

Washington, D.C.
September 29, 1935

4
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

Just before the opening of service this morning, a stranger introduced himself to me, saying he believed he had some information regarding "Machine Gun Kelley" which he thought might be helpful.

He said he had been called as a chiropractor to attend a [redacted] at a Washington hotel shortly before Kelley's capture, found there two men and a woman whom he feels able to describe or recognize, one of the men being short, baldheaded and with a cut on the side of his head, the others he now believes to have been Kelley and his wife.

If this information seems desirable, I should like to be sure that the practitioner will not be incriminated as having aided a criminal, provided the aid was given unwittingly at the time, as I understand. In the short discussion I had with him, I could not determine whether or not his information would probably prove valuable, but have his address awaiting instructions.

Very truly yours,
[redacted]

Technical Section

All b7C

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

OCT 24 1935

7-115-173	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
OCT 1 1935	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TOLSON	TAMM
ONE	FI

RECORDED

7-115-1735

October 22, 1935.

Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear [redacted]

Reference is made to your communication of September 29, 1935 furnishing certain information with regard to a chiropractor who may have been contacted by George Kelly Barnes shortly before the latter's apprehension.

Reference is also made to the information which you furnished to [redacted] of the Bureau in a subsequent interview along the same lines.

I wish to express my appreciation for your manifestation of interest in the work of the Bureau as was demonstrated by transmitting this information to the interested supervisor.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

cc Mr. Edwards

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
OCT 22 1935
F. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
OCT 22 1935
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

All b7c

[Handwritten signature]

October 9, 1935.

2631

Special Agent in Charge,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-115-1734	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
OCT 10 1935 A. M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
	FILE

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES with aliases,
et al; CHARLES F. URDGEHL,
Victims Kidnaping

Dear Sir:

[redacted] an employee of the Technical Section of the Bureau, has advised that on September 29, 1935, he was approached by [redacted] a chiropractor, [redacted] Washington, D. C., that [redacted] had read in the papers that the Government is still interested in any Greebel ransom money which might be outstanding. He then informed [redacted] that approximately one week before "Machine Gun" Kelly was captured at Memphis, Tennessee, he, [redacted], received a call to attend a [redacted] at the Hamilton Hotel in Washington; that upon arrival in [redacted] room he observed another man and a woman in company with [redacted] that after the capture of "Machine Gun" Kelly he believed he recognized [redacted] as being identical with the photographs of "Machine Gun" Kelly, which were circulated in the newspapers.

[redacted] did not furnish [redacted] with the description of Kelly but advised that the man in company with Kelly was thick set, bald headed and had a cut scar on the side of his head. It was [redacted] opinion that the woman in the room was identical with Kathryn Kelly.

[redacted] has informed that he did not previously know [redacted] and that [redacted] approached him just before church services in the United Presbyterian Church in Washington, D. C. [redacted] could give no reason for [redacted] approaching him, except for the fact that someone must have told [redacted] that he, [redacted] was in the employ of this Bureau.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
These data are being furnished you for your information only
at this time

OCT - 9 1935
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OC - Nashville

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

7/14m

All b7C

October 19, 1935.

7-115 -1735

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

RE: CLIFFORD SKELLY -- Application
for Pardon

Dear Sir:

Your attention is directed to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma October 8, 1935 and which reflects that Clifford Skelly was convicted as a conspirator in the case entitled GEORGE KELLY BARNES with aliases, et al; CHARLES F. URSCHEL - Victim, Kidnaping.

The Bureau desires that another report be submitted in this case, definitely outlining the offense which Skelly committed and for which he was sentenced. It is desired that this matter be given immediate attention.

The report of Special Agent [redacted] is not being submitted to the Pardon Attorney at this time but is being retained in the Bureau's files and will be replaced by the report which you will subsequently forward.

Very truly yours,

All b7c

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION MAILED OCT 19 1935 P. M. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RECEIVED
OCT 19 1935
[Handwritten signature]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

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

FILE NO. **73-189**

REPORT MADE AT Oklahoma City, Okla.	DATE WHEN MADE 10-8-35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10-2-35	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE CLIFFORD SKELLY		CHARACTER OF CASE Application for Pardon	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[Handwritten checkmark]

Subject Skelly, who was convicted as a conspirator in the George Kelly Barnes with aliases, et al; Charles F. Urschel, victim, Kidnaping case, in Federal Court at Oklahoma City, Okla., made application for pardon August 14, 1935. United States Attorney, Oklahoma City, Okla., requests investigation be made into the activities of subject, both prior and subsequent to his conviction in the Urschel Kidnaping case. Apparently no investigation is required in this district. Appropriate undeveloped leads set out.

P.

DETAILS:

By letter dated September 16, 1935, William C. Lewis, United States Attorney, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, advised the Oklahoma City Bureau Office that Clifford Skelly, who was convicted as a conspirator in the George Kelly Barnes, with aliases, et al; Charles F. Urschel-Victim, Kidnaping case, had made application for executive clemency on August 14, 1935, and that James A. Finch, Pardon Attorney, Department of Justice, had forwarded Skelly's application to the United States Attorney's Office at Oklahoma City for recommendation. On September 16, 1935 Skelly's application for pardon was forwarded to this office, together with copies of two letters dated Sept. 12 and 13, 1935 received by the United States Attorney's office at Oklahoma City from the Pardon Attorney, which letters relate to subject's application for pardon.

In addition to the above, this office has also received from the United States Attorney at Oklahoma City a copy of a memorandum which was forwarded

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES			
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 2 - St. Paul <i>[Handwritten notes: RECORDED 10/19/35]</i>		7	115	1735	OCT 12 1935
		<i>[Handwritten: OCT 22 AM]</i>			OCT 21 1935

by the Pardon Attorney to Mr. Lewis under date of September 13, 1935, which memorandum, the Pardon Attorney states in his letter of September 13th, contains information from a confidential source relating to the present alleged activities of subject Skelly in connection with the sale of liquor.

The United States Attorney at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma has asked the Oklahoma City Bureau Office to conduct the investigation requested by the Pardon Attorney; namely, to conduct a vigorous investigation into the activities of subject Skelly, both prior and subsequent to his conviction in the Urschel Kidnaping case, in order that the Department may have full information with respect to Skelly's activities.

Concerning the history of subject's case, the records of the Oklahoma City Bureau office disclose that on August 23, 1933 a Federal Grand Jury in session at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma returned a True Bill of Indictment charging subject, with others, with violation of Section 408 a, Title 18, U.S.C.A., and that subject was convicted in the United States District Court of the Western District of Oklahoma, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, of the crime of conspiracy to violate the provisions of the Act of Congress approved June 22, 1932, commonly known as the Kidnaping Statute, and was sentenced October 7, 1933 to serve five years in a United States Penitentiary. However, the records of this office reflect that subject Skelly has not yet been committed to a Federal Penitentiary to serve instant sentence, but that his case was taken on appeal to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, for the Tenth Circuit, where the judgment was affirmed March 25, 1935, after which it was taken to the Supreme Court of the United States on petition for Writ of Certiorari, which petition was denied May 26, 1935. The records further disclose that subject's sentence has now been stayed until November 1, 1935.

Attached to Skelly's application for executive clemency are 25 letters addressed to the Honorable Edgar S. Vaught, Judge, United States District Court, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, which letters request leniency for subject Skelly. Appropriate undeveloped leads are being set out in this report for the writers of said letters to be interviewed.

The aforementioned memorandum containing information from a confidential source, relating to the present alleged activities of Clifford Skelly, which memorandum was forwarded to the United States Attorney at Oklahoma City by the Pardon Attorney of the Department of Justice, states that subject Skelly is in the liquor business in Minneapolis, Minnesota; that his name does not appear on licenses or corporation papers, but that he makes no secret of his connection with the business. It is stated in said memorandum that Skelly is associated with his brother, J. H. Skelly, in operation of a liquor store, the Skelly Sales, Inc., 410 Cedar Avenue, and that the license is issued to the brother.

It is also stated in said memorandum that more detailed data and "inside" information on the activities of subject can be obtained from [REDACTED] United States Bureau of Industrial Alcohol operative in Chicago, and that additional information may also be obtained from [REDACTED] Minnesota Liquor Control Commissioner at St. Paul.

Since there is apparently no investigation required in the Oklahoma City district in instant case, the following undeveloped leads are being set out for the offices in which districts investigation appears to be necessary.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

ST. PAUL OFFICE at Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota will conduct the necessary investigation into the activities of subject Skelly, as requested by the United States Attorney, bearing in mind information set out in this report as being contained in memorandum furnished by the Pardon Attorney.

ST. PAUL OFFICE at Minneapolis, Minnesota will interview the following persons whose names are signed to letters addressed to Honorable Edgar S. Vaught, Judge, United States District Court, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: These letters request leniency for subject Skelly.

- [REDACTED] Water Works Department, Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Produce Dept., Armour & Co., 219-5th St., North, Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Kelly Brothers Company, 923 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Minneapolis, Minn.
- [REDACTED] The White Motor Co., 2824 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Central Republic Company, 1220 Rand Tower, Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] American Linen Company, 909-15 La Salle Ave., Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Malmberg & Nelson, 810 Security Building, Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] South Side Business Men's Association, 1803 S. 4th St., Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Malmberg & Nelson, 810 Security Building, Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Rollins, Inc., 2000 Portland Ave., Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Water Works Department, Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Certified Public Accountant, 703 Pence Building, Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Flour City Body Corporation, 2947 Blaisdell Ave., Minneapolis.

All b7C

[redacted] Wheel Service Company, 135-9 Eleventh St.
South, Minneapolis.
[redacted] Attorney-at-Law, 424 Baker Building, Minneapolis.
[redacted], Minneapolis.
[redacted] Service Dept., Water Dept., 935 5 Ave.
S.E., Minneapolis.
[redacted] Water Works Department, Minneapolis.
[redacted], The Roycraft Company, 1625 Hennepin Ave.,
Minneapolis.
[redacted] Div. 474, Brotherhood of Locomotive
Engineers, 4226 Colfax Ave., No. Minneapolis.
[redacted] Minneapolis Lodge No. 44, B.P.O.E., Minneapolis.
[redacted] Water Works Department, Minneapolis.

AI
b7c

It is suggested that the St. Paul Office make sufficient inquiries concerning the above persons in order to establish their true identity and reputation, and they should be questioned for any information which they might have concerning the activities of subject Skelly.

At the conclusion of the above investigation it is suggested that the St. Paul Office locate and interview subject, at which time it is also suggested that a complete description be obtained of subject.

CHICAGO OFFICE at Chicago, Illinois will interview [redacted] of the Continental Distilling Corporation, 323 W. Polk Street, for any information he may have as to the activities of subject Skelly. It is noted that [redacted] wrote a letter to Honorable Edgar S. Vaught at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, under date of June 20, 1935, in which letter [redacted] requested leniency for subject Skelly. It is suggested that the Chicago Office make sufficient inquiries concerning [redacted] in order to establish his true identity and reputation.

CHICAGO OFFICE, at Chicago, Illinois, will locate and interview [redacted], a United States Bureau of Industrial Alcohol Operative in Chicago, for any information he may have as to the activities of Skelly.

ST. LOUIS OFFICE, at St. Louis, Missouri, will interview [redacted], St. Louis, for any information he may have as to the activities of subject Skelly. It will be noted that [redacted] wrote a letter to Honorable Edgar S. Vaught at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, under date of July 9, 1935, requesting leniency for Skelly. It is also suggested that the St. Louis Office make sufficient inquiries concerning [redacted] in order to establish his identity and reputation.

OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE at Oklahoma City will confer with the United States Attorney after the leads for the St. Paul, Chicago and St. Louis Offices have been covered, and ascertain whether or not any further investigation is desired.

P E N D I N G.

7-115 -1736

October 19, 1935.

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

RE: EDWARD BERMAN - Applica-
tion for Pardon

Dear Sir:

Your attention is directed to the report of Special Agent [redacted], dated at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma October 8, 1935 and which reflects that Edward Berman was convicted as a conspirator in the case entitled GEORGE KELLY BARNES with aliases, et al; CHARLES F. URSCHEL - Victim, Kidnaping.

The Bureau desires that another report be submitted in this case, definitely outlining the offense which Berman committed and for which he was sentenced. It is desired that this matter be given immediate attention.

The report of Special Agent [redacted] is not being submitted to the Pardon Attorney at this time but is being retained in the Bureau's files and will be replaced by the report which you will subsequently forward.

Very truly yours,

All b7C

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
OCT 19 1935
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DIRECTOR

OCT 19 1935

NOV 20 1935

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

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

FILE NO. **78-188**

REPORT MADE AT Oklahoma City, Okla.	DATE WHEN MADE 10-8-35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10-2-35	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE EDWARD BERMAN			CHARACTER OF CASE Application for Pardon

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject Berman, who was convicted as a conspirator in the George Kelly Barnes with aliases, et al; Charles F. Urschel, Victim, Kidnaping case, made application for pardon August 14, 1935. U.S. Attorney, Oklahoma City, Okla., requests investigation into activities of subject both prior and subsequent to his conviction in the Urschel Kidnaping case. Apparently no investigation is required in this district. Appropriate undeveloped leads set out.

P.

DETAILS:

By letter dated September 16, 1935, William C. Lewis, United States Attorney, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, advised the Oklahoma City Bureau Office that Edward Berman, who was convicted as a conspirator in the George Kelly Barnes with aliases, et al; Charles F. Urschel-Victim, Kidnaping case, had made application for executive clemency on August 14, 1935, and that James A. Finch, Pardon Attorney, Department of Justice, had forwarded Berman's application to the United States Attorney's Office at Oklahoma City for recommendation.

Berman's application for pardon was forwarded to this office by Mr. Lewis on September 16, 1935, together with copies of two letters dated Sept. 12 and 13, 1935, received by the United States Attorney's Office, Oklahoma City, from the Pardon Attorney, which letters relate to subject's application for pardon. In addition to the above, this office has also received from the United States Attorney at Oklahoma City a copy of a memorandum which was forwarded by the Pardon Attorney to Mr. Lewis under date of Sept. 13, 1935,

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 2 - St. Paul	7 115 1736	OCT 12 1935
	OCT 12 AM	OCT 22 1935

which memorandum, Mr. Finch states in his letter of September 13, 1935, contains information from a confidential source relating to the present alleged activities of Edward Berman in connection with the sale of liquor.

The United States Attorney at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma has asked the Oklahoma City Bureau Office to conduct the investigation requested by the Pardon Attorney; namely, to conduct a vigorous investigation into the activities of subject Berman, both prior and subsequent to his conviction in the Urschel Kidnaping case, in order that the Department may have full information with respect to Berman's activities.

Concerning the history of subject's case, the records of the Oklahoma City Bureau Office disclose that on August 23, 1933 a Federal Grand Jury in session at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma returned a True Bill of Indictment charging subject, with others, with violation of Section 408 a, Title 18, U.S.C.A., and that subject was convicted in the United States District Court of the Western District of Oklahoma, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, of the crime of conspiracy to violate the provisions of the Act of Congress approved June 22, 1932, commonly known as the Kidnaping Statute, and was sentenced October 7, 1933 to serve five years in a United States Penitentiary. However, the records of this office disclose that subject has not yet been committed to a Federal Penitentiary to serve instant sentence, but that his case was taken on appeal to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, for the Tenth Circuit, where the judgment was affirmed March 25, 1935, after which it was taken to the Supreme Court of the United States on petition for Writ of Certiorari, which petition was denied May 26, 1935. The records of this office further reflect that subject's sentence has now been stayed until November 1, 1935.

Attached to Berman's application for pardon there are 29 letters addressed to the Honorable Edgar S. Vaught, Judge, United States District Court, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. These letters show the respective addresses of the writers to be either St. Paul or Minneapolis, Minnesota, and request leniency for subject Berman. The St. Paul Bureau Office is being requested in an undeveloped lead set out in this report to establish the true identity of the writers of said letters, and to interview them for any information they may have concerning the activities of subject.

The aforementioned memorandum, containing information from a confidential source, relating to the present alleged activities of Edward Berman, which memorandum was forwarded to the United States Attorney at Oklahoma City by the Pardon Attorney of the Department of Justice, states that Berman is in the liquor business in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that his name does not appear on licenses or corporation papers, but that he makes no secret of his connection with the business. The memorandum states that Berman associates with

Isadore Blumnefeld (Kid Cann) and "Kid Brownie" Braunstein; that rival liquor dealers claim the group operates two liquor stores, the Minneapolis Liquor Mart and the East Side Liquor store, besides having an interest in at least three liquor cafes, the Keystone Bar, Powers, and the Six-Twenty Club; that Berman's name does not appear, but that his father's does; that the group is reputedly connected with the La Pompadour Co., manufacturers of the Chesapeake Brands of liquors. It is further stated in said memorandum that Berman, Kid Cann and Braunstein are reputedly interested in another liquor license now under fire with the city council.

The memorandum states that more detailed data and "inside" information on the activities of Berman can be obtained from [REDACTED] a United States Bureau of Industrial Alcohol operative in Chicago, and that additional information may also be obtained from [REDACTED], Minnesota Liquor Control Commissioner at St. Paul.

Since there is apparently no investigation required in the Oklahoma City district in instant case, the following undeveloped leads are being set out for the offices in which districts investigation appears to be necessary.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

ST. PAUL OFFICE at St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota will conduct the necessary investigation into the activities of subject Berman, as requested by the United States Attorney, bearing in mind the information set out in this report as being contained in said memorandum furnished by the Pardon Attorney.

At St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota will also interview the following persons whose names are signed to letters addressed to Honorable Edgar S. Vaught, Judge, United States District Court, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and which letters request leniency for subject:

- [REDACTED] Jacobson Fixture Exchange, Inc.,
219-23 South Fifth St., Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Harris Machinery Co., 30th Ave. S.E. Near University
Ave., Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] State of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn.
- [REDACTED] Anderson Motor Company, Minneapolis, 1201 East Lake St.
- [REDACTED] Colonial Warehouses, Inc., 218 3rd Avenue
North, Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Empire-Rieder Company, 505 First Avenue, N.E.,
Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Ed Phillips & Sons Co., Minneapolis.
- [REDACTED] Roosevelt Finance Company, 338 McKnight Bldg.,
Minneapolis.

All
b7c

[REDACTED] Chesapeake Brands, Inc., Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] So. Seventh St., Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] Jarvaise Company, 115 Fifth Street, N.E.,
Minneapolis.
[REDACTED]
Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] Distillers Distributing Corporation,
18 No. 3rd St., Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] Nordlin & Oliver, Pioneer Bldg., Saint Paul.
[REDACTED] Flour City Paper Box Co., 504-510 Plymouth
Avenue, Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] Hancock-Nelson Mercantile Co.,
Saint Paul.
[REDACTED] New England Mutual Life Insurance Company,
541 Northwestern Bank Bldg., Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] St. Anthony Falls Bank Bldg., Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] Richmen Brothers Co., 522-4 Nicollet
Ave., Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] Liberty Garage, 811 So., 5th Ave.,
Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] No. Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] Flour City Trunk Co., 1301-07 S. Third St.,
Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] New Pantages Theatre, Hennepin Avenue
at Seventh St., Minneapolis.
[REDACTED] Karadio Corporation, 50 Eleventh Ave. N.E.,
Minneapolis.

All b7C

The St. Paul Office, at Fosston, Minnesota, will also interview [REDACTED] who addressed a letter to Hon. Edgar S. Vaught at Oklahoma City requesting leniency for subject.

Some of the names signed to the aforementioned letters are illegible, but the above list represents the apparent spelling of the names, however, the address given on each letter is shown above.

It is suggested that the St. Paul Office make sufficient inquiries concerning the above persons in order to establish their true identity and reputation, and the above persons should be interviewed for any information which they might have concerning the activities of subject.

At the conclusion of the above investigation it is suggested that the St. Paul Office locate and interview subject, at which time it is also suggested that a complete description of subject be obtained.

b7c CHICAGO OFFICE at Chicago, Illinois will locate and interview one [REDACTED] a United States Bureau of Industrial Alcohol Operative in Chicago, for any information he may have as to the activities of subject Berman.

OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE at Oklahoma City will confer with the United States Attorney, after the leads for the St. Paul and Chicago Offices have been covered, and ascertain whether or not any further investigation is desired.

P E N D I N G .

[REDACTED] b7C

7-115

October 21, 1935.

Special Agent in Charge,
Chicago, Illinois.

[Handwritten initials]

Dear Sir:

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with alias, et al;
CHARLES F. ORECHEL, VICTIM;
KIDNAPING.

Reference is made to a letter of the Bureau dated July 27, 1935 in which your office was requested to advise the Bureau of the present status of the prosecution of Joe Bergel, Abe Kaplan, and Charles Kaplan, who are presently under indictment in Chicago, Illinois on the charge of harboring George Kelly Barnes.

Please advise the Bureau immediately in the premises.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED & INDEXED

John Edgar Hoover
Director.

cc Oklahoma City ✓

7-115-1737	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
OCT 22 1935 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
DIRECTOR	FILE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

OCT 21 1935

P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten signature]

DB: [redacted]
73-188

P. O. Box 1276
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
October 26, 1935



360

DM

Special Agent in Charge,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

Re: EDWARD BERMAN,
Application for Pardon

The report of Special Agent [redacted] of this office in the above entitled case, dated October 8, 1935, directs leads to your office. There is attached hereto a report of Special Agent [redacted] of this office, dated October 25, 1935, which contains the same leads. This report is rendered for the reason that the Bureau desired more definite history concerning the case, and this letter is in explanation of the submission to your office of this report.

Very truly yours,

DWIGHT BRANTLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

enc.
cc - Bureau
Chicago

All b7C

7-115-
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 29 1935 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Cam

DB: [redacted]
73-189.

P. O. Box 1276
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
October 26, 1935

Special Agent in Charge,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

Re: CLIFFORD KELLY,
Application for Pardon

The report of Special Agent [redacted] of this office in the above captioned case, dated October 8, 1935, directs leads to your office. There is attached hereto a report of Special Agent [redacted] of this office, dated October 25, 1935, which contains the same leads. This report is rendered for the reason that the Bureau desired more definite history concerning the case, and this letter is in explanation of the submission to your office of this report.

Very truly yours,

All b7c

DNIGHT BRANTLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

enc.

cc - Bureau
St. Louis
Chicago

001 531832 EW
OCT 27 1935
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED

7-115-
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 29 1935 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 812

Chicago, Illinois

alg

October 24th, 1935

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Pennsylvania Ave. at 9th St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with
alias, et al; CHARLES F.
MURSCHEL, VICTIM; KIDNAPING.

In reply to your letter of October 21st, 1935, referring to Bureau letter of July 27th, 1935, inquiring concerning the status of the prosecution of the case of Joe Bergel, Abe Kaplan and Charles Kaplan, I desire to call the Bureau's attention to my reply to the Bureau's letter of July 27th, 1935, which letter was dated July 31st, and which was submitted in the case entitled ABEL CAPLAN, alias Harry Carper; et al; HARBORING AND CONCEALING PERSONS FOR WHOM WARRANTS HAD BEEN ISSUED AND CONSPIRACY.

As noted in that letter, this Office has opened a separate file bearing the above title and character and reports are being submitted in that file, the latest report from this Office being that of September 19th, 1935, indicating that Federal Judge Wilkerson at Chicago had entered an order overruling the demurrer which was filed in this matter, and which report sets out a lead for this Office to confer with Assistant United States Attorney Eben during the month of October.

It is expected that a report will be submitted concerning this matter at an early date.

Very truly yours,

7-115-1738

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 26 1935 A.M.

D. M. LADD
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED

INDEXED

NOV 4 1935

DML
62-1750

cc - Oklahoma City

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-30459

Handwritten signatures and initials

Handwritten notes at bottom

November 2, 1935.

b7C

RECORDED

7-115 -1738
62-30459

Special Agent in Charge,
Chicago, Illinois.

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with alias,
et al; Charles F. Urschel,
Victim; Kidnaping.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated October 24, 1935, in which you indicate that an Agent of your office will soon confer with the Assistant United States Attorney at Chicago concerning the anticipated prosecution of Abe Caplan and Charles Caplan.

Please inform the Bureau immediately of the results of this interview so that the Bureau will be advised of the prosecutive action in this matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc - Oklahoma City

[Handwritten signature]

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
NOV - 2 1935
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DIRECTOR
NOV 2 1935
NOV 2 1935
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

FILE NO. **73-188**

REPORT MADE AT Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	DATE WHEN MADE 10/25/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/24/35	REPORT MADE BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px; display: inline-block;"></div> b7c
TITLE <p style="text-align: center;">EDWARD BERMAN</p>			CHARACTER OF CASE <p style="text-align: center;">Application for Pardon</p>

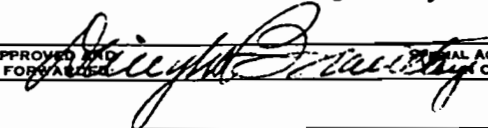
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Edward Berman, who was convicted as a conspirator in the George Kelly Barnes with aliases, et al; Charles F. Urschel - Victim, Kidnaping case in the Federal Court at Oklahoma City on 9/30/33 and sentenced in the U. S. District Court at Oklahoma City on 10/7/33 to serve 5 years in a U. S. Penitentiary, made application for pardon on 8/14/35. The U. S. Attorney, Oklahoma City, has requested investigation made into the activities of Subject, prior and subsequent to his conviction in the Urschel kidnaping case.

P.

DETAILS:

By letter dated September 16, 1935, William C. Lewis, United States Attorney, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, advised the Oklahoma City Bureau Office that Edward Berman, who was convicted as a conspirator in the George Kelly Barnes with aliases, et al; Charles F. Urschel - Victim, Kidnaping case, had made application for executive clemency on August 14, 1935, and that James A. Finch, Pardon Attorney, Department of Justice, had forwarded Berman's application to the United States Attorney's Office at Oklahoma City for recommendation.

Berman's application for pardon was forwarded to this office by Mr. Lewis on September 16, 1935, together with copies of two letters dated Sept. 12 and 13, 1935, received by the United States Attorney's Office, Oklahoma City, from the Pardon Attorney, which letters relate to Subject's application for pardon. In addition to the above, this office has also received from the United States Attorney at Oklahoma City a copy of a memorandum which was forwarded by the Pardon Attorney to Mr. Lewis under date of Sept. 13, 1935, which memorandum, Mr. Finch states in his letter

APPROVED AND FORWARDED 	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT	7 115 1739
3 - Bureau 2 - St. Paul 2 - Chicago	OCT 29 1935 OCT 31 1935 OCT 29 A.M. COPIES DESTROYED MAR 17 1965

of September 13, 1935, contains information from a confidential source relating to the present alleged activities of Edward Berman in connection with the sale of liquor.

The United States Attorney at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma has asked the Oklahoma City Bureau Office to conduct the investigation requested by the Pardon Attorney; namely, to conduct a vigorous investigation into the activities of Subject Berman, both prior and subsequent to his conviction in the Urschel Kidnaping case, in order that the Department may have full information with respect to Berman's activities.

Concerning the history of Subject's case, the records of the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, disclose that a true bill of indictment was returned by a Federal Grand Jury at Oklahoma City on August 25, 1935, charging that the defendants in this case conspired to violate Section 408-A, Title 18, U. S. Code. This indictment charged that on or about the 22nd day of July, 1935 and thence continuously thereafter until the return of this indictment in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at Paradise, Texas, at Denver, Colorado, at St. Paul, Minnesota, and at divers other places to the Grand Jurors unknown, and hence not herein stated, Albert L. Eates, George R. Kelly, Kathryn Thorn Kelly, Harvey J. Bailey, Robert G. Shannon, Armon Crawford Shannon, Ora L. Shannon, Charles Wolk, Sam Kronick, Edward Berman, Peter Valder, Sam Kozberg, Clifford Skelly, and Isadore Blumenfeld, who are herein indicted, did knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously combine, confederate, and agree together and with each other and with divers other persons whose names are to the Grand Jurors unknown, and hence not herein stated, to commit during the period of time from the 22nd of July, 1935 and continuously thereafter up to and including the date and return of this indictment, a certain offense against the United States of America; that is to say, violate the provisions of the Act of Congress approved June 22, 1932, which provides a penalty for the transportation in interstate commerce of any kidnapped person held for ransom or reward.

That it was a part of said conspiracy that said defendants would on or about the 22nd day of July, 1935 at the home of Charles F. Urschel, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, seize, kidnap, and abduct the said Charles F. Urschel hereinafter referred to as Victim.

That it was further a part of said conspiracy that after having unlawfully seized and confined the said Charles F. Urschel in their custody at the time and place aforesaid, the defendants aforesaid, thereafter would hold and demand for his safe release from their custody, ransom in the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in genuine used Federal Reserve Currency in the denomination of twenty dollars.

That it was a further part of said conspiracy that the defendants would abduct, carry away and transport Victim in interstate commerce, to wit: from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, by a route to be selected by the defendants, to and into the State of Texas, to a point in Texas approximately five miles from Paradise, Wise County, Texas.

That it was a further part of said conspiracy that the defendants, immediately upon receipt of said ransom money would proceed to Denver, Colorado, St. Paul, Minnesota, and divers other points unknown to the Grand Jurors far distant from the scene of kidnaping, place of confinement and place of ransom payment for the purpose of changing said ransom money for other moneys or securities in order to avoid detection, apprehension and arrest through the means of marked money.

And the Grand Jurors upon their oaths aforesaid do further charge and present, that the hereinafter named defendants did, at the several times and places hereinafter mentioned in connection with their names, the several overt acts hereinafter specified.

Overt Act #15.

That on or about August 5, 1933 at Minneapolis, Minnesota, Edward Berman alias Barney Berman, Charles Wolk, Peter Valder alias Hackett alias Nelson, Sam Kozberg, Sam Kronick, Isador Blumenfeld and Clifford Skelly did knowingly, wilfully, and unlawfully possess, conceal and exchange approximately Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00) of the original ransom money paid to the said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urschel.

On September 1, 1933 on arraignment in the United States District Court at Oklahoma City, Edward Berman, by his attorney, entered a plea of not guilty to the indictment.

On September 30, 1933 a petit jury in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma at Oklahoma City, returned a verdict of guilty against Edward Berman. In the United States District Court at Oklahoma City, on October 7, 1933, Federal Judge Edgar S. Vaught sentenced Edward Berman to serve a term of 5 years in a United States Penitentiary.

On October 7, 1933 Edward Berman filed a petition for appeal to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for 10th Circuit and order allowing the appeal was entered by the Court the same day.

Judgment was affirmed by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for 10th Circuit on March 25, 1935.

A petition to the Supreme Court of the United States for a Writ of Certiorari was denied May 26, 1935.

Sentence against Edward Berman has been stayed until November 1, 1935.

A short summary of the facts in this case is as follows:

On the night of July 22, 1933, Mr. Charles Urschel was kidnaped at his home at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and was taken by automobile to Texas, where he was held as a prisoner on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Shannon near Paradise, Texas, until July 31, 1933. On July 25, 1933 one of the kidnapers requested Urschel to designate a friend to act as an intermediary with his family. Mr. Urschel suggested John G. Catlett, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mr. Urschel was then compelled to write a letter to Mr. Catlett requesting him to act as an intermediary. This letter was received by Mr. Catlett on the morning of July 26, 1933 and Mr. Catlett immediately contacted business associates of Mr. Urschel at Oklahoma City. Mr. Urschel's business associates, through negotiations with the kidnapers, received instructions to have Mr. E. E. Kirkpatrick take \$200,000.00 in used Federal Reserve \$20.00 notes in a light colored tan handbag to Kansas City, Missouri and register at the Muhlbach Hotel and await further instructions. Mr. Kirkpatrick carried out these instructions and on the afternoon of July 30, 1933 delivered a handbag containing \$200,000. to a man whom he identified as Albert M. Bates. Mr. Kirkpatrick was told by this man that Urschel would be released shortly. On July 31, 1933 Mr. Urschel was released at Norman, Oklahoma.

Clifford Skelly, Edward Berman and Isadore Blumenfeld were partners in a bootlegging concern in Minneapolis, Minnesota and \$5500. of the ransom money was traced to them. Berman and Skelly stated that they secured this money from a man whom they did not know, but who gave the name of Collins, in payment for 125 cases of liquor, and that the payment of the \$5500. was made at their office in the West Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on August 3, 1933. Berman and Skelly stated that Collins counted out the money, which he gave to Clifford Skelly. Skelly stated that he disposed of the \$5500. as follows:

\$1400. to Max Bender; \$400. which he spent on repairs on his house; \$1100. to his brother-in-law; \$500. to Sam Kozberg; and \$1000. of this amount was paid for a Cashier's check of \$1800. purchased at the Hennepen State Bank, Minneapolis, Minn., on August 5, 1933 by Edward Berman, Sam Frederick, an employee of the Wolk Transfer Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and himself, Skelly.

The \$1000. paid as part payment for the \$1800. Cashier's check was in \$20.00 used Federal Reserve notes and was identified at the Hennepen State Bank, Minneapolis, Minnesota, as being part of the ransom money.

Attached to Berman's application for pardon there are 29 letters addressed to the Honorable Edgar S. Vaught, Judge, United States District Court, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. These letters show the respective addresses of the writers to be either St. Paul or Minneapolis, Minnesota, and request leniency for Subject Berman. The St. Paul Bureau Office is being requested in an undeveloped lead set out in this report to establish the true identity of the writers of said letters, and to interview them for any information they may have concerning the activities of Subject.

The aforementioned memorandum, containing information from a confidential source, relating to the present alleged activities of Edward Berman, which memorandum was forwarded to the United States Attorney at Oklahoma City by the Pardon Attorney of the Department of Justice, states that Berman is in the liquor business in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that his name does not appear on licenses or corporation papers, but that he makes no secret of his connection with the business. The memorandum states that Berman associates with Isadore Blumenfeld (Kid Cann) and "Kid Brownie" Braunstein; that rival liquor dealers claim the group operates two liquor stores, the Minneapolis Liquor Mart and the East Side Liquor store, besides having an interest in at least three liquor cafes, the Keystone Bar, Powers, and the Six-Twenty Club; that Berman's name does not appear, but that his father's does; that the group is reputedly connected with the La Pompadour Co., manufacturers of the Chesapeake Brands of liquors. It is further stated in said memorandum that Berman, Kid Cann and Braunstein are reputedly interested in another liquor license now under fire with the city council.

The memorandum states that more detailed data and "inside" information on the activities of Berman can be obtained from [REDACTED] a United States Bureau of Industrial Alcohol operative in Chicago, and that additional information may also be obtained from [REDACTED] Minnesota Liquor Control Commissioner at St. Paul. b7C

Since there is apparently no investigation required in the Oklahoma City district in instant case, the following undeveloped leads are being set out for the offices in which districts investigation appears to be necessary:

- ██████████ Richman Brothers Co., 522-4 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis.
- ██████████ Liberty Garage, 811 So., 5th Ave., Minneapolis. Minneapolis.
- ██████████ ██████████ Minneapolis.
- ██████████ ██████████ Minneapolis.
- ██████████ ██████████ Minneapolis.
- ██████████ Flour City Trunk Co., 1501-07 S. Third St., Minneapolis.
- ██████████ New Pantages Theatre, Hennepin Avenue at Seventh St., Minneapolis.
- ██████████ Karadio Corporation, 50 Eleventh Ave. N.E., Minneapolis.

The St. Paul Office, at Fosston, Minnesota, will also interview ██████████ who addressed a letter to Hon. Edgar S. Vaught at Oklahoma City requesting leniency for Subject.

Some of the names signed to the aforementioned letters are illegible, but the above list represents the apparent spelling of the names, however, the address given on each letter is shown above.

It is suggested that the St. Paul Office make sufficient inquiries concerning the above persons in order to establish their true identity and reputation, and the above persons should be interviewed for any information which they might have concerning the activities of Subject.

At the conclusion of the above investigation it is suggested that the St. Paul Office locate and interview Subject, at which time it is also suggested that a complete description of Subject be obtained.

CHICAGO OFFICE at Chicago, Illinois will locate and interview one ██████████ a United States Bureau of Industrial Alcohol Operative in Chicago, for any information he may have as to the activities of Subject Berman.

OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE at Oklahoma City will confer with the United States Attorney, after the leads for the St. Paul and Chicago Offices have been covered, and ascertain whether or not any further investigation is desired.

All b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

FILE NO. **73-189**

REPORT MADE AT Oklahoma City, Okla.	DATE WHEN MADE 10/25/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/24/35	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7C
TITLE CLIFFORD SKELLY		CHARACTER OF CASE Application for Pardon	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Clifford Skelly, who was convicted as a conspirator in the George Kelly Barnes with aliases, et al; Charles F. Urschel - Victim, Kidnaping case in the Federal Court at Oklahoma City on 9/30/33 and sentenced in the U.S. District Court at Oklahoma City on 10/7/33 to serve 5 years in a U.S. Penitentiary, made application for pardon on 8/14/35. The U.S. Attorney, Oklahoma City, has requested investigation made into the activities of Subject, prior and subsequent to his conviction in the Urschel kidnaping case.

P.

DETAILS:

By letter dated September 16, 1935, William C. Lewis, United States Attorney, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, advised the Oklahoma City Bureau Office that Clifford Skelly, who was convicted as a conspirator in the George Kelly Barnes, with aliases, et al; Charles F. Urschel-Victim, Kidnaping case, had made application for executive clemency on August 14, 1935, and that James A. Finch, Pardon Attorney, Department of Justice, had forwarded Skelly's application to the United States Attorney's Office at Oklahoma City for recommendation. On September 16, 1935 Skelly's application for pardon was forwarded to this office, together with copies of two letters dated September 12 and 13, 1935 received by the United States Attorney's office at Oklahoma City from the Pardon Attorney, which letters relate to subject's application for pardon.

In addition to the above, this office has also received from the United States Attorney at Oklahoma City a copy of a memorandum which was forwarded

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		7	115 1740
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 Bureau 2 St. Paul		OCT 29 1935	
COPIES DESTROYED		OCT 29 A.M.	
		OCT 30 1935	

by the Pardon Attorney to Mr. Lewis under date of September 13, 1955, which memorandum, the Pardon Attorney states in his letter of September 15th, contains information from a confidential source relating to the present alleged activities of subject Skelly in connection with the sale of liquor.

The United States Attorney at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma has asked the Oklahoma City Bureau Office to conduct the investigation requested by the Pardon Attorney; namely, to conduct a vigorous investigation into the activities of subject Skelly, both prior and subsequent to his conviction in the Urschel Kidnaping case, in order that the Department may have full information with respect to Skelly's activities.

Concerning the history of subject's case, the records of the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, disclose that a true bill of indictment was returned by a Federal Grand Jury at Oklahoma City on August 23, 1933, charging that the defendants in this case conspired to violate Section 408-A, Title 18, U. S. Code. This indictment charged that on or about the 22nd day of July, 1933 and thence continuously thereafter until the return of this indictment in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at Paradise, Texas, at Denver, Colorado, at St. Paul, Minnesota, and at divers other places to the Grand Jurors unknown, and hence not herein stated, Albert L. Bates George R. Kelly, Kathryn Thorn Kelly, Harvey J. Bailey, Robert G. Shannon, Armon Crawford Shannon, Ora L. Shannon, Charles Wolk, Sam Kronick, Edward Berman, Peter Valder, Sam Kozberg, Clifford Skelly, and Isadore Blumenfeld, who are herein indicted, did knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously combine, confederate, and agree together and with each other and with divers other persons whose names are to the Grand Jurors unknown, and hence not herein stated, to commit during the period of time from the 22nd of July, 1933 and continuously thereafter up to and including the date and return of this indictment, a certain offense against the United States of America; that is to say, violate the provisions of the Act of Congress approved June 22, 1932, which provides a penalty for the transportation in interstate commerce of any kidnapped person held for ransom or reward

That it was a part of said conspiracy that said defendants would on or about the 22nd day of July, 1933 at the home of Charles F. Urschel, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, seize, kidnap, and abduct the said Charles F. Urschel hereinafter referred to as Victim.

That it was further a part of said conspiracy that after having unlawfully seized and confined the said Charles F. Urschel in their custody at the time and place aforesaid, the defendants aforesaid, thereafter would hold and demand for his safe release from their custody, ransom in the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) in genuine used Federal Reserve Currency in the denomination of twenty dollars.

That it was a further part of said conspiracy that the defendants would abduct, carry away and transport Victim in interstate commerce, to wit: from

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, by a route to be selected by the defendants, to and into the State of Texas, to a point in Texas approximately five miles from Paradise, Wise County, Texas.

That it was a further part of said conspiracy that the defendants, immediately upon receipt of said ransom money would proceed to Denver, Colorado, St. Paul, Minnesota, and divers other points unknown to the Grand Jurors far distant from the scene of kidnaping, place of confinement and place of ransom payment for the purpose of changing said ransom money for other moneys or securities in order to avoid detection, apprehension and arrest through the means of marked money.

And the Grand Jurors upon their oaths aforesaid do further charge and present, that the hereinafter named defendants did, at the several times and places hereinafter mentioned in connection with their names, the several overt acts hereinafter specified.

Overt Act #13

That on or about August 5, 1933 at Minneapolis, Minnesota, Edward Berman alias Barney Berman, Charles Wolk, Peter Valder alias Hackett alias Nelson, Sam Kozberg, Sam Kronick, Isador Blumenfeld and Clifford Skelly did knowingly, wilfully, and unlawfully possess, conceal and exchange approximately Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00) of the original ransom money paid to the said conspirators for the release of the said Charles F. Urschel.

On September 1, 1933 on arraignment in the United States District Court at Oklahoma City, Clifford Skelly, by his attorney, entered a plea of not guilty to the indictment.

On September 30, 1933 a petit jury in the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma at Oklahoma City, returned a verdict of guilty against Clifford Skelly. In the United States District Court at Oklahoma City, on October 7, 1933, Federal Judge Edgar S. Vaught sentenced Clifford Skelly to serve a term of 5 years in a United States Penitentiary.

On October 7, 1935 Clifford Skelly filed a petition for appeal to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for 10th Circuit and order allowing the appeal was entered by the Court the same day.

Judgment was affirmed by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for 10th Circuit on March 25, 1935.

A petition to the Supreme Court of the United States for a Writ of Certiorari was denied May 26, 1935.

A short summary of the facts in this case is as follows:

On the night of July 22, 1933, Mr. Charles Urschel was kidnaped at his home at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and was taken by automobile to Texas, where he was held as a prisoner on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Shannon near Paradise, Texas, until July 31, 1933. On July 25, 1933 one of the kidnapers requested Urschel to designate a friend to act as an intermediary with his family. Mr. Urschel suggested John G. Catlett, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mr. Urschel was then compelled to write a letter to Mr. Catlett requesting him to act as an intermediary. This letter was received by Mr. Catlett on the morning of July 26, 1933 and Mr. Catlett immediately contacted business associates of Mr. Urschel at Oklahoma City. Mr. Urschel's business associates, through negotiations with the kidnapers, received instructions to have Mr. E. E. Kirkpatrick take \$200,000.00 in used Federal Reserve \$20.00 notes in a light colored tan handbag to Kansas City, Missouri and register at the Muhlbach Hotel and await further instructions. Mr. Kirkpatrick carried out these instructions and on the afternoon of July 30, 1933, delivered a handbag containing \$200,000. to a man whom he identified as Albert M. Bates. Mr. Kirkpatrick was told by this man that Urschel would be released shortly. On July 31, 1933, Mr. Urschel was released at Norman, Oklahoma.

Clifford Skelly, Edward Berman and Isadore Blumenfeld were partners in a bootlegging concern in Minneapolis, Minnesota and \$5500. of the ransom money was traced to them. Berman and Skelly stated that they secured this money from a man whom they did not know, but who gave the name of Collins, in payment for 125 cases of liquor, and that the payment of the \$5500. was made at their office in the West Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on August 3, 1933. Berman and Skelly stated that Collins counted out the money, which he gave to Clifford Skelly. Skelly stated that he disposed of the \$5500. as follows:

\$1400. to Max Bender; \$400. which he spent on repairs on his house; \$1100. to his brother-in-law; \$500. to Sam Kozberg; and \$1000. of this amount was paid for a Cashier's check of \$1800. purchased at the Hennepen State Bank, Minneapolis, Minn. on August 5, 1933 by Edward Berman, Sam Frederick, an employee of the Wolk Transfer Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and himself, Skelly.

The \$1000. paid as part payment for the \$1800. Cashier's check was in \$20.00 used Federal Reserve notes and was identified at the Hennepen State Bank, Minneapolis, Minnesota, as being part of the ransom money.

Sentence against Clifford Skelly has been stayed until November 1, 1935.

Attached to Skelly's application for executive clemency are 25 letters addressed to the Honorable Edgar S. Vaught, Judge, United States District Court, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, which letters request leniency for subject Skelly. Appropriate undeveloped leads are being set out in this report for the writers of said letters to be interviewed.

The aforementioned memorandum containing information from a confidential source, relating to the present alleged activities of Clifford Skelly, which memorandum was forwarded to the United States Attorney at Oklahoma City by the Pardon Attorney of the Department of Justice, states that subject Skelly is in the liquor business in Minneapolis, Minnesota; that his name does not appear on licenses or corporation papers, but that he makes no secret of his connection with the business. It is stated in said memorandum that Skelly is associated with his brother, J. H. Skelly, in operation of a liquor store, the Skelly Sales, Inc., 410 Cedar Avenue, and that the license is issued to the brother.

It is also stated in said memorandum that more detailed data and "inside" information on the activities of subject can be obtained from [redacted] United States Bureau of Industrial Alcohol operative in Chicago, and that additional information may also be obtained from [redacted] Minnesota Liquor Control Commissioner at St. Paul.

Since there is apparently no investigation required in the Oklahoma City district in instant case, the following undeveloped leads are being set out for the offices in which districts investigation appears to be necessary.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE ST. PAUL OFFICE at Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota will conduct the necessary investigation into the activities of subject Skelly, as requested by the United States Attorney, bearing in mind information set out in this report as being contained in memorandum furnished by the Pardon Attorney.

At Minneapolis, Minnesota will interview the following persons whose names are signed to letters addressed to Honorable Edgar S. Vaught, Judge, United States District Court, Oklahoma City: These letters request leniency for subject Skelly.

[redacted], Water Works Department, Minneapolis
[redacted] Produce Dept., Armour & Co., 219-5th St.,
North, Minneapolis
[redacted] Kelly Brothers Company, 923 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis
[redacted] Minneapolis
[redacted] The White Motor Co., 2824 University Ave., S.E.,
Minneapolis

All b7c

[REDACTED] Central Republic Company, 1220 Rand Tower, Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] American Linen Company, 909-15 La Salle Ave., Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] Malmberg & Nelson, 810 Security Building, Minneapolis
 [REDACTED], South Side Business Men's
 Association, 1203 S. 4th St., Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] Malmberg & Nelson, 810 Security Building, Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] Rollins, Inc.,
 2000 Portland Ave., Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] Water Works Department,
 Minneapolis
 [REDACTED]
 Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] Flour City Body Corporation, 2947 Blaisdell Ave., Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] Wheel Service Company, 135-9 Eleventh St.
 South, Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] Minneapolis
 [REDACTED], Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] Service Dept., Water Dept., 935 5 Ave.
 S.E., Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] Water Works Department, Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] The Roycraft Company, 1625 Hennepin Ave.,
 Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] Div. 474, Brotherhood of Locomotive
 Engineers, 4226 Colfax Ave., No. Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] Minneapolis Lodge No. 44, B.P.O.E., Minneapolis
 [REDACTED] Water Works Department, Minneapolis

It is suggested that the St. Paul Office make sufficient inquiries concerning the above persons in order to establish their true identity and reputation, and they should be questioned for any information which they might have concerning the activities of subject Skelly.

At the conclusion of the above investigation it is suggested that the St. Paul Office locate and interview subject, at which time it is also suggested that a complete description be obtained.

THE CHICAGO OFFICE at Chicago, Illinois will interview [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] of the Continental Distilling Corporation, 325 W. Polk
 Street, for any information he may have as to the activities of subject Skelly.
 It is noted that [REDACTED] wrote a letter to Honorable Edgar S. Vaught at Oklahoma
 City, Oklahoma, under date of June 20, 1935, in which letter [REDACTED] requested
 leniency for subject Skelly. It is suggested that the Chicago Office make
 sufficient inquiries concerning [REDACTED] in order to establish his true identity
 and reputation.

All
 b7c

At Chicago, Illinois, will locate and interview [redacted] a United States Bureau of Industrial Alcohol Operative in Chicago, for any information he may have as to the activities of Skelly.

THE ST. LOUIS OFFICE at St. Louis, Missouri, will interview [redacted] St. Louis, for any information he may have as to the activities of subject Skelly. It will be noted that [redacted] wrote a letter to Honorable Edgar S. Vaught at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, under date of July 9, 1935, requesting leniency for Skelly. It is also suggested that the St. Louis Office make sufficient inquiries concerning [redacted] in order to establish his identity and reputation.

THE OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE at Oklahoma City will confer with the United States Attorney after the leads for the St. Paul, Chicago and St. Louis Offices have been covered, and ascertain whether or not any further investigation is desired.

All
b7c

P E N D I N G

2628

7-10

Post Office Box 314,
Birmingham, Alabama,
October 28, 1935.

Special Agent in Charge,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

RE: ⁰GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases, et al,
CHARLES F. URSCHEL - Victim.
Kidnaping.

Dear Sir:

This is to advise that [redacted] appeared at this office and informed Special Agent [redacted] that her temporary address is the Terminal Hotel, Birmingham; that, however, she can subsequently be located at [redacted] Oklahoma City, Okla., care of [redacted]

[redacted] stated that she was in a street car accident in Birmingham on March 9, 1931 and was taken to the South Highlands Infirmary, where an emergency operation was performed by [redacted] at a cost of \$350.00. [redacted] stated that she filed a suit against the Birmingham Electric Company for \$50,000.00, at which time [redacted] a local attorney represented her; that soon thereafter she returned to Oklahoma City, and the trial of her case was continued on several occasions until September, 1932, when Attorney [redacted] obtained a settlement for [redacted] during her absence, in the amount of \$350.00, retained one-third of the amount of the settlement for himself, and sent her \$229.50, care of [redacted], an attorney, then located in the Hightower Building at Oklahoma City. [redacted] kept \$114.15 for himself and gave [redacted] the remainder, which amounted to \$114.15. [redacted] appeared somewhat hostile to the above attorneys, alleging that the settlement was really effected, according to Jefferson County Court records, in May, 1932, although she did not receive her portion of the settlement until September, 1932.

RECORDED & INDEXED

7-115-1741

[redacted] stated that she has submitted all of her evidence, papers, etc., relative to the claim, to [redacted] an attorney in Oklahoma City, Okla., and Attorney [redacted] has advised her that he would represent her. [redacted] requested that an investigation be made of Attorneys [redacted] and [redacted] by this Bureau, whereupon she was advised that the facts as stated do not constitute a violation over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

FILE

After [redacted] had furnished the above information, she insisted that she could furnish some pertinent facts relative to the Urschel kidnaping case, which would indicate that certain persons with whom she is acquainted were probably involved in the kidnaping, but had not been investigated or prosecuted. She related that shortly after the Urschel kidnaping occurred, she was residing with her third husband [redacted] who was then operating a barber shop at [redacted] and is now probably employed in the shop at [redacted], Oklahoma City; that she and [redacted] resided at a boarding house operated by the [redacted] family at [redacted] in Oklahoma City, when the kidnaping occurred; that her second husband, [redacted], now divorced from her, a boot-ligger, visited her third husband's barber shop, made himself known and created a disturbance, alleging [redacted] was no doubt implicated in the Urschel kidnaping, as she was away from Oklahoma at the time of the kidnaping and probably proceeded to Fort Smith or Hot Springs, Arkansas. In this connection, [redacted] alleges that she had planned a fishing trip, with a group of people, near Tahlequah, Oklahoma, but did not make the trip. She stated that a few nights after [redacted] had caused the above disturbance she, [redacted] requested that a young man named [redacted] at her boarding house, telephone her attorney, [redacted] inasmuch as she desired his advice at that time; that when the young man announced over the telephone to Attorney [redacted] that [redacted] was speaking, [redacted] became terribly frightened and left Oklahoma City immediately, all of this occurring about the time the trial of the Urschel kidnaping case was in progress in Oklahoma City.

[redacted] further stated that on the Sunday before Harvey Bailey escaped jail at Dallas, Texas, she and her husband, [redacted] had moved to a boarding house located at 305 E. 10th Street, Oklahoma City, which house was operated by a woman using the name Ruby Johnson, described by [redacted] as being forty to forty-five years of age, dark hair and eyes, rawboned, large physical frame, 5'6", weight 145 to 160 pounds, and a very boisterous woman; that Ruby Johnson alleged to [redacted] that her husband was an oil field worker; that on Wednesday night following the escape of Harvey Bailey, Mrs. Johnson's alleged husband visited her in Oklahoma City, at which time [redacted] met him very informally, noting he appeared pleasant, wore gray trousers, white shirt, dark red tie, his fingernails were manicured perfectly, and he was well mannered, presenting a general appearance contrasting entirely to that of an oil field worker. [redacted] stated that she later saw photographs of Machine Gun Kelly, but had never seen him personally, and is positive that it was Kelly who visited Ruby Johnson; that on the following day Ruby Johnson gave notice to [redacted] that she must move, as the owner had advised that the house where they were residing was too crowded. [redacted] contends that she was obliged to move because Ruby Johnson was aware that she had seen her alleged husband, who was in reality George Kelly Barnes.

All b7c

2630

[redacted] further stated that in June 1934 she met [redacted] who in reality was [redacted], wife of Wilbur Underhill, deceased, at Jane's Beauty shop located at 2935 West 19th Street, Oklahoma City; that she believes [redacted] is now associating with [redacted] and that if [redacted] is properly approached he will inform an agent relative to the Underhill woman's activities.

[redacted] further stated that her second husband, [redacted] is presently associated with [redacted] a well known character in Oklahoma City, and both reside with or can be located through [redacted] a former associate of Frank Nash, deceased, at [redacted] Oklahoma City.

When asked if she had any additional information indicating the above persons may have been involved in this case by harboring the subjects or receiving a part of the ransom money, [redacted] replied in the negative. She could offer no reason for the delay in furnishing the above information, except that she believed the persons mentioned were watching her, for which reason she desired to tell all she knows about their activities. [redacted] stated that when she returns to Oklahoma City she can probably be reached through [redacted]

The above information is furnished the Oklahoma City office for such action as it may merit, in view of the notorious persons referred to by [redacted]

Very truly yours,

R. B. NANNI,
Special Agent in Charge.

All b7C

CC: Bureau ✓

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

REJ [redacted]

October 28, 1935.

my
576 ✓
✓

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON ✓

7/26
17

The attached I. C. #7-115, Re: Kidnaping of Charles F. Urschel, is a current issue drawn up by [redacted] under date of October 15, 1935, previous issue having been dated December 22, 1933.

This release has been approved by Mr. Tamm and permission is requested to have 200 copies mimeographed.

Respectfully,

R. E. Joseph
R. E. Joseph.

All 67C

ENCLOSURE 3-1-35
1135

10/30

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

NOV 14 1935

7-115-1741X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 13 1935 A. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TOLSON JOSEPH FOUR FILE

Request made 10-31-35
Received 11-6-35

11-6-35
File 11-6-35

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 515
Saint Paul, Minnesota

October 29, 1935

73-117

Director,
Division of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Re: **EDWARD BERMAN**
APPLICATION FOR PARDON.

Dear Sir:

Kindly furnish the known criminal record of the following:

<u>Name (inc. aliases)</u>	<u>City, Police Arrest, or Other Number.</u>	<u>Approximate date Fingerprints forwarded Division of Investigation.</u>	<u>Fingerprint Classification.</u>
----------------------------	----------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------

EDWARD BERMAN

USM, St. Paul,
Minn., 8-25-33

8-25-33

--

St. Paul PD
#24,189

11-1-20

RECORDED & INDEXED

NOV - 6 1935

7-115-1742	
OCT 31 1935 P.M.	
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
IDENT. LC3	ONE
	FILE

Very truly yours,

H. E. Andersen

H. E. ANDERSEN
Special Agent in Charge.

DM

*Reply
LC 5/mc
11-4-35*

Wendell

11

D

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Form 6

November 2, 1935

The following is a transcript of the record, including the most recently reported data, as shown in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning our number

J. E. Hoover

FBI-713989

J. E. Hoover, Director.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD, St. Paul, Minn.	Edward Berman, #24189	8/25/33	conspiracy - kidnaping	sentenced 10/7/33 5 yrs. U.S. Pen. - kidnaping freed appeal bond - *appeal still pending (per info rec'd from USM, Oklahoma City, Okl. 8/3/34).
USM, St. Paul, Minn.	Edward Berman, alias Barney Berman, #1332	12/21/33	conspiracy to violate Internal Revenue Liquor Laws	1 year & 1 day Leavenworth.
USP, Leavenworth, Kans.	Edward Berman, alias Barney Berman, #45186	6/23/34	not given	1 year & 1 day - eligible to parole 9/15/34; parole not granted - conditional rele. 3/4/35

This case is entered in the Single Fingerprint Section
of the Bureau as #4-2453.

lcs/ [redacted] b7c - November 4, 1935.

RECORDED 7-115-1742

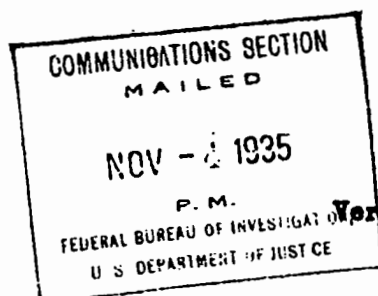
Special Agent in Charge,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Re: EDWARD BERMAN
Application for Pardon.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your communication dated October 29, 1935,
I am attaching the record revealed through a search of the
identification files of this Division in the case of the
following

EDWARD BERMAN, Police Department,
Saint Paul, Minnesota, #24189.



Very truly yours,

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 515
Saint Paul, Minnesota
October 29, 1935

73-116

Director,
Division of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Re: CLIFFORD SKELLY.
APPLICATION FOR PARDON.

Dear Sir:

Kindly furnish the known criminal record of the following:

<u>Name (inc. aliases)</u>	<u>City, Police Arrest, or Other Number.</u>	<u>Approximate date Fingerprints forwarded Division of Investigation.</u>	<u>Fingerprint Classification.</u>
CLIFFORD SKELLY	USM, St. Paul, Minn., 8-25-33.	8-25-33	--

St. Paul PD
#24,192

11-1 ea

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

NOV 7 1935

7-115-1743	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
OCT 31 1935	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
IDENT.	FILE

Very truly yours,

H. E. Andersen

H. E. ANDERSEN
Special Agent in Charge.

07 Ward & Lane

Reply
LCS/mkr
11-4-35
IM

4

27

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

Form 6

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

November 2, 1935

The following is a transcript of the record, including the most recently reported data, as shown in the files of the Division of Investigation concerning our number 700803.

J. E. HOOVER, Director.

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or Received	Charge	Disposition
PD, St. Paul, Minn.,	Patrick O'Neil, #22218,	7-31-30,	petty larceny - stealing gasoline	
PD, St. Paul, Minn.,	Clifford Skelly, #24192,	8-25-33,	conspiracy - kidnapping;	5 yrs. U.S.P. - freed on appeal bond.
USM, St. Paul, Minn.,	Clifford Skelly, #1331,	3-13-34,	conspiracy to violate Int. Rev. Liquor Laws;	\$1000 fine - paid.
This case is entered in the Single Fingerprint Section of this Bureau under K-2455.				

1cs/ **b7C** November 4, 1935.

RECORDED 7-115-1745

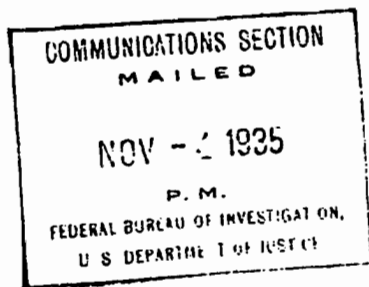
Special Agent in Charge,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Re: CLIFFORD SKELLY
Application for Pardon.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your communication dated October 29, 1935,
I am attaching the record revealed through a search of the
identification files of this Division in the case of the
following:

CLIFFORD SKELLY, Police Department,
Saint Paul, Minnesota, #24192.



Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enc. **AR74142**

Division of Investigation

**U. S. Department of Justice
508 Medical Arts Building,
Nashville, Tennessee,
October 29, 1935.**

TNS:

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

Dear Sir:

76-11-4-4

All b7c

Confirming my telephone conversation with Mr. Foxworth of the Bureau on this date concerning the serving of a sentence imposed upon John Calvert Tichnor in the Western District of Tennessee, on a harboring charge growing out of the Urachel Kidnaping Case, this is to advise that Special Agent [redacted] ascertained at the Clerk's Office in Memphis, Tennessee, that John Calvert Tichnor was sentenced on October 21, 1933, on two indictments, Nos. 4583 and 4584.

Per [redacted] 11/16/35

On October 21, 1933, Tichnor was sentenced to serve six months in the Shelby County Jail at Memphis, Tennessee, on indictment No. 4584. On the same date he was sentenced to serve two years in a United States Penitentiary on indictment No. 4583, the sentence to begin upon the expiration of the six months' jail sentence.

The records of the United States Attorney, the United States Marshal and the County Jailer reflect that Tichnor was committed to the jail on October 23, 1933, and remained there continuously until March 26, 1934, at which time he filed an application for probation on the two year sentence in the penitentiary which was granted. Of the six months' jail sentence, he actually served five months and four days, being allowed good time off, amounting to five days per month for good behavior.

Very truly yours,

T. N. Stapleton

**T. N. STAPLETON
Special Agent in Charge**

RECORDED & INDEXED

NOV 3 1935

<i>7-115-1744</i>
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 31 1935 P.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TWO

COPY

October 29, 1935.

JEE: [REDACTED]

Time: 10:05 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

RE: John C. Tichenor.

*2/26
to Leo Urschel*

[REDACTED] telephoned and said that [REDACTED] had received a letter from an attorney for John C. Tichenor, who was connected with the Urschel Case, in which the attorney complained about the reference on the radio to Tichenor as an underworld character of Memphis, Tennessee. [REDACTED] stated that the attorney said further that this had hurt his client's business and asked [REDACTED] what he was going to do about this claim for damages. [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] had called and asked if it was not correct that Tichenor was sentenced to two and a half years in prison and that he understood that to be true but he wanted to make sure of it.

I stated that John C. Tichenor was sentenced to two years in the Atlanta penitentiary for conspiracy which sentence was later changed to two years on probation by the Judge, and to six months in the county jail for harboring. I said that I did not know whether he had served the six months sentence or not but that I had wired to find out. I stated that the Bureau had no previous record of Tichenor. I informed [REDACTED] that the fact that Tichenor was placed on probation does not affect the conviction; that I did not believe that Tichenor's claim would hold in court; and that I would suggest that [REDACTED] be advised to ignore the letter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

All b7c

*Re-credited
this serial
only, 12/26/68
#39*

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-115-1745	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 1 1935 A. M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
	FILE

ORIGINAL FILED IN 70-89

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

9
X

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA** FILE NO. **7-7**

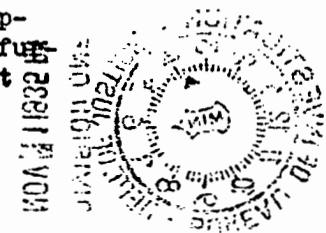
REPORT MADE AT Denver, Colorado	DATE WHEN MADE 10-29-35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8-23, 9-19 & 10-28-35	REPORT MADE BY E. P. GUINANE
TITLE GEORGE KELLY BARNES with aliases; ET AL; CHARLES F. URSCHER - Victim			CHARACTER OF CASE KIDNAPING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Information given this office that one [redacted] with aliases was closely connected with Ben [redacted] Alaska and may have been handling ransom money. No definite evidence supplied to indicate this, and no further investigation being made at this time.

note

RUC.



RECEIVED

DETAILS:

AT DENVER, COLORADO.

All b7c

On August 21, 1935, Assistant United States Attorney Ivor O. Wingren, requested Agent to come to his office, where he introduced Agent to one [redacted] Denver, Quincy Hotel.

[redacted] related that he had worked for [redacted] in his clothing store up until about six months ago, and that while he was working there one [redacted] also worked for [redacted] that [redacted] started working for [redacted] about one year ago and that shortly after he had started working there, [redacted] was picked up by two Denver detectives for questioning concerning his association with a firm of attorneys in Los Angeles, California, a member of which firm was convicted of participation in several bank robberies. [redacted] stated that [redacted] was released, however, but that [redacted] informed him that he was connected with a firm of attorneys in Los Angeles and that one of them had been convicted in a bank robbery case. [redacted] also stated that [redacted] had informed him

APPROVED AND FORWARDED 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		7 115 1746	NOV 1 1935
3 - Bureau 2 - Oklahoma City 1 - Los Angeles (Information) 2 - Denver		NOV 2 1935 12:00 P.M. SECT.	NOV 2 1935
COPIES DESTROYED 1965			

that he, [REDACTED], was convicted in California for fraudulently endeavoring to pass the California Bar Examination and was released on probation.

At the time that [REDACTED] was picked up for questioning in the bank robbery case, he secured the services of Ben Laska, and Laska got him free on this charge, and that from this time on, [REDACTED] and Laska have been very close, and that [REDACTED] has informed him on many occasions that he has visited Laska at his office three or four times a week. [REDACTED] also stated that any of the employees working for [REDACTED] understood that it was perfectly legitimate for [REDACTED] to short-change his customers, and [REDACTED] stated that he rebelled against this and resigned from [REDACTED] employment.

[REDACTED] stated that he believes that [REDACTED] is being used by Laska as an outlet for "hot" money and possibly ransom money, and he believes that Laska probably disposed of some of the ransom money in the Urschel case through [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] did not have anything whatsoever definitely to substantiate this opinion other than his suspicions, and because of [REDACTED] background. [REDACTED] also stated that [REDACTED] told him one time that he [REDACTED] obtained \$6,000.00 on a "job" in California. He did not give [REDACTED] any further details.

[REDACTED] believes that [REDACTED] obtained "hot" money from Laska and passed same to customers in the store or probably put same in the cash register. In this connection, [REDACTED] stated that he did not know where [REDACTED] did any banking, but that he believed [REDACTED] wife had a bank account. He stated that [REDACTED] banked at the First National Bank of Denver.

[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] is still working for [REDACTED], and that [REDACTED] is going to some night law school here.

[REDACTED] described [REDACTED] as follows:

Age	24
Height	5-7
Weight	165
Hair	Dark and bushy
Complexion	Dark
Nationality	Russian Jewish
Marital status	Married
Relatives	Father supposed to live at Rockford, Illinois, and is supposed to be quite well-to-do.

[REDACTED] also related to Agent and Mr. Ingren that one of the Government men who is working on the Boettcher Kidnaping case hung

All b7C

around the store of [REDACTED] store and talked to one of the fellows at the store quite a little. [REDACTED] stated that he would find out who this Government man was.

From information given by [REDACTED] it appeared that it is probably some imposter or possibly some undercover man.

Mr. Wingren, at this point, asked [REDACTED] for a description of this alleged Government man, and [REDACTED] stated that he had red hair; and Mr. Wingren thought at first that it might have been Gibbs, the informant, who was killed up in Wyoming.

In this connection, Mr. Wingren later turned over a note to Special Agent [REDACTED], from [REDACTED] which states that the name of the man that was on the [REDACTED] case, that he spoke of, was [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] might be able to get some dope on [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] further stated, in the note, that he would get the name of the law school [REDACTED] attended in a day or so. The note further stated that [REDACTED] is still making trips quite often to Laska's office and that he had found this out since he had been to Wingren's office.

A letter was sent to the Los Angeles Office to determine whether [REDACTED] had a criminal record in Los Angeles. - A report has been received from the Los Angeles Office advising that investigation there failed to show that [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] alias [REDACTED] alias [REDACTED] was ever a member of the California Bar or that he was ever charged with fraud on taking the Bar Examination. The investigation disclosed that [REDACTED] was convicted of robbery and served one year in a road camp and was placed on probation for four years.

Special Agent [REDACTED] made inquiry of Sergeant [REDACTED] in charge of the Bureau of Identification, Denver Police Department, and a search of the files was made, but no record could be found on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Assistant United States Attorney Wingren stated that he had not obtained any further information from [REDACTED] concerning [REDACTED] but that if he does receive any further information of value, he will advise this office.

As there does not appear to be anything of value in the information given by [REDACTED] no further inquiry is being made at this time.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

All b7c

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED] b7C

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

October 29, 1935.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Daughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy
.....
.....

Time - 12:15 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Urschel Case.

Mr. Foxworth telephoned Special Agent in Charge Stapleton at the Nashville Office with reference to the participation of JOHN CALVERT TICHENOR in the above entitled case, and told him that it appears from the records in the Bureau that Tichenor was sentenced on October 21, 1933 at Jackson, Tennessee, to serve a term of six months in the County Jail at Memphis, Tennessee, his Memphis Police number being 15597. Mr. Foxworth informed him that the Bureau desires to be advised at once as to the date this man entered the County Jail, and the date of his release, as well as the circumstances of his release.

Mr. Foxworth instructed Mr. Stapleton to get this information at once, and to advise the Bureau by telephone just as soon as possible.

Mr. Stapleton subsequently telephoned Mr. Foxworth and informed him that Tichenor was convicted on two indictments at Jackson, Tennessee on October 21, 1933, the sentence on the first one being two years in the Atlanta Penitentiary, and the sentence on the second one being six months in the County Jail at Memphis, Tennessee, the former sentence to be served after the completion of the latter sentence. Tichenor was received at the County Jail at Memphis, Tennessee, on October 23, 1933, and was released therefrom on March 26, 1934, after having served five months and four days of his sentence. He was allowed five days per month for good behavior, and it appears, therefore, that he served his entire sentence, with the allotted time off for good behavior. On March 26, 1934, Tichenor made application to the judge for probation from his sentence of two years in the Atlanta Penitentiary which the judge granted.

Respectfully,

RECORDED & INDEXED

E. A. Tamm
E. A. TAMM

7-115-1747

BT

ack
10-30-35
A-4

NOV 1 - 1935

DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.**

FILE NO. **7-7-**

REPORT MADE AT DALLAS, TEXAS	DATE WHEN MADE 11/1/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/25, 10/16, 28/35	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases; ET AL CHARLES F. URSHEL - Victim			CHARACTER OF CASE KIDNAPING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Confidential informant states [REDACTED] no longer mentions changing any of Urschel money for Louise Seaton, and that he believes it is useless to continue his contact with her.

R U C

All b7C

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED], Dallas, Texas, dated 9-18-35.

DETAILS:

On September 25, 1935, the writer contacted the confidential informant in this case who advised that he had been making regular trips to the home of [REDACTED], DALLAS, TEXAS; that [REDACTED] stated that she had not heard anything from Louise Seaton but would not be surprised if she showed up at her house any time. Informant stated that [REDACTED] advised him that she recently corresponded with Louise Seaton, advising her that she had located a man who could change a part of the money on a percentage basis, but had received no reply.

On October 16th, the writer again contacted confidential informant who advised that he was still making regular trips to the [REDACTED] home but was becoming discouraged inasmuch as [REDACTED] did not mention anything more about Louise Seaton or the money.

On October 28th confidential informant advised that since October 16th he had occasionally stopped at the [REDACTED] home; that about October 20th, the last time he stopped to see [REDACTED] he was informed by her mother that she was then confined in the hospital but would be released about November 1.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 Bureau 2 Okla. City 2 Dallas		7-115	174-7
		NOV 4 1935	
COPIES DESTROYED 17 1965		NOV 5 - 193	
		ONE [Signature]	

The confidential informant stated that, inasmuch as he was losing so much time away from his work and that he does not believe [REDACTED] is actually trying to induce Louise Seaton to produce any of the ransom money, he will make no further contacts with her unless she calls him in connection with this case.

Inasmuch as there appears no further investigative activity in this district unless [REDACTED] voluntarily contacts confidential informant, in which event the Dallas Office will be notified, this case is being

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

All b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. Department of Justice

P. O. Box 1276
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
November 4, 1935.

DB/
7-6

Director,
Federal Bureau 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 a letter from the Birmingham office addressed to this office dated October 28, 1935, which contains the results of an interview with one [redacted] who appeared at the Birmingham office, and purported to relate some alleged information concerning this case. I have reviewed the letter from the Birmingham office carefully, and in the light of my knowledge of this case, it does not appear that what she has recited is of any value and the matter does not warrant investigative treatment.

All
b7c

From a review of the file in this case it appears that from an investigative and prosecutive standpoint the case has been solved, and I am of the opinion that further investigation is not warranted at this time. In view of these circumstances, I feel that the case should be closed at this time, subject, of course, to being reopened should any information warranting further investigation be received by this or any other Bureau office.

Very truly yours,

Dwight Brantley

DWIGHT BRANTLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-115-1749
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 7 1935
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NOV 11 1935

Miss

Post Office Box 812,
Chicago, Illinois.

November 6, 1935

Special Agent in Charge,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,

RE: EDWARD BERMAN,
APPLICATION FOR PARDON.

With reference to the above entitled matter, wherein the Oklahoma City Bureau Office is the office of origin, the Chicago Office has been requested to interview one [REDACTED] who, it has been determined, is a special investigator in the Intelligence Unit, Bureau of Internal Revenue, working out of the Chicago Office of said organization. [REDACTED] is supposed to have considerable data and inside information regarding the activities of Edward Berman, the applicant for pardon, and it has been ascertained through the Chicago Office of the Intelligence Unit, Bureau of Internal Revenue, that Investigator [REDACTED] is on a special assignment in the East and his whereabouts is unknown, nor is it known when he will return to his Chicago headquarters.

Your Office is therefore requested to ascertain through the Intelligence Unit, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Treasury Department, Room 3322, Internal Revenue Building, Washington, D. C., where [REDACTED] can now be located so that an appropriate lead can be set out by the Chicago Office to have [REDACTED] interviewed.

The Chicago Office has also the case of CLIFFORD SKELLY, APPLICATION FOR PARDON, Chicago file 73-554, and [REDACTED] likewise is supposed to have detailed and inside information concerning Skelly's activities.

You are requested to wire the Chicago Bureau Office in the event that [REDACTED] whereabouts can be ascertained, and also advise the probable time that he will be at a definite city so that the interviews contemplated can be had without delay.

Very truly yours,

D. M. LADD,
Special Agent in Charge

[REDACTED]
CC-Bureau ✓
73-355
CC-file 73-354

All b7C

7-115-
NOV 9 1935 A.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ONE
FILE

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
501 Healey Building,
Atlanta, Georgia,
November 6, 1935.

EEC:
7-22

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES; et al;
CHARLES B. OURSCHEL, Victim.
KIDNAPING.

Dear Sir:

This is to confirm telephone conversation with Mr. Foxworth of the Bureau on the morning of October 29, 1935.

Mr. Foxworth advised that James B. Tichener was sentenced at Jackson, Tennessee, on October 21, 1933, to six months in the County Jail in Memphis, Tennessee, and two years in the U. S. Penitentiary at Atlanta, Georgia, for Conspiracy to Harbor, and that the sentences were to run concurrently. Mr. Foxworth desired information as to when Tichener was received at the Penitentiary, when he was released, and the conditions of his release.

Later Mr. Foxworth advised that it had been determined that Tichener's sentence of two years had later been changed to probation and that it would not be necessary to make the inquiry at the Atlanta Penitentiary.

While the second call from Mr. Foxworth was being received, Special Agent [redacted] was checking the records at the Atlanta Penitentiary. No record of Tichener was found.

Very truly yours, 7-115-1750
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

NOV 8 1935 A. M.

E. E. CONROY,
Special Agent in Charge. U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

All b7c

cc-Nashville
Oklahoma City

RECORDED

FILE

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box #812

Chicago, Illinois

November 7th, 1935

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Pennsylvania Ave. at 9th St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with
alias; et al; CHARLES F.
OURSCHEL - VICTIM; KIDNAPING

With reference to your letter of November 2nd, 1935, (7-115), in the above entitled matter, I desire to advise that reports concerning the harboring charges against Abe Caplan and Charles Caplan are carried in a separate file and your attention is directed to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Chicago, Illinois, October 27th, 1935, in the case entitled ABE CAPLAN, with alias; et al; HARBORING AND CONCEALING PERSONS FOR WHOM WARRANTS HAD BEEN ISSUED AND CONSPIRACY; KIDNAPING; which report brings this matter up to date. An additional report will be submitted within the next two or three days concerning the status of prosecution at this time.

Very truly yours,

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

DML: [redacted]
7-26

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-115-1751
NOV 9 1935
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NOV 14 1935

All b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

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

FILE NO. **73-354**

REPORT MADE AT Chicago, Illinois	DATE WHEN MADE 11/11/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/7,8/35	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE CLIFFORD SKELLY		CHARACTER OF CASE APPLICATION FOR PARDON	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED] of Continental Distilling Corp., Chicago, advises knows only of credit standing Skelly Sales, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn; he has talked to Clifford Skelly only once, thinks last fall. Knows nothing of man's reputation. Claims credit standing Skelly Sales, Inc. excellent.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, dated 10-28-35.

DETAILS:

[REDACTED] for Continental Distilling Sales Company, 323 West Polk Street, Chicago, Illinois, advised that the Continental Distilling Sales Company is a subsidiary organization of the Continental Distilling Corporation, both of which organizations came into existence about 1932 or 1933, a short while before the repeal of prohibition in this country. [REDACTED] advised that he has been associated with the Continental Distilling Sales Company for approximately one and one-half years and before that time he was vice-president of the Dryice Corporation for a period of 7 years. Before that employment he advised that he was an officer in the United States Navy for a period of 15 years.

[REDACTED] advised that about the middle of 1935 his field man [REDACTED] who travels in Minnesota and other states on behalf of the Continental Distilling Sales Company, requested him to write a letter to the district judge at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma regarding Clifford Skelly, [REDACTED] informing [REDACTED] that

All
b7c

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
	7 115 1752 NOV 12 1935
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ③ - Bureau 3 - Oklahoma City (1-U.S.A.) 2 - Washington Field 2 - Chicago	NOV 14 1935 COPIES DESTROYED 17 1965

undoubtedly the only information [redacted] could give would be regarding the business contacts with the Skelly Sales, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota. [redacted] stated that the custom in the liquor trade is to have a field man working for a liquor company help out liquor wholesalers in dealing with the retail trade and that [redacted] being a representative of the Continental Distilling Corporation, a liquor manufacturing concern, had worked with the wholesalers in the Minneapolis, Minnesota district and had undoubtedly contacted the Skelly Sales, Inc. at Minneapolis for the purpose of selling the products of the Continental Distilling Corporation. He further advised that to his knowledge the Skelly Sales, Inc. has almost from the first purchased Continental Distilling Corporation products and the account has been very active and has been an excellent credit risk. [redacted] stated further that the Skelly Sales company has always maintained prices in conformity to the understanding had by them with the Continental Distilling Corporation.

He further stated that his only contact with Clifford Skelly, the applicant for pardon herein, was either in the fall of 1934 or perhaps in April of 1935, when he was introduced to Clifford Skelly at Minneapolis, Minnesota by [redacted]. He stated that he did not talk to Clifford Skelly over possibly 15 minutes and that outside of the fact that the Skelly Sales company has been a source of very good business and has been a very good credit risk, he knows nothing whatsoever regarding Clifford Skelly.

[redacted] concluded by stating that the sole reason that he wrote the Federal Judge in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma was because of the fact that the field man for his company had suggested that it would be in line with good business to do whatever he could for the Skelly Sales company inasmuch as said company was a good customer of the Continental Distilling Corporation.

Agent made inquiry at the office of the Alcoholic Tax Unit, Treasury Department, Chicago, Illinois, for [redacted] given in the reference report as being an operative of such Governmental agency, and Agent was informed that such person is not connected with the Alcoholic Tax Unit but was probably connected with the Intelligence Unit of the Revenue Bureau.

At the Intelligence Unit, Internal Revenue Bureau, U.S. Treasury Department, Chicago, Illinois, Agent was advised that [redacted] was an investigator for said unit working out of the Chicago, Illinois office but at the present time was on special assignment on a case in the east and the Chicago office did not know the whereabouts of [redacted] nor did they know when he would return to the Chicago district.

All b7c

On November 6, 1935 a letter was addressed to the Washington field office requesting said office to communicate with the Intelligence Unit, Internal Revenue Bureau, U.S. Treasury Department at Washington to learn the present whereabouts of [REDACTED] and where he could be interviewed for pertinent information regarding Clifford Skelly. The Washington field office was requested to wire the Chicago Bureau office in the event any information regarding [REDACTED] whereabouts was obtained, but as of the date of this report such information has not been obtained.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

As requested in Chicago Bureau office letter of November 6, 1935, will ascertain the present whereabouts of [REDACTED] operative, Intelligence Unit, Internal Revenue, so that he may be interviewed regarding his knowledge of Clifford Skelly, it having been suggested in reference report that [REDACTED] was in possession of detailed and confidential information regarding Clifford Skelly's activities both before and after his conviction as a money changer in the kidnaping case of Charles F. Urschel at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, which kidnaping took place in July of 1933.

CHICAGO OFFICE

Upon receipt of information from the Washington field office as to the whereabouts of [REDACTED], will interview him if in the Chicago district, or set out an appropriate lead for the office covering the district where [REDACTED] may be.

P E N D I N G

All b7c

SAC - St. Paul

-3-

11-9-35

2622

██████████ and this appears advisable. Reference is made to the report of Special Agent ██████████ dated at Kansas City, Missouri, June 19, 1935, which report sets out a lead for the Little Rock Office to contact one ██████████ of Little Rock, who is alleged to have knowledge of Adrianna.

The attention of the Detroit Office is respectfully directed to the report of Special Agent ██████████ dated at Detroit, Michigan, February 20, 1935, setting out a lead to interview Kathryn Kelly at the United States Detention Farm, Milan, Michigan, for any information she has with regard to G. J. Adrianna.

The reports of Special Agent ██████████ dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, June 29, 1935, and Special Agent ██████████ dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, September 15, 1935, indicate that inquiries concerning the location of Adrianna can be made through the Rogers Redemption Bureau in the Luther Exchange Building in Minneapolis, Minnesota, without arousing any suspicion, and it further appears that an one contains the exact address of Adrianna was furnished by the Rogers Redemption Bureau. The report of Special Agent ██████████ mentioned above, indicates that the Rogers Redemption Bureau did not know the present itinerary of Adrianna and could not advise of his present location. It is believed, however, that frequent contacts should be made with ██████████ in an effort to learn the location of Adrianna.

The attention of the Birmingham Office is directed to the report of Special Agent ██████████ dated at Birmingham, Alabama, January 29, 1935, page four of which discloses that ██████████ directed a letter to the Rogers Redemption Bureau, in reply to which she was informed that the address of Adrianna would then be General Delivery, Chattanooga, Tennessee. It is believed possible that ██████████ can again be prevailed upon to write such a letter to the Rogers Redemption Bureau in an effort to learn the location of Adrianna.

It is desired that each office receiving copies of this letter give immediate attention to a thorough review and reports in this matter be submitted to the Bureau not later than November 20, 1935. For the information of offices receiving copies of this letter, attention is directed to the report of Special Agent ██████████ dated at Little Rock, Arkansas, on August 1, 1935, which indicates that Adrianna was last known to be in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, on or about July 2, 1935. This information

All b7c

SAS - St. Paul

-2-

11-9-55

2623

was obtained from the mother of Mrs. G. J. Adriano, at Jonesboro, Arkansas, and it appeared from that interview that Adriano intended to undertake a selling campaign in Canada. This matter should be borne in mind by all offices making efforts to locate Adriano.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc - Birmingham
Little Rock
Kansas City
Nashville
Detroit