

Details:

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

On April 25, 1938 [redacted] who was then incarcerated in the Los Angeles County Jail, advised Special Agent [redacted] that he had been [redacted], whose right name is [redacted] who was an escape from a penitentiary in Texas, and that [redacted] had advised him that he and two others, named [redacted] and [redacted], had kidnaped a man in Texas about eight months ago and obtained \$25,000 and that [redacted] two partners had been caught and were presently serving life sentences and that he, [redacted] had the \$25,000; \$23,000 of the ransom money being hidden in Texas, while \$2,000 was hidden in Fresno, California. [redacted] advised that [redacted] desired him to get \$3,000 and go to Dallas, Texas and see [redacted] or [redacted] and that she would take him to the jail where [redacted] would be and further arrangements would be made to find the \$23,000.

The above information was forwarded by reference letter dated April 29, 1938 to the Dallas office with copies to El Paso and San Antonio.

On June 18, 1938, [redacted] Los Angeles, and [redacted] called at the Los Angeles office and were interviewed by Special Agent (A) [redacted]. At that time [redacted] advised that he had been confined in the Los Angeles County Jail on December 20, 1937, and was released on June 14, 1938 on a charge of violation of probation on a forgery case in the State court at Los Angeles. During most of the period of his confinement [redacted] was a trusty in Ward 110, Los Angeles County Hospital.

On or about May 1, 1938, [redacted] was told by one [redacted] at present a prisoner in the Los Angeles County Jail, but then a patient in Ward 110 (the county jail ward) that shortly before one [redacted] or [redacted] had told [redacted] that he, [redacted] was involved in instant kidnaping and had the balance of the money, \$100,000.00 buried near Dallas. [redacted] (since returned to the Texas State Penitentiary) told [redacted] that he and four other individuals were involved in this case and that the other four had been caught but he, [redacted] was still at large. [redacted] wanted [redacted] when released, to go to Dallas and get the money which consisted of a package about 12 inches by 14 inches containing the money in \$5's, \$10's, and \$20's. This money was buried near the home of [redacted] on the

All b7C

outskirts of Dallas. [redacted] was to contact [redacted] in Texas State Penitentiary and learn the exact location of the money. When found, part of the money was to be used to pay the costs of an appeal for [redacted]. The balance of the money was then to be divided between [redacted] and [redacted].

[redacted] frankly stated that he was interested in possible compensation for aiding in the recovery of any of this money. Both [redacted] and [redacted] stated that they had not discussed, and would not discuss, this matter with anyone else. [redacted] states that after [redacted] had told him of the same upon his release from jail he immediately advised him to come in to this office and furnish us with this information which might or might not have value.

The Bureau and Oklahoma City Division were advised of the above by reference letter of June 23, 1938.

On July 18, 1938, [redacted] whose home address is Berrien Springs, Michigan, came to the Los Angeles office with Lieutenants [redacted] and [redacted] of the Newton Division Police Station. [redacted] stated that he had been confined in the Los Angeles County Jail from May 13, 1938 to July 7, 1938 and during that time he was [redacted] and that he became rather closely associated with [redacted] in that they were [redacted] at the jail. About three weeks prior to his, [redacted] release, [redacted] asked him if he would like to make \$10,000, [redacted] knowing that [redacted] was about to be released, because of the story told by [redacted] concerning the charges against him. [redacted] had been brought from Michigan to California to face charges on forgery. When [redacted] agreed to "play ball" with [redacted] he stated that [redacted], who had previously been transferred from the Los Angeles County Jail to Texas and was now serving a life term at Texas State Penitentiary, had told [redacted] about ransom money which had been paid in the URSCHER case and which had been hidden by [redacted] in Texas.

[redacted] related to [redacted] that there was a package containing \$2,000, another package containing \$23,000, and a third package containing \$75,000, and that some of this money was hidden under a house near Dallas, Texas, and that [redacted] who resided at Uvalde, Texas, knew where the instant money was hidden and that with the proper password and identification she would reveal to [redacted] where \$2,000 of this money was located and that

All b7C

if [redacted] returned to Los Angeles with this money and showed his good faith they would subsequently reveal where the balance of the money was located to [redacted]. After [redacted] release he recontacted [redacted] at the suggestion of Lieutenant [redacted] and told [redacted] that he had a Chinaman who would be able to dispose of the money at 50¢ on the dollar. With this story [redacted] gained [redacted] confidence and [redacted] decided to reveal the information to [redacted]. [redacted] also has been in correspondence with [redacted] and prior to revealing the identity of [redacted] to [redacted] [redacted] stated that a code had been worked out with [redacted] whereby she would mention two children in her letters and that meant that negotiations were ready and that a letter shown to [redacted] by [redacted] had mention of two children in it, which letter [redacted] said was received subsequent to [redacted] conversation with him concerning the identity of [redacted].

At the time of his last contact with [redacted] [redacted] told him that he was going to go to Texas immediately and contact [redacted]. At this time, [redacted] told him that he would write a letter immediately to [redacted] describing [redacted] to her and that [redacted] upon his arrival there, should exhibit to [redacted] his driver's license and also use the code words, "From [redacted] and [redacted]". [redacted] stated that [redacted] had told him a party by the name of [redacted] who resides somewhere in San Francisco knew about the location of [redacted] in Texas and also about the fact that this money was hidden and that [redacted] might contact [redacted] sister inasmuch as [redacted] was also informed that [redacted] had this information and that it would be agreeable for [redacted] to obtain the money.

[redacted] has been released from the charges filed against him in Los Angeles and is expecting to proceed to New York within a few days. He stated that he would be willing to go to New York by way of San Antonio and contact the San Antonio office and also make the necessary contact with [redacted] to determine the location of the ransom money if there is any hidden as stated by [redacted].

It will be noted that the information furnished to Agent [redacted] by [redacted] supposedly came directly from [redacted] while the information obtained from [redacted] and [redacted] came through [redacted] but originated through [redacted].

Description of [REDACTED] is as follows:

Name	[REDACTED]
Age	26
Height	5 ft. 10 in.
Weight	160 lbs.
Build	Medium
Hair	Blonde
Eyes	Blue

The Los Angeles office will advise the San Antonio office when [REDACTED] departs from Los Angeles, California.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

OKLAHOMA CITY DIVISION:

Will review the file in the instant case and advise the San Antonio office as to any information contained in the files of the office of origin which might have a bearing on this particular matter.

SAN ANTONIO DIVISION:

At Uvalde, Texas will conduct the necessary investigation concerning [REDACTED] after [REDACTED] arrives in San Antonio and contacts that office.

DALLAS FIELD DIVISION:

Will make a discreet investigation concerning [REDACTED] Dallas, who is allegedly a [REDACTED] alias [REDACTED] alias [REDACTED]. Her identity should be determined and other investigation should await the advice of either the San Antonio office or the office of origin as to whether she should be contacted.

LOS ANGELES DIVISION:

Will advise the San Antonio Div. upon the departure of [REDACTED] for San Antonio, Texas.

- P E N D I N G -

POSTAL - CHGE FBI 810 S. SPRING BLDG

LOS ANGELES JULY 25, 1938

G. I. JONES
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPT OF JUSTICE
478 FEDERAL BLDG
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

GEORGE KELLY BARNES ETAL KIDNAPING. RE REPORT [REDACTED] LOSANGELES
NINETEENTH INSTANT. [REDACTED] DEPARTED LOSANGELES SATURDAY
ARRIVING SANANTONIO AFTERNOON TWENTY SIXTH VIA BUS.

HANSON

9:10 AM

U. S. BUREAU and OKLAHOMA CITY

All b7C

7-115	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUL - 1938 P. M.	
CHARGE	
FILE	

7-115-2894

August 4, 1936

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

ALL b7C

Dear Sir:

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

There are transmitted herewith two copies of a letter dated July 23, 1936, directed to the Bureau by [REDACTED] in which he advises he has in his possession two papers which supposedly relate to Kathryn Kelly, and in which reference is made to Tom Banks of Minneapolis concerning funds of money.

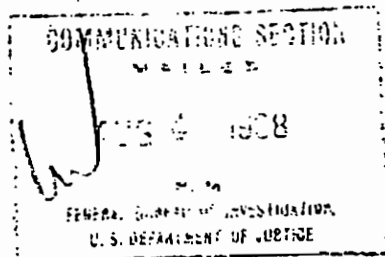
The Bureau desires that [REDACTED] be interviewed immediately for any information he may have in his possession of value to the Bureau in connection with this case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Dawley _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

Inclosures



Handwritten signature/initials

C

RECEIVED

August 4, 1938

7-115-2094

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Enid, Oklahoma

All b7C

Dear [REDACTED]

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 23, 1938, in which you advise that you have in your possession two papers which relate to Kathryn Kelly, and in which reference is made to certain funds of money.

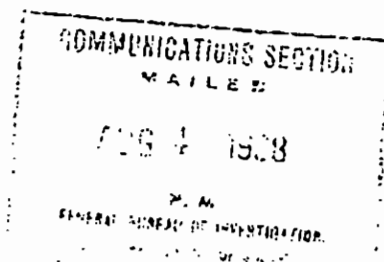
I desire to thank you for transmitting this information to me, and to advise that I have instructed Mr. E. P. Guinane, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, 224 Federal Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to have an Agent call on you at the earliest possible moment.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Dancy _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

cc Oklahoma City



Handwritten: Payne
Handwritten: [Signature]

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Crowl	.....
Mr. Dawsey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. McIntire	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

July 23, 1938

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~.

Recently an acquaintance here turned over to me two papers which supposedly relate to Kathryn Kelly of the Urschel Kidnapping Case, in which reference is made to Tom Parks of Minneapolis concerning funds of money.

In as much as I am not aware as to whether or not information contained in these papers, or that to be obtained by following up the same, would be of value to the Bureau I am not forwarding the such papers in this letter but they are available to an agent of the Bureau if you so desire.

Sincerely yours,

All b7C
b7D

Have him interviewed
[Signature]

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

ack chla chla 22 5-4
7-115-2194
JUL 27 1938
[Signature]
ONE

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

Oklahoma City

S.A. FILE NO. 7-11-

REPORT MADE AT: San Antonio, Texas	DATE WHEN MADE: Aug. 4, '38	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: July 25, 27, '38	REPORT MADE BY: Sam T. Jones
TITLE: GEORGE KELLEY BARNES, with aliases, ET AL; CHARLES F. URSCHEL, Victim			CHARACTER OF CASE: Kidnaping

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

██████████ called at San Antonio office 7/25/38, and was accompanied to Uvalde, Texas, by Special Agent ██████████. Thorough investigation at that point failed to locate ██████████. Story of ██████████ apparently fabrication. EUC.

Reference: Report Special Agent ██████████ Los Angeles, Cal. July 19, 1938; telegram from Los Angeles office dated July 25, 1938.

DETAILS:

Report of reference details story told by ██████████ alias ██████████ while confined in the Los Angeles County Jail that he had participated in the URSCHEL kidnaping with four companions who had all been arrested and sent to prison and that he, ██████████ had \$100,000.00 of the URSCHEL money part of which was hidden under a house near Dallas, Texas, and that ██████████ residing at Uvalde, Texas, knew where the money was hidden in Dallas and that she also had knowledge where \$2,000 of the money was hidden in Uvalde, Texas.

It is to be noted that ██████████ alias ██████████ back in April, 1938, told a cellmate of his in the Los Angeles County Jail that he had been involved in a kidnaping in Texas about eight months previous to April, 1938, wherein he and two partners known as ██████████ and ██████████ had collected a \$25,000 ransom. Investigation made at the time developed that there was no such kidnaping in Texas; neither was there any such kidnaping anywhere in the United States that had been reported.

Reporting Agent was actively engaged in the investigation of the URSCHEL kidnaping from the inception of this case until the final culmination and

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

[Signature]

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

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Oklahoma City-2
San Antonio-2

Dallas-2
Los Angeles-2

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20.5 MAR 17 1965

7-115-2095

UNITED STATES

AUG-8 A.M.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RECORDED AND INDEXED

CHECKED OFF

PACKETED

it can be definitely stated that [redacted] alias [redacted] had nothing whatever to do with the URSCHKE case and could not, by any stretch of the imagination, have in his possession \$100,000 of the ransom money as approximately \$125,000 of this money was actually recovered and balance fairly well accounted for.

It is noted that in discussing the URSCHKE ransom money that he alleges to have [redacted] stated that the money was in five, ten, and twenty dollar bills. All of the URSCHKE ransom was in \$20 Federal Reserve bills.

In accordance with information contained in telegram of reference [redacted] the original Informant in this case, called at the San Antonio office on the morning of July 26, 1938, having arrived by Greyhound Bus from Los Angeles, Cal.. The information in possession of [redacted] as outlined in report of reference, was thoroughly discussed with him and his attention called to the impossibility of [redacted] having participated in the kidnapping of Mr. URSCHKE.

Due to the fact that this informant had gone to some expense in proceeding to San Antonio and while he was convinced that the [redacted] information was a pure hoax, it was decided to make a check at Uvalde, Texas, and if [redacted] could be located as residing there to allow [redacted] to contact her in order to see what she would have to say concerning the proposition especially as the report of reference indicates that she had written a letter to the man [redacted] while that individual was confined in the Los Angeles County Jail. [redacted] was accompanied to Uvalde, Texas, by Special Agent [redacted] on the afternoon of July 26, 1938. Uvalde is a small village where everybody knows everybody else. A thorough check at Uvalde through Postmaster [redacted] and [redacted] Postmaster at North Uvalde was made and no record whatever could be found of any [redacted] residing in Uvalde.

The Retail Merchants's office was checked, the Electric Light and Power Co. and some two hours were spent with the Deputies from the local Sheriff's office and it was definitely established that no one knew any [redacted] residing in Uvalde. [redacted] and Agent [redacted] returned to San Antonio on the night of July 26 and on the morning of July 27, [redacted] continued on his journey to New York City where he advised that his address would be Camp Smith, New York National Guard, Peekskill, N. Y. for the next three weeks.

Just what [redacted] object was in concocting the story relative to the large amounts of ransom money, the fruits of kidnapping cases in which he was involved, is not known however it is known that as far as the URSCHKE case is concerned his story is a pure hoax.

In order to determine just what [redacted] object is it is thought advisable that he should be interviewed by the Dallas office. It is understood that he is presently confined in the Warrackville Jail.

All b7C

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

Dallas office: At Waxahachie, thoroughly interview [redacted] alias [redacted] in the Waxahachie County Jail and ascertain just what his object is in detailing the wild information concerning the enormous amount of ransom money he claimed to have buried in Texas. It is also believed advisable to ascertain if he has a sister living in Dallas as per lead set out in report of reference.

Referred upon completion.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

OKLAHOMA CITY

FILE NO.

7

REPORT MADE AT Oklahoma City, Okla.	DATE WHEN MADE 8-2-33	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-29-33	REPORT MADE BY R. E. COLVIN
TITLE GEORGE KELLEY BARNES, with aliases, ET AL; CHARLES F. URSCHEL - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE KIDNAPING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED] story as to URSCHEL ransom money appears ridiculous for reasons that is not in accord with known facts as set out hereunder.

- P -

REFERENCE:

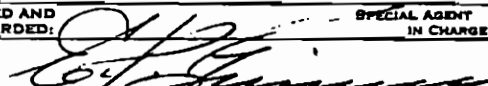
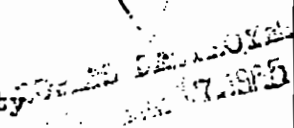

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED]
Los Angeles, California, 7-19-38.

DETAILS: - At Oklahoma City -

A review of the Oklahoma City files in this case makes it appear that the story of [REDACTED] to the effect that he was one of the URSCHEL kidnapers and had \$100,000. of the money buried near Dallas, has no foundation in fact and is not worthy of serious consideration.

In the first place all of the ransom money in the URSCHEL case consisted of twenty dollar bills on the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, whereas [REDACTED] claims it to consist of \$5.00, \$10.00 and \$20.00 bills. Secondly, [REDACTED] claims to have \$100,000. of the money whereas the file discloses that a least \$135,270.00 of the \$200,000. original ransom bills has been recovered and several thousand dollars otherwise account for. Third, Oklahoma City file 26-4634, discloses that [REDACTED] were arrested at Dallas, Texas for violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act on November 11, 1934 and at that time [REDACTED] was 18 ye

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 7 - 115 - 2976 AUG
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of age, which would have made him less than 17 years old at the time of the URSCHER kidnaping and not a likely participant. All known participants in the URSCHER kidnaping have been apprehended and convicted. The only possible exception is the more or less supposititious "finger man".

██████ story as to his participation in the kidnaping of a Texas man eight months ago in which \$25,000. ransom was paid and two of the kidnapers sentenced to life imprisonment does not appear to have any foundation.

All b7C

Agent is thoroughly familiar with all details of the URSCHER case and does not deem ██████ story worthy of any consideration at all.

P E N D I N G.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Los Angeles, California
August 30, 1938

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: GEORGE KELLEY BARNES,
with aliases, et al;
CHARLES F. URSCHEL - Victim
L. A. File 7-19 Kidnaping
Bureau file 7-115

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated July 9, 1938, concerning contacting [redacted] relative to developing information concerning the ransom money in the instant case, which information was supposed to have emanated from [redacted]

In view of the information which has been developed as reported in the report of Special Agent [redacted] Los Angeles, California, dated July 19, 1938, and report of Special Agent Gus T. Jones, San Antonio, Texas, dated August 4, 1938, no further investigation will be conducted in this regard unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau, and this case is being considered as referred upon completion to office of origin.

Very truly yours,

J. H. HANSON

Special Agent in Charge

[redacted]
cc Okla City

All b7C

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-115-2097	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
SEP 6 1938 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
ONE	FILE

7-115

September 19, 1938

Special Agent in Charge
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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

Dear Sir:

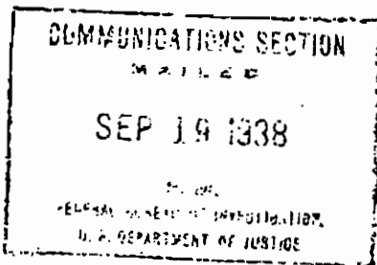
Reference is made to Bureau letter of August 4, 1938, with which were transmitted copies of a letter from [REDACTED] dated July 23, 1938, at which time you were instructed to have an Agent interview [REDACTED] for any information in his possession of value to the Bureau, particularly with reference to papers possibly in his possession relating to Kathryn Kelly and Tom Banks of Minneapolis.

A review of the Bureau file fails to reflect attention has as yet been given to this matter, and it is desired, accordingly, that [REDACTED] be contacted at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,
For the Director

Harold Nathan
Assistant Director

RECORDED



7-115-2098

SEP 20 1938

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

C

RECORDED

October 13, 1936

7-115 2099

Special Agent in Charge
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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

Dear Sir:

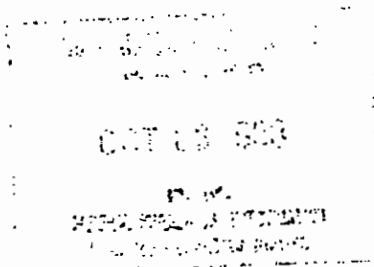
Reference is made to your letter of September 22, 1936,
concerning Attorney John R. Roberts, deceased, and the possibility
of examining his papers for any information which might be contained
therein of interest in the instant case.

Please be advised that it would not appear worthwhile at the
present time to attempt to examine the papers of Attorney Roberts in
this connection.

Very truly yours,
For the Director

Harold Nathan
Assistant Director

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Dawsey _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
SEPTEMBER 22, 1938

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

RE: GEORGE KELLEY BARNES, with aliases; et al;
CHARLES F. URSCHEL - VICTIM.
KIDNAPING

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 4, 1938. Please be advised that Special Agent [redacted] made the following investigation at Enid, Oklahoma:

On September 1, 1938 the writer contacted [redacted] at Enid, Oklahoma. It will be noted that [redacted] was formerly an Agent of this Bureau, resigning about February, 1938, to return to private practice of law. [redacted] informed Agent that JOHN R. ROBERTS, presently deceased, formerly operated as an attorney in Enid, Oklahoma, and acted as an attorney for KATHRYN KELLY at the time she was tried in instant matter. He stated that ROBERTS did not have a good reputation, and it had been rumored for a long time that ROBERTS had received a part of URSCHEL ransom money. It was also thought that ROBERTS was a known contact for all major criminals in the Southwest. During the time ROBERTS was practicing law one H. W. CAREY, also now deceased, had his office as a private detective near the office of ROBERTS, and they were very friendly. Several months ago MR. and MRS. CAREY, while talking to [redacted] upon matters of business, mentioned that ROBERTS and MRS. ROBERTS had a great deal of trouble, and when ROBERTS would whip her MRS. ROBERTS would usually go to the CAREY home. CAREY mentioned that on one occasion he accompanied ROBERTS to the office of W. H. HILLS, an attorney at Enid, Oklahoma, recently deceased, and at this time ROBERTS requested that HILLS, who was planning to make a trip to California, take an order signed by KATHRYN KELLY by way of St. Paul, Minnesota, where he should collect some money due ROBERTS. HILLS refused to comply with this request, and told ROBERTS to leave his office. CAREY advised [redacted] that he noted this order signed by KATHRYN KELLY, and same was directed to TOM BANKS in Minneapolis, Minnesota, requesting BANKS to pay ROBERTS a certain sum of money. At [redacted] request CAREY stated he was sure he could obtain this order from MRS. ROBERTS. After MR. CAREY'S death, MRS. CAREY furnished [redacted] with a letter as follows:

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1964 JULY 1964

All b7C

'Dear Tom:

My attorney is mailing this to Mr. Carey to be given you, so please send some cash by return to the below I think I have a chance to beat these prosecutors and I want you to help me out all you can. Send one thousand dollars by return.

Love Kathryn

On the back of this letter appears the name 'TOM BANKS, Minneapolis'. She also gave to [REDACTED] a letter signed [REDACTED] as follows:

[REDACTED]
Lawyer
[REDACTED]

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

John V. Roberts,

20 July, 1937

Enid, Okla.

Dear Sir: When you first wrote me about an account against Tom Banks of this city, you mentioned a note. Of course this paper is neither a note nor an order and not much evidence of a legal obligation. However I got Banks to come to the office yesterday and asked him about it. He refuses to be interested and declines to pay saying there is no reason why he should. He says that he had no connection with the parties mentioned and will do nothing. He seemed pleasant enough about it. There being no chance to sue on this paper, I return it herewith. Thanks. Maybe we will have better luck next time.

Yours

/s/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] furnished the above quoted letters to this Agent and they are being retained in the Oklahoma City file in this matter.

[REDACTED] further advised that MRS. CAREY was of the opinion that she could make arrangements so that the papers of

JOHN ROBERTS might be searched, if same is necessary, stating that MRS. ROBERTS advised her that all of her husband's papers were located at her brother's home at Aline, Oklahoma. "

A review of the instant file by Special Agent R. H. COLVIN fails to disclose any important connection of TOM BANKS with the instant matter with the following possible exceptions:

TOM BANKS was a well known gambler and underworld character at Minneapolis and St. Paul during the time of the URSCHER kidnaping case and associated with JACK PFEIFFER in the operation of the Hollyhocks Night Club at St. Paul, and other gambling establishments. It is noted that when PETER HACKETT alias WILLIAM NELSON cashed the \$1800.00 cashier's check, which was purchased from the Hennepin County National Bank at St. Paul with URSCHER ransom money he presented same to [REDACTED] of the First National Bank at St. Paul, who knew HACKETT both by that name and as WILLIAM NELSON, and stated he had for many years been an employee of TOM BANKS. TOM BANKS was also known during that time as a good friend of ISADORE WOLK, who was one of the persons arrested at Minneapolis and St. Paul in connection with the passing of URSCHER ransom money at that place. During that period TOM BANKS resided at 3817 Drew Avenue, South Minneapolis.

It appears that during the investigation of the URSCHER case at Minneapolis and St. Paul nothing was disclosed to connect BANKS directly with the same other than the possibility that he might have been mixed up with BARNEY BERMAN in connection with the purchase of the Cashier's checks. This might be inferred from the fact that PETER HACKETT is known to have done most of TOM BANKS' banking.

In connection with the above note by KATHRYN KELLY to TOM BANKS, it is quite evident same was written during the time KATHRYN was being prosecuted at Oklahoma City for the reason she states therein "I think I have a chance to beat these prosecutors and I want you to help me all you can".

The above facts are submitted to the Bureau before any further action is taken for consideration as to whether or not the facts warrant any further investigation, such as examination of the private papers of the deceased attorney, JOHN V. ROBERTS. Please advise us in the premises.

Very truly yours,

H. B. Fletcher
H. B. FLETCHER
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

7-115-2206

October 17, 1938

Special Agent in Charge
Dallas, Texas.

All b7C

Dear Sir:

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

It has been observed that the undeveloped
lead contained in the report of Special Agent in
Charge Guy W. Jones, San Antonio, Texas, dated August
4, 1938, as well as the lead contained in the report
of Special Agent [redacted] Los Angeles, California,
dated July 19, 1938, have not as yet been completed by
your office.

In view of the long period of delinquency
in this matter, it is desired that your early attention
be given thereto and a report be submitted as soon as
possible.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

RECORDED

cc Oklahoma City

OCT 17 1938

RECEIVED
OCT 17 1938

7-115-2100

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 18 1938

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

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

FILE NO. **7-7-**

REPORT MADE AT Dallas	DATE WHEN MADE 10-16-38	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10-4-38	REPORT MADE BY F. J. BLAKE
TITLE GEORGE KELLEY PARNES, with aliases; ET AL; CHARLES F. URSCHEL - VICTIM.			CHARACTER OF CASE KIDNAPING.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [REDACTED] transferred to Huntsville, Texas, State Penitentiary.

RUC.

Reference: Report of Special Agent in Charge GUS T. JONES, San Antonio, Texas, dated 8-4-38.

Details:

Deputy Sheriff [REDACTED] at Waxahachie, Texas, stated that [REDACTED] had been transferred to the Texas State Prison at Huntsville, Texas.

No lead is being set out to the San Antonio Office to interview [REDACTED] nor is further investigation being made of the allegations that he hid some of the ransom money in Dallas, Texas, as it is apparent he had nothing to do with the URSCHEL case.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

All b7C

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>E. E. Conroy</i> <i>EES</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		7	115
		2101	OCT 21 1938
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3- Bureau 2- Oklahoma City 2- Los Angeles 2- San Antonio 2- Dallas		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> COPIES DESTROYED 20 MAR 17 1965 </div>	

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
OCTOBER 21, 1938

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

RE: GEORGE KELLEY BARNES with aliases, et al;
CHARLES FOURSCHEL - VICTIM;
KIDNAPING

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent
F. J. BLAKE, Dallas, Texas, October 16, 1938, in which it is
indicated that [REDACTED] has been sent to the Texas
State Prison at Huntsville, Texas.

Unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau no
effort will be made to interview [REDACTED] concerning his allegations
that he had hidden some of the ransom money in this case near
Dallas, Texas, as it is apparent he had nothing to do with
instant matter.

Very truly yours,

H. B. Fletcher

H. B. FLETCHER
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

HB

All b7C

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-115-2102
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 24 1938
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ONE

Oklahoma City Ok
Nov 3rd 1938

J. Edgar Hoover
Washington, D.C.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-175-21
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 7 1938
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

My Dear Sir

I see by the papers you have grabbed another batch of kidnapers. That is fine, but say Eddie. When are you going to finish up the Meschel. Or have you given up in defeat. You know the birds that planned the wholesale kidnaping that was to be paid off here, but was terminated by the arrest of Meschel are men of brains, and are hard to catch. Kelly Bates and Bentley are angels in comparison, while these birds occupy high social positions and have never been suspected by you, and I am of the opinion you are personally acquainted with all of them except one and he is the worst kind and side of Hattise, and recited the pay off price Kelly and Bates, which constitutes the money ransom money paid by Meschel and was turned out into the city.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

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

7-115

December 29, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES. ✓

Re: Thomas L. Manion;
Grover C. Beville.
Obstruction of Justice.
(Release of Federal Prisoner
Harvey J. Bailey).

Reference is made to the letter from the Dallas Field Division to the Bureau dated June 27, 1934, in connection with the above-entitled case.

This is to advise that the following exhibits listed in reference letter are now on exhibit in the Laboratory Exhibit Room having been removed from the evidence files:

Three saved jail bars; one Stilson wrench with broken teeth.

The hack-saw blade listed in reference letter is presently in the Laboratory evidence files.

E. S. P. Coffey

7-115-2104	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
DEC 29 1938	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
FILES	ONE

January 19, 1939

7-115 -2105

Special Agent in Charge
Salt Lake City, Utah

Re: GEORGE KELLY BARNES, with aliases, ET AL;
CHARLES F. URSCHEL, VICTIM -
KIDNAPING

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated January 10, 1939, concerning Illinois 1933 license plates No. 787-918, and the gray Borsalino hat which are presently in the exhibit file of the Salt Lake City Office in connection with the instant case.

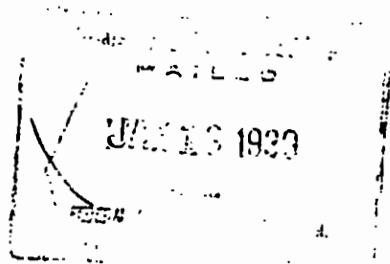
It is the Bureau's desire that you consult the proper United States Attorney concerning these items and if he advises that they are of no further value whatever and need not be retained, you are authorized to destroy them.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc-Oklahoma City

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Q. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____



Public

C

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Salt Lake City, Utah
January 10, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

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

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of former Special Agent in Charge JOHN A. DOWD in the above case dated at Salt Lake City 8-24-33, in which it is indicated that in connection with the examination of the Buick Coupe, Motor # 2,823,917, which had been used by ALBERT L. BATES with aliases, Illinois license plates # 787-918 for 1933 were recovered.

Reference is also made to the letter from the Salt Lake City office in the above case dated November 16, 1933, indicating that a gray Borsalino hat in which the name "Shannon" appears on the inside of the leather sweat band, was recovered by Special Agent VAL C. ZIMMER on October 13, 1933, at which time the property of ALBERT L. BATES was sold at auction in Denver, Colorado, in the interest of the American Express Company.

The opinion of the Bureau is requested at this time as to whether it will be possible for the Salt Lake City office to dispose of these two items which are presently being retained in its bulky exhibits file.

Very truly yours,

JAY C. NEWMAN
JAY C. NEWMAN,
Special Agent in Charge.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED.

7-115-2103
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 12 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

7-10

cc - Oklahoma.

7-115 - 2105 X

February 10, 1939

AIR MAIL

RECEIVED

Special Agent in Charge
Dallas, Texas

Re: GEORGE KIMBLEY BARNES, with alias;
et al; Charles F. Urschel, Victim;
KIDNAPING.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the San Antonio Office letter addressed to the Dallas Office, dated January 18, 1939, concerning information supplied by [REDACTED] relative to the possible location of part of the ransom money in instant case.

In view of the nature of the information supplied by [REDACTED] it is desired that the investigation requested by the San Antonio Office be given special attention and that vigorous effort be made to follow this matter through to a logical conclusion at the earliest possible time.

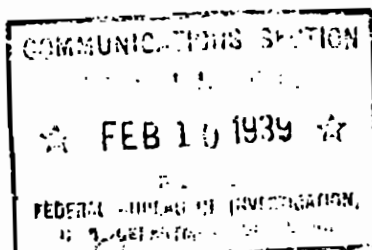
Very truly yours,

All b7c

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc San Antonio

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Crowl _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Lester _____
Mr. McIntire _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. O. Tamm _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____



Handwritten signature and initials.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

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

January 26, 1939

7-115

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: GEORGE KELLEY BARNES, with alias, ET AL;
CHARLES F. URSCHEL, VICTIM -
KIDNAPING

The following information has been received from the 1 1939
San Antonio Office and referred to the Dallas Office and is of
interest in the above case.

There is a considerable portion of the Urschel ransom
money which has not been accounted for and it is known that during
the flight of George and Kathryn Kelley she contacted Attorney
Sam Sayers, then a member of the law firm of Scott, McLain and
Sayers, Fort Worth, Texas, employing Sayers to defend her mother.
According to information developed she even left with Sayers a
Chevrolet Coupe which he secreted and she later had an individual
proceed to Oklahoma with a note to Sayers in order to obtain
the coupe in question, along with money which Sayers was holding.
This information was developed from Luther Arnold at the time
he confessed his participation in the harboring of Kathryn Kelley.
This same law firm has handled a great deal of criminal business
in that section of the country. It has further been brought to
mind that Sam Sayers once made the statement that he had enough
of the Urschel money "salted away" to educate his son and that
at the proper time he would put it in circulation. In view
of the information which has been previously developed the
information recently supplied by [redacted] of San Antonio,
Texas, is thought significant.

1 ENCL.M

On January 14, 1939, while having lunch with [redacted]
[redacted] at Fort
Worth, Texas, which business is financed by one Marshall H. Smith,
[redacted] confidentially advised [redacted] that Marshall
H. Smith had told her that two attorneys in Fort Worth, Texas, had
several thousand dollars of the Urschel ransom money. She also
indicated that they had several thousand dollars of cash which was
loot from a major robbery which occurred at Fort Worth a few years
ago and that he, Marshall Smith, had access to this money and had

COPIES DESTROYED
20 MAR 17 1965

This should be pressed
regionally. N.

7-15-2105X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 28 1939
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
TOLSON
EAM
ONE

b7C
b7D

Memorandum for the Director

- 2 -

January 26, 1939

b7C
b7D
N/ been helping the attorneys dispose of it, especially Urschel
ransom money. [REDACTED] has agreed on his next trip to
Fort Worth to endeavor to obtain some additional information
from [REDACTED] and accordingly has requested that no Agent
interview [REDACTED] at this time, particularly inasmuch
as it is felt certain she would immediately communicate with
Marshall Smith. The Dallas Office has been requested by the
San Antonio Office, in view of the above facts, to conduct a
check to determine the identity of Marshall H. Smith, his
financial standing, and whether he is in any way associated with
or a client of the firm above mentioned or of Sam Sayers
personally. I will keep you advised of any developments of
interest in connection with this matter.

Respectfully,



E. A. Tamm

San Antonio, Texas
January 18, 1939

GTJ

Special Agent in Charge,
Dallas, Texas

GEORGE KELLEY BARNES, w.a. et al;
CHARLES F. URSCHER, Victim
Kidnaping

Dear Sir:

[redacted] San Antonio,
Texas, [redacted]
called at the San Antonio office and furnished the following information:

[redacted] Ft. Worth
is operated by [redacted] however,
he is being financed by one MARSHALL H. SMITH, who is alleged to be a
representative of the Highway Association and Safety Council of America.
SMITH'S business address appears to be 913 Houston Street, Fort Worth,
Texas, Telephone 3-0418. SMITH appears to be well known in Fort Worth,
Texas. [redacted] states that he has known the [redacted] family for
several years and on Saturday, January 14th, 1939, while having lunch
with [redacted] she advised him confidentially that MARSHALL H. SMITH
had told her that two attorneys in Fort Worth, Texas, had several thousand
dollars of the URSCHER ransom money; also several thousand dollars of
cash that was loot from a major robbery that occurred in Fort Worth a few
years ago; that he, SMITH, had access to this money and had been helping
these attorneys dispose of it, especially the URSCHER money.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] apparently realized that
she had talked too much and would not furnish him any additional information
when he became inquisitive. [redacted] states that [redacted] is
a high-class person but neither he nor [redacted] should be contacted at
this time as they would no doubt pass this information to SMITH. [redacted]
[redacted] stated that he had no desire of any reward of any kind; that he
had a son kidnaped in San Antonio two or three years ago by a sexual pervert
and that was his reason for giving the information concerning the matter as
he had contempt for SMITH who would participate in the handling of any ransom
money.

INDEXED

7-11-2105X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 21 1939
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COPIES DESTROYED
20 MAR 17 1965

SAC, Dallas, Texas, #2

January 18, 1939

While we have received numerous purely fictitious reports concerning the URSCHEL ransom money, however, it is believed that this report fully merits a thorough confidential inquiry.

A thorough check has always revealed that there was in the neighborhood of fifteen or twenty thousand dollars of GEORGE KELLEY's share of the URSCHEL ransom money unaccounted for. It is known that during the flight of GEORGE and KATHERYN KELLEY she contacted Attorney SAM SAYERS, who was then a member of the law firm of Scott, McLain and Sayers of Fort Worth and employed SAYERS to defend her mother. She even left with SAYERS a Chevrolet coupe which he secreted and when she contacted LUTHER ARNOLD, whom she employed to proceed to Oklahoma she gave ARNOLD a note to SAM SAYERS and SAYERS delivered the Chevrolet coupe to ARNOLD, also some money. This information was all obtained from ARNOLD at the time he confessed his participation in the harboring of KATHERYN KELLEY. The law firm of Scott, McLain and Sayers vigorously fought the removal of the Shannons from Fort Worth to Oklahoma City and SAM SAYERS participated throughout in the trial at Oklahoma City.

It is known that this firm handled more criminal business than any other law firm in North Texas and their retainer fees were always large. It stands to reason that KATHERYN KELLEY must have paid Attorney SAM SAYERS and this firm at least \$10,000 for the work they did and it is not believed that at the time she contacted SAYERS she or GEORGE KELLEY had been able to exchange that much of the URSCHEL ransom money.

It is suggested that a thorough check be made as to the identity of MARSHALL H. SMITH and his financial standing, and whether or not he is in any way associated with or a client of the law firm mentioned or SAM SAYERS personally.

██████████ has agreed on his next trip to Fort Worth to endeavor to obtain some additional information from ██████████ and for that reason he requests that no interview be had with the ██████████ at this time. As before stated, it is believed this matter really merits a thorough effort to ascertain if any of the URSCHEL ransom money has been placed in circulation in Fort Worth recently.

An informant once stated during the trial in Oklahoma City that SAM SAYERS while in his "cups" had made the statement that he had enough of the URSCHEL money "salted away" to educate his son and that at the proper time he would put it in circulation.

Very truly yours,

Cus T. Jones,
Special Agent in Charge.

cc Bureau

AKK/b7C
b7D

Salt Lake City, Utah
February 16, 1939

W
Special Agent in Charge
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Re: GEORGE HENRY BARNES with
aliases et al.
THOMAS F. DIERCKMEL - Victim
KIDNAPING

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter of January 10, 1939, to the Bureau in the above case, a copy of which was furnished to your office, and to Bureau letter of January 19, 1939.

In accordance with Bureau instructions, it is requested that you consult with the proper United States Attorney, ascertaining whether there is any further necessity for this office to retain Illinois 1933 license plates / 727918 which were used by ALBERT L. BATES and found in his Buick Coupe, Motor number 2-823,917, recovered at Denver, Colorado, and the gray Borsalino hat in which the name "Shannon" appears, which was also recovered from Bates' property.

Very truly yours,

JAY C. NEWMAN,
Special Agent in Charge.

7-115
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 21 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ONE

b7c
7-10
cc - Bureau.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
FEBRUARY 21, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Sir:

RE: GEORGE KELLY BARNES with aliases, ET AL
CHARLES F. OURSCHEL - VICTIM
KIDNAPING

Reference is made to your letter dated February 16, 1939, in the above entitled matter.

Please be advised Assistant United States Attorney WADE LOOFBOERROW was contacted at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and he advised he knew of no reason for retaining Illinois 1933 license plates 787-918 which were used by ALFRED L. BATES and the gray Borsalino hat in which the name "SHANNON" appears, in view of the fact all investigation and prosecution in this matter has been completed.

Very truly yours,

H. B. FLETCHER
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

HBF
cc - Bureau

7-115

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 24 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHE

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Dallas, Texas

February 20, 1939

RECORDED

INDEXED

7-115-2106
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 22 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: GEORGE KELLEY BARNES, with alias;
ET AL; Charles F. Urschel, Victim;
KIDNAPING.

Dear Sir:

Please refer to letter from the San Antonio Division dated January 18, 1939, addressed to the Dallas Division.

Discreet investigation at Fort Worth, Texas, reveals that MARSHALL H. SMITH is considered a man of unsound mind. He comes from a good family which made considerable money during the War in the grain business. It is said that a fortune was made by the SMITH family buying wheat on a low market and selling at the peak market shortly after the outbreak of the World War.

MARSHALL H. SMITH was for sometime confined in an insane asylum, and now is often seen on the streets, passing out literature of all descriptions. When the parking meters were placed in Fort Worth, Texas, SMITH attempted to chop them down with an axe. It is known, of course, that the parking meters are of iron and placed along the curb on the city streets. SMITH is treated like a child by his family and by friends.

It is true that he is a representative of the National Safety Council and continually talks about safety and writes literature which has little meaning, according to those who have read it, but which he passes out on every occasion to people on the streets.

The story was told to Agent that once MARSHALL SMITH secured a sample case full of small bottles of liquor and started out bootlegging in Fort Worth, selling according to his samples, although he had no source of supply and could not fulfill any orders. No charge was ever brought against him for bootlegging, as it was known he was not actually selling liquor, but that it was one of his customary stunts, resulting from his demented mind.

COPIES DESTROYED
20 MAR 1965

The records of the Identification Bureau of the Fort Worth, Texas, Police Department show that SMITH, under #EX-38364, was arrested September 23, 1934, for vagrancy and received a \$25.00

2-24-39
D.E.B.

Parted

RE: GEO. KELLEY BARNES, etc.;
Dallas #7-7; Letter 2/20/39.

fine. He was again arrested June 9, 1936; charge, demented; disposition, released to County, where he was adjudged insane and sent to an insane asylum for approximately two years. The records are not complete on the length of time SMITH was confined in the asylum. His arrest record shows that on December 6, 1938, he was arrested for being drunk and was released, and on December 24, 1938, he was arrested for investigation for rape and released the same date.

The following description was taken from the identification records:

Age	60 yrs.
Height	5 ft. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.
Weight	175 lbs.
Hair	Gray
Eyes	Maroon
Fingerprint	9 17 0 15
Classification	11 1 U 8

The information reported above was secured by Agent D. L. McCORMACK from Chief of Police [REDACTED] who is known to be discreet and who has many times furnished confidential information to the Dallas Office. Additional information was likewise received from others who did not know the reason for the investigation, and inquiries were made in a casual manner.

In view of the above information, unless additional request is received, no further investigation will be conducted.

There are being transmitted to the Oklahoma City Field Office with copy of this letter copies of Bureau letter (7-115) dated February 10, 1939, and reference letter from the San Antonio Office dated January 18, 1939.

Very truly yours,


E. E. CONROY

Special Agent in Charge

[REDACTED]
cc-San Antonio
cc-Oklahoma City (Enc.2)

7-7-

All b7C

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

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

February 20, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMS

This morning [redacted] in Judge Holtzoff's Office in the Department called and requested the file on the case involving The Rent-A-Car of Memphis, Tennessee, in behalf of which S. 1258 was introduced by Senator McKellar. [redacted] advised that he was requested by Judge Holtzoff to obtain this file in connection with a report being prepared on the above mentioned bill by [redacted]. It appears that S. 1258 provides for the relief of the Rent-A-Car Company in the amount of \$144.80.

After talking with you I called [redacted] and advised him that no separate file was opened on this matter; that it was included in a major case file which is quite voluminous. [redacted] then stated that he had secured sufficient information to cover his needs from the memorandum which was dated January 23, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General and which explained in some detail the background of situation which prompted the introduction of the above-referred-to bill. [redacted] indicated that Judge Holtzoff will probably make no new request for additional information in this regard.

Respectfully,

[redacted signature]

All b7C

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-115-210	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
FEB 24 1939	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TAMM	ONE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

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

February 24, 1939

7-115

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: GEORGE KELLEY BARNES with alias;
et al: CHARLES F. URSCHEL,
Victim; KIDNAPING

Reference is made to the letter of January 18, 1939, to the Dallas Office from the San Antonio Office, setting forth information which was thought possibly to be of value in locating a portion of the balance of the Urschel ransom. This information was supplied by one [redacted] who intimated that Marshall H. Smith had information in his possession indicating that lawyers who had represented Catherine Kelley might very likely be in possession of part of the ransom money, as indicated by statements which had been made to the informant.

The Dallas Office has now advised that it has been discreetly ascertained that Marshall H. Smith, the real source of the information in question, is considered to be of unsound mind. For some time he was confined in an insane institution and is often seen on the streets passing out literature of all descriptions. It is related that when parking meters were placed in Fort Worth, Texas, he attempted to chop them down with an axe. He is, accordingly, treated like a child by his family and friends.

The records of the Fort Worth Police Department reflect that Smith has a criminal record, having been arrested in September, 1924, for vagrancy and in June, 1936, as a demented person, following which latter arrest he was placed in an insane asylum for approximately two years. He was further arrested in December, 1938, for being drunk and later in the same month was charged with investigation for rape, but was released.

In view of the information which has been developed concerning Marshall Smith and the fact that he is wholly unreliable, the Dallas Office has advised that in the absence of further instructions no additional investigation will be undertaken by that office.

Respectfully,
[Signature]

INDEXED

S. C. Tamm

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Director
Advised -
EOW 11/27/39*

ONE

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Dallas, Texas

March 6, 1939

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

Re: GEORGE KELLEY BARNES, wa;
et al; Charles F. Urschel,
Victim; KIDNAPING.

Dear Sir:

Please refer to letter from the Dallas Division,
dated February 20, 1939, which concerned MARSHALL H. SMITH.

There are transmitted herewith two bulletins or
propaganda letters issued by MARSHALL H. SMITH, which the
Bureau might desire to peruse in connection with the unsound
mental condition of SMITH.

These letters are typical of the literature passed
out on the streets as reflected in reference letter.

Very truly yours,

E. E. CONROY,
Special Agent in Charge.

ENCLOSURE

DLMc
enc.
7-7-

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-115-2109
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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OFFICIAL ASSOCIATION IN TEXAS OF ALL TEXAS PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZENS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE MOTOR
TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY, AND IN ALL SAFETY MEASURES, AND IN ALL OTHER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

THE HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION, AND THE SAFETY COUNCIL OF AMERICA

HON. RAYMOND BUCK, President
HON. R. C. BOWEN, Past President
HON. TOM B. LEWIS, Past President
HON. JULIEN C. HYER, Past President
HON. HUGH SMALL, Past President
HON. H. TOM COOPER, Past President
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JUDGE JUNE C. HARRIS, Past President
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JUDGE AUDLEY J. HARRIS, Past President
MAYOR T. J. "Toget" HARRELL, Past President
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HON. ALBERT LEACH, Past President
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HON. J. C. DUVAL, Past President
HON. L. P. LIVELY, Recorder
HON. ROBT. A. "Bob" STUART, Past P
HON. REAGAN SAYERS, Past President

AUSTIN AND FORT WORTH, TEXAS

To The Hon. J. Roby Penn and All Friends
Of The Late Hon. John Hancock of Fort Worth, Texas.

"THE MOVING FINGER WRITES....."

.....AND HAVING WRIT, MOVES ON....."

On Sunday Afternoon, January The Twenty-Second, 1939 at 3:30 P. M. The Spirit of Our good Friend, The Honorable John Hancock, moved on from its earthly habitat to the realm of rewards - having written upon the consciousness of his fellow travelers an indelible impression of sincerity, loyalty, honor and courage, unsurpassed in this physical world of strife, achievement, disappointments and joys.

There are so many good things that could be said about Our Friend, John Hancock (I knew him personally for more than forty years) that it all would make A Large Volume; therefore, in GREATEST BREVITY we can say that he was truly Lovable, Noble and A GOOD MAN in Every Avenue Of Life. We all loved him very much. To know him was to love him. To name him was to praise him. We shall forever Cherish His Memory.

Respectfully,

MARSHALL H. SMITH,
c/o Worth Hotel,
Fort Worth, Texas.

OFFICIAL ASSOCIATION IN TEX. OF ALL TEXAS PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZENS WHO RE INTERESTED IN THE MOTOR TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY. AND IN ALL SAFETY MEASURES. AND IN ALL HER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

THE HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION, AND THE SAFETY COUNCIL OF AMERICA

HON. RAYMOND BUCK, President
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HON. M. E. OUSLEY, Past President
HON. J. C. DUVAL, Past President
HON. L. P. LIVELY, Recorder
HON. ROBT. A. "Bob" STUART, Past Presi
HON. REAGAN SAYERS, Past President

AUSTIN AND FORT WORTH, TEXAS

PLEASE LISTEN AND REMEMBER!!!! The First shall be Last and The Last Shall be First - I, Marshall H. Smith and many other Good Friends have personally and intimately known Jesse H. Jones and His Big Brother, John Jones since the first day they arrived in The Great and Glorious State of Texas or reached Houston, Texas. They are each Rugged Sons of Rugged Ancestors of The Rugged State of Tennessee, Born in The Rugged Lap of A Rugged Mountain Home and would Each make Rugged Presidents of These Glorious U. S. A. Either Jesse or John would make a Great and Good Governor for Texas, and if elected would be as great and as Far Visioned for The Common Good as was Our Great Beloved and Immortal Governor, James Stephen Hogg. They would work for and favor and work ceaselessly for a Decent Adequate Federal Tax and a Decent and Adequate Federal Old Age Pension of \$60.00 to \$120.00 per month, all of which would cause These Great and Glorious U. S. A. to Bloom and Blossom and Boom and Bound and Boom immediately be swept upward and upward and onward and onward out of our present industrial and financial distress, our miserable depression and our regrettable, inexcusable, damnable, useless, Ruinous and Desperately Wicked Depression.

So let us all wake up and be on our way and do good each day for others while we may and before some of us wake up too soon in a literal hell here on earth or hereafter in an eternal hell on the other side of The River or The Eternal and Everlasting Stream of Life which Flows Before and Around The Throne of God. So let's all try to Do Good while we may every day *** Pax Vabiscum *** And be assured that The Peace of God and The Blessings of All Good Things will be with us Always if we will Ask for and do These Good Things in The Name and in The Love of Christ Jesus Our Brother and Our Redeemer. For otherwise or in any other name, we build in Vain and only upon the Sands of Time and All will be swept away and upon continuous and unending Error.

Respectfully,

MARSHALL H. SMITH,
% Worth Hotel,
Fort Worth, Texas.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

March 17, 1939

HN: **b7C**
7-115

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: MRS. OMA L. SHANNON,
KATHRYN KELLY, et al;
URSCHEL KIDNAPING

In compliance with instructions of Mr. E. A. Tamm, the following memorandum is submitted.

With particular reference to the statement by Kathryn Kelly, in her letter of March 12th, to the effect that "Mr. Nathan told me that he would personally recommend to you that my parents be given consideration at the expiration of three years and for myself at five", I am very confident, indeed, that Kathryn is wrong in stating that I suggested that I would make any recommendation to you in her behalf at the end of any specified term of years. After the conviction of the Urschel kidnapers I saw Kathryn on at least two occasions and maybe more. Once was in the Cincinnati Work House and the other time was in the Federal Penitentiary at Milan, Michigan. During both of these occasions a considerable part of the Urschel loot was still missing. In other words, this was before the Bates money had been found in Southern Washington. It was the understanding of everybody connected with the case that Kathryn had information which would prove of value in locating this money. My conversations with her all followed the line of attempts to secure information from her as to the missing ransom money. I have no doubt that I did tell her that in the event the ransom money was recovered through any information she gave us I would see that you were fully informed thereof. I have no doubt that I told her that in the event she gave us information of value concerning this money it would be definitely to the advantage of herself and her mother. She seemed to be more interested in her mother's fate than her own. As a matter of fact, she has always, according to my information and the records, been particularly fond of her mother. However, as previously stated, I could not and did not mention any particular time limit to her, and any recommendations that I said I would make to you were based upon information conveyed by her being of value in connection with the Urschel ransom money.

RECORDED & INDEXED

7-115-2110

As a matter of fact, she gave us no information along this line that would help. She seemed to be, as I recall it, very positively of the opinion that the secret of the Urschel ransom money was in the possession of Tommy Banks of Minneapolis. In fact, she obviously believed that Banks

ENCLOSURE
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
✓ ONE

Director

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3/17/39

had some of this money. She may have been right. It will be recalled that the Urschel ransom money first made its appearance in St. Paul through the operations of henchmen of Banks.

With regard to the general situation relative to Ora Shannon, my recollection is not altogether comprehensive. I was in and out of the courtroom at various times during the trial and during some of the time I was in Dallas rather than in Oklahoma City. However, with regard to the Urschels, particularly with reference to Kathryn's statement that Kirkpatrick saw her last March, I might say that I have no idea that the Urschels or anybody connected with them are at all kindly disposed toward Kathryn or her mother, although I have not seen them in several years. Apparently Kirkpatrick is still trying to secure some information from Kathryn relative to this money and as part of the procedure endeavored to convince her of the friendly feeling of the Urschels toward her and her mother.

With regard to her reference to Judge Vaught at Oklahoma City, whom she says "knows beyond a doubt the sterling worth of my parents", I doubt very much indeed, unless Judge Vaught has changed his mind, that he is at all favorably disposed toward Kathryn or her mother. Subsequent to the trial, in a personal conversation with Judge Vaught, he told me, confidentially I suppose, that the only person he felt in any way favorably disposed toward was R. G. Shannon (Ora's husband); that possibly at the end of five years he might make some representation in his behalf. This is my very definite recollection of the conversation with the Judge and the point at issue is that he made no such statement concerning Mrs. Shannon.

It was the general opinion of everybody in Oklahoma and in and around Paradise, Texas that Shannon was not so bad, that is, he was a dumb small farmer until the time that he married Kathryn's mother, after which his farm became a rendezvous for bootleggers and other law breakers. Like all of this ilk, he was crazy about money and undoubtedly was carried away by his desire to make a lot of money quickly through the functioning of his son-in-law, George Kelly.

It was my impression that the case against Mrs. Shannon was not overwhelmingly clear, in fact there was not a great deal of evidence presented. It was definitely shown that she and her husband occupied a house alongside of or at least quite close to the house of Armon Shannon, her husband's son; that Urschel was kept a prisoner during the kidnap

3/17/39

period in the house of Armon^O Shannon, and during this period Urschel was guarded by her husband, R. G. Shannon, and his son, Armon. Also, that during this period the two Shannons were fed by Mrs. Ora Shannon; that is she prepared the meals. It was for this reason that she was convicted, that is, the fact that she knew of the kidnaping, or at least knew of the detention of Urschel on the farm, and took no steps to bring this to the attention of the authorities.

As to her general character, I heard much in the Southwest at the time concerning her, but not much that was in any way definite. People in Texas and Oklahoma contiguous to the scene of the kidnaping thought Shannon would have remained all right if he had not fallen in with Kathryn and her mother. Kathryn always said her mother possessed a perfect Christian character.

b7c
Supplementing my recollection, the general facts surrounding her mother, gleaned from a perusal of the parole report of Agent [REDACTED] dated January 16, 1934, are to the effect that she was arrested with her husband, R. G. Shannon, on August 12, 1933 in the Shannon farm near Paradise, Texas, and indicted August 23, 1933, with thirteen other defendants, on a charge of conspiracy to kidnap Urschel; she was convicted with six other defendants in Federal Court at Oklahoma City, September 30, 1933 and sentenced by Judge Vaught to life imprisonment.

The parole report states that when arrested she denied knowing anything about the kidnaping and told her husband to say nothing and know nothing as "these officers have nothing on us". She also said to her son, Armon C. Shannon, while officers were talking to him, "Armon, keep your damn mouth shut". She later admitted, however, that Urschel was brought to the Shannon farm where he was held in chains as a captive during the time that negotiations for the ransom were being carried out. She maintained that her husband and step-son guarded Urschel and she fed him upon the orders of her son-in-law, George Kelly^O Barnes, through fear of what he would do to them if they did not do this.

The parole report goes on to state "This stand, of course, is inconsistent in view of her past reputation and record. Immediately before her marriage to R. G. Shannon she operated a small hotel in Fort Worth, Texas which had a very questionable reputation. During the past three or four years the Shannon home has been a place of protection for liquor runners and hide-out and rendezvous for escaped prisoners and gangsters. While it has never been definitely proven how much Mrs. Shannon received of the ransom as her share, one of the defense attorneys confidentially advised Mr. Hyde, the United States Attorney at Oklahoma City who prosecuted this case, that she received \$10,000".

Director

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3/17/39

The parole report further states that Mrs. Shannon was 46 years of age at that time, married, born of good parents, and was "apparently a good and respected citizen until the last few years". The report further states "She first married J. E. Brooks and to that union was born Kathryn Kelly, the wife of Machine-gun Kelly, and another defendant in this case, both notorious criminals. This defendant enjoyed a splendid reputation as a citizen the first part of her life, but now is regarded as one who protects and harbors criminals." The report further stated that she had no previous criminal record.

There appears in the file a statement made by Ora Shannon to Agents Colvin and Blake, which states that "on Sunday, July 23, George Kelly and George Bates came to our house with a man who Kelly said was one of his friends who was drunk * * *. They brought this man into the house after dark and kept him there all the next day * * *. During the time Mr. Urschel was at Armon Shannon's house, Harvey Bailey came to our house and talked to Kelly and Bates. Shortly afterwards, in about 30 minutes, Kelly and Bates left. They were absent until the day that Mr. Urschel was released when Kelly came in and got a clean shirt. * * * A few nights before Mr. Urschel left I cooked some fried chicken, mashed potatoes and cake and took it up to the house and gave it to Mr. Shannon. I never did see Mr. Urschel. * * * On the Sunday before Urschel was released someone called on the phone and Kathryn talked to him and shortly thereafter she went out of the house in the rain and when she came back she was wet and I asked her where she had been and she said 'You don't need to know everything'."

The statement is further to the effect that "George Kelly or George Bates told me just before leaving the last time 'if anyone comes here you don't know anything'. I said, 'I don't know anything'. One said 'You had better not'. Mr. Shannon wanted to kill Bates and Kelly and release Urschel but dissuaded him. We did not receive one penny of money from Bates or Kelly in connection with the Urschel matter. I knew nothing about it until my husband went over to help guard the man being held."

The foregoing would indicate that the Shannon woman knew that Urschel was there. I recall reading some letters at the time from Kathryn to her mother which definitely indicated that Kathryn's husband, George Kelly Barnes, was holding up banks. The letters also indicated rather clearly that her mother could hardly help but know of this condition. A sixteen cylinder Cadillac purchased shortly after the kidnaping figured rather prominently in the hunt for Kelly and his wife, Kathryn. This car was placed in the name, as I recall it, of Ora L. Shannon. As a matter of fact, one of the letters I saw was from Kathryn to her mother, complimenting her mother on the car she would now have.

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Director

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3/17/39

I never talked with the Shannon woman at any length myself and for that reason have not formed any definite personal opinion concerning her personality. Kathryn's associations, of course, were particularly undesirable. Ever since she grew up she has associated with criminals. Her husband, Kelly, whom she married after he had served a term at Leavenworth, was successively a bootlegger, a bank robber and a kidnaper, and she knew of his functioning. Her mother could, of course, not be held responsible for her daughter's derelictions, but her knowledge at least of the Urschel kidnaping was definitely obvious.

With regard to clemency, I think Kathryn or her friends should secure first requests for clemency, if clemency is to be granted, from Judge Vaught who heard the case and from Mr. Keenan, former Assistant to the Attorney General, as well as from Mr. Hyde, former United States Attorney who prosecuted it.

Very truly yours,


H. Nathan

With regard to Kathryn's statement in her letter of March 12th, to the effect that "every FBI man that I came in contact with expressed sympathy for them and declared they would not be subjected to prison over three years--that a just government would not enforce more than that--that they would recommend to you the same--and the Judge who sentenced them declared the same thing in open court", I never heard any of our men make any such statement at any time. In fact, I can definitely say that the sentiment against them was entirely contrary to that stated by Kathryn. I was not in court when Ora Shannon was sentenced, but I am certain the Judge made no such statement or I would have heard it, in fact such a statement would have created a sensation in Oklahoma City at the time.

H. N.

From Kathryn Thorn Kelly

F2-- Milan Michigan.

Milan Michigan.
March 12 1939.

Mr. Edgar J. Hoover

Federal Bureau Of Investigation

Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

RECORDED

144-3110
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

I have, these past five years, persistently longed to know you personally, and to have a long talk with you, but as that seems to be an utter impossibility I am writing you a frank, and friendly letter.

I have been astounded, and very hurt at some of the press item's, supposedly your quotations which have appeared often during the past five years.

But knowing the unfair fabrications the newspapers concoct in order to make a sensational story-- perhaps you have often been misquoted, as I know that you could not conscientiously feel that I am really the person a powerful press has painted, and literally crucified. I saw a recent photograph of you snapped in Florida, so I decided to unload a portion of my troubled heart to you.

As you know my mother Mrs. Ora L. Shannon was given a life sentence, on the Urschel kidnapping (How I detest that word) the same time that I was. She has been incarcerated here now for a period of approximately five flat years. She applied for commutation of sentence recently--- beleiving with all her heart that a just government would extend some consideration---- while all of our loved ones, and my-self prayed unceasingly for clemency for her whish in all justice she deserves, and I think you will agree.

She was refused. She is not young, Mr. Hoover, and she is going through a very difficult period in a woman's life-- the mena pause, and she is literally greiving herself to death. If you could only know the sweetness, the patience,

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Nathan ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Mr. Coffey ✓
Mr. Crowl ✓
Mr. Glavin ✓
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tracy ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

the christian heart of my mother I know that you would feel that justice should prevail in her case, and she should be returned to the humble home and the loved ones she longs for, to complete the few years of life she has left her in peace. Loving her as I do just as you love your own dear mother, and knowing the goodness of her, just as all who come in contact with her know, it is worse than the tortures of hell for me to see her imprisoned year after year. If she was the prison type it would seem different but she is'nt. There is not a citizen in the United States that love, and reverence their country as she does, and she knows that she will be considered by a just government-her government, and her faith is sort of pathetic. It was only a chain of circumstances that involved both she and my step-father in the first place as you know. They were hospitable country people and were taken advantage off in every respect. They had no premeditated intention of breaking the law they revered, and I know that you must know that, and you also must feel that they would never betray in any respect the graciousness of a just government in returning to them the precious privilege of freedom.

Every F. B. I. man that I came in contact with expressed sympathy for them, and declared they would not be subjected to prison over three years-- that a just government would not enforce more than that-- That they would recommend to you the same----- The Judge who sentenced them declared the same thing in open court-- I know that Mr. Urschel earnestly wants them released. And the sorrow that he verbally expressed in the court room over their conviction was genuine. He is a fine man in my opinion one of the best, and I shall ever feel grateful toward him for his unbiased kindness toward the unfortunate two. I know that if you can conscientiously recommend to The Attorney General to take some action in their behalf that he will, and Please Mr. Hoover want you intervene?

My relatives are all poor people. I am destitute-- So is my mother. We have no aid from anyone, and no advice, only our belief in our Government for an adjustment of a cruel sentence. You know according to the files in your office that I personally did not have any more to do with a gang than the countless other girls who have come in here with two, and five years, and have departed. As I told Mr. Nathan I know that I deserved some punishment, and I have cheerfully abided by the rules here, trying to be an asset to this institution instead of a liability, and I know that I am a better woman. I am not bitter, for I feel that I too will some time be given a chance to rebuild my life upon the firm principles of right. Mr. Nathan told me that he would personally recommend to you that my parents be given consideration at the expiration of three years and for myself at five. You could do no more to stop crime in The United States Of America than to at some time, make a living advertisement of me in a heartfelt lecture to the youth of our nation that crime does not pay, and if I could be influential in influencing one person to heed the entanglements of the underworld and to abide with the sane mode of life, as their principle, I would feel that my life was not in vain.

Mr. Urschel's brother-in-law Mr Kirkpatrick was here to see me last March and judging from the trend of his conversation, I concluded that there was some doubt in your mind regarding the possibility of some of the ransom money being out. In my opinion Mr. Hoover there isn't one dollar of this money in existence. I have written my husband again, and again on this particular matter, and I have given the question much thought. It could only be secreted in the first place by anyone from plain cunningness which could never benefit any of the parties who are incarcerated. I think if you will give the matter much thought you will agree with me that almost every dollar of the money has been accounted for.

You know the total amount recovered-- It was a proven fact that George Kelly was practically penniless-- In fact borrowing money at the time of the offense.

Add to this a sum paid in cash to the firm of Scott & Sayers attorneys at Fort Worth Texas, as a defense fund for Mr. & Mrs Shannon, at the time my husband and I were fugitives---- Consisting of three one thousand dollar bills and one five hundred dollar bill at the first meeting---- Later an additional one thousand, also a diamond and platinum bracelet purchased in Chicago, a square cut marquise diamond ring, also bought in Chicago by Mr. Kelly as he was enroute from Minneapolis to Cleveland. This should account for approximately ten thousand dollars of the money as it was good money and some had been deducted by the money changers--- Also I understood a portion was retained by Jack Peiffer (who is now deceased) to change up, and was never obtained by the parties who left it with him, due to the fact that it might incriminate him were they seen in the twin cities at that time.

I would heartily love unearthing any cache were their any, and delivering to you every dollar of that money, were that possible and I think you know that.

I have been frank with you all of the time. I would even reimburse Mr. Urschel completely were it within my power to do so. I tried recently to recover the jewelry from the firm in Fort Worth with the intention of sending it to you, to be given Mr, Urschel, but this was unsatisfactory. They refused to give it up, and I have a ten page letter from them here now before me.

We are not the criminal family you think us evidently Mr. Hoover-- Want you use the mighty facilities at your demand and investigate thoroughly the advisability of freeing my mother and stepfather??

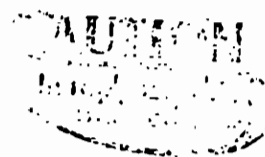
Thank you very much for listening and I shall be eternally grateful for your smallest consideration.

Will you please confer with Judge Vaught at Oklahoma City who living in that section of the country knows beyond a doubt the sterling worth of my parents?

And will you confer with Mr. Urschel? We have no other hopes only in your re-
- commendation.

With best wishes I am Respectfully Yours, Katherine Thane Kelly

Kathryn Thorne Kelly
Box 1000, Milan Mich.



Mr. Edgar J. Hoover

Federal Bureau Of Investigation

Personal_____.

Washington

D. C.

D & INDEXED

EAT: **b7C**

7-110-2110

March 25, 1939

Mrs. Kathryn Thorne Kelly
Box 1000
Milan, Michigan

Dear Madam:

Upon my return to Washington, I received your letter of March 12, 1939 in which you request my assistance in obtaining a parole or pardon for your mother. I must advise you it is not possible for me to take any action with reference to this request because I have always adopted the policy of not interfering at any time in matters which are assigned under Departmental procedure to other branches of the Department of Justice. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has been designated solely to act in an investigative capacity and I am without any right or authority to participate directly or indirectly in the deliberations and actions of other agencies of the Department of Justice. I have adopted this position for the reason that the Attorney General must of necessity call upon the Federal Bureau of Investigation for investigation of all types of cases, including investigations of persons applying for executive clemency, and consequently I cannot place myself in a position where I have recommended action of a positive nature in a case which may thereafter be referred to me for investigation. I regret consequently that I cannot take any action upon your request but suggest that should you desire to do so you may submit your request for executive clemency directly to the Attorney General of the United States with any letters of recommendation which it may be possible for you to obtain.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 24 1939

CC - Detroit

Gandy

WILLIAM J. WHITE, PRESIDENT
EVERARD K. HOMER, VICE-PRESIDENT
A. RALPH D'ANDREA, SECT. - TREAS

LIVINGSTON MANOR TIMES

Manor Publishing Co., Inc.,

MILTON M. KUTCHER
EDITOR

TELEPHONE 8

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NEW YORK

May 22, 1939

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs,

Recently it was my good fortune to come across some information that would make a very good story. Since it concerns the FBI I would appreciate very much your verification of the facts and any material you have on the subject.

I was told on good authority that the first ransom note of the Urschel kidnapers was traced to the Livingston Manor Bank. One of your men checked this area, and subsequently by tracing telephone calls Mrs. Machine Gun Kelly was located at the Flagler which led to a raid on one of their hideouts in Minnesota in which \$60,000 was recovered.

Any information you can give me on this story will be gratefully received. I cannot see how it might in any way be harmful.

Yours truly,

Milton M. Kutcher
LIVINGSTON MANOR TIMES

*No record
M. M. KUTCHER
LIVINGSTON MANOR TIMES
5-25-39*

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&
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 23 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 94-8-1115-1

RECORDED 7-11-2111

May 29, 1939

Mr. Milton M. Kutcher
Editor
Livingston Manor Times
Manor Publishing Company, Incorporated
Livingston Manor, New York

Dear Mr. Kutcher:

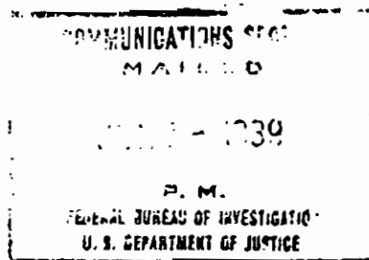
In the absence of Mr. Hoover I wish to
acknowledge your letter of May 22, 1939, requesting
information concerning the Urschel Kidnaping Case.

Please be advised that our files do not
reflect the data which you set forth in your letter.

Sincerely yours,
For the Director

Clyde Tolson
Assistant Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy



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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 7 - 1939

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Crowl	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. McIntire	
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

FBI DENVER 6-7-39 4-30 PM

DIRECTOR

Charles #10
BEN B. LASKA, ATTORNEY CONVICTED IN URSCHER KIDNAPING CASE, RETURNED TO DENVER FROM LEAVENWORTH FOR DISBARMENT HEARING. HIS ATTORNEY FOR THIS HEARING, FREDERICK E. DICKERSON, IS QUOTED IN TODAY'S DENVER POST AS STATING THAT LASKA'S CONVICTION WAS THE DIRECT RESULT OF A QUOTE WAVE OF HYSTERIA FOSTERED BY J. EDGAR HOOVER, CHIEF OF THE G MEN, A HYSTERIA WHICH PREVAILLED IN THE CALMER PRECINCTS OF THE JUDICIARY AT THAT TIME. MR. HOOVER WAS OUT AFTER LAWYERS GENERALLY. IT IS OBVIOUS TO ANYONE THAT IN THIS TRIAL THEY WENT TO GREATER LENGTHS THAN WERE NECESSARY TO GET A CONVICTION UNQUOTE. DICKERSON IS ALSO REPORTED AS STATING QUOTE IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE PROSECUTING OFFICERS MADE A DEAL WITH CERTAIN STATES WITNESSES PROMISING IMMUNITY IN RETURN FOR THEIR TESTIMONY AGAINST LASKA UNQUOTE.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 9 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TOLSON

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Partially de-indexed this serial only.
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21. Time Denver
EST 6/8/39

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUNE 8 1939

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

RECORDED Transmit the following message to:

SAC
DENVER COLORADO

CONDUCT A DISCREET CAREFUL INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE
 REPUTATION BACKGROUND ASSOCIATIONS AND CHARACTER OF
FREDERICK E. DICKERSON MENTIONED IN YOUR TELETYPE OF
 YESTERDAY CONCERNING BEN LASKA.

HOOVER

CODED AND SENT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 8 1939

TELETYPE

COPIES DESTROYED
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SENT VIA

Per

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62-54267-1
62-29724-61

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b7C
June 8, 1939

① -7-115-2112

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Yesterday, at Denver, Colorado, Ben B. Laska was given a hearing in connection with disbarment proceedings pending against him, Laska having been brought from Leavenworth Penitentiary for this purpose. Laska was represented by Frederick E. Dickerson, who was quoted in the Denver Post last evening as having stated that the conviction of Ben B. Laska was the direct result of a "wave of hysteria fostered by J. Edgar Hoover, Chief of the G Men, a hysteria which prevailed in the calmer precincts of the Judiciary at that time. Mr. Hoover was out after lawyers, generally. It is obvious to anyone that in this trial they went to greater lengths than were necessary to get a conviction".

Dickerson is also quoted in the newspaper as stating that it was obvious that the prosecuting officers made a deal with certain State's witnesses, promising immunity in return for their testimony against Laska.

For your information, Ben B. Laska is a Denver attorney who was indicted at Oklahoma City on December 14, 1934, together with several other individuals, upon charges of having conspired to violate the Federal Kidnaping Statute. Laska had been involved in active participation in certain details of the kidnaping of Charles F. Urschel which occurred on July 22, 1933. His activity consisted of counseling parties to the kidnaping and with assisting in the disposition of portions of the \$200,000 ransom which was paid for Mr. Urschel's release. On June 15, 1935, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Laska was adjudged guilty of the charges preferred against him and was sentenced on July 29, 1935, to serve a term of ten years' imprisonment.

I feel that the sentence imposed upon Laska was entirely commensurate with the offense for which he was convicted, and I most certainly did not foster any public sentiment against him.

I have been advised today, however, that Frederick E. Dickerson, the attorney who is quoted as having made the above statements, is a law partner of Mr. Thomas J. Morrissey, United States Attorney at Denver.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Crowl	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

MAILED

JUN 8 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONJUN 10 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICERECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-31815-8
62-54287-1
62-29734-61

.SJT: b7C

4378

June 8, 1939

9:15 AM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nathan	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Crowl	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

United States Attorney Tom Morrissey telephoned me from Denver, Colorado. He stated that with reference to the outburst of Attorney Fred E. Dickerson in Denver yesterday in connection with the disbarment proceedings against Alaska, that Dickerson is an associate of Morrissey in the law business and that his outburst about the "wave of sentiment sponsored by the G-Men" disturbed Morrissey no end. Morrissey advised that he has been so close to the Special Agents of this Bureau and thinks so highly of the Director and that Bureau that he simply had to telephone. He advised that the first thing he did this morning was to call Senator Adams, tell the Senator of the atrocious thing that had happened and asked if Senator Adams would call Mr. Hoover and explain that he, Morrissey, had no connection socially or politically with Attorney Dickerson and that he did not share his belief or opinions as expressed yesterday afternoon. Senator Adams suggested that he call the Bureau himself and rather than have Senator Adams call, state to the Bureau that in the event Mr. Hoover desired any verification of Mr. Morrissey's personal opinions and beliefs that Mr. Hoover could call Senator Adams.

Morrissey advised that he asked Dickerson what J. Edgar Hoover had ever done to him and Dickerson answered: "Nothing, I guess I was not thinking." Morrissey added that Dickerson is the type of attorney who has a newspaper complex and goes haywire from time to time and he has done so with regard to other personages in political campaigns in and around Denver. He wants Mr. Hoover to understand that he is not in accord with any of the remarks of Dickerson and wants Mr. Hoover to know that the Special Agents and Special Agents in Charge in Denver have been personal friends of Mr. Morrissey and he thinks very highly of all of them and works consistently with them.

I informed Mr. Morrissey that I knew Mr. Hoover would appreciate his calling; that the fact that he did call would undoubtedly make his position with regard to Dickerson clear to the Director.

RECORDED & INDEXED
Respectfully,

S. J. TRACY

Partially
de-indexed
this serial
only. 12-20-43
#39

7-115-1112X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 10 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

62-54287-2
62-54287-1-2

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nathan	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Crowl	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
DISTRICT OF COLORADO
DENVER

June 8, 1939

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
United States Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

In connection with the disbarment proceedings now being conducted against Mr. Ben B. Laska, a former Denver lawyer, who was convicted of conspiracy in connection with the acceptance of \$10,000 of kidnap money as an attorney's fee to defend one Bates, one of the kidnapers, I was humiliated and embarrassed to read in the Denver Post a report of some of the testimony given by my civil legal associate, Mr. Fred Dickerson, to the effect that it was his opinion that the conviction of Mr. Laska resulted in part from a form of hysteria against kidnapers, which had been fomented by yourself.

I am indeed sorry that Mr. Dickerson entertains such a view, or that, entertaining the same, he would see fit to express it. However, I, personally, wish to express to you my admiration for you and the work that you are doing, and my hope that the work of yourself and your bureau will be as successful in the future as it has been in the past.

With best wishes for your continued personal success, I am

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Morrissey.

TJM:h

1 ENCL. C

Partially de-indexed
this serial only.
12/20/63 #39

RECORDED & INDEXED

7-115-211281

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 27 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON

WATSON

NICHOLS

MISS GANT

REAS, FT.

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

6/22/39
LBN

THE DENVER

POST—FIRST IN EVERYTHING

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THE POST PHON

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Laska Speeding Toward Denver as Trial Starts

Pitts-
Brook-

The witnesses referred to were Mrs. Clara O. Feldman, the one-time wife of Bates, who had been Laska's

(Turn to Page 3—Col. 4)

(Turn to Page 3—Col 1)

HAWKINS SAYS DEFENDANT IS 'DEAL' VICTIM

Veteran Attorney Takes Stand to Assail Trial Judge.

(Continued From Page One.)

client, and her son, Edward Feldman.

The Feldmans had been jointly charged with Laska in having accepted money which Bates and his fellow kidnapers, George (Machine Gun) Kelly, Harvey J. Bailey, Kathryn Thorn-Kelly and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Shannon, had received as a result of the kidnaping and ransoming of Urschel.

RIGHT TO QUESTION WITNESSES DENIED.

The Feldmans had entered a plea of guilty to the charge in December, 1934. Time went on and they were not sentenced.

At Laska's trial an effort was made to question Mrs. Feldman and her son in reference to an alleged "deal" in which the government, in return for their testimony against Laska, would let them go free.

Judge Vaught denied Laska the right to bring this out.

"The reason for the delay in sentence," Judge Vaught said, according to the transcript of his remarks, read to Judge Lindsley Tuesday by Hornbein, "is because the supreme court had not, until a few weeks ago, passed on the constitutionality of the act—no deal has been made and the question is not permitted."

"A man would be a fool," Hawkins testified Tuesday, "to believe that a deal did not exist between the prosecuting officers and the witnesses."

CITES RELEASE OF FELDMANS.

"It is an insult to the intelligence of anyone who knows anything about such things to say, as it was said, that no deal was made for the testimony of the Feldmans."

"It is a fact, as the record in the case shows, that the very next day after the jury found Mr. Laska guilty Judge Vaught suspended sentence on Mrs. Feldman and her son. My indignation boiled when I heard that. In my fifty years experience at the bar, I never before heard of a judge who kept from a jury testimony of witnesses who were alleged to be fellow conspirators—testimony which might show their motives in testifying as they did."

"I have known Ben Laska for thirty years. Never have I heard anything against him personally—to his personal reputation."

"I was the opposing attorney—well, he was able, faithful to his client and represented his clients well."

SAYS IMPRESSION IS GENERAL AMONG LAWYERS.

"Ben Laska was not tried under the same rules as apply to the ordinary man accused of crime. He was denied the right to show that the witnesses against him were going to be let off from their own pleas of guilty for their testimony."

"Now if I was the only lawyer that held this view I might hesitate to express it here. But I am not. I only share the impression that is general among members of the bar. I may be wrong, but I say the same rules under which Ben Laska was convicted are not the rules of law which apply in such cases."

"I never knew of Ben Laska to get mixed up with any kidnapers, or with any crime, until he was accused and convicted in this case."

"And I say here, nothing has occurred since to change my opinion as regards Mr. Laska. I had the opinion then, I have it now."

Hawkins was the only witness called at the opening session.

The hearing opened with Deputy Attorney General J. D. Iskow, representing Attorney General Byron G. Rogers, who brought the disbarment proceedings, presenting his application to Judge Lindsley.

Iskow briefly read the indictment under which Laska was convicted and the record of his conviction. He then introduced a transcript of the case into the record.

On this he asked that Laska be disbarred from the practice of law in Colorado.

Hornbein then called Hawkins.

At noon Hornbein asked that

Judge Lindsley take Tuesday afternoon, to study the transcript in the case, reconvening the hearing in open court Wednesday morning.

"We will present the testimony of leading members of the Denver bar; of men of standing in this community, who have long known Ben Laska," Hornbein told the court.

The Fight of Ben B. Laska

widely known Denver attorney, now serving a federal prison sentence for his alleged acceptance of kidnap ransom money as a legal fee, to retain his standing before the Colorado bar got under way Tuesday in District Judge Henry S. Lindsley's court. Laska, who is being brought from federal prison to attend the hearing, will not arrive until Wednesday. Taking of testimony got under way, however. Judge Lindsley will report his findings to the Colorado supreme court, which will have the final say-so in the case. Below are principal figures in the hearing. They are, left to right: Charles Taylor, court reporter; Philip Hornbein, attorney for Laska; Judge Lindsley; Albert Beihl, court bailiff; Kenneth MacIntosh, court clerk, and Deputy Attorney General J. D. Iskow, who is prosecuting the case.



7-115 - 2112X1

June 23, 1939

RECORDED

Honorable Thomas J. Morrissey
United States Attorney
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. Morrissey:

I appreciate very much your writing to me as you did on June 8, 1939, and I have also been advised in detail of your telephone call on that date regarding the developments in the disbarment proceedings against Mr. Ben B. Laska, who was convicted in connection with the Urschel Kidnaping Case.

Regardless of the statements which were made by Mr. Laska's attorneys in these proceedings, I feel that the court record truthfully sustains his conviction, and certainly the opinion which was handed down by the Circuit Court of Appeals is absolutely contrary to the charges which his attorneys have made. As you know, it has always been a basic policy of this Bureau to proceed only upon facts and legal evidence, and I have given no consideration whatsoever to the charges which the attorneys defending Mr. Laska have seen fit to make. The best possible answer that I know of to give them would be merely to refer to the decision handed down by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, which decision, as you will recall, was affirmed by the United States Supreme Court.

Nevertheless I value your feelings in this matter, and it was indeed kind of you to write to me.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Miss Gandy.....

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

JUN 25 1939

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

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

62-54287-4
62-1815-9
62-24881-2
62-24124-67

U. S. Attorney Thomas J. Morrissey
of Denver writes regretting attitude
of Attorney Fred Dickerson as expressed
in disbarment proceedings against Ben
Laska. Adv. he desires to express his
personal admiration for work of Director
and FBI and hopes same will continue
successfully.

■ EIC

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Denver, Colorado

June 9, 1939

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Crowl	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Foxworth	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. McIntire	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my personal and confidential letter dated June 9, 1939, which furnished information regarding FREDERICK L. JIMMERSON. It is noted that the first three lines appearing on page four of this letter indicate that Assistant United States Attorney WILGREN stated that the members of the bar at Denver, Colorado, were all of the opinion that LASMA had received an unfair trial.

This should be corrected to reflect that it is the opinion of these attorneys that LASMA did receive a fair trial, which opinion is shared by MR. WILGREN.

Very truly yours

E. J. Gebben

E. J. GEBBEN
Special Agent in Charge

EJG:
62-176

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-115-2113

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 14 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON
CANTIN
ONE

Partially
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this serial
only. 12/20/63
#39

Charles onischel

C O P Y (gar

TRUE DETECTIVE MYSTERIES

P.O.Box 34
Rockville, Md.

June 21, 1939

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Attention of Inspector Nichols

I am at present writing an article, dealing with lawyer-criminals, and concentrating on two with whom the FBI has had dealings: Ben Laska and Louis Piquett, involved respectively in the Urschel kidnapping and Dillinger cases.

I discussed the article on the telephone today with my editor, Mr. John Shuttleworth. In our files are available good photographs of principal figures in these cases. But there are others which are not so easy to get in the length of time at our disposal. Accordingly, we would very much appreciate it if the FBI would make available to us copies of some photographs in its files. All are of persons convicted.

Could you provide me with photographs of the following:

1. Louis Piquett, sentenced June 27-35, two years.
2. Dr. William (Wilhelm) Looser, Leavenworth parole violator. Re-sentenced to Leavenworth, Sept. 21-35.
3. Dr. Harold Cassidy, sentenced Sept. 21-35, 11 months, suspended and placed on probation.
4. Arthur O'Leary, same disposition as for Cassidy.
5. James J. Probasco, arrested July 25-34; committed suicide the next day.
6. Evelyn Frechette, sentenced May 23-34, two years.

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-115-2114
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 8 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The six above are all involved in the Dillinger case, as aiders, and harborers of Dillinger. The following desired photos concern the Urschel case:

1. Ben Beryl ~~Laska~~, sentenced June 15-35, 10 years.
2. Mollie O. Bert, sentenced Oct. 1-36, one year and a day. sentence suspended.
3. Clara ~~Feldman~~, sentenced June 15-35, 5 years, suspended.
4. Edward ~~Feldman~~, same as for Clara Feldman.
5. Albert L. ~~Bates~~, sentenced Oct. 7-33, life imprisonment.
6. Kathryn Thorne ~~Kelly~~, sentenced Oct. 12-33, life imprisonment.

With many thanks for past favors, I am

Sincerely yours,

S/ William ~~Wilman~~

C O P Y (en)

LEN:

b7C

June 28, 1939

RECORDED

7-115-2114
Mr. William Gilman
Post Office Box 34
Rockville, Maryland

Dear Mr. Gilman:

Your letter of June 21, 1939, has been called to my attention, and I am pleased to enclose photographs of Louis P. Piquette, Evalyn Frechette, Ben B. Laska, Clara Feldman, Albert L. Bates, and Katheryn Thorne Kelly.

With reference to your request for the photographs of Dr. Wilhelm Loeser and Dr. Harold B. Cassidy, I would like to suggest that although they are available in the Bureau's files, it would be unwise to publish them, inasmuch as Dr. Loeser is trying to rehabilitate himself at the present time. Likewise, the photographs of Arthur O'Leary, James J. Probasco, Mollie O. Bert, and Edward Feldman are not available.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

9-3-4-7-410

COPY (gmr)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SJT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 8, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

United States Attorney Tom Morrissey telephoned me from Denver, Colorado. He stated that with reference to the outburst of Attorney Fred E. Dickerson in Denver yesterday in connection with the bisbarment proceedings against Laska, that Dickerson is an associate of Morrissey in the law business and that his outburst about the "wave of sentiment sponsored by the G-Men" disturbed Morrissey no end. Morrissey advised that he has been so close to the Special Agents of this Bureau and thinks so highly of the Director and that Bureau that he simply had to telephone. He advised that the first thing he did this morning was to call Senator Adams, tell the Senator of the atrocious thing that had happened and asked if Senator Adams would call Mr. Hoover and explain that he, Morrissey, had no connection socially or politically with Attorney Dickerson and that he did not share his belief or opinions as expressed yesterday afternoon. Senator Adams suggested that he call the Bureau himself and rather than have Senator Adams call, state to the Bureau that in the event Mr. Hoover desired any verification of Mr. Morrissey's personal opinions and beliefs that Mr. Hoover could call Senator Adams.

Morrissey advised that he asked Dickerson what J. Edgar Hoover had ever done to him and Dickerson answered: "Nothing, I guess I was not thinking." Morrissey added that Dickerson is the type of attorney who has a newspaper complex and goes haywire from time to time and he has done so with regard to other personages in political campaigns in and around Denver. He wants Mr. Hoover to understand that he is not in accord with any of the remarks of Dickerson and wants Mr. Hoover to know that the Special Agents and Special Agents in Charge in Denver have been personal friends of Mr. Morrissey and he thinks very highly of all of them and works consistently with them.

I informed Mr. Morrissey that I knew Mr. Hoover would appreciate his calling; that the fact that he did call would undoubtedly make his position with regard to Dickerson clear to the Director.

RECORDED & INDEXED
Respectfully,

S. J. TRACY

NOTATION: This is just so much hot air. Warn Denver office to henceforth be circumspect in dealings with Morrissey.

De-Indexed
this serial only.
#39 12/20/63

7-115-2114X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 10 1939
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
TOLSON
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HAC
WHD
JACOBLS

ORIGINAL FILED IN 54581-11

COPY (S)

EAT

June 13, 1939

RECORDED

7-115 204X

Mr. E. J. Gebben
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
518 Railway Exchange Building
Denver, Colorado

Dear Sir:

 Apropos of the recent critical remarks made concerning my administration of the Bureau by Attorney Fred E. Dickerson, an associate in the practice of law with United States Attorney Morrissey of Denver, I desire that all Special Agents of your Office be exceedingly circumspect in all dealings with Mr. Morrissey. While I have been advised that Mr. Morrissey is making vociferous announcements of his admiration for the Bureau I seriously doubt the sincerity of these statements in view of the action taken by Morrissey's partner in the practice of law, Mr. Dickerson, and consequently I desire that you caution all of the Agents in your Office to be exceedingly cautious and careful in all of their dealings with Mr. Morrissey.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ORIGINAL FILED

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Denver, Colorado

July 10, 1939

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Crowl	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Lawler	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Sears	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter, dated June 27, 1939, which stated that [REDACTED] furnished information to the effect that [REDACTED] Deputy Chief of Police, Denver, Colorado, was in possession of complete and accurate information concerning the background of BEN B. LASKA. Bureau letter also instructed that I personally contact [REDACTED]

This is to advise that the writer personally interviewed [REDACTED] Deputy Chief of Police, and from him ascertained that he has been acquainted with BEN B. LASKA for a number of years. [REDACTED] stated that he did not have any particular or specific information regarding LASKA and that his acquaintance was merely a result of his being on the police force and LASKA's being an attorney who handled criminal matters. He further stated that he has heard rumors at various times concerning the character and ethics of LASKA, but that he - of his own personal knowledge - did not have any definite information. He suggested that possibly Federal Judge [REDACTED] or members of the United States Attorney's Office at Denver, Colorado, would have more detailed information. However, no further inquiry will be conducted along this line unless specific instructions are received from the Bureau in view of the previous information which was furnished the Bureau in my letter of June 8, 1939.

Very truly yours,

7-115-2115

E. J. Gebben

E. J. GEBBEN

Special Agent in Charge

EJG
62-176

RECORDED & INDEXED

ONE

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1939

The Director

Mr. Nathan

Mr. Tolson

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Crowl

Mr. Tracy

Files Section

Personnel Files

Identification Division

Technical Laboratory

Mechanical Section

Chief Clerk's Office

Crime Statistics

SUPERVISORS

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Mr. Bellino

Mr. Bickley

Mr. Brennan

Mr. Carson

Mr. Chambers

Mr. Cornelius

Mr. Guerin

Mr. Hayden

Mr. Hogan

Mr. Kimball

Mr. Kramer

Mr. Lawler

Mr. McIntire

Mr. Pennington

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Sears

Mr. Zimmer

Miss Gandy

Mr. West

Mrs. Morton

Miss Coe

Mr. Albaugh

Mr. Halter

Miss Conlon

Mr. Gauthier

Typists - 5724

Stenographers - 5716

See Me

Bring file up to date

Send File

Correct

Call me regarding this

Note and Return

Search, serialize and route

Stenographers 5724

Stenographers 5730

Stenographers 5706

Prepare tickler for

E. A. TAMM - 5734

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Record of Telephone Call or Visitor.

September 14, 1939.

Time 2:35 p.m.

Name [REDACTED] - tele

Referred to _____

Details:

He desires to be advised promptly the date |
that "Machine Gun" Kelley was taken.

He wishes to be called on Extension 29, and |
was informed he would be called as soon as
possible.

Mr. Tamm's office advises Kelley was taken
at Memphis, Tennessee, on September 26, 1933.

RECORDED

7-115-2116
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
SEP 15 1939
TAMM
HARRIS

[REDACTED] was advised of the date. [REDACTED]

111
All b7C

Mr. [REDACTED] ✓
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Q. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Schilder
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
San Francisco, California
November 16, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: GEORGE R. KELLY
WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

Dear Sir:

b7C
This will confirm telephone conversation of Special Agent [redacted] with Inspector ROSEN, of the Bureau, today relative to the filing of a petition for writ of habeas corpus on the part of GEORGE R. KELLY in the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of California on November 15, 1939.

A
An examination of the docket in the office of the Clerk, U. S. District Court, San Francisco, disclosed that GEORGE R. KELLY filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus on November 15, 1939, in which JAMES A. JOHNSTON, Warden, U. S. Penitentiary, Alcatraz Island, California, and the Attorney General of the United States were named as respondents, admiralty docket #23148L.

The petition was filed on the grounds that the Act of Congress of June 22, 1932, known as Section 408A, Title 18, U.S.C.A., Chapter 271, Paragraph 1, 47 Stat. 326, is unconstitutional, null and void and violative of the Constitution of the United States, for the following reasons:

- A. Because the law upon which the indictment was based fails to fix or prescribe the penalty or punishment for any violation thereof;
- B. Because the action of the trial judge is violative of the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, which provides that "No person shall be deprived ***of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

RECORDED & INDEXED

As further grounds, the petition states that the petitioner was deprived of due process of law. The petition states that in the case at bar, the Court sentenced the petitioner to the custody of the Attorney General.

7-115-2117
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
2405 ONE

COPIES DESTROYED
20 MAR 17 1965

Director

-2-

11-16-39

Re: GEORGE R. KELLY
WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

of the United States, or his authorized representative, for confinement in a U. S. Penitentiary during his "natural life"; that the Act of Congress under which the petitioner was indicted and adjudged guilty of the crime of kidnaping has specified as follows: "Upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for such term of years as the Court in its discretion shall determine".

KELLY insisted in his petition that the law under which he was prosecuted does not provide for a life sentence. He states that the penal statutes must be strictly construed in favor of life and liberty and human rights; that Congress had made an ineffectual and illegal attempt to vest a vested legislative power in the judiciary, in that the penalty for violating the law is left entirely to the discretion of the Court "without fixing a maximum penalty by Congress"; that Congress is compelled by the Constitution to provide a definite and certain punishment and, therefore, was not at liberty to leave it to the judicial department; that the judiciary did not pass or enact the law in question and has no "legislative power or authority" and is wholly without power or authority to attach a penalty. The petition quotes from Article I, Section 1 of the U. S. Constitution, which states "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States." The petition sets forth the query, "How can Judge Vaught, the Honorable presiding judge, substitute for a term of years that of a natural life?" The petition insists that the trial judge exercised "legislative functions" in sentencing the petitioner and that the judgment was absolutely void and the act of the trial judge in sentencing him was in violation of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

The petition further states that the sentence was entirely without and beyond the jurisdiction of the trial court, as the act under which the petitioner was prosecuted does not contain the words "life imprisonment or any phrase of like import". The petitioner, therefore, prayed that a writ of habeas corpus be issued directing the Warden of Alcatraz Penitentiary to produce him before the Court, in order that he may be discharged from further custody.

Attached to the petition for writ of habeas corpus was an affidavit in forma pauperis, signed by GEORGE R. KELLY, wherein he stated that he wished

Director

-3-

11-16-39

Re: GEORGE R. KELLY
WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

to bring an action to test the legality of his sentencing and imprisonment; that by reason of his poverty, he was ~~not~~ without funds and therefore unable to pay the costs of this action. He, accordingly, requested the Court to appoint [REDACTED] as his attorney to represent him, if possible.

For the Bureau's information, [REDACTED] represented [REDACTED] when the latter filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus with the U. S. District Court at San Francisco in an effort to obtain his release from Alcatraz Penitentiary, and he is the only prisoner who has thus far succeeded in securing a release from Alcatraz on a writ of habeas corpus.

At the time of the filing of the petition for writ of habeas corpus, KELLY also filed an application for writ of preliminary injunction, wherein he requested the Court to issue a writ of preliminary injunction to restrain and prohibit the respondents from transferring or transporting him to any other judicial district while his suit is pending in this district.

This matter was discussed with Assistant U. S. Attorney A. J. ZIRPOLI at San Francisco, who stated that the points upon which the petition for writ of habeas corpus in this case were based have already been decided in the case of HARVEY BAILEY vs. the United States, 74 Federal Reporter, Second Series, 451, wherein the Court held that the words "term of years" (as the court in its discretion shall determine) as used in the Kidnaping Statute authorized the imposition of a life sentence, since such a sentence was tantamount to a sentence for a definite term of years greater than the possible life span of the defendant.

The Bureau will be kept advised of the proceedings in this case. Inasmuch as this letter does not contain an opinion of the U. S. Attorney relative to prosecution, a copy thereof is not being furnished to him.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. Pieper

N. J. L. PIEPER
Special Agent in Charge

[REDACTED]
AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY
cc - Okla. City

A11 670

EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

AR: **b1C** Washington, D. C.

November 16, 1939

2:15 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM **EDW**

6
With reference to the attached news item concerning the writ of habeas corpus filed in Federal Court at San Francisco seeking the release of George "Machine Gun" Kelly, I called SAC Pieper at San Francisco, and was advised that he knew nothing about this, but that he had sent it out this morning to be checked on. He will call back later this afternoon in the event additional details are obtained.

Respectfully,

A. Rosen
A. Rosen

RECORDED

2 ENCL. **8**
b

7-115-2118	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NOV 20 1939	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TAMM	ONE

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Nathan _____
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Coffey _____
 Mr. Egan _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Gurnea _____
 Mr. Harbo _____
 Mr. Lester _____
 Mr. Hendon _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Sears _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Miss Gandy _____

**Machine Gun Kelly
 Seeks Freedom**
 SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 15 (U. P.)—George "Machine Gun" Kelly, convicted Oklahoma kidnaper, sought his release from the imprisonment today through a writ of habeas corpus filed in Federal Court here. Kelly and Harvey Bailey were convicted in 1932 of the kidnaping of Charles Urschel, Oklahoma oil man.

What is this all about?

H.

Miss
 E. A. Tamm
 11/16 RR

NOV 17 1936

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD

7-115-2116

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

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

AR: [REDACTED]

Time: 4:50 p.m.

November 16, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

Agent [REDACTED] called from San Francisco in connection with the writ of habeas corpus filed yesterday in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, Southern Division, by George "Machine Gun" Kelly. The writ substantially is as follows:

I. (A) The law upon which the indictment is based fails to fix or prescribe a penalty or punishment for any violation thereof.

(B) The act of the trial judge is in violation of the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution which provides that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. It is further charged that the violation of the Fifth Amendment occurred when the judge sentenced Kelly to imprisonment in the United States Penitentiary for his natural life, in view of the fact that the Act provides that a person shall be imprisoned for such a term of years as the Court in its discretion shall determine. Kelly contends that the judge exercised a legislative function in substituting the words "natural life" for a term of years. It is contended that this is in violation of Article 1, Section 2, of the Constitution which is to the effect that legislative functions of the Government are vested in Congress rather than in the Judiciary.

II. This ground is to the effect that Kelly was deprived of due process of law in view of the fact that the sentence was entirely without the jurisdiction of the trial court as the Act under which he was prosecuted did not contain the words of "life imprisonment" or any phrase of like import.

Kelly then asks that a writ be granted to produce him before the Court in order that he might be discharged from further custody.

After the filing of the above, Kelly also filed a writ of preliminary injunction to restrain and prohibit the Government from transferring or transporting him to any other judicial district while the suit contesting the constitutionality

COPIES DESTROYED
20.5 MAR 17 1965

TOLSON
TAMM
FOUR

ONE

- 2 -

MEMO FOR MR. TAMM

11-16-39

of the Lindbergh Act is pending in the above-mentioned court.

Kelly further states he is without funds and asks for the appointment of [REDACTED] of San Francisco as his attorney. [REDACTED] is the same attorney that acted for [REDACTED] the only person to date who has been released from Alcatraz on a writ of habeas corpus.

Agent [REDACTED] has talked to Assistant United States Attorney A. J. Zirpoli who states that the points raised by Kelly are the same raised in the case of Harvey Bailey vs the United States, 74 Federal Reporter, Second Series, 451, in which case the Court held that the term of years used in the kidnaping statute authorizing a life sentence is tantamount to sentence to a definite term of years greater than the possible life of the defendant.

According to [REDACTED], Kelly apparently prepared the writ himself and it was passed by the censor of the penitentiary.

Respectfully,

All b7C

A. Rosen
A. ROSEN

Mr. Tolson.....
 Mr. Nathan.....
 Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
 Mr. Clegg.....
 Mr. Ladd.....
 Mr. Coffey.....
 Mr. Egan.....
 Mr. Glavin.....
 Mr. Harbo.....
 Mr. Lester.....
 Mr. Hendon.....
 Mr. McIntire.....
 Mr. Nichols.....
 Mr. Rosen.....
 Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
 Mr. Tracy.....
 Miss Gandy.....

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NOV 16 1939

POSTAL

W17-25 GOVT COLLECT

RB SANFRANCISCO CALIF 137P NOV 18 1939

DIRECTOR

FBI JUSTICE WASHN DC

RE GEORGE R KELLY WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS JUDGE HAROLD H LOUDERBACK
 THIS MORNING FILED ORDER DENYING SUBJECTS APPLICATION FOR WRIT
 DATED FIFTEENTH INSTANT

PIEPER..

437P

RECORDED
 &
 INDEXED

7- 115-2120
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 NOV 21 1939
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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George R Kelly

9

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

San Francisco, California
November 20, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: GEORGE R. KELLY
*WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter dated November 16, 1939, relative to the filing of a petition for writ of habeas corpus by GEORGE R. KELLY in the United States District Court, Northern District of California, San Francisco, California, on November 15, 1939, and my telegram dated November 18, 1939, advising that said petition was denied on that date.

I am enclosing herewith for the Bureau's information, a copy of the memorandum and order of Federal Judge HAROLD LOUDERBACK denying the petition for writ of habeas corpus, and also denying KELLY'S application for a preliminary injunction restraining the respondents from transporting or transferring the petitioner from this jurisdiction until decision of his suit by the Supreme Court, in the event of an appeal.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. Pieper
N. J. L. PIEPER
Special Agent in Charge

7-9

Enclosure

cc Oklahoma City

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

7-115-212
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 25 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ONE

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, NORTHERN DIVISION.

GEORGE R. KELLY,

Petitioner,

vs.

No. 23148-L.

JAMES A. JOHNSTON, WARDEN
U. S. PENITENTIARY,
ALCATRAZ, CALIFORNIA,

Respondent.

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER DENYING THE PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS
CORPUS.

The petitioner, George R. Kelly, confined at the
United States Penitentiary at Alcatraz, California, seeks a
writ of habeas corpus. He was sentenced to life imprisonment
by the United States District Court for the Western District
of Oklahoma for kidnapping Chas. F. Urschel and transporting
him in interstate commerce and holding him for ransom or re-
ward, in violation of the provisions of 18 U.S.C.A. 408 a.

The petitioner contends that the Act under which
he was sentenced is unconstitutional because it sets no max-
imum penalty, that the sentence is entirely within the dis-
cretion of the court. The Act, 18 U.S.C.A. 408a reads as
follows:

"Whoever shall knowingly transport or cause to be
transported...in interstate...commerce, any person
who shall have been unlawfully seized...kidnapped or
abducted...and held for ransom or reward or otherwise
.. shall, upon conviction, be punished (1) by death

1 if the verdict of the jury shall so recommend, provided
2 that the sentence of death shall not be imposed by the
3 court if, prior to its imposition, the kidnapped
4 person has been liberated unharmed, or (2) if the
5 death penalty shall not apply nor be imposed the con-
6 victed person shall be punished by imprisonment in the
7 penitentiary for such term of years as the court in
8 its discretion shall determine....".

9 A similar issue was raised before the Circuit
10 Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in *Andreas v Clark*, 71
11 Fed.(2d) 908. The court held:

12 "The proviso authorizing the court to imprison the
13 defendant at its discretion, must be read in the
14 light of the provision of the Act which it modifies,
15 namely, the death penalty."

16 In 18 U.S.C.A. 408a, Congress has indicated its conception
17 of the appropriate punishment as death, but has stated that
18 under certain circumstances it shall be imprisonment. The
19 intention of Congress is clear that where the death penalty
20 does not apply, the limit shall vary from life imprisonment
21 to the least possible term of imprisonment, within which
22 limits the trial judge shall fix the period of imprisonment.

23 The petitioner next contends that the sentence
24 is void because the court could only sentence to a "term of
25 years" and that a life sentence is not a sentence "for a term
26 of years". The same contention was made by one of the peti-
27 tioner's co-defendants, Bailey, in *Bailey v. United States*,
28 74 Fed. (2d) 451, upon his appeal from his conviction. The
29 Circuit Court of Appeals for the 10th. Circuit denied the con-
30 tention holding:

31 "It is our opinion that Congress did not use the
32 phrase "term of years" in the technical sense attri-
33 butable to it when applied to estates in land. Life
34 being of limited duration and death being certain,
35 a sentence for life is definite and certain. It is
36 tantamount to a sentence for a definite term of
37 years greater than the possible life span of the
38 person sentenced."

39 There being no merit in the application for a
40

1 writ of habeas corpus, the petition is denied.

2 The petitioner asks that "a writ of preliminary
3 injunction be issued...restraining the said respondents from
4 transferring or transporting, or causing to be transported,
5 the body of your petitioner from the jurisdiction of this
6 Court until after a hearing is had, nor until said suit is
7 fully decided by the Supreme Court in the event an appeal may
8 be had thereon". Rule 29 of the United States Circuit Court
9 of Appeals for the 9th. Circuit reads:

10 "Pending an appeal from the final decision of any
11 court or judge declining to grant the writ of
12 habeas corpus, the custody of the prisoner shall
not be disturbed."

13 Therefore the application for a preliminary injunction is
14 denied.

15
16 Harold Louderback
United States District Judge.

17 November 18th. 1939.
18
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Des Moines, Iowa
January 24, 1940

Special Agent in Charge
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

b7C [redacted] b7D [redacted] in the case entitled Unsolved
Bank Burglaries (Des Moines, Sioux Falls, Milwaukee and St. Paul
Areas), Bank Robbery (Burglary), advised that [redacted] b7C
[redacted] Sioux City, Iowa, told him that at the time
b7C of the URSHEL kidnaping he was working as [redacted] b7C
[redacted] and his run took him into Minneapolis,
Minnesota. When [redacted] was in a cigar store in Minneapolis on
Washington Avenue, which cigar store was run by a party named [redacted] b7C
he was given five twenty dollar bills of the ransom money by a party
whom he knew as KORNICK or CRONICK (a Jewish fellow) which money [redacted] b7D
states [redacted] did not know was part of the ransom bills. [redacted] advised b7D
that [redacted] gave CRONICK change for these bills in the exact amount
of their face value.

b7D [redacted] b7C [redacted] states that [redacted] claims that he was arrested in
Minneapolis and the bills were found in his possession; that [redacted] b7C
convinced the Chief of Detectives of the Minneapolis Police Department
that he was not connected in any way with the URSHEL kidnaping and
was released and the \$100 refunded to him. It is not known, however,
whether the bills which were refunded to him, were the same bills or
others which he had on his possession at the time he was apprehended
by the Minneapolis Police Department.

This information is being furnished to the St. Paul Field
Division for any action which is deemed appropriate. It should be
noted that the Des Moines Field Division has no case on file relative
to the URSHEL kidnaping.

Very truly yours,

E. R. DAVIS
Special Agent in Charge

b7C
cc: Bureau
7-0

INDEXED

7-115-2121	
F. B. I. INVESTIGATIVE	
JAN 31 1940	
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	TWO

Saint Paul, Minnesota
February 12, 1940

7-8

Special Agent in Charge
Des Moines, Iowa

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

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated January 21, 1940, wherein it is stated that a Confidential Informant furnished information that [REDACTED] Sioux City, Iowa, told him that at the time of the URCHILL kidnaping he was working as [REDACTED] and that while in Minneapolis in a cigar store on Washington Avenue he was given five twenty-dollar bills of the ransom money by a party whom he knew as KRONICK or CRONICK; that [REDACTED] did not know this was part of the ransom money but was arrested by the Minneapolis Police and eventually released and the money refunded to him.

This information evidently refers to SAM KRONICK in the above case wherein the Oklahoma City office was the office of origin, KRONICK having been acquitted or the case dismissed against him in October, 1933.

A review of the URCHILL kidnaping case in the St. Paul office reveals that SAM KRONICK did get \$500 of the ransom money consisting of twenty-five twenty-dollar bills on or about August 5, 1933; that he received this money from SAM KOSBERG, his cousin, KOSBERG in turn getting it from EARLY BERMAN who was said to have owed KOSBERG this sum of money. It was said to have been given to KRONICK as a personal loan. It is noted that KRONICK denied during almost a week of questioning the manner in which he received this money but finally admitted the facts.

In view of the fact that KRONICK was questioned when apprehended and subsequently acquitted or the case against him dismissed, it does not appear at this late date that the present circumstances call for any additional inquiry.

Yours very truly

L. H. RICHMOND

Special Agent in Charge

cc: Bureau, Oklahoma City

All 67C

TWC
B

FEB 14 1940

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

358

Laboratory Report

Case: George Kelly Barnes, with aliases, ET AL
Charles F. Urschel - Victim
Kidnaping

Number: 7-115

Specimens: 1 envelope addressed to " Bates & Bailey " c/o Penitentiary,
Leavenworth, Kansas.
1 pamphlet entitled " Week by Week " from Springfield, Ill.
3 newspaper clippings
1 unsigned note written on a piece of stationery from the
St. Nicholas Hotel, Springfield, Illinois, beginning " Greetings
Examination requested by: from H. "

Kansas City Division Office

Date received:

February 12, 1934

Examination requested:

General and Fingerprint

Result of examination:

7/14

Examination by:

2/12 Envelope 9 1/2 x 4 1/8 of ST. NICHOLAS Htl.
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS B.M. Springfield, Ill.
Jan 1934 - 3 stamps - Red Postage
Bailey c/o Penitentiary Leavenworth Kansas.
Letter 5 1/2 x 9 1/2 of same
stationery St. Nicholas Hotel.
Newspaper clippings Editorials
of Arthur Brisbane Crime Wave no puzzle.
referring to Welfare Island scandal in
York. Raid of new Commissioner Mac Connell.
in Herald newspaper of Jan. 25 or 26 Herald &
and Examiner (Chicago).

also Antism. Portugal Eastern Russia-Japan
Danger Frodo Bellous no much. ---
Kidnapers Sam - Jan. 22 or 23 - Weather
bureau for Tuesday & Wednesday conclude
date of paper is Tuesday morning Jan. 23. 1934
Herald Examiner of Chicago ^{Refers to highway trucks}
Springfield "magazine" dated Nov. 20, 1934.
Saturday

Little message maybe just turned
or to let Bailey & Co know the writer is
in Springfield, Ill. hoping to help
spring them when possible. On other
hand, message seems to say shut your
mouth and tell nothing for the sake of
the others. H. & E. May.

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

Case: *Anonymous Letter to Editor* Number: *The Investigator*
Specimen: *2 page typed letter & envelope*
Examination requested by: *Director - Special Confidential*
Date received: *10/30/43*
Examination desired: *General*
Date of Report: *11/11/43*
Result of examination: Examination by:

Envelope 7.5 x 3.9 bond
Wm (WA) "TER FALLS" which is w.m. of
BOND "Water Falls Paper Mill
Portsmouth Washington, R.R. 600. 10-Jul-43
3¢ stamp altho mailed in town.

7.98 x 10.46 Paper Bond of length 8 1/4" at 10.46
than 10.5" Bond like envelope
10.46 No watermark
Remington Typewriter.

Second page is same bond no w.m.
7.94" x 10.45"
Remington typewriter Multiplier
glotted type No. 37 introduced 1923.

10/31/43 Teletype to New York.
Comparison with letter to Char. Starnes
in Nov. 1932 indicates same typewriter.
11/4 Specimen of paper used by Investigator
compared with specimen 7.94 x 10.46
color & surface slightly different.

comparison of typing indicates
same typewriter used as revealed
in Anonymous ^{Letter} Case last year.

Also alignment appears indicate
same persons touch in typewriter
orig'l to Kennedys for
photographing 11/4/53.

24

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

67C

Laboratory Report

Vir. Extortion

Number: 7-327-1

Case: *Ext. letter received 10/14/33*
Specimen: *and two others 9/5 & 9/16/33*

Examination requested by: *Pittsburgh office*

Date received: *10/21/33*

Examination desired: *general G. F. P.*

Date of Report: *10/26/33*

Examination by:

Result of examination:

Envelope postmarked Pittsb. 10/14/33.
3 1/2 x 6 Peril Italian Receipt

*Note paper 605 - 9 1/2 fold - ruled
with blue lines .32" apart beginning
2.05 from front top of sheet
one side runs to top other
Peril Italian Receipt 10/14
"Holland" } largest paper, chi
"Kinner" } Taylor - at King's Paper Co
Made in USA }
Second note name - *Egregio Signor**

*and 9/4 paper differed 4.91 x 6.06 fold
greenish blue lines .32" apart 202 from
top one side 7 other no w*

Envelope 9/5 - 5.1 x 3.2 no w

*Envelope 10/4 Luigi Cordelli 3.45 x 5.3
no w*

*All above within same person.
RFP over*

Comparison of signatures
of [REDACTED] b7C

and [REDACTED] into the E.H. letters

Indicate that [REDACTED] b7C
probably wrote the letters.
for where specimens

56/

THIS IS WASH DC 81

DIV INVEST NY NOVEMBER 1 1933 PM

57C

DIRECTOR

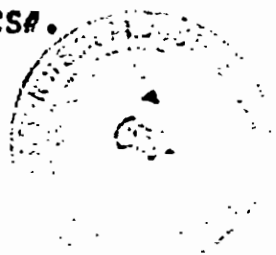
RETEL MISCELLANEOUS CONFIDENTIAL WATERFALLS PAPER MILLS DO NOT
MANUFACTURE ENVELOOES. HOWEVER THEY SELL PAPER FOR SUCH MANUFACTURE
TO AMERICAN ENVELOPE COMPANY WEST CARROLLTON OHIO AND TO OLD COLONY
ENVELOPE COMPANY, WESTFIELD MASS. STANFORD PAPER COMPANY WASHINGTON
DC AND B W WILSON PAPER COMPANY RICHMOND VA ARE LOCAL AGENTS FOR
WATERFALLS PAPER MILLS AND THEY COULD HAVE HAD ENVELOPES MADE UP
LOCALLY.

CULLEN

END

OK ACS#.

RECEIVED



NOV 1 1933

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

51C

Laboratory Report

Case:

Specimen:

Examination requested by:

Date received:

Examination desired:

Date of Report:

Result of examination:

Examination by:

Envelope 6 1/2 x 3 1/16 no watermark
Printed similar first letter (initials)
Message similarly printed on portion
cut from ~~board~~ ^{card} which was
in turn glued to study on larger piece
of black poster drawing paper leaving
margin of black around card ^{no watermark}
Size: Card prepared by gluing portion
on larger piece
posterboard 2.5" x 1.05" accurately cut
by machine same as corners ^{end of}
cartoon etc. ^{forced in white on side only}
larger black 1.6 1/16 x 2.9" cut by
machine. Printing is very regular
with exactness of margins better than
hand work. Looks like whole thing
came together on some package
or other object
~~to photo~~ Print Printing message in
letter.

2 2

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

Case: *Dr. Albert Fritz, Via. Extortion* Number: *210-3*
Specimen: *Spec. of writing of Dial Typewriter of*
Billy Hayes and Envelope in possession of
Examination requested by: *New York Office*
Date received: *10/9/33*
Examination desired: *Compare and prepare for trial if similar*
Date of Report: *10/27/33* Examination by:
Result of examination:

*Unquestionably the typewriter
which wrote the extortion letter.
Spacing - alignment - essentially
as well as horizontally show not a
well arranged specimen. Each letter
compares with each of the extortion letters.
Defects in G - T - A clearly prove
similar *H - P etc. &*

*11/10/33 Testified Brooklyn as expert Typewriter
Identification - out of town so as return Washington D.C.
11/15 W. Hughes advised telegram received that
John Scala convicted - sentenced 10 years - Jean Costello
acquitted.*

L. J. Costa

23

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

Case: Unknown Subj. (Geo. Kelly) Unsub. et al. Vics.
Number: 7-115-875
Specimen: 3 threatening letters & envelope addressed
to Judge Edgar S. Vaughn, George Kelly and
Charlie Unsub.
Examination requested by: Oklahoma City
Date received: 10/21/33
Examination desired: General

Date of Report:

Result of examination:

Examination by:

1. to Kelly from Portsmouth New Hampshire 10/10/33
Hard printing No Wm
Letter " 1 1/2 x 5 1/2 5-ten this edge in
writing the bottom 1 1/2 x 8 1/2
different bands.

2. to Judge Vaughn
Portsmouth N.H. 9/25 Am Mail
3 1/2 x 5 1/2 Envelope yellow note
proper Wm: "Quality Rince"
Paper 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 yellow note
much handwriting f.p. on bottom
symbol

deliberately misspelling
apparently the first letter of first name of
to Charlie Unsub. might be name as writing to Kelly
16.9 x 3.75 Wm
proper by P. bond 1 1/2 x 5 1/2 6-ten
Portsmouth New Hampshire N.H. 10/11-5-2/3 bond
sample of handwriting name as George Vaughn
letter to Kelly (V.M.?)

orig in file

45

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

Case:

Specimen:

Number:

Examination requested by:

Date received: 10/13/33
Examination desired:

Date of Report:

Result of examination:

Examination by:

3 notes marked X, X₂, X₃ are in same handwriting as the letter from [redacted] to his wife. No W.M. in paper lined note paper from letter torn on top edge. 8.94" x 5.72" ruling 30" top 1/one side 1.82" other. no W.M.

Note add to [redacted] pencil printing same paper Env. 6.5 x 3.6" not same paper as note same handwriting as that postmarked 10/14. no W.M.
Env. 3.6 x 6.5 postmarked 10/15 add to [redacted] handwriting (pencil) no W.M.
Env. post 10/14 - 3.6 x 6.5" same paper same handwriting as 10/14. Env. 3.6 x 6.5 same no W.M.
Paper same same handwriting no W.M. - to F.P.

All b7C

I 8.3757 [REDACTED]

II 8.4030 [REDACTED]

III 9.6950 [REDACTED]

All b7C

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

Case:
Specimen:

Number:

Examination requested by:

Date received:

Examination desired:

Date of Report:

Result of examination:

Examination by:

1. Bullet 1. 6 L Cambridge N.E. length 5.86 1/2" cal. 38
which 4.38 Colt 38 S&W 129.2 + gr.
2. 6 L near action ball N.E. Cambridge not
visible flattened cal. 354 to 364 wgt. 379 grain 3.
2010 - 8.4030 gr. = 130 + gr.
3. Lead deformed internal 2 chambers
cal. 312 to 377 decide 38
6 grooves? 14 visible slant 1? Colt 38 S&W
9.6950 gr. = 149. + gr. Colt 38 Long Rev.
4. Cartr. case 38 ACP Rem-Union
marks 1111 inside mouth
marks similar to automatic on
base & side rim for auto.
Extractor hook slant low.
Length case only .887"
Tall from point 6 3/4 N.E. over counting
1.258

1- 8.3757 grs.

2- 8.4030 grs

3- 9.6950 "

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DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

Case:

Specimen:

Examination requested by:

Date received:

Examination desired:

Date of Report:

Result of examination:

Number:

Examination by:

Chas. Augustus Lindbergh Jr. Kidnapping
2 hand writing spec. Antonio Cucciaro
and his wife

Mr. Hughes
10/26/33

Compare to other letters

10/26/33

*There appear no reasons for
thinking either of above wrote
Lindbergh letters. Man is
probably faking when he
says he cannot write. He phoned
W. H. above.*