as "Mr. Hyde". James C. Mathers is the son of James H. Mathers, an attorney who represented some of the defendants in the Urschel case during its trial at Oklahoma City in 1933.

On December 14, 1934, a grand jury at Oklahoma City returned an indictment charging Ben B. Laska, James C. Mathers, Clara Feldmann, Edward Feldmann and Alvin H. Scott with conspiracy to violate the laws of the United States. On December 17, 1934 Ben B. Laska was taken into custody by Special Agents of the Division of Investigation at Denver, Colorado. On the morning of the same date James C. Mathers was taken into custody by Special Agents of this Division at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

RECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

December 18, 1934

EAT

Time: 12:40 PM

Chief Clerk
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: URSCHER KIDNAPING CASE.

Mr. Brantley telephoned from Oklahoma City and stated that James C. Mathers had just been released on a \$10,000 bond; that the bond was a surety one by five people representing \$27,000 worth of property.

Respectfully,



E. A. Tamm.

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DEC 20 1934

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DEC 18 1934



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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

101112

GEORGE KELLY BARNES with aliases,
et al - CHARLES F. URSONEL - Victim

KIDNAPING

In connection with the investigation designed to strengthen the charges against Clara and Ed Feldman, Alvin H. Scott and [REDACTED] who are presently being held for conspiracy to violate the Kidnaping Statute, Special Agents of the Portland, Oregon Division office on November 20, 1954 recovered an additional \$1,580 of the currency paid as ransom in this case. Altogether there has been recovered within the past three weeks \$10,800 of ransom money.

ORIGINAL FILED IN

66-4300-A

*Re-submitted
7/17/59
Number # 6.*

Special Agent in Charge,
New York, New York.

Dear Sir:

34-115-1415

Your attention is invited to Division letter dated November 30, 1934 in which you were requested to make appropriate inquiries of the Postal Telegraph Company and the Western Union Telegraph Company concerning the distribution of identification orders and ransom currency lists to the various offices of these concerns.

Kindly advise the Division of the results of your inquiries.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

RECORDED & INDEXED

7-115-1415

DEC 1 / 1934