

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1934

WAS/

Time: 1:55 PM

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.....

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: URSCHEL CASE

Mr. Brantley telephoned from Oklahoma City and stated that in the above case a Grand Jury this morning returned a secret indictment and named in it Ben B. Laska, Denver, Colorado; James Mathers, an attorney in Oklahoma City. Mr. Brantley stated that SAC Spears, from Portland and Agents [redacted] and [redacted] are leaving on the 1:05 pm train for Denver; that Mr. Nathan is meeting them in Denver tomorrow and they are going to make arrangements to pick Laska up there tomorrow morning. Clara Feldman, Ed Feldman, and Alvin Scott were also mentioned in the indictment. [redacted] however, was not indicted.

Mr. Brantley stated that simultaneously with the taking into custody of Laska in Denver, he was going to pick up Mathers in Oklahoma City.

Mr. Brantley said they are trying to keep any information from being given out in connection with this, and that he had talked with the Judge there to see what he could do in an effort to keep any information from leaking out, and he said he would cooperate to the best of his ability.

With reference to Mr. Brantley's conversation with Mr. Tamm last evening regarding the removal of Clara and Ed Feldman from the jail there, he stated they would try to arrive at some decision about this later on; that he was going to talk with the Judge and United States Attorney there today relative to same; that he had mentioned the matter to the Judge this morning who was inclined to share the same view as they do in the matter; that to remove Clara and Ed Feldman it is necessary to get a release from the Judge.

Respectfully,

*W. A. Smith*

RECORDED  
INDEXED

JAN 2 1935

All b7C

nothing like this  
should be done unless  
the Judge specifically  
approves.

J. E. N.

COPIES DESTROYED  
JAN 17 1965

7-115-1496

GNL: *b7c*

December 26, 1934

RECORDED

*7-115-1497*

*29070*

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of the Treasury,  
Washington, D. C.

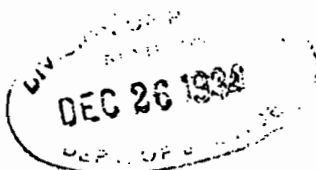
My dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with an official investigation being conducted by the Division of Investigation of this Department it is necessary to secure certified photostatic copies of the Lucas tax returns made by Ben E. Lucas, residence address 1164 Cook Street, Denver, Colorado, business address 633 Sykes Building, Denver, Colorado, for the years 1932 and 1933. It is requested, therefore, that the certified photostatic copies of these returns be prepared and forwarded to this Department.

In view of the urgent nature of this investigation, it will be greatly appreciated if the above request can be given your early attention.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Homer Cummings  
Attorney General.



2 yellows  
1 to Dept. file.

*One file*

*Denver 1/8/35 gnl*

*[Handwritten initials]*

RECEIVED AT

VEN. 4G STAR BLDG.  
11th & Pa. Ave., N. W.

STANDARD TIME  
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM



This is a full rate Telegram, Cablegram or Radiogram unless otherwise indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
MM	NIGHT MESSAGE
LC	DEFERRED CABLE
MLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

W46 39 GOVT COLLECT=BR DENVER COLO 210P DEC 18 1934

DIRECTOR, DIV OF INVESTIGATION= 29071

US DEPT OF JUSTICE PENN AVE AT 9 ST NORTHWEST=

URSHEL KIDNAPING OBTAIN AND FORWARD THIS OFFICE PHOTOSTATIC  
COPIES FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS BEN B LASKA RESIDENCE ADDRE  
ELEVEN SIX FOUR COOK STREET BUSINESS ADDRESS SIX TWENTY SYMES  
BUILDING DENVER YEARS NINETEEN THIRTY TWO AND NINETEEN THIRTY  
THREE=

NEWMAN. 442P

RECORDED & INDEXED

DEC 31 1934

Det. Sec  
Treasury  
12/24/34  
BNS

7-115-145

29 121

Telephone Your Telegrams to **Postal Telegraph**

U. S. Department of Justice

TDQ:

Washington, D. C.

1:30 P.M.

December 22, 1934

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Brantley called and stated that two bank robberies occurred in one town this morning; that they are working on three extortion cases, and that he needed two or more additional Agents - seasoned men preferred. He stated if they could not be assigned permanently - that their assignment for 30 days would be of assistance. He advised that [REDACTED] has been transferred away from the office, [REDACTED] is examining the judicial district out there and [REDACTED] is on the coast. I advised that I would put the matter before the Director and that I knew that if it was at all possible, you would see that one or possibly two additional agents were assigned to the Oklahoma City Office. I advised that we are very short-handed in a number of the Field Offices.

Mr. Brantley further stated that this morning \$25,000 of the Urshel ransom money was turned over to Mr. Urshel at the direction of the U.S. Attorney there; that a sufficient amount of the money was retained to use in evidence.

He advised that the man who is being held in Tulsa, and who tried to commit suicide las night, name - [REDACTED] is still living.

Respectfully,

T. D. Quinn

Send him a man  
from K.C. & one from -----  
Dallas for 2 weeks.  
J.E.H.

Done  
E.A.T.  
12/22/34

12/22/34

RECORDED

DEC 31 1934

1 copy

7-115-1498  
DEC 29  
was

ORIGINAL FILED IN

66-2.1

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

FILE NO. 7-6

REPORT MADE AT: <b>Oklahoma City, Okla.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE: <b>12/26/34</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: <b>12/20/34</b>	REPORT MADE BY: [REDACTED]
TITLE: <b>GEORGE KELLY BARNES with aliases, ET AL CHARLES F. URSCHER - Victim</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE: <b>Kidnaping</b>

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED] Sayre, Okla. states that he has not seen or heard anything of or from his informant in regard to whether or not [REDACTED] has any of the Urschel ransom money.

P.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Oklahoma City, 10/11/34.

## DETAILS:

[REDACTED] Sayre, Oklahoma stated that he has not seen or heard anything of or from his informant in regard to whether or not [REDACTED] has any of the Urschel ransom money since the writer's last visit. He stated that in the event he did learn anything of importance from his informant he would immediately get in touch with [REDACTED] Undersheriff, Beckham County, Sayre, Oklahoma.

[REDACTED] Undersheriff, Sayre, stated that he would keep in touch with [REDACTED] and if he learned anything that would be of interest he would get in touch with the Oklahoma City Office.

DETAILS:

P E N D I N G

All b7C

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:		RECORDED AND INDEXED:	
3 Division	COPIES DESTROYED 20 5 MAR 17 1965	7-115-1497	
2 Oklahoma City		BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
		DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
		ROUTED TO: [Signature]	
		CHECKED OFF: JAN 2 1935	
		JACKETED:	

# CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION (34)

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SIGNS

DL = Day Letter  
NM = Night Message  
NL = Night Letter  
LC = Deferred Cable  
NLT = Cable Night Letter  
Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 708 14th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

1934 DEC 27 PM 8 37

AB512 61/57 COLLECT GOVT=DENVER COLO 27 609P

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

LL-RATE DAY LETTER

DIRECTOR , DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION US DEPARTMENT

OF JUSTICE=PENNSYLVANIA AVE AT 9 ST NORTHWEST WASHDC=

URSCHEL KIDNAPING USA DENVER ADVISES ~~LASKA~~ HAS AGREED TO

WAIVE COMMISSIONERS HEARING DENVER TEN AM JANUARY THIRD AND

FURNISH BOND FOR APPEARANCE TRIAL OKLAHOMA CITY USA STATES

WITNESSES UNNECESSARY AND IF LASKA DEMANDS COMMISSIONERS

HEARING JANUARY THIRD A POSTPONEMENT CAN BE SECURED AMOUNT OF

NEW BOND TO BE CONSIDERED JANUARY THIRD OKLAHOMA CITY REQUESTED TO

FURNISH TRIAL DATE=

NEWMAN.

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

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
JAN 2 1935 A.M.  
DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FILE

RECORDED & INDEXED  
JAN 2 1935

7-115-1500  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
DEC 29 1934 A.M.  
NATHAN  
TAMM  
CIR

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

P. O. Drawer 567  
San Francisco, California.

Ref. File

December 26, 1934.

7-9

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th St., N.W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases;  
ALVIN H. SCOTT - FUGITIVE; MARGARET MORTIMER -  
FUGITIVE; CLIPPER LEACH, with aliases - FUGITIVE;  
EDWARD GEORGE LEMANN, with aliases - FUGITIVE.  
CHARLES F. URSCHEL - Victim  
KIDNAPING.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with instructions of Assistant Director Harold Nathan, that Albert L. Bates, prisoner at United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz Island, California, be interviewed as to whether or not he paid \$10,000.00 of the Urschel ransom money to an attorney for his defense, or whether he told or had written to anyone relative to the above attorney's fees, the Division was requested by telegram under date of December 15, 1934, to secure the necessary permission to interview subject Albert L. Bates, and on December 18th authority was received from Deputy Warden [redacted] to interview prisoner Bates.

Special Agent [redacted] interviewed Albert L. Bates, prison number 137, at the United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz Island, California. Prisoner Bates advised him, on interrogation relative to the above matter, that he was arrested on August 12, 1933, at Denver, Colorado, by the American Express Company for his part in the bank robbery at Louisville, Colorado; that shortly thereafter, three days to be exact, he was taken into Federal custody; that prior to being taken into Federal custody and while still confined in the county jail, Ben Laska, an attorney at law, who happened to be in the county jail, called on him and asked him if he did not want an attorney; that he told Laska that it would do no good for him to be represented in the Urschel kidnaping case as he intended to plead guilty. Prisoner Bates stated that Laska asked him to assign over the \$700.00 of the Urschel ransom money found in his possession at the time of his arrest which the local authorities held; that he did this but to his knowledge, he stated, Laska did not receive this money as it was subsequently taken over by the Department of Justice officials.

All b7C

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20 MAR 17 1965

RECORDED & INDEXED

JAN 3 1935

7-115-1501

JAN 2 1935

TAMM

ONE

Director,  
Washington, D. C.

-2-

December 26, 1934.

Subject Bates furnished the above information in order to show that during the time he was in jail and in custody of the Department of Justice that he was kept under strict surveillance and that it was impossible for him to have written a letter to anyone or to have told anyone that he had paid \$10,000 to an attorney for his defense. Furthermore, all the money he had in his possession was \$700.00 which was taken from him at the time of his arrest. He denied absolutely having paid anyone for defending him at his trial at Oklahoma City in the Urschel kidnaping case and furthermore that he did not pay Ben Laska a dime for his services.

Subject Bates advised that he still felt he had received a "raw deal"; that he was not guilty; and that he was bitter towards the Department of Justice for the treatment received by him while confined in the Leavenworth Penitentiary Annex; that so long as he was confined in the penitentiary he would absolutely make no further statement regarding this case or any other case, and requested that he be not contacted again for additional information as he would not furnish the same, and the government would be doing him a favor if they would allow him to serve his sentence without further interruption. He stated that he realized the officials could place him in solitary confinement for his failure to talk but that he would rather accept the punishment than make any statement.

It was apparent from agent's conversation with subject Bates that he had not yet heard of Clara Feldman's arrest, nor did Agent [REDACTED] apprise him of the fact. ✓

It was apparent from Agent [REDACTED] interview with subject Bates that he was not telling the truth and that no further information could be obtained from him.

Warden James A. Johnston of the United States Penitentiary at Alcatraz Island, stated that subject Bates had softened considerably since confinement in the penitentiary and that he is a model prisoner and has been helpful in furnishing information concerning certain activities going on within the walls of the penitentiary. It was the opinion of Warden Johnston to Agent [REDACTED] that subject Bates would not talk relative to this case before the interview was made.

Asst. Director  
cc Harold Nathan  
Denver  
Kansas City

Very truly yours,  
*E. P. Guinane*  
E. P. GUINANE  
Special Agent in Charge

All b7C



# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

FILE NO. **7-19**

REPORT MADE AT: <b>Washington, D. C.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE: <b>12-31-34</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: <b>12-24-34</b>	REPORT MADE BY: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> <b>b7C</b> <span style="float: right;">EAC</span>
TITLE: <b>GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases; et al, CHARLES F. URSCHEL - VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE:  <b>KIDNAPING</b>
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <span style="float: right;">b7C</span></p> <p style="margin-left: 200px;">War Department has no record to show chain of possessives of Colt .45 Automatic Pistol, U. S. Army model, Serial #231-182. War Department will circularize Corps Areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p>REFERENCE: Report of <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> dated at Boston, Mass., December 11, 1934.</p> <p>DETAILS: <span style="float: right;">b7C</span></p> <p><div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> Army Ordnance Department, War Department Building, Washington, D. C., states they have no record of the chain of possessives of firearm described as Colt .45 Automatic Pistol, United States Army model, Serial #231-182. He stated that he would circularize the nine Army Corps Areas for information relative to the disposition of this pistol.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Accordingly, agent is referring this case upon completion to the office of origin. In the event additional information is received, the office of origin will be immediately notified.</p> <p>DETAILS: In the event it becomes necessary, subpoena should be issued against the Secretary of War, who will designate someone qualified to testify as stated above.</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -</p>			
DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:  <b>J. M. Keith</b> <i>g.g.</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		RECORDED AND INDEXED: <b>JAN 2 - 1935</b>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:  3 - Division 2 - Oklahoma City 2 - Washington Field		<div style="text-align: center;"> <b>7-115-1502</b>              UNITED STATES  <b>JAN 2 1935 A.M.</b>              BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION              ROUTED TO: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">ONE</div> FILE <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">V</div> </div>	
COPIES DESTROYED 20.5 MAR 17 1965		CHECKED OFF:  JACKETED:	

P. O. Box 515,  
St. Paul, Minnesota.

December 29, 1934.

JAN 3 1935

115 7543  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Post Office Box 1156,  
Omaha, Nebraska.

RECORDED  
INDEXED

DEC 31 1934

ONE

Dear Sir:

Re: St. Paul file No. 62-957.

Referring to your letter dated November 2, 1934, requesting that [redacted] Mankato, Minnesota, be contacted relative to the identity of the prisoner at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, whom [redacted] and several of his friends had attempted to contact relative to the location of \$70,000 of currency, please be advised that Special Agent [redacted] of this office contacted [redacted] on December 21, 1934; and during the course of the conversation with him, [redacted] of his own accord, brought up the subject of his having been approached by a Creek, whose name he refused to disclose, in Mankato; that this Creek had told him of his acquaintance with another Greek serving time in Fort Leavenworth who is to be released during December, 1934. [redacted] advised further that this Greek, who is at the present time incarcerated at Fort Leavenworth, is in possession of certain information as to the location of \$70,000 worth of currency which is known to have been hidden on the farm of one [redacted] located several miles from Paradise, Texas; further, that he and the Greek from Mankato had made a trip to Fort Leavenworth especially to collect all available information from this Greek incarcerated at Fort Leavenworth as to the correct location of this money on [redacted] farm and that it eventually developed that this Greek furnished information to the effect that it was \$100,000 in currency in place of \$70,000 as was originally claimed; and that it was a portion of the Urschel money, \$70,000 of which had been located on the farm in Paradise, Texas.

[redacted] stated that this Greek, who is incarcerated in Fort Leavenworth, is purported to have obtained such information concerning the location of this \$100,000 from Boss Shannon, who had been serving a sentence in that institution in connection with that case.

All b7C

- 2 -

██████ refused to give the name of the Greek incarcerated in Fort Leavenworth; and replied that he felt that the information supplied him was very unreliable, based upon the result of their entire plans inasmuch as the same had never matured and the Greek who had approached him on the subject had eventually disappeared. ██████ denied that any of this money was supposed to be located at Mankato, Minnesota, at the present time insofar as he knows.

Very truly yours,

D. M. LADD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

██████  
Cc Division  
Cc Kansas City

A11 b7C

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

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

December 27, 1934.

Time-3:20PM.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

I talked to Mr. Brantley at Oklahoma City this afternoon with reference to his desire to move Feldman out of Oklahoma City if it became necessary. I advised Mr. Brantley that after talking the matter over with you, you stated that this should be done only with the consent of the District Judge and that he should be guided in all proceedings of this nature by the Judge.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm.

RECORDED

COPIES DESTROYED  
30. 11. 1965.

JAN 3 1935

7-115-1504	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 2 1935 P.M.	
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	FILE

January 2, 1935.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Denver, Colorado.

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

Dear Sir:

The Denver Post of December 18, 1934 carried an article indicating that Ben B. Laska made certain statements to the effect that he was in possession of money which had been paid as ransom in the Boettcher, Bohn, Hama and Urschel kidnaping cases at the time he was in Oklahoma City for the trial of Albert L. Bates.

Although the article above referred to indicated that these statements were made by Laska in a jesting manner, it is believed advisable to ascertain the source of the story as it appears in the Denver Post of December 18, 1934, in order that the individual to whom Laska is reported to have made these statements may be interviewed, it being possible that some valuable evidence may be secured in this manner.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

CC - Oklahoma City

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

7-115-1505  
JAN 3 1935

1 yellow

Em

THE DENVER POST  
DENVER, COLORADO.  
DECEMBER 18, 1934.

# Arrest Recalls Laska's Jest He Had 'Hot' Money

The indictment of Ben B. Laska on a charge of receiving part of the Urschel ransom money brought to memory how the little attorney, who is well known for his love of jests, made light of a warning that defense counsel who accepted any of the ransom money would be prosecuted.

At the time of the trial of Albert L. Bates, Joseph B. Keenan, assistant United States attorney general, gave the warning which has since been borne out.

On Sept. 18 as the trial opened in Oklahoma City, Keenan warned that lawyers accepting any part of the ransom money as fees would be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

"We do not propose to permit at-

torneys, bondsmen, fixers or anyone else to get by, with a wink, with any manipulations in this kidnaping. We are here to prosecute every one whose hands are not clean," Keenan said.

Laska laughed.

He pulled a roll of bills from his pocket.

(Turn to Page 4—Col. 3.)

## LASKA ONCE BOASTED HE HAD RANSOM

(Continued From Page One.)

"Why, look," he said, "that bill is Boettcher ransom, that bill is Bohn and here is a Hamm ransom bill."

He pocketed the bills, much pleased with his joke.

The following day he related that he had offered to pay his hotel bill with \$20 bills from the Urschel ransom money.

"I told the clerk," Laska said, "he took the bills he would be liable to prosecution, and if he didn't, he'd have to cancel my bill because I had offered to pay it."

During the Bates trial, Laska scoffed at the government's case.

Last summer he wrote to an Oklahoma City newspaperman, "The master mind was a creation of some official who has had very little experience in criminal work, and who happened to be in the limelight at the particular time when the Urschel case came up.

"As to the \$120,000 (the amount of ransom money then unaccounted for), I firmly believe that part of it will positively turn up sooner or later, but as to the full amount, it is an impossibility, and no hunting, neither Bates, nor any of his son, can state where it is."

After  
Laska  
circled  
1/2 p.  
12/18/34

CALL: *b7C*

January 2, 1935.

*ag*  
*N*  
RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,  
Denver, Colorado.

*7-115-1500*

Re: *George Kelly Barnes et al*  
Charles F. Urschel - Victim.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Division December 24, 1934.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure: *#834635*

1 copy

FILED  
JAN 2 1935

*✓*  
*4*  
*for*  
*E*

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 2703

Laboratory Report

December 31, 1934.  
Case: George Kelly Barnes et al  
Charles F. Urschel - Victim

Number: 7-115-1485

Specimens: One page of typewriting specimens made on Royal typewriter  
No. X51 1552.

Examination requested by: Denver Division Office.

Date received: December 24, 1934.

Examination requested: Typewriting.

Result of examination:

Examination by: Appel

The specimens are not similar to the Urschel extortion letters  
and could not be as it is a different manufacturer, the type being distinctly  
of a different shape.

3 - Director  
2 - Denver  
2 - Laboratory

MAILED 12/29/34  
12/29/34

RECORDED

JAN 5 - 1935

7-115-1506	
JAN 5 1935	
ONE	74
RECEIVED	LAB.



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

December 27, 1934.

Time 3:30PM.

EAT:

b7C

W

E

N

F. V. N.

J. E. N.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Brantley advised from Oklahoma City that the hearing on Laska takes place on January 2, 1935. As to the presence of Feldman and his mother, Mr. Brantley inquired as to whether we would have to take them out there or not. I stated that we would no doubt have to take them in order to assure them proper protection. Mr. Brantley suggested two agents and the wife of one of the agents. I stated that a good experienced matron would be the best or have the U. S. Marshal accompanied by two of our agents. He stated that he would look into it further and select the best means.

Respectfully,

*E. A. Tamm*

E. A. Tamm.

*I do not want wives  
of agents used.*

*J. E. N.*

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 .....  
✓

COPIES DESTROYED  
20 17 APR 1965

RECORDED & INDEXED

JAN 4 1935

7-115-1507  
JAN 2 1935  
TAMM  
✓

# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA.**

L. A. FILE NO. **7-19-**

REPORT MADE AT: <b>Los Angeles</b>	DATE WHEN MADE: <b>12-31-34</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: <b>12/19 &amp; 28/34</b>	REPORT MADE BY: <b>[REDACTED]</b>
TITLE: <b>GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases; et al. ALVIN H. SCOTT - FUGITIVE; MARGARET BORTIERNE - FUGITIVE; CLARA FELDMANN, with aliases - FUGITIVE; EDWARD GEORGE FELDMANN, with aliases - FUGITIVE; CHARLES F. UNSCHKE - Victim.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE: <b>Kidnaping.</b>
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p style="text-align: center;"><del>ROLLO L. SHANNON</del> has resided at Payson, Arizona, for a number of years; is a World War veteran and has been living on compensation he is receiving from the government; purchased second-hand Packard Coupe which is valued at about \$600 during summer of 1934, and is making payments on it; has no relatives in Payson. Veteran's file transferred from Phoenix, Ariz. to Albuquerque, N. M., on June 20, 1934.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HUC</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.5em;">All b7C</p>			
REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent <b>[REDACTED]</b> Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, dated December 5, 1934.			
DETAILS: <u>AT PAYSON, ARIZONA.</u>			
<p>Agent interviewed <b>[REDACTED]</b> former Justice of the Peace, who advised that he read in the current papers of the recovery of the ransom money in Oregon and then became suspicious that <b>ROLLO L. SHANNON</b> might be related to the Shannon family involved in instant case, for the reason that Rollo L. Shannon made a trip to either Oklahoma or Texas in July 1933 and after his return to Payson purchased a Packard Coupe which informant values at approximately \$2,000; further, that in May 1934, Rollo L. Shannon sold his holdings in Payson at a sacrifice and removed either to Las Cruces or Carrizozo, New Mexico. Informant stated that he has no proof that Rollo L. Shannon is related to the Shannons</p>			
DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:  <i>J. E. P. Dunn</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	RECORDED AND INDEXED: <b>JAN 4 - 1935</b> CHECKED OFF: <b>JAN 7 - 1935</b> JACKETED:	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3 Division 2 Oklahoma City 2 El Paso 2 Dallas 2 Los Angeles		<b>COPIES DESTROYED 20 5 MAR 17 1965</b> <b>7-115-1508</b> <b>JAN 4 1935 A.M.</b> BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ROUTED TO: <b>ONE</b>	

involved in instant case except that [redacted] Rollo L. Shannon has mentioned that he has a brother living somewhere in Missouri and from the reason that [redacted] made the trip to either Texas or Oklahoma. Informant stated that [redacted] came to Payson, Arizona, a few years ago for his health, claiming to be suffering from an injury received in military service, and insofar as informant is informed [redacted] Rollo L. Shannon had no relatives in the vicinity of Payson, except his wife, whom he brought with him and who left Payson with [redacted] in May of 1934.

Agent interviewed [redacted] postmaster and proprietor of the largest general store in Payson, Arizona. [redacted] stated that Rollo L. Shannon was a World War veteran who received compensation regularly on the first of every month; that he knows that [redacted] made a trip to the east which [redacted] said was a trip to visit a brother somewhere in Missouri, and that on his return Rollo L. Shannon did not flash any large currency or live otherwise than he did before. Informant stated that Rollo L. Shannon made a little money dealing in real estate, but that otherwise he had no more money than he received from the government in his compensation checks. [redacted] reviewed the files of his office and stated that [redacted] made monthly payments to a used car company or a finance company on his 1929 Packard Coupe which [redacted] values at about \$600.00. These payments were made by post office money order to a firm in Phoenix, Arizona, the name of which he does not recall.

[redacted] further advised that Rollo L. Shannon had requested him to forward all mail to Carrizozo, New Mexico, until January 2, 1934. This order was in the handwriting of [redacted] and is being forwarded to the Oklahoma City Division office with their copies of this report.

The following descriptions of Rollo L. Shannon and wife were obtained from [redacted] at Payson, Arizona:-

Name	ROLLO L. SHANNON	JESSIE SHANNON
Age	35 years	35 to 40 years
Height	5' 9 or 10"	5' 4"
Weight	150 to 160 lbs.	135 to 140 lbs.
Hair	Light brown	Dark brown
Eyes	Blue	Blue or grey
Complex.	Medium	Medium dark
Build	Medium	Stocky
Peculiarities		Has no intimate friends

AT PHOENIX, ARIZONA.

Records in the office of the Veterans Bureau reveal that on June 20, 1934, the file of ROLLO L. SHANNON was forwarded to the Albuquerque, New Mexico, office of the Veterans Bureau.

All b7C

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE EL PASO OFFICE, at Albuquerque, New Mexico, will review the file of ROLLO L. SHANNON for any information contained therein as to the history and relatives of the veteran.

At Carrizozo, New Mexico, will make investigation as to the activity of ROLLO L. SHANNON; ascertain whether he has been spending large sums of money.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

RECEIVED AT

NATIONAL PRESS BLDG.  
14th & F Sts, N. W.  
Phone Nat. 6600 Br. 14

STANDARD TIME  
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

# Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial  
Cables



International  
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Blackout

Radio

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DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
RM	POSTAL MESSAGE
LC	DEFERRED CABLE
MLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

394 24 GOVT COLLECT

PORTLAND ORE 31 136P

DIRECTOR

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PENNSYLVANIA

AVE AT NINTH ST NORTHWEST WASHN DC

RETEL APPLICANTS PORTLAND APPLICANTS COVERED HAVE INTERVIEW WITH

ALBERT L. BATES

ALCATRAZ WEDNESDAY HANDLING APPLICANTS

SANFRANCISCO THURSDAY LOSANGELES IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER WILL

ADVISE ITINERARY

SPEARS.

RECORDED

JAN 7 1935

7-115-1509  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
JAN 2 1935 P.M.  
L. CLK. J. TOLSON  
FILE

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

RECEIVED AT  
 EVENING STAR BLDG.  
 11th & Pa. Ave., N. W.  
 STANDARD TIME  
 INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

# Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM



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DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
Wm	NIGHT MESSAGE
LCO	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

W30 30 GOVT COLLECT=BR DENVER COLO JAN 3 1935 1106A  
 DIRECTOR DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION, US DEPT OF JUSTICE=  
 PENNSYLVANIA AVE AND 9 ST NORTHWEST WASHINGTON DC=

*Chas*  
 COURSCHEL KIDNAPING SUBJECT ~~ALASKA~~ WAIVED COMMISSIONER'S ~~HEARIN~~  
 TODAY RELEASED TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR BOND FOR APPEARANCE ~~TBL~~  
 OKLAHOMACITY FEBRUARY EIGHTEENTH BOND REDUCED FROM ~~EIGHT~~ <sup>TEN</sup> THOUSAND DOLLARS ON RECOMMENDATION USA DENVER=  
 NEWMAN.. 140P. JAN 5 1935

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Chief Clerk
Mr. Egan
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy

RECORDED & INDEXED  
 JAN 7 1935

FAMM ONE

*Handwritten notes:*  
 7-115-1510  
 1/4/35  
 Jm

Telephone Your Telegrams to **Postal Telegraph**

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12th & F Sts. N. W.  
Phone Nat. 6600 Br. 14

STANDARD TIME  
INDICATED IN THIS MESSAGE

# Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM



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Radio

This is a full rate Telegram, Cablegram or Radiogram unless otherwise indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
NM	NIGHT MESSAGE
EC	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

1935 JAN 2 PM 7 17

NA658 17 COLLECT GOVT

OKLAHOMACITY OKLA 2 555P

DIRECTOR DIVN OF INVESTIGATION

US. DEPT OF JUSTICE PENNSYLVANIA AVE AT 9 NW WASHN DC

*lhas* RSCHEL KIDNAPING EDG FELDMAN AND ALVIN HSCOTT ARRAIGNED

OKLAHOMACITY TODAY ENTERED PLEAS GUILTY SENTENCES DEFERRED

BRANTLEY

*b7c* JAN 7 1935

RECORDED & INDEXED

7-115-1511

JAN 7 1935

AMM ONE

*Send to als  
cc Stanley*

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.....

*main sent  
cc Stanley  
1/4/35  
JAN 8*

CHL: 57C

January 4, 1935.

RECORDED

7-115-1511

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.  
MR. WILLIAM STANLEY.

There is submitted herewith for your attention a copy of a memorandum which I have just submitted to the Attorney General, concerning the Stachel kidnaping case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure No. 889051.

1 yellow



CEL: [REDACTED] *WOL*

January 4, 1935.

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.**

RECORDED *7-115-1511*

With further reference to the Ureschel kidnaping case, you are advised that on January 2, 1935, Edward George Feldman and Alvin H. Scott were arraigned in the United States District Court at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and entered pleas of guilty to the indictments returned against them on December 14, 1934 and imposition of their sentences have been deferred.

Ben B. Laska, the Denver attorney who was also indicted in Oklahoma City on December 14, 1934, yesterday waived removal hearing before the United States Commissioner in Denver, Colorado, and was released under ten thousand dollar bond for his trial at Oklahoma City on February 18, 1935. The amount of the bond had been reduced from eighteen thousand dollars upon recommendation of the United States Attorney at Denver.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

*By [signature]*

FILES SECTION MAILED ★ 1 white for Mr. Stanley. 1 yellow
---

Jan 24 1935

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

*gm*

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

P. O. Box #709  
Portland, Oregon  
December 26, 1934

ms  
Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Ave. at Ninth Street N.W.,  
Washington, D. C.

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, et al.  
KIDNAPING.

Dear Sir:

This will refer to the Division's letters of November 13 and December 12, 1934, requesting an explanation as to failure to carry out certain instructions regarding the arrest of Clara Feldman and her son.

Please be advised that I have no independent recollection of having received the instructions in question, although it is assumed that same may have been given by telephone at the time I talked with Mr. Tamm either from Medford, Oregon, or Dunsmuir, California. I have to advise the Division that in the event such instructions were received that I would have carried them out to the letter, but, while the instructions were undoubtedly given on the telephone, I can only say that I do not recall same. As I informed Mr. Tamm, the publicity regarding the arrest of these individuals had broken and, as I was able to have them incarcerated and kept incommunicado and was thereby enabled to interrogate them at any length desired, the practical results were the same as if they had been kept in custody in another place than the jail. As a matter of fact, I was enabled to interrogate these individuals for approximately three weeks without interference of any sort and neither of them cared for the services of an attorney.

I believe the Division is aware of the fact that I do at all times desire to carry out the policies and instructions of the Division and regret that there was a misunderstanding in this instance.

Very truly yours,

*C. C. Spears*  
C. C. SPEARS,  
Special Agent in Charge.

CCS: b7C

RECORDED & INDEXED

JAN 7 1935

Mr. Nathan *W*  
Mr. Tolson *X*  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Baughman  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Tamm *✓*  
Mr. Tracy

7-115-1512

DEC 31 1934

RECORDED

7-115-1513

b7C

December 28, 1934.

29068

Mr. C. F. Urschel,  
President,  
Slick-Urschel Oil Company,  
P. O. Box 1142,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Urschel:

I am pleased to enclose, as requested in your letter of December 24, a copy of this Division's chart No. 34-31, dealing with the persons involved in your kidnapping.

Your "treasure hunt" at Portland must have been an interesting experience, and I hope it was partial compensation for the trip there and back. I am very glad that you were able to go out and assist in the removal proceedings, and found the work of Mr. Spence satisfactory.

May I return your Season's Greetings with the hope that your New Year will be the very best.

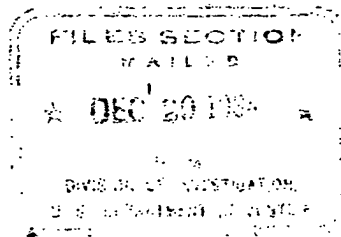
Sincerely,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Incl. #803162.

1 copy



W 404

FILE NO. 7-1

~~USPHS FILE # 7-0-0-0-0-0-0~~

who defended the Shannons here, and in Oklahoma City, who confessed they held Mr Urschel in a shack at the Shannon farm out from Paradise Texas, near Fort Worth.

The young Shannon, Armond got Ten thousand dollars for holding Mr. Urschel chained, and guarded him part time, and his father guarded him the rest of the time, day and night, by their own confession. It is stated that these Lawyers were paid \$20,000, ~~thousand~~ <sup>thousand</sup> dollars, for defending the Shannon family wife, son and father, after they confessed they guarded him, and of course the Shannons had to pay the Urschel money to defend them, to them as it is stated the Shannons' all received their part pay for complicity, and of course these Lawyers all knew they were guilty, and any Lawyer who would try to defend a confessed kidnaper is guilty as they are, and should be arrested for conspiracy and complicity in the crime.

We think your department of Justice should find these were paid part of the Urschel money, any way it should be investigated, as these Lawyers here, Scott McLean and Sayers are known Criminal Lawyers of the worst type, they have defended bank robbers, Bank Swindlers, and characters of the under-world for pay, and if you are determined to investigate individuals appropriately known as Criminal Attorneys who sponsor, guide, and protect the members of the underworld in their criminal operations, shall receive appropriate punishment, and these men Scott & McLean and Sayers have long known to be more intimate and extended than those based upon the legitimate duties and responsibilities of an Attorney to his client, it is well known that young Armond Shannon received his part of the money, as he was to buy a farm near Denton, Texas, and told the owner he could pay at least ten thousand dollars for it, and wanted to know his CASH PRICE for it, and it would seem he had the Urschel money to pay for it.

Of course we do not know all this, but your Department should surely investigate all this, and arrest these Lawyers here also, and bring them to Justice, also, as they are known to be the SICKEST LAWYERS anywhere, and know just how to beat the law, It is well

know they framed the young Man Armond Shannon, to state that he was only 17, or 19 years old, at the hearing here, when he was at least 25 years old or more, as was admitted later, and it is also known that they framed the Man Shannon to state that Bates, Bailey and Kelley had threatened to kill them if he and they did not guard Mr. Ueschel, which was not true, as his place was known to be a safe hide-out for Dope peddlers, Bootleggers, and Criminals of all kinds, he often received as much as two or three hundred dollars to hide them on his place in some shack there, and the officers here knew of the Character of his place is why they so soon found where Mr. Ueschel was hidden by them.

And these Lawyers Scott, & McLean and Sayers, knew of the Shannon hide out, of course. So we just write you all this to give you the idea you should apprehend these Lawyers here as well, for complicity in the defense of Confessed kidnapers. Of course, if they received \$20,000. dollars it had to be the Ueschel money of course, as it has not been found, they of course must have that much of Mr. Ueschels' money. The young man Armond Shannon should be compelled of course, to tell of all this, and just how much they paid these Lawyers for defense of the Shannon Family.

We just give you all this, so you can investigate for yourselves, as Mr Keenen said in his speech before the Bar Association, that the cause of so much crime was the SHYSTER LAWYERS and their methods of cheating the law, for the Criminals who were able to pay them well. Mr. Keenen is right, so we ask you to get VERY busy, and investigate these Lawyers here in their complicity in the Ueschel kidnaping, and do your duty by the world, in general, as we look to you for protection of our Liberty, Life, and property, and no one is safe, with such Lawyers to shield and protect Criminals of all classes, as you well know,

A COMMITTEE OF FORT WORTH CITIZENS "

A copy of this anonymous communication was incorporated in a letter to the Dallas Office under date of December 29, 1934, with the request for information concerning the reputation of the above mentioned law firm, and under date of December 31, 1934, the Dallas Office advised that said law firm was capable of performing the act complained of in the anonymous letter.

The writer discussed the contents of the anonymous letter with Assistant United States Attorney, F. M. Dudley, who is handling the prosecution in this matter, and Mr. Dudley stated that the trial of the defendants James G. Mathers of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Ben D. Laska, of Denver, Colorado, was set for February 18, 1935, and that it was his intention to issue a subpoena ad testificandum for Boss Shannon to testify as a witness in this trial; that in view of the anonymous letter, it was suggested that an Agent interview Boss Shannon at the Leavenworth Penitentiary to ascertain his attitude as to testifying for the Government in this case, in which testimony it was desired that he tell the whole truth concerning the holding of Mr. Urschel at his home, the identity of the persons who held him, the ransom, etc., and that at the time of this interview mention to Shannon that Messrs. Mathers and Laska were being tried as attorneys receiving part of the ransom money and in this way attempt to obtain a statement from Shannon as to the payment of the ransom money, if any, that he received to the law firm at Fort Worth, Texas, mentioned in the anonymous letter.

#### UNDEVELOPED LEADS

#### KANSAS CITY OFFICE

At Leavenworth, Kansas: At the United States Penitentiary it is requested that Boss Shannon be interviewed along the lines suggested by Assistant United States Attorney F. M. Dudley with reference to his attitude toward testifying for the Government in the trial of Attorneys Mathers and Laska, and also attempt to obtain a statement from him concerning the allegation that he or his son paid part of the ransom to the law firm at Fort Worth, Texas, mentioned in the anonymous letter quoted above.

P E N D I N G

December 17, 1934

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

During the past several weeks investigation pursued by Special Agents of the Portland, Oregon Office of the Division of Investigation resulted in the recovery of \$44,080 in currency actually paid as ransom in the above entitled case. In addition, miscellaneous cash totalling \$2,374 was located. A small portion of this money was found on the persons of various suspects, four of whom were taken into custody. The greater part, however, was found buried in seven separate lots in four different localities in the vicinity of Medford, Oregon, Roseburg, Oregon, Woodland, Washington and Dunsmuir, California.

The premises of one of the defendants, Alvin H. Scott, were searched, with the result that on November 7, 1934 two one quart size "Ball Perfect Mason" fruit jars were found buried in the soil in an outbuilding used as a woodshed and garage, in the rear of Scott's house. These two jars were found buried about fifteen inches deep, and in one jar there was found a total of \$1,460 in Federal Reserve Bank notes and \$90 in gold pieces. In the other jar there was found an improvised money belt containing two parcels of money, one consisting of twenty \$10 bills and the other consisting of thirty-nine \$10 bills and forty-one \$5 bills, or a total amount of \$795. In addition to the amount found in the money belt, there were also found in the second fruit jar numerous miscellaneous items, such as a draft drawn on the Denver National Bank, in favor of Mrs. G. L. Davis, who is Clara Feldmann the wife of Albert L. Bates, a photograph of her son Edward George Feldmann, and a marriage certificate indicating the marriage of George L. Davis, who is Albert L. Bates, and Clara Feldmann.

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20 MAR 17 1965

7-115-157

NOT RECORDED



A further search of the premises of Scott resulted, a few days later, in the discovery of another fruit jar, buried about 15 inches deep, which contained an additional \$4,680 in ransom currency.

In the vicinity of Woodland, Washington, on the property of William Hurtienne, father of Clara Feldmann, there was also found a fruit confection can, buried about 10½ inches beneath the surface of the soil, to the rear of a cabin located approximately half a mile from the main roadway on the 160 acre farm. Within this fruit can there was found a pint thermos bottle, the glass casing of which had been removed, and in which there was found, rolled up in a handkerchief, \$1,520 in twenty Federal Reserve Bank notes, all of which proved to be ransom money. This discovery was made as a result of information furnished by Edward George Feldmann, who had been taken into custody on charges of conspiracy to violate the kidnaping statute. Following this discovery, Edward Feldmann led Special Agents to another spot about 100 feet from the point where this thermos bottle was found, and where there were a number of large wild ferns growing. After feeling several of these ferns he came upon one which was merely resting upon the top of the ground. After removing the fern he dug in the loose dirt and retrieved a one gallon thermos bottle, which was found to be empty. Upon inquiry as to how Feldmann might account for this he commented that his mother had probably been there ahead of him.

Additional sums of ransom currency were similarly buried and located, and admissions were secured from Clara Feldmann, Edward Feldmann and Alvin H. Scott that they knew of the location of certain of these hiding places. In all instances where the money was recovered the currency and the containers were carefully marked by the Agents retrieving the evidence, so that they might be properly identified and introduced at the trial of the various defendants.

7-115-1516

January 10, 1935

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,  
Denver, Colorado.

All b7C

Dear Sir:

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases, et al,  
CHARLES F. URSCHEL, Victim, KIDNAPING.

With reference to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Denver, Colorado, January 5, 1935, you are advised that the Division considers it desirable to determine, if possible, the points to which the unknown parties telephoned from the telephone located in the garage at Greeley, Colorado, then operated by [redacted].

It may be possible to ascertain from the telephone records the numbers called on that occasion.

Kindly give this matter your early attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

CC Oklahoma City

1 copy

RECEIVED  
JAN 12 1935  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

W  
H

# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT: OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA

RECEIVED  
JAN 8 1935  
FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT: DENVER, COLORADO	DATE WHEN MADE: 1-5-35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 12-19-34 and 1-3-35	REPORT MADE BY: [REDACTED]
TITLE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases ET AL CHARLES F. URSCHEL - Victim			CHARACTER OF CASE:  KIDNAPING

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Greeley Colorado Tribune reporter advised Denver Office that suspicious men called at a Service Station at Greeley, Colo. [REDACTED] about July, 1933, and placed telephone calls to Chicago, Ill., and Cheyenne, Wyo. Believed these men possibly connected with instant case. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in interviews, fail to identify photographs of persons involved in this case as being the persons who appeared at the Service Station, Greeley. Subject Ben B. Laska waived Commissioner's hearing 1-3-35; was released on \$10,000 bond for appearance at trial Oklahoma City, 2-18-35. Laska bond reduced from \$18,000 to \$10,000 on recommendation U. S. Attorney, Denver.

All b7C

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Denver, 12-19-34.

**DETAILS:**

AT DENVER, COLORADO.

On December 19, 1934, [REDACTED] a reporter for the Greeley Tribune, Greeley, Colorado, telephonically advised Special Agent in Charge Jay C. Newman that about the time Urschel was being held by his kidnapers, two automobiles containing several men stopped at a gasoline service station located at the south end of Greeley, Colorado,

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Jay C. Newman</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	7-115-1516 UNITED STATES JAN 8 1935 A.M. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ROUTED TO: ONE STAT. SECT.	RECORDED AND INDEXED: JAN 8 - 1935 CHECKED OFF: JACKED:
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3 - Division 3 - Oklahoma City (1 US Atty., Oklahoma City) 1 - U. S. Attorney, Denver 2 - Denver	COPIES DESTROYED 20 5 MAR 17 1965	

where they made long distance telephone calls from the service station to Chicago, Illinois, and Cheyenne, Wyoming. He advised that the service station mentioned was [REDACTED] who resides at Aurora, Colorado. He advised that [REDACTED] was employed as a school teacher in Aurora at the present time. He also stated that at the time the men in question were at the service station in Greeley, a woman by the name of [REDACTED], who is now employed as a school teacher at the Routt School located near Purcell, Colorado, was also present. He advised that the Greeley Tribune on that date was printing a story regarding this information and that the same had been furnished the Denver Post.

This information was telephonically communicated to the Division by Special Agent in Charge Jay C. Newman.

[REDACTED] who is the party referred to by [REDACTED] was located at his father's home in Aurora, Colorado, and appeared at the Denver Division Office, where he was interviewed by the writer. He stated that he had worked at the Unruh Service Station on the outskirts of Greeley, Colorado, from June to December of 1933, during which time he was in charge of the station. He could not definitely fix the date when the suspicious men called at the service station and made telephone calls to Chicago and Cheyenne but stated that he believed it was at the time Urschel was being held by his kidnapers, although it might have been at the time [REDACTED] was held after being kidnaped in Chicago. He advised that two men drove into the service station in a large car and gave him a \$20.00 bill which they asked him to change in order that they could make a phone call in the pay telephone. He left the service station, got the bill changed, and returned to the station where he heard them call Chicago. He stated that his fiancée, [REDACTED] was in the service station at the time and that he, personally, did not hear much of the conversation by the party placing the call to Chicago. He also heard this same party place a call to Cheyenne, Wyoming, but he left the station to put some oil in a car and did not hear this conversation. He stated that the car had Texas license plates, the numbers of which he does not recall and did not make any note of at the time. He stated that he reported the matter to the Sheriff's office and they came out and checked the \$20.00 bill and found it to be O.K., and then left the service station. He stated that three or four days later these same two men accompanied by a third party again called at the service station on their way to Denver, at which time they made a telephone call to Cheyenne. He stated that [REDACTED] was also present at this time, and that after the men left, they called the Police Department but no one came out to check up on the matter. He stated that he has not seen these men since the two occasions mentioned above and that he had not given any information to the newspaper at Greeley, Colorado, concerning same. He stated that some time last fall he attended a picture show, at which time, during the newsreel, a picture of George Kelly was shown on the screen, and he believed it looked somewhat similar to one of the

All b7C

men he saw in the service station. [redacted] advised that the only description he could give of the parties who came in the service station was that No. 1 appeared to be about 35 or 40 years of age, 6 feet tall, weighed about 155 pounds; that No. 2 appeared to be about 30 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighed about 165, had a dark complexion; that the third party who accompanied these men on their second visit to the service station remained in the car, and he could not furnish any description of him. Photographs of Harvey Bailey, Albert L. Bates, George Kelly, the two Barker brothers and all Subjects of the Urschel and Bremer cases, were exhibited to [redacted] who advised that he could not identify any of these parties as being the men who appeared at the service station, also that he did not feel he could identify any photographs of the individuals inasmuch as his recollection is very faint at this time.

[redacted] who resides at [redacted] Denver, Colorado, appeared at this Division office on December 20, 1934, in company with [redacted] and advised that she believed the persons in question had called at the service station in Greeley, of which [redacted] was attendant, about July of 1933. She stated that she was present on both occasions and that the exact dates would be found in a diary which she maintained, which diary had been recently obtained from her mother by a reporter for the Greeley Tribune.

With reference to the activities of the men who appeared at the service station, [redacted] stated that on the occasion of their first visit, one of the men telephoned Chicago, Illinois, the name of the person called not being known, and in the conversation inquired if his wife and children had been taken care of. She further recalled that he gave instructions to the person with whom he was conversing, to see that proper care was given his family. According to [redacted] this person then placed a long distance call to Cheyenne, Wyoming, asking for some man at, she believed, the Plains Hotel. This conversation was about some case "they" were supposed to get, and at the time [redacted] associated the conversation with liquor. She also recalled that the man telephoning from the service station mentioned "fifty grand". [redacted] does not recall anything further about the two conversations. However, she associated the name of "Alaska" with the call made to Cheyenne, Wyoming, and later, in conversation with relatives, it was suggested to her that these persons might have been telephoning to Ben Laska, whom they had heard of in connection with the defense of various criminal cases.

[redacted] further advised that she was in the service station with [redacted] the following night, or the night after that when the two men, who appeared on the first occasion, again appeared in company with a third man. One of the men secured change for a dollar and made a long distance telephone call from the pay telephone in the service station, but she does not recall the person or city called and did not remember the conversation.

All b7C

[redacted] advised that these men on both occasions were operating a large black sedan bearing Texas license plates, the numbers of which she did not recall and she had not kept a record of these numbers. She described the man who did the telephoning, referred to as No. 1, as being between 30 and 35 years of age, 5 feet 10 or 11 inches in height, as weighing 160 to 170 pounds, as being dark complexioned. She stated that this man spoke with a slight foreign accent and appeared to be an Italian. Upon viewing the photographs of the Subjects of this case and others that had been previously shown to [redacted] she stated that this individual (No. 1) looked a little like George Kelly Barnes. [redacted] described No. 2 as being about 40 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 inches in height, weighing 200 pounds, of heavy build, and light complexion. She described No. 3 as being about 20 years of age, tall, thin, and blonde.

[redacted] was unable to identify photographs of Subjects of this case and others as resembling either of the other persons in question.

AT GREELEY, COLORADO.

Agent interviewed [redacted] reporter for the Greeley Tribune, who stated that he had no further information concerning this matter than was furnished by him in his telephone conversation with Jay C. Newman, Special Agent in Charge. He did state, however, that the diary of [redacted] had been obtained from [redacted] Greeley, Colorado, which was the home where [redacted] worked while attending school at Greeley during the year 1933. He stated that the diary did not reflect the names of any parties involved in this case, and it had been assumed by the paper, that inasmuch as it occurred at the time they believed Urschel to have been held by his kidnapers, they thought it might have some connection with the case. It should be noted at this time that Charles F. Urschel was kidnaped on the night of July 22, 1933, which was subsequent to the time that the suspicious characters appeared at the service station in Greeley.

[redacted] Greeley, advised that [redacted] had worked at his home while attending school at Greeley during the year 1933, and furnished Agent with her diary, which was then in his possession. He stated that he had been to a Rotary Club convention in New York City and returned to Greeley on Wednesday, July 12, 1933, at which time [redacted] told him that some suspicious men had appeared at the service station on July 11, 1933. She stated that these men had made some telephone calls to Chicago, Illinois, and Cheyenne, Wyoming. He stated that the name of Laska was never mentioned at that time and had not been mentioned until newspaper reporters called at his home to examine the diary when they remarked

All b7C

that they had not found any notation in her diary regarding the characters appearing at the service station having been involved in the Urschel case but that they could not let facts interfere with fiction and would print the story nevertheless. He exhibited to Agent the diary and from same, under date of Wednesday, July 12, appeared the notation "telephone call at station was suspicious. Wore white shirt." This, according to [REDACTED] took place on July 11, 1933. Under date of July 13, 1933, appears the notation "They were back again to call tonight, called police". Under date of July 14, 1933 appears the notation "turned out to be bootleg ring and not kidnapers". These are the only notations in the diary which have any connection to the matter mentioned above. [REDACTED] further advised that at the time the occurrence mentioned took place, there was no conversation by [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] or any other parties of this occurrence having any relation to the Urschel kidnapping case which she had not heard of at that time.

AT CHEYENNE, WYOMING.

At the Plains Hotel, Special Agent in Charge Jay C. Newman, through the courtesy of [REDACTED] examined the register sheets for July, 1933, ascertaining that Subject Laska as Ben B. Laska stopped there on the following days: July 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 30, 1934. No record could be found of any long distance telephone calls made or received by him. However, [REDACTED] advised that he recalled distinctly that the only calls charged to Laska were made by him to his residence and office in Denver, Colorado. It was further recalled by [REDACTED] that during the Frontier Days celebration at Cheyenne, which took place during the last week of July, 1933, Laska had called at the hotel, apparently having attended the celebration but did not stay overnight.

Through Sheriff [REDACTED] of Cheyenne, Wyoming, it was determined that Laska's visits to Cheyenne in July of 1933 were in connection with the defense of a [REDACTED] who had been arrested on the advice of the State authorities at Hopkinsville, Kentucky, where this person was wanted on a confidence game charge. The records of the Sheriff's office at Cheyenne disclose that [REDACTED] had been arrested at Cheyenne on July 8, 1933, and on July 21, 1933 had been ordered extradited to Hopkinsville, Kentucky. She effected her escape from the train en route.

*Ident has no arrest on this woman since her arrest 7/7*

AT DENVER, COLORADO.

On January 3, 1935, Subject Ben B. Laska appeared before United States Commissioner Leo J. Crowley for arraignment on removal, at which time he waived the Commissioner's hearing and was released upon filing a

ALL b7C

\$10,000.00 bond for his appearance for trial at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on February 18, 1935. The bond, which heretofore had been set at \$18,000.00, was reduced to \$10,000.00 on the recommendation of the United States Attorney.

PENDING.



P. O. Box #709  
Portland, Oregon .

January 4, 1935

JAN 8 1935

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION



RECEIVED

Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
P. O. Box #1276,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES et al  
Charles F. Urschel - Victim  
Kidnaping.

Enclosed herewith is the original envelope and  
letter addressed to Edward C. Feldmann, County Jail,  
Portland, Oregon November 13, 1934 by subject E. E. Iaska.  
This letter has been mentioned in previous reports.

Very truly yours,

C. C. SPEARS,  
Special Agent in Charge.

7-7

Encl:

cc-Division ✓

REGISTERED

INDEXED

MW

7-16-35  
JAN 6 - 1935  
am

Post Office Box #2844,  
Boston, Massachusetts.

January 4, 1935.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Post Office Box #619,  
Nashville, Tennessee.

Dear Sir:

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, et al.,  
CHARLES F. GUSCHKE - Victim.  
Kidnaping.

Please find enclosed herewith, in duplicate, report of  
Agent [redacted] of this office, dated December 11, 1934,  
bearing the above caption, which report, through oversight was  
not forwarded to you.

The oversight in this connection is very much regretted.

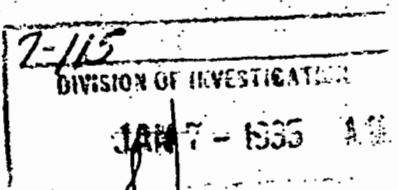
Very truly yours,

cc - Division. ✓  
V-22  
McK [redacted]

C. B. McKean,  
Special Agent in Charge.

All b7C

RECEIVED



800 Foster Building,  
Little Rock, Arkansas,  
January 4, 1935.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:

Re: George Kelly Barnes, with aliases;  
et al.  
Charles F. Urschel - VICTIM.  
Kidnaping.

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter addressed to this office under date of November 9, 1934, by Mr. Duke Frederick, Assistant U. S. Attorney, Fort Smith, Arkansas, concerning information in the possession of [REDACTED] regarding the Urschel kidnaping case.

There is also enclosed, in duplicate, a copy of a memorandum submitted by Special Agent [REDACTED] of this office on December 29, 1934, which covers his interview with [REDACTED]

It is not known whether the information in the attached documents will be of any great value in this case at the present time. However, same is being transmitted to you for your attention, and the case is considered referred upon completion to your office.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Conroy,  
Special Agent in Charge.

7-1  
cc Division

All b7C

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ 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.

- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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

- ☐ For your information:

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

7-115-NR dated 11/9/34

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X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE:

DECEMBER 29TH, 1934

LITTLE ROCK FILE: #7-1

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, ET AL  
KIDNAPING

COPY

All b7C

[redacted] who is [redacted] stated that sometime ago he got into some difficulty with the Federal authorities in a promotion scheme, involving the use of the mails and following a plea of guilty to charge of misuse of the mails to defraud he was sentenced to the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, but due to ill health was subsequently transferred to the Medical Center at Springfield, Mo.; that while at this Medical Center he became very well acquainted with an inmate, Will Casey, commonly known as "Cat", who hailed from Coleman County, Texas, where he formerly resided on a farm located eleven miles from Santa Anna, Texas, on Route #3. At various times he engaged in conversation with Will Casey, who seemed to know a great deal about the Bates and Kelly Gang and the Urschel kidnaping. That whenever he would try to press Casey for definite information about anything Casey would immediately change the Subject, but that at various times he was able to gather bits of information from him which is as follows:

Will Casey informed him that Coleman County, Texas was headquarters for a bunch of outlaws, especially Kathryn Kelly, "Machine Gun" Kelly's wife and her associates; that Casey, himself, is serving a term for harboring Kelly and his wife; that Casey related to him that "Machine Gun" Kelly and his wife, Kathryn, rented his farm from him and paid him \$200.00 rent and also gave him an additional \$100.00 bill, which bill was part of the Urschel ransom money; that he took this money to Coleman, Texas, where he bought groceries and other things and a green bread box; that a part of the Urschel ransom money was placed in this green bread box, wrapped in an oilcloth and buried on a farm some few miles from his, Casey's, farm; that there was possibly between sixty-eight and seventy thousand dollars in the box; that Casey has often mentioned to him that he could find this money; that he wanted to get it and go to Old Mexico and go into the drug business following his release; that Casey indicated to him that the money is buried on a farm owned by his Mother-in-law, which farm consists of approximately 480 acres, 220 of which is in cultivation; that there is a large creek which runs through the farm and there is a private road from the highway which crosses over the creek; that Casey stated the money is buried on the farm in a very dense thicket, where it is almost impossible to crawl; that in order to bury it it would have been necessary to cut out some of the underbrush; that Casey did not definitely state who it was that buried this money, but lead him to believe it was "Machine Gun" Kelly and two other companions of Kelly, who Casey claimed he did not know. Also that Casey asserted he was on the porch of his Mother-in-law's home, located on the farm, at the time he saw the man go up into the thicket where he believed the money to be hidden. [redacted] stated that from the description of the place given him by Will Casey he feels confident

Page #2

he would be able to locate the place and if requested to do so will be perfectly willing to accompany Government Agents and assist them in endeavoring to locate the money.

[REDACTED] further advised that through his conversations with Will Casey he has ascertained that there were three uncles of Mrs. Kathryn Kelly connected with the Urschel case; that these uncles reside at Brownwood, Texas and two are partners in the automobile business and at one time handled Buick cars; that it was one of these uncles who furnished the car to Kelly which was delivered to him way out in the country by some woman who was later sentenced to Alderson, W. Virginia for aiding Kelly. He also stated that Will Casey intimated that the contact man in the Urschel case has never been identified by the Government; that the contact man was a young fellow by the name of [REDACTED] who at one time was in the employ of Urschel; that this young fellow [REDACTED] was reared at Asher, Oklahoma, where his parents and other relatives now reside and his father or uncle is now [REDACTED] that this [REDACTED] is a nephew of Kathryn Kelly and it was he who took George Kelly and pointed out to him the Urschel residence prior to the kidnaping. [REDACTED] further related that Will Casey has told him that the main headquarters of the Gang was at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, a place known as the Terminal Hotel, where the boys received protection from the management of both the hotel and restaurant at this place. Also that Will Casey led him to believe that the Kelly-Bates Gang also perpetrated the Kansas City Massacre; that certain members had met at Joplin, Missouri and then drove to Kansas City in two cars, "Machine Gun" Kelly, his wife, Bates, Bailey and Casey, himself, being part of the seven occupants of the two cars; that there were also three other men on the ground who did not leave Joplin with them, but were met by pre-arrangement at Kansas City; that Nash was accidentally killed because of a tip-off that he would occupy a certain position in the car; that the persons handling the guns shot at positions rather than individuals and in as much as Nash did not occupy the seat it was believed he would occupy he was killed; that when it was discovered that Nash had been killed the word "scream" was given and the party then left and drove to the northwest suburbs of Chicago before they stopped to rest; that upon arrival in Chicago they stopped at a hotel where they have a large Saint Bernard dog that comes out with a cup in its mouth and meets all the guests; that the guests deposit money in this cup and draw cards which indicate to the male guests which girl he has drawn for a companion during the night. That this hotel is a well-known underworld hangout and has been frequented by the Dillinger Gangsters and others.

[REDACTED]  
SPECIAL AGENT

11  
All b7C

P. O. Box #709  
Portland, Oregon

December 29, 1934

Postmaster,  
Dunsmuir, California.

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases -  
et al. Charles F. Urschel - Victim  
Kidnaping.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter  
dated December 18, 1934 enclosing a letter from  
[redacted] addressed to you. Please be  
advised that this letter is of no importance to this  
office and you may make whatever disposition you may  
desire of the mail held at the postoffice of [redacted]  
[redacted]

Thanking you for your cooperation in  
this matter, I am

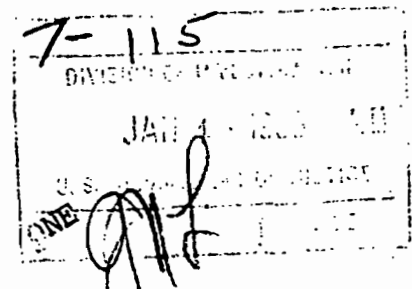
Very truly yours,

C. C. SPEARS,  
Special Agent in Charge.

[redacted]  
encl:  
7-7

cc-Division ✓  
Oklahoma City  
San Francisco

All b7c



420 Federal Building,  
Dallas, Texas.

December 31, 1934.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U.S. Department of Justice,  
P.O. Box 1276,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, w.a.; et al.  
Charles F. Urschel (Victim).  
Kidnaping.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of December 29, 1934, quoting an anonymous communication from "A Committee of Fort Worth Citizens" concerning the law firm of Scott-McLearn & Sayers: You are advised that in my opinion this firm of attorneys would do the things suggested, and at the time diligent effort was made to connect them with the receipt of some of the ransom money; and also at the time of the escape of Harvey Bailey due consideration was given to certain visits made by members of this firm to Harvey Bailey at the Dallas County Jail prior to his escape.

It would appear that if investigation is to be initiated concerning this matter, that it would be preferable to interview BOSS SHANNON at Leavenworth, and also those present defendants now at Oklahoma City, as I question whether Armond Shannon ever knew anything concerning the arrangements made by his father with the attorney.

Very truly yours,

F.J. BLAKE,  
Special Agent in Charge.

FJB: b7C

7-7

cc-Division

COPIES DESTROYED  
20 MAR 17 1965

7-115  
JAN 3 - 1935



P. O. Box 1276  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
December 22, 1934

DEC 28 1934



RECEIVED

Mr. W. C. Lewis,  
United States Attorney,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with  
aliases; ET AL -  
CHARLES F. URSCHEL - Victim  
Kidnaping

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that Alvin H. Scott has in-  
formed me that he desires to change his plea from not  
guilty to one of guilty.

Very truly yours,

DWIGHT BRANTLEY  
Special Agent in Charge

cc Division



DEC 31 1934



RECEIVED

7-115-  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
DEC 26 1934 A.M.  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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

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

# Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial  
Cables



All America  
Cables

Mackay

Radio

RECEIVER'S NUMBER
CHECK
TIME FILED
STANDARD TIME

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

DB: **b7C**

OKLAHOMA CITY OKLAHOMA DECEMBER 29 1934

J C NEWMAN  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
422 MIDLAND SAVINGS BUILDING  
DENVER COLORADO



URSCHERL MATTER DEFINITE TRIAL DATE NOT YET SET USA HERE REQUESTS

BOND LASKA BE MADE RETURNABLE JANUARY TERM COURT HERE

BRANTLEY

Official Business  
Gov't. Rate - Paid  
Charge: Div. of Investigation  
224 Federal Building

cc-Division

7-115

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 2 - 1935

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ONE *[Signature]*

msl.  
P. O. Box 1267,  
Oklahoma City, Okla.  
Dec. 28, 1934.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Denver, Colorado.

Re: George Kelley Barnes, with  
aliases, et. al.  
Charles F. Urschel, Victim.  
Kidnapping.

Dear Sir:

Upon the departure of [redacted] for her home in Oregon she advised Special Agent [redacted] of this office that Clara Feldman had related to her that she had forgotten to disclose some information with reference to hiding place for money that Attorney Laska had told her about.

Agent [redacted] contacted Clara Feldman at the County Jail and she related that on one occasion when Attorney Laska was giving her instructions he told her of having a special plumbing fixture in which he kept money. Her recollection was that this fixture was a special drain pipe under the sink but she could not recall whether he referred to the kitchen sink or the wash basin. He is also alleged to have stated that he had a plumber fix this special drain pipe and that the water passed over or around the money.

Mrs. Feldman stated that she did not know whether this pipe was supposed to be in his Denver home or what he called his mountain home but stated that he recommended that she have such a fixture in the event she obtained a home.

Mrs. Feldman did not know the location of the mountain home of Laska but stated that the location was known to friends of Laska and on one occasion the Denver Post carried a story that she had been seen at this mountain home with her small dog which resulted in the officers making a visit at the home.

This information is being submitted for such action as you deem advisable.

Very truly yours,

All 67C  
7-6  
CC- Division.  
Dwight Brantley,  
Special Agent in Charge.

7-115  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
DEC 31 1934

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

## **Section 552**

**Section 552a**

- ☐ (b)(1)

- ☐ (b)(7)(A)

- ☐ (d)(5)

- ☐ (b)(2)

- ☐ (b)(7)(B)

- ☐ (j)(2)

- ☐ (b)(3)

- ☐ (b)(7)(C)

- ☐ (k)(1)

- ☐ (b)(7)(D)

- ☐ (k)(2)

- ☐ (b)(7)(E)

- ☐ (k)(3)

- ☐ (b)(7)(F)

- ☐ (k)(4)

- ☐ (b)(4)

- ☐ (b)(8)

- ☐ (k)(5)

- ☐ (b)(5)

- ☐ (b)(9)

- ☐ (k)(6)

- ☐ (b)(6)

- ☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ 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.

- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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

- ☐ For your information:

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

7-115-1517

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X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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RE: b7c

January 2, 1935

RECORDED

7-115-1517

Special Agent in Charge,  
Denver, Colorado.

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNER, with aliases;  
et al - CHARLES F. URCHILL, Victim  
Kidnaping.

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the request contained in your  
telegram of December 18, 1934, there are transmitted here-  
with certified photostats of the income tax returns of  
B. B. Laska, 1164 West Street, Denver, Colorado for the  
years 1932 and 1933.

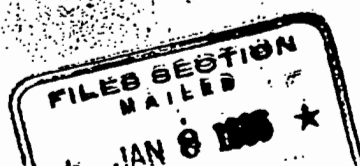
Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure 81614

cc-Oklahoma City (no photostats forwarded)

NOTE: no photostats retained in Div file.



1 thin white  
2 yellows

DB  
7-6

P. O. Box 1276  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
December 29, 1934

Special Agent in Charge,  
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases,  
et al. CHARLES F. URSCHEL - Victim,  
KIDNAPING.

I am in receipt of an anonymous communication from Fort Worth, Texas dated December 19, 1934, which is as follows:

"DWIGHT BRANTLY.

Chief of the Division of Investigation.

"Mr Brantly, inasmuch as you have arrested the two Lawyers, Maskey, and Mathews, charged specifically with Complicity and participation in the part of the \$200,000 ransom money that went to Albert Bates, one of the actual kidnapers of Mr. Ueschel, why not arrest these Lawyers here in Fort Worth, Texas, Walter B. Scott, W.P. McLean & Sam Sayers, who defended the Shannons here, and in Oklahoma City, who confessed they held Mr Ueschel in a shack at the Shannon farm out from Paradise Texas, near Fort Worth.

"The young Shannon, Armond got Ten thousand dollars for holding Mr Ueschel chained, and guarded him part time, and his Father guarded him the rest of the time, day and night, by their own confession, it is stated that these Lawyers were paid \$20,000, dollars twenty thousand dollars, for defending the Shannon Family wife, son and Father, after they confessed they guarded him, and of course the Shannons had to pay the Uerschel Money to defend them, to them as it is stated the Shannons' all received their part pay for complicity, and of course these Lawyers all knew they were guilty, and any Lawyer who would try to defend a confessed kidnaper is guilty as they are, and should be arrested for conspiracy and complicity in the crime.

"We think your department of Justice should find these were paid part of the Uerschel money, any way it should be investigated, as these Lawyers here, Scott & McLean and Sayers are known Criminal Lawyers of the worst type, they have defended bank robbers, Bank Swindlers, and characters of

7-115-

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 2 - 1935

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ONE *[Signature]* FILE

the underworld for pay, and if you are determined to investigate individuals appropriately known as Criminal Attorneys who sponsor, guide and protect the members of the underworld in their criminal operations, shall receive appropriate punishment, and these men Scott & McLean and Sayers have long known to be more intimate and extended than those based upon the legitimate duties and responsibilities of an Attorney to his client, it is well known that young Armond Shannon received his part of the money, as he was to buy a farm near Denton, Texas, and told the owner he could pay at least ten thousand dollars for it, and wanted to know his CASH PRICE for it. and it would seem he had the Urschel money to pay for it.

"Of course we do not know all this, but your Department should surely investigate all this, and arrest these Lawyers here also, and bring them to Justice, also, as they are known to be the SLICKEST LAWYERS" any where, and know just how to beat the law, It is well know they framed the young Man Armond Shannon, to state that he was only 17, or 19 years old, at the hearing here, when he was at least 25 years old or more, as was admitted later, and it is also known that they framed the Man Shannon to state that they Bates, Bailey and Kelley had threatened to kill them if he and they did not guard Mr Ueschel, which was not true, as his place was known to be a safe Hide-out for Dope peddlers, Bootleggers, and Criminals of all kinds, he often received as much as two or three hundred dollars to hide them on his place in some shack there, and the officers here knew of the Character of his place is why they so soon found where Mr Ueschel was hidden by them.

"And these Lawyers Scott & McLean and Sayers, knew of the Shannon hide out, of course, So we just write you all this to give you the idea you should apprehend these Lawyers here as well, for complicity in the defense of Confessed kidnapers. Of Course, if they received \$20,000, dollars it had to be the Urschel money of course, as it has not been found, they of course must have that much of Mr Ueschels' money The young man Armond Shannon should be compelled of course to tell of all this, and just how much they paid these Lawyers for defense of the Shannon Family.

"We just give you all this, so you can investigate for your selves, as Mr. Keenan said in his speech before the Bar Association, that the cause of so much crime was the SHYSTER LAWYERS and their methods of cheating the law, for the Criminals who were able to pay them well. Mr. Keenen is right,

-3-

and no one is safe, with such Lawyers to shield and protect  
Criminals of all classes, as you well know,

A COMMITTEE OF FORT WORTH. CITIZENS."

I am not requesting that any investigation be conducted with  
respect to this matter but I shall appreciate the benefit of your views  
concerning the reputations of the attorneys whose names are mentioned  
herein.

Very truly yours,

DWIGHT BRANTLEY,  
Special Agent in Charge.

cc-Division. ✓



RECEIVED AT

5th & New York Avenue  
Washington Building  
Washington, D. C.

Na 10-10-10-10-10-10  
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

# Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial  
Cables



All America  
Cables

Mackay

Radio

This is a full rate Telegram, Cablegram or Radiogram unless otherwise indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
NM	NIGHT MESSAGE
LC	DEFERRED CABLE
SLY	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLY	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

CB3 91 NL GOVT COLLECT 1/61

DENVER COLO 19

1934 DEC 20 AM 29

DIRECTOR DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

U S DEPT OF JUSTICE PENNSYLVANIA AVE AT 9 ST NW WASHN DC

URSHEL KIDNAPPING REFERRING MY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION TODAY CONCERNING

[REDACTED] THIS PERSON INTERVIEWED STATES THAT WHILE [REDACTED] WAS HELD BY KIDNAPERS FIRST PART OF JULY NINETEEN THIRTY THREE TWO MEN DRIVING LARGE CAR TEXAS LICENSE PLACED TELEPHONE CALLS TO CHICAGO AND CHEYENNE WYOMING FROM GASOLINE SERVICE STATION GREELEY WHERE THEN EMPLOYED STOP-OVERHEARD PARTY ASK FOR A MISTER [REDACTED]

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

RECORDED & INDEXED

JAN 10 1935

7-115-1518  
JAN 9 1935  
TAMM ONE

Decoded  
TC

All b7C

RECEIVED AT

STANDARD TIME  
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

# Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial  
Cables



All America  
Cables

Mackay

Radio

This is a full rate Telegram, Cablegram or Radiogram unless otherwise indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
NM	NIGHT MESSAGE
LCO	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

CB3/2/30 DENVER DIRE DIVN OF INV WASHN DC

1934 DEC 20 AM 1 29

AT SOME HOTEL CHEYENNE STOP PARTIES RETURNED SERVICE STATION SEVERAL

DAYS LATER PLACED ANOTHER CALL CHEYENNE [REDACTED] UNABLE IDENTIFY

PHOTOGRAPHS SUBJECTS THIS CASE OR OTHER SUSPECTS FURTHER INVESTIGATION  
BEING MADE

b7c

NEWMAN.

U. S. Department of Justice  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
~~Department of Investigation~~

Post Office Box 1276  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
December 27, 1934

DB:  
7-6

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
United States Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES with aliases,  
ET AL: CHARLES F. URSCHEL-Victim  
Kidnaping.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Division letter of December 24, 1934 with which you transmitted a photostatic copy of a newspaper article appearing in the Washington Evening Star on December 13, 1934, which bears an Oklahoma City date line and relates to recent arrests in the Urschel case.

You are advised that I did not divulge any information to the newspapers or any other persons, save the United States Attorney and his staff, concerning this case or any of the persons recently arrested in connection therewith. None of the Agents in this office divulged any information in respect thereto. Prior to the arrival of Ed Feldman and the others arrested in Portland, in this case, at Oklahoma City, newspaper articles had appeared to the effect that persons had been arrested in connection with the Urschel matter, that they were being removed to Oklahoma City, but it was not known definitely when they would arrive.

Ed Feldman had been in Oklahoma City for some time before newspaper reporters knew of it. Clara Feldman, [redacted] and Alvin H. Scott arrived at Oklahoma City the day after Ed Feldman was brought here. We took them off the train at Guthrie, thirty miles from Oklahoma City, to avoid newspaper publicity. The reporters learned from the pullman porters that these persons had been taken off the train at Guthrie. As indicated in the newspaper article, we did place Ed Feldman in the County Jail under an assumed name in an effort to avoid newspaper publicity but reporters, in some manner, learned that he was in the city and could not locate him in the County Jail under his right name and therefore assumed, and correctly, that we had him in there under an alias.

7-115-1519

RECORDED & INDEXED

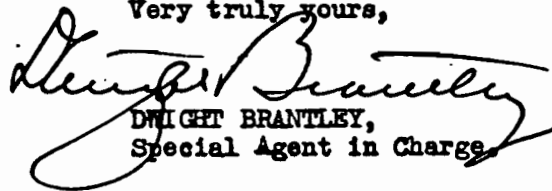
JAN 11 1935

TOLSON  
TAMM

Mr. Nathan.....  
Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Glavin.....  
Mr. Ladd.....  
Mr. Nichols.....  
Mr. Rosen.....  
Mr. Tracy.....  
Mr. Carson.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
Mr. Gurnea.....  
Mr. Hendon.....  
Mr. Jones.....  
Mr. Quinn.....  
Mr. Nease.....  
Mr. Pennington.....  
Mr. Starnes.....  
Mr. Tamm.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
Mr. Gurnea.....  
Mr. Hendon.....  
Mr. Jones.....  
Mr. Quinn.....  
Mr. Nease.....  
Mr. Pennington.....  
Mr. Starnes.....  
Mr. Tamm.....

While I am not certain, I am inclined to the view that the newspaper article referred to in your letter is predicated upon information divulged by the United States Attorney's office in Oklahoma City.

Very truly yours,

  
Dwight Brantley  
Special Agent in Charge

P. O. Box #709  
Portland, Oregon

December 21, 1934

Postmaster,  
Medford,  
Oregon.

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases.  
et al. Charles F. Urschel - Victim  
Kidnaping.

Dear Sir:

In reference to the mail cover which  
was placed on mail delivered to A. H. Scott,  
Medford, Oregon on request of this office. It  
is requested that this mail cover be discontinued.

I wish to express my appreciation in  
your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

7-7  
cc-Division  
Oklahoma City

C. C. SPEARS,  
Special Agent in Charge.

7-115  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

766

422 Midland Savings Bldg.,  
Denver, Colo.,  
December 27, 1934.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
P. O. Box 1276,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases  
et al  
CHARLES F. URSCHEL - Victim  
KIDNAPING

Dear Sir:

Confirming my telegram of today, please be advised that United States Attorney Thomas J. Morrissey, Denver, notified me today that Subject Laska has agreed to waive commissioner's hearing, originally set at Denver for January 2nd, postponed by the Commissioner, due to his expected absence, to 10:00 A.M. January 3rd, and furnish bond for his appearance at the trial in Oklahoma City. Mr. Morrissey has advised that it will not be necessary to have any witnesses present before the Commissioner on January 3rd, and that if Laska has a change of heart and demands a commissioner's hearing, a postponement can be secured. The amount of the new bond, to be furnished by Laska, will be considered on January 3, 1934.

As requested telegraphically, it is desired that you advise this office the trial date of this case at Oklahoma City.

Very truly yours,

JAY C. NEWMAN,  
Special Agent in Charge.

JCN: **b7C**

cc Division ✓  
Portland.

7-115

DEC 31 1934

ONE *gm*

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

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

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

DEC 31 1934 AM



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

Denver, Colo.,  
December 27, 1934

550P

JCN

b7c

## DECODE

D. Brantley,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
224 Federal Building,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

URSCHEL KIDNAPING USA DENVER ADVISES LASKA HAS AGREED TO WAIVE COMMISSIONERS HEARING DENVER TEN A' JANUARY THIRD AND FURNISH BOND FOR APPEARANCE TRIAL OKLAHOMACITY USA STATES WITNESSES UNNECESSARY AND IF LASKA DEMANDS COMMISSIONERS HEARING JANUARY THIRD A POSTPONEMENT CAN BE SECURED ADVISE TRIAL DATE

Newman

Govt Rate  
Pd.

cc Division

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

7-115

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

DEC 31 1934 4

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ONE

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS ARE APPROPRIATE GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

422 Midland Savings Bldg.  
Denver, Colo.  
January 8, 1935



Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
224 Federal Building,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:

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

With reference to Division letter dated January 2, 1935, concerning an article appearing in the Denver Post at Denver, Colorado, on December 18, 1934, which article indicated that Ben B. Laska had made certain statements to the effect that he was in possession of money which had been paid as ransom in the Boettcher, Rohn, Hamm, and Urschel kidnaping cases at the time he was in Oklahoma City for the trial of Albert L. Bates, please find enclosed herewith copy of the article in question.

It was ascertained at the Denver Post that the article was a re-write from an Associated Press dispatch from Oklahoma City and that the original article from which the dispatch was taken was furnished to the Associated Press by either the Times or the Star at Oklahoma City.

The Division, in this letter, has requested that the source of the story be secured in order that the individual to whom Laska is reported to have made the statements may be interviewed.

Very truly yours,

JAY C. NEWMAN  
Special Agent in Charge

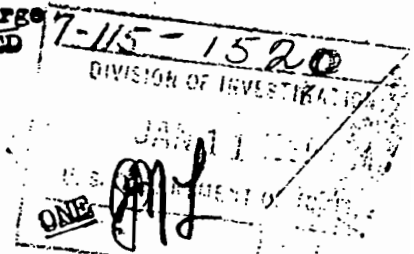
Enc.

7-7

cc Division

RECORDED & INDEXED

JAN 12 1935





DIVISION  
**U. S. Bureau of Investigation**

Department of Justice  
503-A U.S. Court House & P.O. Bldg.  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
January 3, 1935

Director  
Division of Investigation  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am today in receipt of a copy of a communication emanating from the Division, dated December 28, 1934, addressed to [REDACTED] United States Marshal, Denver, Colorado, which makes known to [REDACTED] that the fingerprints of B.B. Laska, #2586, which had been received at the Division, could not be classified correctly because it appeared that the ridge characteristics are not distinct. A notation on the lower left corner of the letter indicates a copy for the Salt Lake City Division office.

This office has no file on B.B. Laska. He has a connection with the George Kelly Barnes--Kidnaping case. It is believed that the copy of letter to [REDACTED] above referred to, should have been sent to the Denver office of the Division.

Of late several letters of similar kind, apparently meant for the Denver Division office have been received here; upon receipt and after checking the local office files and learning they were not properly for this office they were sent to the Denver office.

It is possible that the U.S. Marshal at Denver, Colorado, is placing a "stamped request" on the reverse side of fingerprints taken by him, in matters involving the fingerprinting of persons of interest to the Denver Division office, asking that copies of criminal histories in such cases be sent to the Salt Lake City office, which office until June 1, 1934 had territorial jurisdiction over Colorado.

Please take this matter up with the Identification Unit of the Division and have this matter corrected.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED & INDEXED

JAN 14 1935

JOHN A. DOWD  
Special Agent in Charge

CC: Denver

All b7C

7-115-1521  
1935  
FILE

17-91639

422 Midland Savings Bldg.  
Denver, Colo.  
January 8, 1935

RECEIVED  
JAN 11 1935  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

E  
Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
224 Federal Building,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with  
alias, et al.  
CHARLES F. URSCHEL - Victim  
KIDNAPING

There are being forwarded herewith by registered mail the exhibits which were seized at the office of Subject Ben B. Laska in Denver on December 17, 1934, on a Search Warrant executed that date by the United States Marshal. These exhibits are outlined in a typewritten list forwarded to your office with copies of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Denver, December 19, 1934.

It is suggested that these exhibits be carefully examined for possible evidence in connection with the trial of Subjects Laska and Mathers.

Very truly yours,

All b7C

JAY C. NEWMAN  
Special Agent in Charge

JCN:  
Enc.

cc Division ✓

REGISTERED MAIL

INDEXED  
mew

7-115	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 11 1935	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
ONE	FILE

432 Midland Savings Bldg.  
Denver, Colo.  
January 7, 1935

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Ave. at 9th St., N.W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the letter addressed to the Division by the Salt Lake City Office under date of January 3, 1935, relative to the copies of criminal records of persons fingerprinted by the United States Marshal at Denver being misdirected.

Please be advised that inquiry of the United States Marshal at Denver has disclosed that, following a custom established at the time this territory was under the jurisdiction of the Salt Lake City Office, an employee of the Marshal's office has been typing a request on fingerprints taken of persons involved in Division cases that copies of the criminal records be furnished the Salt Lake City Division Office.

This arrangement has been corrected so that in the future the Marshal's office at Denver, in cases in which the Division is interested, will request that copies of the criminal records be furnished the Denver Division Office.

Very truly yours,

JCK

b7C

JAY C. NEWMAN  
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED & INDEXED

cc Salt Lake City

JAN 17 1935

7-115-1522  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
JAN 11 1935  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
RECEIVED  
IDENT. UNIT  
FILE

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-21639

**Division of Investigation**

**U. S. Department of Justice**  
422 Midland Savings Bldg.  
Denver, Colo.  
January 8, 1935

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Ave. at 9th St., N.W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with  
aliases, et al.  
CHARLES F. URSCHEL - Victim  
KIDNAPING

With reference to your letter dated January 3, 1935, regarding the fingerprint card of Ben B. Laska, which was reported having been furnished by the United States Marshal to the Division on December 19, 1934, please be advised that the United States Marshal's office at Denver has advised that this print was forwarded to the Division by them and that Ben B. Laska's number in the United States Marshal's office, Denver, and which appeared on the fingerprint card is 2856.

[REDACTED] of the Marshal's office advised that this print had been returned to the Marshal's office by the Division under date of December 28, 1934, at which time the Division advised their office that the ridge counts were not clear enough in order to effect a classification of same and requested that the fingerprints of Ben B. Laska be retaken.

To date, the Marshal's office has been unable to secure additional fingerprints of Ben B. Laska inasmuch as he was released on bond. They will secure new fingerprints, if possible, at the earliest possible date and forward them to the Division.

Very truly yours,

*Jay C. Newman*

JAY C. NEWMAN  
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED & INDEXED

JAN 15 1935

7-115-1523	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 11 1935 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
SEARCHED	FILE

All b7C

JDS  
7-7

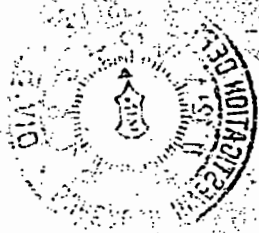
62-91130  
COPY FILED IN

RECORDED

GNL  
7-115-1524

January 17, 1935.

RECEIVED



Special Agent in Charge,  
Kansas City, Missouri.

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with  
aliases, et al; CHARLES F.  
URSCHEL - Victim;  
KIDNAPING.

Dear Sir:

It is requested that you forward two copies of  
the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Kansas  
City, Missouri January 9, 1935, to the Detroit office in  
order that Kathryn Kelly may be interviewed concerning her  
reported retention of the Attorneys Scott, McLean and Sayers  
as counsel for R. G. Shannon.

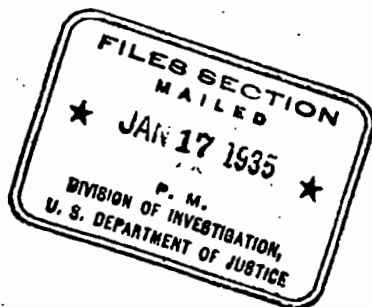
Very truly yours,

All b7c

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

cc-Oklahoma City  
Detroit

1 yellow



# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

OKLAHOMA CITY

FILE NO.

7-8

REPORT MADE AT: <b>KANSAS CITY, MO.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE: <b>1-9-35</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: <b>1-7-35</b>	REPORT MADE BY: <b>[REDACTED]</b>
--	----------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------

TITLE:

**GEORGE KELLY BARNES with aliases, et al  
Charles F. Urschel - Victim**

CHARACTER OF CASE:

**KIDNAPING**

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Boss Shannon states he will be a Government witness in the trial of James C. Mathers and Ben D. Laska if called upon to do so. Shannon gave signed statement that Kathryn Kelly hired Scott, McLean and Sayers as his attorneys for appeal and that he never paid them, the same in all probability being taken care of by Kathryn Kelly.

R. U. C.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Oklahoma City, 1-5-35.

All b7C

DETAILS:

On 1-7-35 this Agent interviewed R. G. Shannon at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, and explained to him that James C. Mathers of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Ben D. Laska of Denver, Colorado, are to be tried for having in their possession some of the ransom money in the Urschel kidnaping case, they receiving the same as attorneys in that case, and if Shannon would testify in behalf of the Government in the trial of these attorneys if called upon to do so. He immediately advised that he would be only too glad to cooperate with the Government and testify as a Government

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:  <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	7-115-1524	RECORDED AND INDEXED: <b>JAN 12 1935</b>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3-Division 2-Okla. City 1-U.S. Atty., Okla. City 1-Dallas 2-Kansas City		UNITED STATES <b>JAN 12 1935 A.M.</b> BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FILE	CHECKED OFF: <b>JAN 19 1935</b> JACKETED:

*1/17/35 cc to [unclear] DESTROYED*

witness in the case. Agent then discussed with Shannon his appeal so as to get a line on attorneys Scott, McLean and Sayers, mentioned in the report of reference wherein an anonymous letter stated that Shannon and his son had paid these attorneys some of the ransom money of the Urschel kidnaping case. During the interview Shannon talked freely concerning the aforementioned attorneys and also advised Agent that he had never paid them a cent and that they were retained as attorneys for the Shannon family in the appeal of the case by Kathryn Kelly. He could not give any information whether Kathryn Kelly paid these attorneys and, if she did, whether she paid them in check or in cash. He did state, however, that approximately a month and a half ago he received a letter from the firm of Scott, McLean and Sayers for \$400.00 to put his appeal through. He stated that he has no money and his son has no money, and he forwarded this letter to his wife at Milan, Michigan. He advised that he later got a reply from his wife stating that it was funny that the attorneys should write and ask for money due to the fact that they had already been taken care of and he was of the opinion that Kathryn Kelly had taken care of the paying of these attorneys. He then gave Agent the following signed statement, which is being forwarded to the Oklahoma City office with copies of this report:

"Leavenworth Penitentiary  
1-7-35

b7c "I, R. G. Shannon, do hereby give this statement voluntarily to [REDACTED] Special Agent, Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, without any promises, duress or threats being made to me.

"I know and am informed of the fact that James C. Mathers of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Ben D. Laska of Denver, Colorado, are to be tried for having in their possession some of the ransom money in the Urschel kidnaping case, receiving the same as attorneys in this case.

"It is my desire to tell the whole truth and cooperate with the Government, as a Government witness if I am called upon to do so. I shall, if called as a witness, tell the whole truth concerning the holding of Mr. Urschel at my home, the identity of the

"At the present time I am taking an appeal and the case is to be tried at Denver, Colorado, in the near future. My attorneys in this appeal are the firm of the following attorneys - Scott, McLean & Sayers of Fort Worth, Texas.

"At the beginning of my case I engaged Woodruff and Burch as attorneys, they being from Decatur, Texas. Katherine Kelly employed Scott, McLean & Sayers also as my attorneys and also for my son.

"The understanding was that Woodruff and Burch would handle my trial; while Scott, McLean & Sayers would handle my appeal if there was to be any.

"I personally paid the law firm of Woodruff and Burch for services rendered in my own personal checks.

"I never did pay Scott, McLean and Sayers any money for services rendered. I know for a fact that my son, Armond Shannon, did not pay this concern any money for services rendered.

"At the time I was in jail at Dallas, Texas, before my trial, Sam Sayers came to my cell and told me that he was being retained as a counsel for the defense, being retained by Katherine Kelly. I never asked him what the fee was or any other question concerning the payment of any money for services to be performed.

"About one and half months ago, I received a letter from the firm of Scott, McLean and Sayers, asking for \$400 to put my appeal through. I sent this letter to my wife in Milan, Michigan, because I did not have the money to pay for the appeal. My wife then wrote me that the money had been paid to the aforementioned attorneys to carry the appeal thru. My wife also stated that it was funny that the lawyers should write for money, due to the fact that they had been paid.

"I do not know whether Katherine Kelly paid this money to Scott, McLean & Sayers, but I do know that my son and wife did not pay for the appeal because they have no money.

"In conclusion I would also like to state that I do not know who paid these attorneys for defending the Shannon family and I would also like to state that I don't know whether they were paid in



4.  
cash or check. I have never heard Scott, McLean or Sayers say who paid them, except I did hear Sayers tell me that Katherine Kelly had retained him and his associates as attorneys for the Shannon family.

"I have read this statement consisting of four pages and do hereby certify that it is correct.

b7C (Signed) R. G. Shannon

"Witness: [REDACTED] Special Agent  
U. S. Dept. of Justice."

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.**

**E P**

FILE NO. **7-7**

REPORT MADE AT: <b>EL PASO, Texas.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE: <b>1-8-35</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: <b>1-4-35</b>	REPORT MADE BY: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>
TITLE: <b>GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases; et al. ALVIN H. SCOTT - FUGITIVE [REDACTED] - FUGITIVE; CLARA FELDMANN, with aliases - FUGITIVE; EDWARD GEORGE FELDMAN, with aliases - FUGITIVE CHARLES F. URSCHER - Victim.</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE:  <b>KIDNAPING.</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Investigation indicates Edw. Geo. Feldman stopped at DeVargas Hotel for two days, August 14 and 15, 1933, leaving August 16, 1933. Registration card not as yet located. Rollo L. Shannon investigation indicates probably not a relative of Shannons involved in this case.

RUC.

All b7C

**REFERENCE:** Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Los Angeles, dated 12/31/34 and report of Special Agent C.C. Spears, Portland, Ore., dated 11/23/34.

**DETAILS:** AT SANTA FE, New Mexico:

At the La Fonda Hotel [REDACTED] examined the registrations during the year 1933 and therefrom obtained the registration of one A.C. Johnson, Socorro, N.M. A.C. Johnson registered there on August 26 at 10 p.m., a notation appearing on his card that he came by motor. The hotel had no record of the license number of the car, but [REDACTED] advised that Hunter-Clarkson garage was the one which had a contract with the hotel at that time. [REDACTED] at the La Fonda Hotel, who roomed subject, examined the photograph of Edward George Feldmann and advised that he did not recall ever having seen this individual. Tracing was made of the signature and the same is being forwarded to the Oklahoma City Office with their copies of this report.

At the Hunter-Clarkson garage [REDACTED] produced the garage records for August 26, 1933 and thereon two Chevrolets were found to have been stored in this garage on that date, one bearing a Colorado license, #43258, and the second bearing an Arizona license, #KP 79. No name is indicated in

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="text-align: center;"><i>[Signature]</i></div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	7-115-1525	RECORDED AND INDEXED <b>JAN 14 1935</b>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3 - Division		UNITED STATES	CHECKED OFF: <b>JAN 12 1935</b>

in the garage records as to whom these particular cars belonged.

At the DeVargas Hotel, Santa Fe, N.M., Agent interviewed [REDACTED] who, after an examination of his records located the registration for one A. Johnson on August 14, 1933, assigned to Room 324, at a rate of \$1.50 per day. [REDACTED] stated that it was his impression and belief that the cards for this registration had been destroyed, but that he would make an examination of each card individually in the hotel in an effort to locate the same and should he find it, would preserve it for future use by the Division. [REDACTED] after locating the registration for A. Johnson, was shown the photograph of Edward George Feldmann and he immediately identified it as an individual whom he recalls having stopped in the De Vargas Hotel. [REDACTED] stated that he distinctly recalls speaking with Feldmann, but that he was unable to recall the exact conversation and attempted for some little time to recall exactly the conversation which was had. [REDACTED] stated that he felt sure that sooner or later he will be able to recall the incidents which make him know that Edward George Feldmann stopped at the De Vargas Hotel. [REDACTED] stated that no record is kept by the Hotel nor the garage with which they do business, concerning the license numbers of any of the cars of the guests; that when a car is parked in the garage a stub or claim check is placed in the guest's box and when he is ready for the car, the same is turned over to him. [REDACTED] advised that he has a very good memory for faces and on most occasions for conversations which he has with his guests.

**AT SOCORRO, New Mexico:**

At the Post Office Agent was advised that a Mr. A.C. Johnson resides in Socorro and receives mail regularly there. No effort was made to contact A.C. Johnson relative to his having stopped at the La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe, in view of the information obtained from the clerk at the De Vargas Hotel.

**AT ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico:**

At the Veterans' Bureau Hospital, Agent examined the file of veteran Rollo Louis Shannon, whose C number is 624,371. The file reflects that Shannon is married that his wife's name is Jessie C. Veteran was born in 1893 at Deslodge, Mo. He enlisted in the Army at Farmington, Mo., and was assigned serial #1124634. He was discharged honorably on December 8, 1918 at Camp Travis, Texas. His father is William M. Shannon and his mother Mary Shannon, both of Spartanburg, S.C. The file reflects, however, that his parents are now residing at St. Louis, Mo. Veteran has resided during the past several years, while obtaining compensation from the Government, at Flagstaff, Ariz., Phoenix, Ariz., and Payson, Ariz., and on June 15, 1934 took up his residence at Adobe, N.M. Prior to veteran's illness which required him to go into Arizona and New Mexico, he states he was employed as a stock salesman, travelling between St. Louis and New York City, calling on banks and business men in the States of Missouri, Pennsylvania, and New York. He was employed by Spurrier and Co., Central National Bank Bldg., St. Louis, for four years, and the Wagner Electric Co., of St. Louis, during 1915. Subject's disability is diagnosed

Veteran Shannon on June 26, 1931 was awarded an advance in his compensation of \$10.00 per month, from \$90 to \$100 per month, this increase to relate back to 1921. The veterans' bureau advised that this check was paid veteran on July 3, 1931 and was for \$377.74, covering the period from 9/8/21 to 6/30/31, check number being 280-486.

b7C  
Veteran Shannon was married to Mary Jessie Alice Clark at Spartanburg, S.C., on December 24, 1924. Veteran during a part of his illness resided at Steeleville Mo., and also at the Planters' Hotel, St. Louis, Mo., and apparently is acquainted with [REDACTED] of the Planters' Hotel. The file gives no information concerning any relatives of veteran other than mother, father, and wife.

The indications, after an examination of the file, are that veteran Shannon is not in anyway related to the Shannons of Paradise, Texas, who were involved in the instant case. In view of the unlikelihood of veteran Shannon being related to the Shannons involved in this matter, no interview at this time is contemplated with him at Adobe, N.M., unless the Office of Origin specifically requests such interview.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

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

2:40 P.M.

December 18, 1934

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

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.....

EAT *b7c*

Mr. Nathan called from Denver and advised that Judge Sims has just reduced Ben Laska's bond to \$18,000 and that Laska will undoubtedly make this bond in the very near future. Mr. Nathan will advise by telegram when the bond is made.

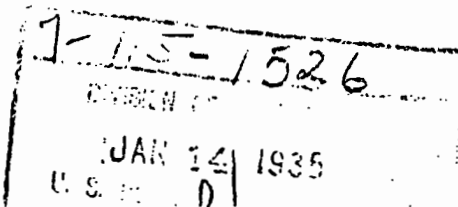
Mr. Nathan stated that he believes the psychological moment has arrived to discontinue any publicity in this case. He states that the Rocky Mountain News obtained a "scoop" by calling at the office of the United States Attorney and obtaining information concerning the case there, and that because the other paper in Denver, namely, the Post, was weeping about the "scoop", he had given them a little additional information. He states that the Division has received full credit for all that has transpired and he feels that we should now courteously decline to make any further statements concerning the case. He stated incidentally, that the Post knew the source of the information which the Rocky Mountain News published. A complete report on this case is being prepared today and will be forwarded tonight.

Mr. Nathan states that he knows of no reason why he should remain in Denver any longer and in the absence of instructions to the contrary, he will proceed to Washington sometime tomorrow afternoon. I told Mr. Nathan that in the absence of instructions to the contrary, he should discontinue all publicity in this case.

Respectfully,

*E. A. Tamm*  
E. A. Tamm

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED



422 Midland Savings Bldg.  
Denver, Colo.  
January 12, 1935

Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
224 Federal Building,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES with  
aliases, et al  
CHARLES F. BRONCKE - Victim  
KIDNAPING

Referring to Division letter dated January 9, 1935, -  
an forwarding herewith the Federal Income Tax Returns  
of subject aska for the calendar years 1932 and 1933.

b3  
26 USC 6103  
per IRS

It is requested that these photostatic copies be return-  
ed to the Denver Office when they have served their pur-  
pose, for possible use in this district.

Very truly yours,

Enc.  
b7C

JAY E. GIBSON  
Special Agent in Charge

cc Division ✓

21

3  
4  
GML: **b7C**

January 13, 1935

RECORDED

7-115-1527

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
MR. STANLEY.**

There is returned herewith a letter dated December 28, 1934, addressed to the Attorney General by Mr. Elton Watkins, Attorney at Law, 707 Failing Building, 146 Fifth Street, Portland, Oregon, who states that he is representing Mrs. Edward George Feldmann in an effort to recover the sum of \$439 taken from her and held by the United States Marshal at Portland, Oregon.

For your information, Edward George Feldmann and his wife were taken into custody by Special Agents of this Division on November 9, 1934 at Dunsmuir, California. The following day they were taken to Portland, Oregon, where Edward Feldmann was held by the United States Commissioner in connection with the case involving the kidnaping of Charles F. Urschel, and Mrs. Feldmann was held as a material witness, under a \$10,000 bond. No prosecutive action was instituted against Mrs. Feldmann, but her husband was indicted in the United States District Court at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on December 14, 1934 on charges of conspiracy to violate the Federal kidnaping statute.

With reference to the sum of money allegedly held by the United States Marshal at Portland, Oregon, you are advised that this Division has no interest in this money in the event it is not being held as evidence. Therefore, the letter above referred to is being returned for such action as you may desire to take.

Very truly yours,

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure 826445.

1 copy 15 1155 \*

RECEIVED  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
JAN 15 1935

COPY

ELTON WATKINS  
Attorney at Law  
Failing Building  
Portland, Oregon

December 28, 1934

The Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Mrs. Eddie Feldman of Medford, Oregon, has requested me to write you with reference to the sum of \$439.00 taken from her and held by the United States Marshal at Portland, Oregon. She is not making any complaint against the Marshal, for he was merely executing orders. It seems that the Department contends that this money was ransom money or money obtained by Mrs. Feldman from her husband, who had obtained some Urschel ransom money from his mother, the wife of Bates, one of the actual kidnappers.

Mrs. Eddie Feldman, however, tells me that this was her money, that she had nothing to do with the ransom money, and desires the return of this \$439.00. I have advised her not to go to any expense in the way of litigation, but to present her contentions to you in the hope that the matter can be adjusted without any expense to her.

Your attention will be appreciated.

Respectfully,

/s/ Elton Watkins

EW:AC

JAN 17 1935

1/15/35  
972  
RECORDED

7-115-1529  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION



COPY

CT: *b7c*

7-115-1528

December 28, 1934.

RECORDED

Mr. Carl C. Donough,  
United States Attorney,  
Portland, Oregon.

My dear Mr. Donough:

I have received your letter dated December 22, 1934 and want you to know that I sincerely appreciate your statements concerning my address before the Crime Conference.

I also deeply appreciate your commendation of the services of Mr. C. C. Spears, Special Agent in Charge of the Portland Office of this Division, and other representatives of the Division in the Portland District. It is always gratifying to receive expressions of commendation concerning the representatives of this Division throughout the country.

With regard to Mr. Urschel's desire to receive a copy of the chart prepared concerning the Urschel Kidnaping Case, please be advised that Mr. Urschel has written directly to the Division and this chart is being forwarded to him today.

With the Season's Greetings and with my best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. Edgar Hoover.

1 copy.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ 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.

- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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

- ☐ For your information:

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

7-115-1528

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
 X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
 X FOR THIS PAGE X  
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

508 Medical Arts Building,  
Nashville, Tennessee,  
January 15, 1935.

JAN 17 1935



RECEIVED

Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Post Office Box 514,  
Birmingham, Alabama.

Re: GEORGE KELLY B. <sup>C</sup>RYZ, with aliases,  
et al; CHARLES <sup>P</sup>URSCHEL - Victim.  
KIDNAPING.

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is a copy of a letter addressed  
to me under date of January 12, 1935 by W. T. Griffin, Chief  
Inspector of Police, Memphis, Tennessee, copy of which was furnished  
the Division.

Efforts are now being made to determine if Dr.  
C. J. <sup>X</sup>urienne is at Chattanooga, Tennessee, and you will be ad-  
vised immediately of the results of our investigation.

In case of his location, I suggest that the  
Division be communicated with before interviewing him.

Very truly yours,

b7C

WAR:  
7-1

W. A. RORER,  
Special Agent in Charge.

cc-Division  
Oklahoma City  
St. Paul

7-115 -1529

JAN 18 1935

ONE

8/

C O P Y

Memphis, Tennessee

January 12th, 1935.

Mr. W. A. Rorer,  
Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Nashville, Tennessee.

All b7C

Dear Sir:-

The information given below is from a local informant that I am not in position to reveal their identity at this time, and it is given to you for whatever it may be worth. Informant I think can be depended upon to tell the truth, and I think told the truth in this case.

Dr. C. J. ~~Adrien~~ of French extraction, formerly a police surgeon in Detroit, Mich., but whose license were revoked for unethical practice was in the City of Memphis just before Christmas and told informant the following story:

\*That he had at the present time in a safety deposit box in Minneapolis, Minn., in his wife's name, two thousand dollars of the Urschel ransom money, and that the President of the company he represents had ten thousand dollars of this same money that he bought for twenty-five hundred dollars.

Suspect married [REDACTED] of Jonesboro, Ark., and informant has known the [REDACTED] woman for many years, and it was through her that the acquaintance with Dr. Andrienne was made.

The Doctor is working for the Rodgers Redemption Bureau, which is a concern that sells coupons to milk dairy concerns as a trade stimulant. He is traveling in a Packard coupe and is sometimes accompanied by his wife.

Suspect is described as being 40 years of age, 6 feet 2 inches in height, 225 pounds, black hair and eyes, fair dresser, and a master salesman. He was in Nashville, Tenn. recently, and from there he said he was going to Chattanooga, thence to Birmingham, Ala.

He was in jail at Piggott, Ark. sometime last year in connection with some fraud case, but was released on an appearance bond, which informant thinks he forfeited.

Yours truly,

Copy: Hon. J. Edgar Hoover,  
Director, Division of Invest-

/s/ ~~W. T. Griffin~~

JANUARY 16 1934

RECORDED

CT: 67C  
7-115-1530  
C O SPEARS  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
411 U S COURT HOUSE BUILDING  
PORTLAND OREGON

RETEL NO OBJECTION FURNISHING PHOTOGRAPHS TO KIRKPATRICK AS REQUESTED

HOOVER

RECEIVED  
DIVISION ONE  
JAN 17 1935 AM



Mr. Nathan.....  
Mr. Tolson.....  
Mr. Clegg.....  
Mr. Baughman.....  
Chief Clerk.....  
Mr. Coffey.....  
Mr. Edwards.....  
Mr. Egan.....  
Mr. Harbo.....  
Mr. Hendon.....  
Mr. Lester.....  
Mr. Quinn.....  
Mr. Tamm.....

RECEIVED AT

NATIONAL PRESS Bldg.  
11th & P Sts. N. W.  
Nat. 6000 Br. 16

STANDARD TIME  
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

# Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial  
Cables



All America  
Cables

Mackay

Radio

This is a full rate Telegram, Cablegram, Radiogram unless otherwise indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
NM	NIGHT MESSAGE
LCO	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

CB489 28 GOVT COLLECT

1935 JAN 15 PM 6

PORTLAND ORE 15 236P

DIRECTOR

DIV OF INVESTIGATION US DEPT OF JUSTICE PENN AVE AT 9 ST NORTHWEST

WASHN DC

KIRKPATRICK ASSOCIATE OF URSCHER HAS WIRED USA HERE TO SECURE  
PHOTOGRAPHS CONNECTION RECOVERY RANSOM MONEY ALSO REQUESTS MY  
PHOTOGRAPH FOR USE MAGAZINE ARTICLE ADVISE IF EXPEDIENT COMPLY.

Mr. Na:  
Mr. Tol  
Mr. Cle:  
Mr. Bau  
Chief C:  
Mr. Coff  
Mr. Edw  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Har  
Mr. Kelt  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quir  
Mr. Schi  
Mr. Tam  
Mr. Trac  
Miss Gan

SPEARS.

RECORDED  
INDEXED

JAN 18 1935

7-115-1530  
JAN 17 1935 A.M.  
U. S.  
BOLSON  
LESTER  
TAMM  
ONE

RECEIVED AT  
EVENING STAR BLDG.  
11th & Pa. Ave., N. W.  
STANDARD TIME  
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

# Postal Telegram

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial  
Cables



All America  
Cables

Mackay

Radio

This is a full rate Telegram, Cablegram or Radiogram unless otherwise indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
NM	NIGHT MESSAGE
LOC	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

W17 63 GOVT COLLECT=NASHVILLE TENN 1102A JAN 16 1935

DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION= 29067

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PENNSYLVANIA AVE AT 9 ST

JAN 19 1935 RECORDED  
NORTHWEST= INDEXED

7-115-1531

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

GEORGE KELLY BARNES WA ETAL CHARLES F. HIRSCHEL VICTIM KIDNAPING  
REFERENCE COPY OF LETTER DATED JANUARY TWELFTN LAST TO ME FROM  
CHIEF INSPECTOR WT GRIFFIN MEMPHIS COPY WHICH FURNISHED DIVISION  
DIRECT DOCTOR C J ADRIENNE NOW REGISTERED HOTEL CHATTANOOGA ST  
ADVISE WHETHER HE SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED PRIOR TO INVESTIGATION  
MINNEAPOLIS PARTICULARLY SINCE INFORMER LOCATED THIS DISTRICT  
AND GRIFFIN DESIROUS NOT DISCLOSE IDENTITY=

RORER, 1228P..

Your Telegrams to ...

1/17/35

- Mr. Nathan.
- Mr. Tolson..
- Mr. Clegg....
- Mr. Baughm...
- Chief Clerk..
- Mr. Coffey ..
- Mr. Edwards..
- Mr. Egan .....
- Mr. Harbo.....
- Mr. Keith .....
- Mr. Quinn .....
- Mr. Schilder...
- Mr. Tracy .....

January 17, 1935

7-115-1532

Special Agent in Charge,  
St. Paul, Minnesota.

RECORDED

Dear Sir:

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases,  
et al, CHARLES F. URSCHEL, Victim,  
KIDNAPING.

In reply to your letter of January 12, 1935,  
concerning information received from [redacted]  
[redacted] of the Intelligence Unit, Internal Revenue  
Bureau, relative to a portion of the money paid as  
ransom in the above entitled case, it is desired  
that this matter be given your prompt and thorough  
attention and that a complete and discreet investi-  
gation be conducted.

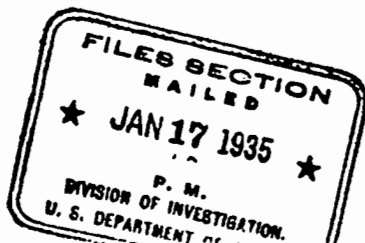
Very truly yours,

All b7C

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

CC Oklahoma City

1 copy





Division of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
P.O.Box 515, St.Paul, Minn.

*give  
Special  
attention.*

January 12, 1935.

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.....
Miss Gandy.....

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U.S.Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th St.N.W.,  
Washington,D.C.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sir:

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases,  
et al. CHARLES F. URSCHEL, Victim.  
-KIDNAPING-  
St.Paul File No. 7-8

Attached hereto is a memorandum submitted by Special Agent [redacted] of this office based on information furnished him by Special Agent [redacted] of the Intelligence Unit of the Internal Revenue Bureau.

It is my understanding that [redacted] is presently in St.Paul conducting, quietly, an investigation with a view to prosecuting one, [redacted] for evasion of income tax.

An expression from the Division will be appreciated as to whether it is advisable to take action on this information. The [redacted] referred to, of course, is [redacted]

Very truly yours,

*All b7C*

*D.M. Ladd*  
D.M. LADD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

Enc. *M L M*  
CC Oklahoma City (Enc. *4*)

RECORDED & INDEXED  
JAN 22 1935

7-115-1532  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
JAN 18 1935 P.M.

St. Paul, Minnesota,  
January 11, 1935,

MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE D. M. LADD:

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES w.a., et al  
Charles F. Urschel - Victim  
KIDNAPING

On January 10, 1935, [redacted] a Special Agent of the Intelligence Unit of the Internal Revenue Department, who is at present working on a tax case in St. Paul, informed the undersigned that he had received confidential information to the effect that a [redacted] a physician and surgeon in the Lowry Building, and who resides at [redacted] St. Paul, was buying a lot at White Bear Lake at the time of the Urschel kidnaping; that [redacted] approached one [redacted] and who is [redacted] a defendant in the Urschel case, for a loan to pay on this lot, and succeeded in borrowing \$2,000.00 from [redacted]. It is also understood that [redacted] is related to [redacted]. After it was discovered that the \$2,000 which [redacted] borrowed from [redacted] was part of the ransom money in the Urschel case, [redacted] attempted to recover it from [redacted] but [redacted] had already paid it on the lot. [redacted] states that he further learned that [redacted] was paying \$500 a month protection to a prohibition agent named [redacted], and at the time of the Urschel case, paid \$500 to [redacted] after which it was discovered that this \$500 was part of the ransom money in the Urschel case; that [redacted] asked that [redacted] return this money, but that [redacted] did not do so, but instead placed it in a safe deposit box, and so far as the above [redacted] has been able to ascertain, [redacted] who is still employed in the prohibition enforcement work in St. Paul, still has this money in a safe deposit box.

Respectfully submitted,

[redacted]  
Special Agent.

All b7C

RECEIVED

GNL: **b7C**

29063

January 18, 1935

7-115-1533

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith please find copies of a letter from Chief Inspector W. F. Griffin of the Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, dated January 12, 1935, addressed to Special Agent in Charge W. A. Rorer at Nashville, Tennessee, in which is set forth information concerning Dr. C. J. Adams, who is reported to have formerly served as a police surgeon in Detroit, Michigan, and who is suspected of having in his possession \$2,000.00 of the Drachel ransom money.

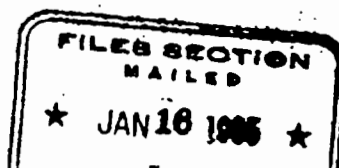
It is desired that you institute immediate inquiries concerning the activities of Dr. Adams in your district, and the Nashville Office is requested to secure as much additional information as possible from Inspector Griffin and his informant relative to this individual.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Inclosure #55352

cc - Nashville  
Oklahoma City



8/01 Galt

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
DETECTIVE DIVISION  
WM. T. GRIFFIN  
CHIEF INSPECTOR



COMMISSION GOVERNMENT  
WATKINS OVERTON, MAYOR  
MEMPHIS, TENN.

January 12th, 1935.

Mr. Barker	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Egan	.....

Mr. W. A. Rogers,  
Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Nashville, Tennessee.

29064

Dear Sir:-

The information given below is from a local informant that I am not in position to reveal their identity at this time, and it is given to you for whatever it may be worth. Informant I think can be depended upon to tell the truth, and I think told the truth in this case.

Mr. C. J. Adrienne, of French extraction, formerly a police surgeon in Detroit, Mich., but whose license were revoked for unethical practice was in the City of Memphis just before Christmas and told informant the following story:

That he had at the present time in a safety deposit box in Minneapolis, Minn., in his wife's name, two thousand dollars of the Urschel ransom money, and that the President of the company he represents had ten thousand dollars of this same money that he bought for twenty-five hundred dollars.

Suspect married [redacted] of Jonesboro, Ark., and informant has known the [redacted] woman for many years, and it was through her that [redacted] acquaintance with Dr. Adrienne was made.

INDEXED

The Doctor is working for the Rogers Redemption Bureau, which is a concern that sells coupons to milk dairy concerns as a trade stimulant. He is travelling in a Packard coupe and is sometimes accompanied by his wife.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
DETECTIVE DIVISION  
WM. T. GRIFFIN  
CHIEF INSPECTOR



COMMISSION GOVERNMENT  
WATKINS OVERTON, MAYOR  
MEMPHIS, TENN.

29065

He was in Nashville, Tenn. recently, and from there he said he was going to Chattanooga, thence to Birmingham, Ala.

He was in jail at Piggott, Ark. sometime last year in connection with some fraud case, but was released on an appearance bond, which informant thinks he forfeited.

Yours truly,

*W. T. Griffin*  
CHIEF INSPECTOR.

Copy:

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.



29066

COMMISSION GOVERNMENT  
CLIFFORD DAVIS  
COMMISSIONER OF FIRE AND POLICE



Hon. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ 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.

- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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

- ☐ For your information:

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

7-115-1534

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

DAY LETTER	DAY RADIO
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

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

# WESTERN UNION

W. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEY  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

TIME FILED

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

W. A. RORER  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
606 MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING  
NASHVILLE TENN

GEORGE KELLY BARNES REAL KIDNAPPING NO RECORD DOCTOR AIRLINE STOPPING LETTER  
GLASS HOTELS BIRMINGHAM

HANSON

Chg. Govt. Rate  
Off:Bus

George Kelly Barnes et al  
Charles F. Urachel - Victim  
Kidnapping

*P. O. Division*  
*W. B.*

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

JAN 22 1935

7-115-1535  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
JAN 21 1935  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
ONE

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE



DB: **[REDACTED]**  
7-6

b7C

P. O. Box 1276  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
January 17, 1935

Special Agent in Charge,  
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Sir:

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

Clara Feldman, the wife of Subject George Bates, is now in the County Jail at Oklahoma City awaiting trial in this case. She has received two letters from Kansas City which have had the effect of alarming her considerably and causing her to feel that possibly some bodily harm will come to her. Both of these letters are in the same handwriting. The first is dated December 6, 1934 and reads as follows:

"Dear Clara:-

"Do you remember staying one night in Lawton Okla?

"If you are ever in Ks look me up in City Directory. I would love to see you.

"Lovingly  
Spot "

It will be observed that no address is given in this letter. The second letter is dated January 15, 1935 and reads as follows:

"Dear Clara:-

"Are you the party that had a sister in St. Louis, Mo that you and I & her and her husband spent New Years together some 18 years ago? If you are I would like to see you when you ever come to Ks. If you want to see me

"Sorry to hear of your trouble and hope you are innocent.

"With best wishes,

Your old friend  
**[REDACTED]**

b7C

3700

2000-1100-1536

7-115-1536

RECORDED

-2-

It will be observed that 2200 Brooklyn Avenue is given as an address although the 2200 is obliterated and there appears the number 3700 Brooklyn, Kansas City, Missouri.

With the second letter there were received a two cent stamp and a one cent stamp. The first letter is addressed to Clara Feldman at Portland, Oregon and the second is addressed to her care of the United States Marshal's office, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Clara Feldman has stated that she does not know any person by the name of "Spot" and the word itself has caused her some apprehension for the reason that she feels that the use of the word "spot" means that she is to be "put on the spot".

It is requested that discreet inquiry be conducted in an effort to ascertain whether there is such a person as [REDACTED] and just why such individual is writing Clara Feldman.

Very truly yours,

All b7C

DWIGHT BRANTLEY,  
Special Agent in Charge.

cc-Division. ✓

CHL: [REDACTED] b7C

JANUARY 17, 1935

W A RORER  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
508 MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING  
NASHVILLE TENNESSEE

GEORGE KELLY BARNES WA ETAL CHARLES F HIRSCHEL VICTIM  
KIDNAPING SUGGEST HOLD INVESTIGATION RE DR C J ADRIENNE  
ABSENCE PENDING OUTCOME INVESTIGATION MINNEAPOLIS  
STOP KEEP DIVISION INFORMED RE ADRIENNE MOVEMENTS

HOOVER

3 copies  
e-1

RECORDED

7-115-1537	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 22 1935 P.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
	FILE

WESTERN UNION

6 20 p

SLICK-URSCHEL OIL COMPANY

Tulsa  
OKLA.

January 9, 1934

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...  
Miss Gandy...

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,  
Division of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

During recent months I have had occasion to discuss with many members of Congress from Oklahoma, Texas and other states, the excellent work being done by your organization.

Permit me to suggest that I have never seen a time more propitious for securing adequate appropriations for your work. The public soon forgets and in the increasing protests against additional taxes, it might be more difficult in future years to properly finance your division.

I feel that at the present time any request within reason that you might make would be promptly voted.

Mr. Urschel and Myself were in Portland with Nathan and Speers when they unearthed \$34,000.00 of the ransom money and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. Permit me to congratulate you on the remarkable work that your division has done.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

*E. E. Kirkpatrick*  
E. E. Kirkpatrick  
403 First National Bank Building.

EEK:A

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

7-115-1537