

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: PURPLE GANG  
CROSS-REFERENCES**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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JEB:MO'B

May 21, 1931.

Mr. Howard Jones,  
Bureau of Prohibition,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Jones:

I am enclosing herewith the original copy of the second memorandum which John M. Whelan left at this office. The original of the first copy I handed to you when you were at my office.

I have had a photostatic copy of the enclosure made so you need not arrange to have copies of this sent to me. As soon as you have an opportunity to go over the two memorandums which this party submitted, I would appreciate your views concerning the same. If you agree with me that the matters pertaining to the local Police Department should be referred to the proper official of that Department I will make the necessary arrangements. The other portions of the memoranda, which deal with alleged violations of the National Prohibition Act I assume you will give appropriate attention.

Cordially yours,

Encl. 996427

Director

MAILED

23 1931

By Special Messenger

62-25345-74

INVESTIGATION

MAY 20

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FILE

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62-25345

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Memorandum: Synopsis of my charges against Major W.L. Ray, Special Agent in Charge of Detroit Unit, and against Colonel George Mayo, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of Detroit Special Agents office.

I will state in this memorandum a brief summary of my charges against the above named Prohibition officials. I obtained this information while employed by a private detective agency in Detroit, and concurrently doing under-cover investigative work for Major Ray. A full record of my connection with Major Ray is in the Prohibition files. This occurred in the spring of 1929.

1. Colonel George Mayo compiled the income tax returns for Abraham J. Moss and Isidore Sweetwine. These men were well known racketeers, Moss being the chief of the so-called \$10,000,000 international smuggling syndicate. He is known to have conducted extensive operations in dope, alien and liquor smuggling. Mr. Sweetwine was a partner in the Moss syndicate. There were many indictments against these men and their gang. Not only did Colonel Mayo make out their tax reports but he gave them expert assistance in evading the payment of their correct tax dues. He represented Abe Moss as a gambler, and that his income was only about \$3,000. While as a matter of fact his commissions on Canadian liquor was over \$10,000. The Canadian export records will confirm this statement.

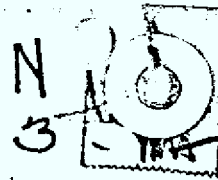
2. Colonel Mayo kept the Moss gang informed of the activities of the federal enforcement units on the Canadian border, and was a frequent visitor at the gang headquarters at Windsor, Ont.

3. While Major Ray was acting in charge of the Detroit Unit of the Special Agents, he used my services for about three months on investigations of the Moss gang, Purple gang, Moran and Espone units which were operating in Detroit. He obtained detailed information of the big-scale operations of wholesale bootlegging organizations. He never made any arrests or raids on these violators, except in the case of the Purple gang. But if I remember correctly no convictions were ever obtained against them.

4. During this time I worked as a "go-between" for Major Ray and Abe Moss, chief of a powerful ring of smugglers, and I negotiated a conference between them. Major Ray offered to assist Moss in fixing the District Attorney so certain Moss gangsters could return to the United States and pay small, nominal fines. About twenty of them were under indictment and had fled to Canada. Major Ray was to receive \$1,000 for every Moss man he "sprung" from the syndicate.

5. Also, I helped Major Ray obtain detailed information on the operations of the American Motorized Transport Co., Inc., a racketeer organization owned by "Bugs" Moran and Ted Newberry, well known Chicago bootleggers. He never did make arrest of these violators, even though he knew they transported thousands of cases of liquor between Detroit and Chicago.

*John W. ...*



RECEIVED

March 3, 1932.

Memorandum re telephone call from Mr. Purvis.

Mr. Purvis said he had some dope that you will probably want to make notes on. Man named Arthur G. Chandler, 1414 Winnebago Avenue, telephone number Edgewater 3931, Chicago, now employed by Mickleberry's Sausage Company, formerly employed by Ford Motor Company, Detroit, as investigator under Harry Bennett at the office of the Highland Park plant in Detroit; was laid off because he secured some information about high officials of the Ford Company; that is what he tells Mr. Purvis. He showed us in the paper concerning this Lindbergh kidnaping that the name of the nurse was Betty Gow and he knows that a man named Scotty Gow who is a member of the Purple Gang of Kidnapers - he knows that Betty Gow is a sister of Scotty Gow and he gave us a description of the Betty Gow that he knows; age 28, height 5' 4 1/2"; weight 120 pounds; complexion medium; eyes and hair unknown; occupation is private nurse. Chandler says he saw this Betty in Scotty's house when he went there in Detroit to recover the possession of property which had been in the possession of Scotty a year and a half ago; this property had been stolen from commissary of the Highland Park Ford Motor Company Plant and the only associates of Scotty Gow known to Chandler are Fitzpatrick, whose father is a Captain in the Palmer Park Police at Detroit and a man named Firpo, another Detroit hoodlum. Mr. Purvis said that was all he had so far and he thought possibly that might be of value.

Mr. Hoover said that is fine and anything call and give right off the bat because it might fit in with material we are working on in New Jersey.

mob

62-26664-9

62-26664-9

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Phoned to Col. Schwartzkopf.

3/3/32 J. C. N.

Reinecke requested by phone to get a line on the Gows & also on Chandler.

3/3/32 J. C. N.

NATHAN  
D. H. T. H.

FILE



NO  
3-1111  
March 3, 1932.

Memorandum re telephone call to Colonel Schwartzkopf. 62-26664

Mr. Hoover said he wanted to give the following information. The Bureau's Chicago office called by long distance concerning the nurse at the Lindbergh house; they located in Chicago this morning a man who, having read the name in the paper of the nurse as Betty Gow, stated that he knows that Scotty Gow, who is a member of the Purple Gang of Kidnappers at Detroit, has a sister by the name of Betty Gow who is a nurse - the Purple Gang is a famous gang which has been indulging in kidnappings in the Middle West - the description given of the sister is 28 years of age; height 5' 4 1/2" inches; weight 120 pounds; complexion medium; occupation, private nurse. The man in Chicago who gave information stated he had seen Betty Gow in her brother's home in Detroit about a year and a half ago and the brother at that time, together with this man in Chicago who gave this information this morning was interested in some stolen property which had been stolen from the Ford Motor Company; of course, he does not know whether the girl at the Lindbergh house is this girl but he felt in view of the fact that he had heard the name and met this girl and she was a nurse that he had better give the information. Mr. Hoover said he wanted to pass it on.

Colonel Schwartzkopf inquired as to the hair. Mr. Hoover said No, eyes and hair unknown, he was unable to recall what color eyes or hair she had. Mr. Hoover said he wanted to pass this on in the event the authorities had not gotten it. Colonel Schwartzkopf said he had not received it. Mr. Hoover said this Purple Gang is a very notorious gang at Detroit and this man Scotty - Colonel Schwartzkopf inquired if the Bureau had any information as to its methods of working. Mr. Hoover said we had never heard before that they indulged in kidnaping babies, they have usually taken racketeers and gangsters and held them for ransom and when it is produced they generally set them loose. Mr. Hoover said it is a very bad notorious group. This man who gave us this information is employed in Chicago at the present time and was at one time working for the Ford Motor Company in Detroit and that is how he came to know this group. Mr. Hoover said if we got anything more he would call and pass it on.

The Colonel thanked Mr. Hoover and was told by Mr. Hoover that if there was any other service the Bureau could be to him to just call Mr. Hoover.

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62-26664-1  
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAILED  
Div. Three

Memorandum re telephone call to Mr. Reinecke.

Mr. Hoover said that he understood from Mr. Purvis at Chicago - in regard to this Lindbergh kidnaping case - that a man who belongs to the Purple Gang in Detroit named Gow - Scotty Gow is his name - supposed to have resided at various times in Detroit and has a sister by the name of Betty Gow who is presumably a nurse in the Lindbergh home, at least that is the name of the nurse. Mr. Hoover said he had communicated this information to Col. Schwartzkopf who is commanding the State Police; it is not known whether Gow girl in Lindbergh home is the same one, but the information from Chicago is that Scotty Gow has been a member of the Purple Gang for a long time and his sister is about 28 years of age; 5' 4½" in height; weighs 120 pounds; medium complexion and her occupation is that of a private nurse and it kind of fits in to the picture of the girl at the Lindbergh home. This information given to us by a man named Arthur Candler, who is working in Chicago at present, but at one time was employed as an investigator by the Henry Ford Motor Company at Detroit working under a man by the name of Harry Bennett - Mr. Reinecke said he knew him and that he was Chief of Police of the Ford Company - and Mr. Hoover asked Mr. Reinecke to find out about Candler from Bennett if he could, we want to handle this matter very confidentially, don't give out any information on it but we want to get a line as to who Candler is and his make-up. Candler claims he was fired by the Ford Company because he obtained some information about the Ford Company and was also a friend of Gow and about 1½ years ago when he was in Detroit he went to see Gow to endeavor to recover some property which had been in the possession of Gow which had been stolen from the commissary of the Highland Park Ford Company plant and either the Purple Gang had done it or Candler had been mixed up in it, it is not very clear; while in Gow's house Betty Gow came in and he saw her, that is where he got her description.

Mr. Hoover said he would like to get a line on Scotty Gow, who he is and anything about him you can find out; also anything you can find out about Candler. Mr. Hoover said the only associates of Scotty Gow known to Candler was a man by the name of Fitzpatrick, whose father is Captain in the Palmer Park Police - Mr. Reinecke said probably Palmer Park Police Precinct - and a man named Firpo who is also a Detroit policeman. Mr. Hoover said it might be a wild sort of lead. The N. J. Police Commander has been advised so he can check up on it at the Lindbergh home. Find out all you can about Scotty Gow and anything on the Sister and ask Bennett, if he is reliable, to find out what he knows about Candler.

Mr. Reinecke said that last summer he made the acquaintance of a pretty good informant in the underworld who is pretty well acquainted with the Purple Gang and inquired if he should take him into his confidence, that is so far as to question him about Scotty Gow. Mr. Hoover said he thought he would that he thought it would be perfectly O. K.; to be very careful and would do it not indicating along the Lindbergh case but indicating as to some other interest we may have, and then let me know by wire or long distance what you get.

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March 4, 1932.

Memorandum re telephone call to Col. Schwartzkopf.

62-26664

Mr. Hoover called regarding the Gow matter and some others.

Check at Detroit developed that original informant was investigator in Detroit and his reputation is good for integrity and veracity; Scotty Gow, according to information in Detroit, is now in Scotland and according to Detroit information was not at any time arrested nor to their knowledge ever connected with the Purple Gang; nor did he have a sister but his wife had a sister by the name of Betty Burrel. After getting that the informant in Chicago was confronted with this information and he stated he still maintains that the woman whom he saw in Scotty Gow's home was Scotty Gow's sister because he was introduced to her by Scotty Gow's wife as Betty Gow and also claims that he knows that Scotty Gow was tied in with the Purple Gang and was acting more or less as a fence for stolen property in Detroit.

Mr. Hoover asked if the Colonel had a photograph of the nurse in the Lindbergh home and whether he could send it on so the Bureau could send it to Chicago in order to see if the man could identify the picture. The Colonel said he could do that.

Another angle is this. There resides in Washington a family named Suter, they are the parents of Ann Suter, an actress, who is rather well known actress has been playing on Broadway at times and is at present in England; sometime ago she got into the hands of some blackmailers and among the blackmailers was a man named Mandel, the same name of the man who claims to own the car you found there in Jersey; the significant thing about it is that the papers down here printed the ransom note and the Suters had some papers in their possession from a man whom this Ann Suter knew, a steward on the boat coming over from Europe with her and with whom she became involved and who introduced her later to these blackmailers among whom was Mandel; the printing on the photograph of Miller which they have corresponds in some degree to the printing on one of these ransom notes, the one that was mailed from Newark that said "baby safe"; one of the Government experts has examined the newspaper reproduction and the original which the Suters gave the Bureau and there is some marked similarity found and he also found some differences. Mr. Hoover asked if the N. J. authorities had photographic copy of the note that was mailed from Newark as it would be better for the expert to look that over. No photographs have been taken of that. The Colonel asked if a photostatic copy would be sent of what the Bureau had.

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MAR 8 - 1932

62-26664-48	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAR - 8 AM	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
NATHAN	FILE
Dir. Three	



U. S. Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation

P.O. Box 1405,  
Chicago, Illinois.



AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

March 4, 1932.

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&  
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Director,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

MAR 8 - 1932

Personal and Confidential

62-26664-60	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAR 8 - 1932 P.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
NATHAN Dir. Trav.	FILE

Dear Sir:

With reference to my telephone conversations with you on today and yesterday, concerning the kidnapping of Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr., please be advised that Mr. Arthur G. Candler, 1414 Winneamac Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, telephone Edgewater 3931, called at this office on March 3, 1932, and stated that he had some information which might possibly be of some assistance in the apprehension of the kidnappers.

Mr. Candler was interviewed by Special Agent E. P. Guinane, and he furnished the following information:

Mr. Candler related that up to about one and one-half years ago he was employed as an investigator for the Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan, with offices at the Highland Park Plant, working under the direction of Mr. Harry Bennett; that he noticed in the newspaper accounts of the kidnapping of Charles Lindbergh, Jr. that the name of the nurse for the Lindbergh baby was Betty Gow. He stated that he recognized this name immediately as being the same name of a party involved in a case which he had handled at Detroit, Michigan, while employed by the Ford Motor Company. In this connection, he stated that approximately one and one-half years ago, he had traced some merchandise which had been stolen from the Ford Commissary at the Highland Park branch of the Ford Motor Company to the possession of one Scotty Gow; that he called at the home of Scotty Gow, which was located in Royal Oak, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, and while at this home, he saw a sister of Scotty Gow's, whose name was Betty Gow; he further stated that this Betty Gow was a private nurse but at that time was out of employment. He further stated that Scotty Gow's wife was in the house at the time that he saw Betty Gow.

Send copy to Mr. Connelley.  
3/7/32 J. E. D.

enter 11-18  
3-7-32  
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Mr. Candler described Betty Gow as follows:

Age - 28 yrs.  
Height - 5'4½"  
Weight - 120 lbs.  
Complexion - Medium  
Eyes - Color unknown  
Hair - Color unknown  
Occupation - Private nurse, out of employment at that time.

Mr. Candler further stated that the only associates of Scotty Gow at that time that he knows of were Fitzpatrick (first name unknown), whose father was Captain of the Palmer Park Police Station in Detroit, Michigan, and Firpo (first name unknown).

Mr. Candler stated that Scotty Gow was a member of the famous Purple Gang which terrorized Detroit several years, and that he thought there might be a possibility that Betty Gow, sister of Scotty Gow, is the nurse for the Lindbergh baby, and if so, there is some possibility that Scotty Gow and some of his associates might have some connection with the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby.

Mr. Candler stated that his connections with the Ford Motor Company were severed about one and one-half years ago, because he had secured some important information involving some high officials of the Ford Company, and that he "knew too much" and his services were therefore discontinued.

Mr. Candler stated that he had just made connections with the Mickelberry Food Products Company, and that he was to leave in the next day or so on a selling trip into Northern Michigan.

Mr. Candler stated that he did not believe that Scotty Gow was prosecuted for stealing the merchandise in the case which he investigated. He stated that he merely obtained information on the case and then turned whatever information he had obtained over to Mr. Bennett, head investigator of the Ford Motor Company, and that generally no one would know what disposition was made, as the Ford Motor Company would take its own action. Mr. Candler further stated that it may be possible that there was no criminal prosecution in this case for the further reason that Fitzpatrick, who was also involved with Gow, was the son of a police captain. He further stated

that Scotty Gow had been an employee of the Ford Motor Company at the Highland Park plant, and had worked in the Commissary Department, and that by reason of his connections in the Commissary, he obtained copper fittings and other material made of copper, and turned these materials over to the members of the Purple Gang.

Subsequent to my telephone conversation with you yesterday I arranged to have Mr. Candler again call at this office, and he did so late yesterday afternoon, and furnished the following information:

Betty Gow was in Detroit between eighteen and twenty months ago, looking for work. Mr. Candler has never seen her before or since that time. The manner in which Mr. Candler learned that Betty Gow was Scotty Gow's sister, is that at the time when Candler went to Scotty Gow's house, Mrs. Gow, the wife of Scotty, said "I hope there is nothing wrong with Scotty. We are having lots of trouble now. He has been pretty sick lately, and we've got his sister here with us now." Candler saw the girl who was designated as Betty, and asked her how she liked Detroit. She stated she didn't like it at all. Candler is unable to remember where Betty said she was from. He cannot be sure whether it was from Scotland or Ireland, but she gave him the impression that she was from one of these countries, or from a small town, due to the fact that she was not apparently a wide awake or flapper type of girl. She did not have a "city" appearance about her.

In addition to the description above given, Mr. Candler stated that he could not definitely state the color of Betty Gow's hair, adding that it was not black, and neither was it blond. It was not of a striking color either way, although it might have been dark brown. He did not state as to the color of her eyes. She was of medium build, and he thinks she did not wear glasses.

A description of Scotty Gow is as follows: Dark, curly hair, sharp face, shrewd eyes, color unknown, height 5'7" or 8", weight between 140 and 145 pounds, clean shaven. His actions are quick and nervous. Candler's impression is that Scotty Gow's eyes are very dark, but cannot say definitely. He always keeps his eyes squinted. Scotty Gow usually carries a Parker pen and pencil set in his pocket, and is supposed to be an insurance salesman. He is said to be between the ages of 33 and 35 years. He has a nice appearance, and a dark complexion.

Mr. Candler's story is that he was employed by the Ford Motor Company in the Service Department, which is really the Secret Service of Police Department of the Ford Motor Company, and that he usually worked alone, whereas most of the other men worked in pairs. For about two years a graft had been practiced on the Ford Motor Company, at its Commissary on Manchester and Woodward Avenues, Detroit, and the officials, of course, wanted it stopped. In line with his general duties, Mr. Candler had been instructed to look out for Scotty Gow, Fitzpatrick, and Firpo, or any of the Purple Gang, several of whom had been pointed out to him. It might be stated here that Scotty Gow is said to have been previously employed in the Ford plant, and to have occupied the position which Candler occupied, Gow being the predecessor of Candler. In his official duties in the Service Department, sixty men were employed under him, Candler, and Gow. Gow's hours of duty were from four p.m. to twelve midnight.

In order to expedite this matter the statement of Candler was taken down as he gave it, and although it is not in statement form, or signed, it is quoted herewith. It will be noted that it possibly contains some irrelevant detail, but as a whole it gives all the information furnished by him.

"One evening I was sitting down in the office and a clerk came down and told me Scotty Gow and Fitzpatrick were in the plant, so I told this man to let me know when they left the plant. As they left I watched them through the window and saw them carry four shopping bags full of merchandise and put them in an olive green Essex sedan. I left the office, crossed the street toward the sedan, and Fitzpatrick got out and ran down the alley. I met Scotty Gow as he got out of the car. I asked him to open up the car and show me what he had in it. He said the doors were locked and he couldn't, so I opened the doors and dumped out the shopping bags, which were full of silk hosiery, ladies' underwear, oxfords, pen and pencil sets, etc. I asked Scotty Gow to bring these things back and put them on my desk in the office which he said he would do as long as no one saw him do it. I left the office so he could come in without anyone seeing him, and called up the boss and told him what had happened. He did not return the goods at the time he said he would, so I got in a car and went to a house on LaBelle Street in Detroit.

I found his car parked in front of a two story frame building. I looked through the window and saw him sitting downstairs with Fitzpatrick and two girls. The lights went out downstairs, lights went on upstairs. I waited three hours and finally he came out. I stopped both of them and told them they would be arrested; that I was going to take them to the station. They said "Don't do that, we'll bring the goods back. We've given half of it to the girls in there." They went in and took the lingerie, oxfords, and hosiery away from the girls. The rest of the goods was still in the car. They brought back this merchandise to the plant, and left it on my desk. I called up the boss and told him what had happened and he said "Go out and get the rest they have been taking for the past year."

"They refused to have anything more to do with me, but said if they would send another man over they would give him as much of the merchandise as they could possibly get back. The other fellow went over and got another sedan load of fountain pen sets, lingerie, silks, oxfords and shoes, etc. The next evening this other man asked me to go with him to Scotty Gow's house. I went over to Scotty Gow's house in Royal Oak, Michigan, a town adjacent to Detroit. We went in the front way. His wife and another girl who turned out to be Scotty Gow's sister were sitting in the dining room. Scotty Gow was supposedly in bed, sick. We went into the bedroom to find out how much other merchandise Scotty Gow had, but before going into the bedroom this other man went in and asked me to sit out there for awhile till he talked to Scotty Gow. This man's name is Vaness. While sitting in the dining room I asked Mrs. Gow how everything was, and she gave me the answer set out above.

"When Scotty Gow worked in the Highland Park Plant of the Ford Motor Company he had access to the plant. He had charge of it from four p.m. to twelve. He had sixty men under him, who were supposed to watch the property in three shifts. I took his place when he was fired because of graft. In the position which Scotty Gow had he was able to obtain babbitt, which is used instead of bronze in bushing, virgin tin, lead and copper.



"The possible connection is that Scotty Gow was connected with the Purple Gang, because the Gang could dispose of this property, and it is possible that Scotty Gow obtained some of this property and had it disposed of by the Purple Gang.

"Gow put a man on each crib to watch it, that is cribs of babbitt, virgin tin and copper, which was in ingots of 100 pounds each. The man that is put on that crib to watch it is a favored man, as it is an easy job. Gow calls him off, and tells him to go on a beat or come to the office. While he is away from the crib, that gives Gow time to take a truck over and load it, or have it loaded. These trucks invariably go out of the Oakland Street gate. The trucks belong to the Ford Motor Company, with the tags taken off. These tags, which identify the trucks as Ford Motor Company vehicles, could be taken off by the garage man, or Gow could unscrew the tags himself. The truck would then take this merchandise down to one of the junk dealers that keep their big kettles hot waiting for it to come in.

"These trucks take these ingots, etc., to the junk dealers, and immediately when the load arrives there the junk dealer's smelting pot is ready, the merchandise is poured in, and melted immediately, in order to eliminate the marking "F.M.C." which initials are stamped on everything in the Ford Motor Company. The detectives on this beat are in on this deal.

"One ~~J~~ Jacoby, possibly living on California Street, was in the Purple Gang. He is a heavy set, Jewish fellow.

"Joe ~~T~~occo, his brother and a third person whom I could locate right now at a blind pig, being an Italian or Sicilian, whose name I cannot remember, were all three called in by Chester ~~L~~a Marr, from Ecorse, which is a suburb of Detroit, and told that he, La Marr, wanted Jackie ~~N~~ichols, who had been kidnapped, returned to his home. He was brought back right away.

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In addition to the above information, Mr. Candler stated that previous to the death of Chester La Marr, the latter occupied

office space at the Ford Motor Company in the office of the official in charge of the so-called Secret Service Department of the Ford Motor Company. Incidentally, Candler stated that the name "Secret Service" was changed to the Service Department, at the time of the Ford-Sapiro suit, due to an article criticizing Ford, which was written by Arthur Brisbane. Candler believed that La Marr was at one time the head of the Purple Gang; at least they carried out his instructions. The ostensible reason for La Marr's occupying office space in the office of the head of the Service Department, was because La Marr furnished the Ford Motor Company with all the produce purchased by them and sold through their Commissaries. Candler believes, however, that the real reason for his being in that office was protection, this office being the safest place for him in Detroit.

To summarize this matter as nearly as possible, I would say that the alleged connection of Scotty Gow with the Purple Gang was by reason of his ability to dispose of misappropriated goods from the Ford Motor Company, through the Purple Gang.

Mr. Candler further informed me that he intended taking a road trip for his sausage company but that he would make arrangements with his wife at home to communicate with him immediately, should I desire to talk with him further.

If any additional information is obtained here I will immediately communicate it to you.

Very truly yours,

*M. H. Purvis*

M. H. Purvis,  
Acting Special Agent in Charge.

MHP/cec

RECORDED

MAR 4, 1932

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MAR 8 1932

REPORT MADE BY MR. CONNELLEY TO MR. HOOVER

Mr. Hoover asked if there were any new developments on the Lindbergh case and when Mr. Connelley said there were none that they are nothing yet, Mr. Hoover inquired who was down there. Mr. Connelley said Merrick and said he thought it might be well for Mr. Connelley if he could do so, without too much interruption up in New York, to just slip down there for the effect of the contact, in other words, everybody is bending every effort on this thing and Mr. Hoover said he did not want anybody later to say that we merely sent one Agent down there and that is all we did on it. Mr. Hoover said he thought if Mr. Connelley could slip down there and see Schwartzkopf and, if necessary, if you think it important enough after you get there, just stay there for a day or two to see what is being done or can be done. Mr. Hoover said he realized that probably everybody is down there ploughing over the situation. Mr. Connelley said they had everybody in the world down there. Mr. Hoover said that is right with the result it is just like the famous Mary Baker case we had down here at Washington; everybody running all over everybody else's toes and getting nowhere probably with it, but on the other hand Mr. Hoover thought it would be well for Mr. Connelley to just drop in and, in view of being Agent in Charge at New York, etc., to indicate that you are there and anything you can do and see Colonel Schwartzkopf personally and see what can be done. Mr. Hoover did not know whether he is at Trenton or over at Hopewell, that Mr. Hoover had talked with him yesterday morning. Mr. Hoover said Purvis got some information at Chicago; a man was there and told Purvis that this Betty Gow is the nurse in the Lindbergh home, is a sister of Scotty Gow a member of the Purple Gang of Detroit, and the man in Chicago was formerly an investigator in the Ford Motor Company at Detroit and he knew Scotty Gow and while in Scotty Gow's house he had met his sister Betty Gow who was a nurse and gave a description which fits the girl at Hopewell. Mr. Hoover said he called Schwartzkopf and gave that to him and he did not have it at all.

Mr. Hoover said he called Detroit and they checked back and cannot find that Scotty Gow was ever a member of the Purple Gang; Scotty Gow is now in Scotland; and does not have a sister but that his wife had a sister named Betty; but in checking back at Chicago the man there, this Ford investigator, insists that Scotty Gow did have a sister because he was introduced to her by Scotty Gow's wife; also that Scotty Gow was tied up with the Purple Gang because he acted as a fence for stolen property from the Ford factory. The informant used to be a Ford investigator, he is now in Chicago but not working for the Ford people. This information has been sent on to Schwartzkopf. Mr. Hoover suggested that Mr. Connelley ask Schwartzkopf, when he got there, to furnish him a picture of Betty Gow and send it on to Chicago in order that they can show it to this man and see if it is the same woman. That is the only lead we have now and it may not amount to anything, but the case looks like an inside job to Mr. Hoover.

Mr. Hoover asked that Mr. Connelley go down there and send daily a telegram of any new developments, if there are any and if Mr. Connelley should leave to have Merrick or whoever is left there because the Attorney General and everybody down here is vitally interested and it is not known whether people have story of the real things or not; it looks as if everything is being given to the newspapers. Mr. Connelley said the contents of the note were finished given last night at least Governor Moore gave it out. Mr. Connelley said that was very foolish.

mob

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

March 4, 1932.

Memorandum re telephone call to Mr. Purvis.

62-26664

Mr. Hoover said check made at Detroit and it was ascertained that Scotty Gow not in Detroit but in Scotland; so far as been able to find never at any time connected with the underworld. Mr. Purvis said he got the man late last night and told how Scotty Gow was connected with the Purple Gang in a way through the Ford Motor Company; that Scotty Gow worked for the Ford Motor Company and he was in charge of about 60 men of the Secret Service of the Ford Company and also had to guard a place where a lot of raw materials were stored and these raw materials were stolen and taken out of the Ford company from time to time and they were disposed of, according to Candler, by the Purple Gang; Scotty Gow got them and gave them to the Purple Gang to dispose of; he says he realizes his proof is indefinite but in his own mind he realizes and knows that he is mixed up with the Purple Gang.

Mr. Hoover briefly stated the facts regarding Scotty Gow as ascertained from Detroit.

Arthur S.

Mr. Purvis said that the way Candler knew that this Betty is the sister of Scotty Gow is that when the wife of Scotty Gow introduced him she said that Betty was the sister of Scotty. When he was talking with Betty he asked her how she liked Detroit. She said she did not like it at all. She did not say where she was from, whether Scotland or Ireland, or where. Mr. Hoover asked if Mr. Purvis had seen any pictures of the Betty Gow, nurse in New Jersey, in any of the Chicago papers. Mr. Purvis said they have not been printed there. Mr. Hoover said some had been recently taken and he would see if he could not have some sent to Mr. Purvis so he could check them with Candler to see if they are one and the same woman. Mr. Purvis said he would keep in touch with Candler. Mr. Hoover said that is right and tell him not to talk to anyone else. He asked Mr. Purvis last night not to let the Ford Company know about this thing. Mr. Hoover said we will not, of course. That will be taken care of all right.

Mr. Hoover said if there is any more information to give him a line on it.

Mr. Purvis said he would get an air mail letter out to Mr. Hoover today giving the details of this.

mob-hwg

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

MAR 8 - 1932

62-26664-75	
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAR 8 1932 P.M.	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
NATHAN Div. Three	FILE

COPY FILED IN  
11-3571

Miami, Florida

Mar. 21, 1932

Special Agent in Charge,  
U. S. Bureau of Investigation,  
Box 32,  
Jacksonville, Florida.

Re: Unknown Subjects,  
MISCELLANEOUS (Kidnapping of Charles  
A. Lindbergh, Jr.)

Jax File 62-772

Dear Sir:-

[redacted] Miami, Florida, called at the office of the Assistant U. S. Attorney, Miami, Florida, and advised that a person by the name of William Worthing, alias Bill Worthing, who was convicted some time ago in California for smuggling aliens into the United States via airplane, and who is himself a pilot by occupation, had been in Miami, Florida, about six months ago, and while in a conversation with several people, and in the presence of [redacted] had made the statement that he thought that the Lindbergh baby would be a good child to kidnap. [redacted] advised that he thought nothing more of the incident until lately when he decided that this information might be of some help in this case. [redacted] advised that Worthing also had a friend, whose name he did not remember, but whom he thought was now in Mexico, who was mixed up in a mail robbery in California a few years ago, and that he had given this information to Mr. E. G. Allen, Post Office Inspector, Miami, Florida, who had a file on this case and would have the name of this friend of Worthing's. [redacted] advised that he did not know much concerning the personal history of Worthing, but that he has ascertained that he has some connection with the "Purple Gang", and may be found in Detroit, Mich.

In this connection [redacted] advised that he has been employed as an informant for the U. S. Customs Agency, Miami, Florida, and that he had given this information to Mr. Galvin of the local customs agency in Miami, Florida, who advised him to see this Agent about this matter.

3/25/32  
I discussed this case with Post Office Inspector E. G. Allen, Miami, Florida, who showed me his file with reference to one William Harold Worthen. It appears that on April 22, 1931, [redacted] who is referred to as [redacted] advised that one Richard Easterbrook was wanted in California in connection with a mail robbery involving the wreck of a plane and the loss of some \$50,000.00 in currency, sometime in the month of September, 1930. It appears, from the information furnished by [redacted] to Mr. Allen at the time, that Easterbrook was the pilot of a mail plane carrying a \$50,000.00 currency package, and that he wrecked his plane and abstracted the \$50,000.00 from the registered package, later reporting that the sacks had been cut and the mail robbed while he was unconscious. In this connection [redacted] advised at the time that Easterbrook was previously involved with one William Harold Worthen, alias Worthing, in connection with a Chinese smuggling episode for which five men were convicted in California some three or four years ago. [redacted] further informed at the time that Easterbrook was associated with a woman by the name of [redacted] who

62-26664-427



170

operates a Dude Ranch Hotel near Portales, New Mexico and who formerly operated a place known as the "Zulu Hut" in Los Angeles, California. Easterbrook was described as being thirty-three years of age, having dark hair and dark eyes, and supposed to have had one heel shot off. The information in Mr. Allen's file, furnished by [REDACTED] advised that Easterbrook and Worthing corresponded together by means of a reversed alphabet cipher, and that some of the letters were addressed to a man by the name of Dell who operated a garage at Portales, New Mexico. This information secured by Mr. Allen at the time from [REDACTED] was supposed to have come from a woman associate of Worthing's to whom he had detailed some of the information given him by Easterbrook.

3/25/31  
It further appears that Post Office Inspector A. W. Deming of Denver, Colo., made an investigation at Portales, New Mexico, on or about June 5, 1931, but was unable to verify the information given by [REDACTED]. It appears from the report of Post Office Inspector Deming that this case was being investigated through the office of Inspector G. H. Austin of the San Francisco Division, and that the case was carried under the title: Walter Mainline, alias Richard Easterbrook, alias Dick Easterline, alias Dave Harding, alias Jack Short, et al. Mr. Allen advised that he had no further information in this case, and that the complete file was no doubt in the office of Mr. Austin at San Francisco, California.

Richard Easterbrook is the associate of Worthing referred to by [REDACTED] and who is alleged to be somewhere in Mexico. He is said by [REDACTED] to have been a member of the "Purple Gang" of Detroit.

A check of the identification records at the local police force and at the Sheriff's Office, Miami, Florida, disclosed the record of one William Harold Worthing who was arrested on August 5, 1931, on a charge of breaking and entering, and subsequently released on his own recognizance. His description is as follows:

Name: William Harold Worthing  
Age: 26  
Hgt.: 5-5½  
Wgt.: 130  
Bld.: slim  
Hair: brown  
Eyes: blue  
Nat.: American  
Race: White  
Police No.: Miami, Fla. S. O. #10485  
F. P. C.: (20) 9 R O 20  
18 U 10 19

I am forwarding you this information for whatever use it may have in connection with this case. It appears that if William Harold Worthing, alias Worthing, was arrested in California, and subsequently convicted on a charge of smuggling aliens, that this information might be secured from the Immigration authorities at Washington, D. C., or from the Department of Justice's records.

I will have [REDACTED] look at the photograph of William Harold Worthing, on file at the local Sheriff's Office, Miami, Florida, in order to ascertain if he is the individual he has reference to.

Very truly yours,

J. L. McCaffrey, Special Agent.

# Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C.

April 3, 1931

Chief of Police,  
Miami, Fla.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your print received April 2, 1931, regarding H. Worthen, #4390, the following is an abstract of subject's record on file in the National Division of Identification and Information:

Subject as Harold Worthen, #37890, arrested P. D., San Francisco, Calif., March 1, 1926, charge burglary; disposition not given.

As Wm. Worthing, #29708, arrested P. D., Detroit, Mich., April 2, 1927, charge stealing auto; disposition not given.

As H. Worthen, #4390, arrested P. D., Miami, Fla., March 29, 1931, charge accessory to robbery - armed; released, insufficient evidence.

The following notations appear on our records:

"4-2-27, as Wm. Worthing, #29708, P. D., Detroit, Mich., charge driving away auto; sentenced to 1 to 10 years, Detroit House of Correction, Detroit, Mich.

4-22-27, received, Detroit House of Correction, as Wm. Worthing, #20877."

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover  
Director.

Copy to:

Prison Commissioner,  
Tallahassee, Fla.

P. D., San Francisco, Calif.  
P. D., Detroit, Mich.

As H.W. Worthen, #10485, arrested SO, Miami, Fla., Aug. 15, 1931; charge breaking and entering - grand larceny; disposition not given.



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

April 30, 1931.

Sheriff's Office,  
Martinez, California.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your print received April 23, 1931, regarding Walter Hainline, #8444, the following is an abstract of subject's record on file in the Division of Identification and Information:

Subject as Dave Harding, #49767, arrested ID, San Francisco, Calif., February 2, 1928, charge, suspect; disposition not given.

As Walter D. Hainline, #129710, arrested S, Los Angeles, Calif., May 18, 1930, charge, grand theft and burglary; turned over to the custody of the Los Angeles Police Department, May 20, 1930.

As Walter Hainline, #8444, inquiry made by Sheriff's Office, Martinez, Calif., April 29, 1931.

The following information appears on the above print:

"As Walter Hainline, arrested El Cerrito, Calif., July 25, 1930, charge, burglary; turned over to Los Angeles authorities."

The following notations appear on our records:

"As Walter Hainline, #130001, L. A. Calif., burglary and grand theft; released on bail, July 9, 1930.

NOTE: as Walter Hainline, (#24502-1-4, identification made by photo) for grand theft and burglary. If apprehended notify FI, Los Angeles, Calif. (Inf. taken from L. A. Police Bulletin dated April 30, 1930.)"

Copy to -  
State Prison  
Sacramento, Calif.  
Chief of Police,  
San Francisco, Calif.  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
Sheriff's Office,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover  
Director.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WAINLINE.



Description:  
Nativity, California  
Age, 37  
Height, 5-5  
Nationality, Dutch

Weight, 176  
Eyes, lt. brn  
Hair, dk brn.  
Build, medium

Tattoo actress left forearm; very short stubby hands; machine gun wound right ankle and heel; limbs slightly.

RECORDED  
APR 29, 1931  
DIV. OF IDEN.



RECEIVED

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
625 Lafayette Building  
Detroit, Michigan  
March 25, 1932

W  
Special Agent in Charge,  
United States Bureau of Investigation,  
Post Office Box #251,  
Grand Central Station  
New York, New York.

62-26664

Dear Sir,-

With reference to the long distance telephone call of this morning concerning the disappearance of CHARLES A. LINDBERGH, JR., there are transmitted herewith photographs of the following persons:

Name	Detroit Police Department No.
Joe Tocco	12244
Harry Keywell	31293
Phillip Keywell	27946
Irving Milberg	28547
Raymond Burnstein	28545
Abe Burnstein	14861
Joe Burnstein	14498
Charles Leiter	32564
Abe Axler	29655
Sam Axler	29766
Joe Miller	29767
Henry Fletcher	28544
Harry Fleisher (Circular)	16151

These photographs were procured by Special Agent T. R. McConnell from the Detroit Police Department through the co-operation of Inspector Charles Carmody of the Identification Division. Mr. Carmody states that Tocco is not a member of the Purple Gang, and as far as he knows, has never been allied with it, directly or indirectly.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

JUN 2 - 1932

62-26664-1297  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAY 31 1932 A.M.  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Harry Keywell, #31293, was arrested in Detroit in September, 1931, on charges of murder and has been in jail continuously ever since. In January, 1932, he received a life sentence in connection with this charge since which time he has been confined in the Michigan State Penitentiary at Marquette.

Phillip Keywell, #27946, was sentenced sometime in 1930 to life imprisonment in the Michigan State Penitentiary on charges of murder.

Irving Milberg, #28547, has likewise been in jail since September, 1931, in connection with the same murder for which Harry Keywell was sentenced to life imprisonment. Milberg is likewise confined in the Michigan State Penitentiary.

Raymond Burnstein, #28545, is the third member of the Purple Gang doing a life sentence in connection with the murder involving Milberg and Keywell. Burnstein has likewise been confined in jail continuously since September, 1931.

With the exception of Tocco, all of the persons whose photographs are transmitted are known to be ring leaders of the Purple Gang, and with the exception of Harry Keywell, Phillip Keywell, Irving Milberg and Raymond Burnstein, all of them are at large at this time.

Harry Fleisher is the only member of the above outfit who is at present wanted by Michigan authorities.

Inspector Carmody advised that on March 23, 1932, he transmitted to Colonel H. N. Schwarzkopf, of Trenton, New Jersey, full information concerning the names, addresses and records of all known extortionists and kidnapers operating in the Detroit District. It is suggested that Mr. Schwarzkopf be contacted for this information inasmuch as Inspector Carmody stated that it would take sometime to re-assemble and again compile this information. He further stated that in addition to the above persons the so-called Purple Gang in Detroit comprises the following men:

Name	Detroit Police Department No.
Frank Klayman	17535
Fred Smith	24775
Zizzie Selbin (Killed 10-26-29)	32548
Henry Miller	29277
Donald Goldblatt	-----
George Harris	-----
Arthur Kelley	-----
Harry Wein	-----
Chas. Stein	-----
Jack Cohen	-----
Joles Joffe	29663
George Cordell	18602
Abe Miller	30750
Abie Zussman	24031
Abe Kaminski	26157
Iessie Kaminski	29286
Erwin Shapiro	24151
Sam Bernstein	28205
Iessie Bernstein	31571
Louis Fleischer	27717
Jack Stein	30083
Willie Laks	31946
Sam Davis	27718
Sam Goldford	24243
Harry Shoor	10278
Ben Marcus	4780
Louis Gellerman	25710
Alfred Russell	24687
Louis Orthman	32562
Jack Redfern	32560
John Wolf	32561
James Powell	-----
Louis Rapport	32613
Sam Potasink	-----
Jack Levites	32563
Maurice Raider	10320
Joe Lieberoff	33780
Joe Sascor	33771
Zigle Selbin	33770
Sam Purple	11663
Jacob Willman	29505
Hymie Altman	28453
Abe Olenick	41273
Edw. Shaw	30452

The photographs, fingerprints and descriptions of all of the above listed men who have police numbers have been heretofore furnished this Bureau and it is suggested that their photographs and records, if desired, be secured through the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

R. B. DONALDSON, Acting  
Special Agent in Charge.

TRMcC-MSH  
62-630  
CQBUREAU  
ENC.

KIND OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
DAY	NIGHT
TELEGRAM	DEFERRED
MESSAGE	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
LETTER	WEEK END CABLE LETTER

Should check class of service desired, otherwise it will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

# Postal Telegraph

(THE MCKAY SYSTEM)



ALL AMERICA  
CABLES

COMMERCIAL  
CABLES

Receiver's Number
Office
PAID * GOVT
Time Paid
STANDARD TIME

and the following Message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

El Paso, Texas, April 8, 1932.

H. H. Reinecke  
United States Bureau of Investigation, Dept. of Justice,  
Detroit, Mich.

REPORTED  
ABE BERNSTEIN PURPLE RIBBON GANG/REGISTERED LOCAL HOTEL AS OWAR BORCK STOP ADVISE  
IF WANTED BY ANY FEDERAL BUREAU DETROIT

Taylor, Acting

O.B. - Govt. rate pd.  
Chg. Dept. Justice, El Paso

cc Bureau

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

APR 12 1932

62-26664-646
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 11 1932 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

OK



U.S. Department of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation

Post Office Box 251  
Grand Central Station  
New York City

EJC:SH  
62-3057

June 1, 1932

Director  
Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.

Re: Unknown Subjects  
Kidnaping & Murder of Chas. A. Lindbergh, Jr.

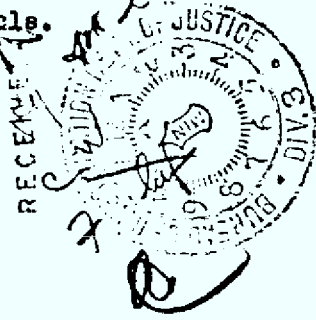
Dear Sir:

With reference to my report dated May 27, 1932 which covers the interview with P. Milton Gaglio and refers to John J. Bauermiester and aliases; also report of Agent Turrou, dated May 28, 1932 which covers interview with Joseph Perrone as to his possible identification of Bauermiester as being the party "John" who contacted John F. Condon, it being noted that Perrone failed to identify him, I am enclosing herewith to the Bureau copies of the pictures of Bauermiester, James Kelly and Arthur E. Hardy, who were involved with Bauermiester at one time, which were exhibited to Perrone; also a collective picture of the various members of the so-called Purple Gang in Detroit, it being noted that in previous reports it is indicated that Joe Tocco is reputed not to be a member of the Purple Gang. Possibly the Bureau would care to refer copies of the reports in question to the State Police, with the copies of the pictures previously above referred to, as it is possible that they might care to exhibit these pictures to John F. Condon, we not having contacted Condon for reason that we are not familiar with the situation as to the manner in which Condon is being handled at this time in connection with the investigation being conducted by the New Jersey State Police.

Very truly yours,

E. J. CONNELLEY  
Special Agent in Charge

4 Encls.  
m.B.



RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED  
JUN 6 - 1932

62-26664-1320  
BUREAU OF  
JUN 8 1932 A.M.  
FILE



14498  
Joe  
Burnstein



29655  
5-31-29  
Ube  
Axler



32564  
4-20-28  
Has Keith



29767  
4-13-27  
Joe Miller



28545  
10-26  
Ray Burnstein  
4-26



28544  
5-31-29  
Harry  
Fletcher

0 100-111-100-13 19



31896  
1-27-25  
Bernard  
Schwartz



Harry Fleisher



100-111-100-13





31293  
11-28-29  
Harry  
Keywell



12244  
Joe  
Tocco



28547  
5-31-29  
Irving  
Milberg



35921  
3-31-29  
Harry  
Sutton



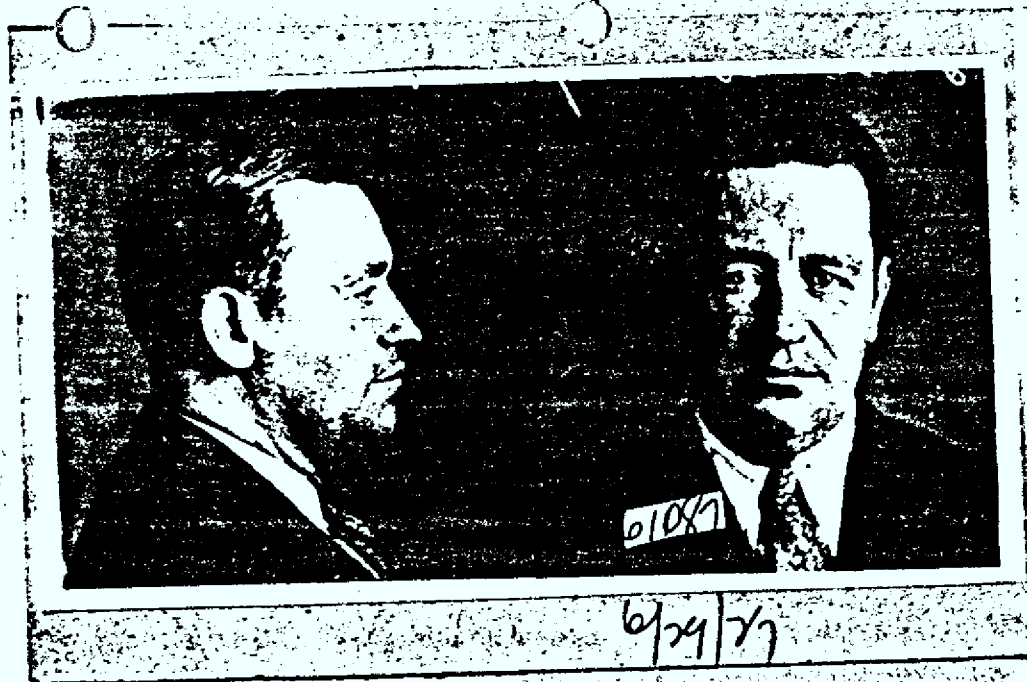
14498  
Joe  
Bernstein



29655  
5-31-29  
Abe  
Axler









*James Kelly*  
61087

7/24/25 - 403 E. 19th St., N.Y.C.

Extortion

36; 5'8"; 165 lbs.; stocky build;  
eyes gray; medium complexion; steam-  
fitter;

Officers Reilly, Teed, Mullahey,  
15th Squad.

62-26664-1320

7-1

*Arthur Hardy*  
alias Loop  
68565, N.Y.C.

211 Fulton St., Brooklyn  
Extortion

41; 5'10-3/4"; 225 lbs.; heavy  
build; hair medium gray; eyes blue;  
complexion fair; born Brooklyn, N.Y.;  
salesman - 6/28/27  
Officers Gallagher & Brady, 15th Squad

*John Lambert*  
alias Bauermeister  
alias Dawson

N.Y. Police 15871

331 West 36th St., N.Y.C. -12/19/24

Extortion

38; 5'9"; 145 lbs.; build slim;  
black hair; brown eyes; dark com-  
plexion; laborer; born U.S.

Officers Fitzgerald & Barrett, 12 D.D

62-26664-1320

1-1

7-1

62-26664-1320

U. S. Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice

1900 Bankers Bldg,  
Chicago, Illinois.  
August 5, 1933

Director,  
United States Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

At the Police Convention in Chicago, I met  
Chief of Detectives Fred W. Frahm of the Detroit, Michigan  
police department, who has had years of experience with the  
various gangs in and about Detroit. He compiled three books  
on gangs, one being on the "Purple Gang", one with the names  
and police numbers of other gangs, and one, a history of certain  
kidnappers.

I borrowed the 3 books from Chief of Detectives  
Frahm and had them photostated. I have made one copy for  
Parvis of the Chicago Office, and I am mailing you two copies  
of each for our files there.

I believe that these are very interesting docu-  
ments, and I have thanked Chief of Detectives Frahm for his  
courtesy in furnishing this information to us.

Respectfully,

J. E. EGAN,  
Inspector

JSE/dr  
Att.

a very fine piece of work. Give it  
careful study & write Frahm a  
letter.

J. E. N.

62-23190-178

AUG 11 1933 A.M.

DIRECTOR  
NATHAN  
CLEGG  
Div. One

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

JHL:CSa

62-23190-178

August 15, 1933

RECORDED

Mr. Fred W. Frahm,  
Chief of Detectives,  
Police Department,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Frahm:

Inspector Egan of this Division has forwarded to me copies of your three booklets on the personnel and organization of certain well known gangs, one booklet being devoted exclusively to members of the gangs engaged in kidnaping.

I have read these booklets with considerable interest, and feel that you are to be commended for these works, which ought to prove an invaluable aid to the City of Detroit and other jurisdictions affected by the activities of these hoodlums.

I am having the names of the persons included in the booklets checked against our files and I am sure that the information furnished by you will prove of considerable importance, particularly in connection with our modus operandi and single fingerprint file on kidnapers.

I wish to congratulate you upon the excellent manner in which the data is presented in the several booklets, and to thank you for permitting Mr. Egan to have copies made for me.

Sincerely yours,

Director.

AUG 25 1933

REC-23190-178



RECORDED



THE  
PURPLE  
CRAB

To be used in 1940

K-3



# INDEX TO MEMBERS OF THE PURPLE GANG.

Number of Known Members.....	49
Number Serving Sentences.....	10
Number Wanted.....	7
Number not in Jail.....	28
Number Dead.....	4
Total.....	49

NAME	PAGE
Frank Klayman.	
Erwin Shapiro.	
Harry Keywell.	
Irving Milberg.	
Issie Kaminsky.	
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Able Zussman.	
Abe Miller.	
George Cordell.	
Sam Axler.	
Joel Miller.	
Edward Fletcher.....	2
Zigie Selbin.	
Jules Jofa.	
Henry Miller.	
Raymond Burnstein.	
Fred Smith.	
Benjamin Markus.	
Harry Fleisher.....	3
Abe Burnstein.	
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Maurice Raider.	
Sam Burnstein.....	4
Isadore Burnstein.	
Phillip Keywell.	
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Jack Stein.	
Sam Davis.....	5
Willie Lake.	
Louis Schtman.	
John Wolf.	
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Jack Redfern.	
Louis Rapoport.	
Louis Gellerman.....	6
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See Next Page.

INDEX TO MEMBERS OF THE PURPLE GANG.

Harry Millman.

Edward Shaw.

Abe Olenick.....

8

**MEN WHO HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO TRAVEL  
WITH THE SO CALLED PURPLE GANG.**

**1.**

**17535.....Frank Klayman, alias Jack Tucker. DEAD.**  
**Died in the Ohio State Penitentiary Fire April 21, 1930.**

**24151.....Erwin Shapiro, alias Irvin Shapiro alias  
Bob Stone. DEAD. This man was shot and killed by Unknown  
Persons in front of 2469 Taylor ave. Detroit, Mich, at  
3:30 A.M. July 29, 1927. He was identified by fingerprints  
taken from his body at the Wayne County Morgue.**

**31293.....HARRY KEYWELL. Age 19---1927. Height 5-7 $\frac{1}{2}$   
Eyes. Hazel. Weight. 125. Hair. Dark Brown. Complexion  
Med. Dark. Build. Slim. This man is now serving a Life  
sentence in Marquette Prison for the Collingwood Ave  
Masacre. This Murder took place Sep. 18, 1931... 10-11-32.**

**28547.....Irving Milberg. Age 23---1926. Height. 5-7  $\frac{1}{8}$   
Eyes. Hazel. Hair. Brown. Weight. 150. Complexion. Fair.  
Build. Slim. This man is now serving a Life sentence in  
Marquette Prison for the Collingwood ave Masacre, this  
murder happened Sept. 18, 1931..... 10-11-32.**

**29286.....ISSIE KAMINSKY. Age 36---1927. Height 5-7 $\frac{1}{2}$   
Weight. 185#. Eyes. Blue. Hair. Black. Complexion Florid  
Dark. Build. Stout. This man is a Bootlegger, and has  
been picked up for possession of Burglar Tools and for  
Extortion. He is not in jail at this time. 10-11-32.**

**26157.....ABE KAMINSKY ALIAS ANGEL FACE. Age 32---1925,  
Height 5-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Weight. 129. Eyes. Hazel. Hair. Dark Brown.  
Complexion Dark, Build Slim. This man has a long record  
that has arrests for Viol. State Prohibition Law, Robbery  
Armed, Murder, Extortion, Carrying Concealed Weapons and  
Assault with intent to kill. Has convictions in Federal  
Court for Prohibition Law, Conviction in the Recorders  
Court for Carrying Concealed Weapons and is now in Jackson  
Prison on a term of 2 to 4 years on charge of Extortion.  
Sentenced 1-28-31 by Judge Brennan..... 10-11-32.**

**29655.....HARRY LEVINE alias SAM AXLER alias ABE AXLER  
alias ABE GOLD. age 25---1927, Height 5-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Weight 125#  
Eyes, Hazel. Hair Brown Black, Complexion Dark, Build Slim.  
This man has served a term in Sing Sing Prison for Burglary,  
Also served a term in the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kas.  
on a Prohibition Charge. He has a long record of arrests  
for Disorderly Person, Robbery Armed, Murder, and Grand Larceny  
He was tried in the Collingwood ave Masacre Murder but was  
not convicted. He is not doing any time..... 10-11-32.**

24031.....ABIE ZUSSMAN alias ABE STONE, alias ABIE THE ABENT. age 23---1925. Height 5-6 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Weight 134, Eyes. Hazel Slate, Hair Lt, Chestnut. Complexion Fair, Build, Slim. This man is a Bootlegger and has been arrested by the Detroit Police Department on charges of Disturbing the Peace, Violating the State Prohibition Law, Violating the U.S. Code, Murder and Robbery Armed, He is not known to be serving any time..... 10-11-32.

30750.....ABE MILLER alias ABE MORRIS alias ABE STAPPSKI, age 26---1927, Height 5-7. Weight 148, Eyes. Hazel. Hair Dark Brown, Complexion Dark. Build. Medium. This man was arrested by the Detroit Police on charge of Robbery Armed and turned loose, he is not serving any time as far as we know..... 10-11-32.

18602.....GEORGE CORDELL. Age 23---1922. Height 5-7 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Weight 163, Eyes Hazel. Hair Dark Brown, Complexion Dark Build Medium. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police Department on charges of Felonious Assault, Robbery Armed, Violating the U.S. Prohibition Laws, Carrying Concealed Weapons and Murder. He served a 15 months term in Leavenworth on a Conspiracy Charge. He is out at this time. 10-11-32.

29766.....SAM AXLER alias SIMON AXLER alias SAM ELLER. Age 26---1927, Height 5-6 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Weight 145. Eyes Hazel. Hair Dark Brown, Complexion Dark. Build, Slim. This man has served a term in Sing Sing Prison for Grand Larceny, and has been arrested by the Detroit Police Department on charges of Murder, Robbery Armed, Suspect of Shooting a Police Officer and was turned over to the U.S. Marshall on a charge of Violating the U.S. Prohibition Laws. He is not serving time..... 10-11-32.

29767.....JOE MILLER alias JOE HARBUS alias HONEY BOY MILLER. Age 27---1927, Height 5-8. Weight 185. Eyes Blue. Hair Brown, Complexion Florid. Build, Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police Deptment on charges of Extortion, Robbery Armed, Murder and Violating the U.S. Prohibition Laws. He is not serving any time..... 10-11-32.

28544.....EDUARD FLEWCHER. Age 25---1926, Height 5-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Weight 122. Eyes, Hazel. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Dark. Build. Slim. This man was arrested by the Detroit Police Department on charges of Police Witness, Robbery Armed, Murder, and Violating the U.S. Code. He was sentenced to serve 1 year and 10 months and pay a fine of \$5,000. in Leavenworth, Kas. in the Federal Court Detroit, Mich, on charge of Conspiracy to Violate the United States Prohibition Laws. He is not in jail at this time.,.... 10-11-32.

32548.....ZIGEI SELBIN. DEAD. Shot and killed at 8833---12th St. Oct.26, 1929 at 12:30 A.M.

29663.....JULES JOFFA alias JULIUS JOFFA alias HARRY WILSON. Age 34---1927. Height 5-6. Weight 144#. Eyes Blue. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Medium Florid. Build Medium. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police Department on charges of Murder and Carrying Concealed Weapons. Has served a term in the Ohio State Reformatory on charge of Robbery, and is now serving a term in the Ohio State Penitentiary on charge of Burglary and Larceny. Sentence of 3 to 15 years. He is reported as having done some Heroic work in the Penitentiary Fire of 1930.... 10-12-32.

29277.....HENRY MILLER. Age 29--1927. Height 5- $\frac{1}{4}$ . Weight 132. Eyes Blue. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Medium. Build Short. This man shot and killed one Thomas Mc Elvoy, Jan. 30, 1927 in a blind pig at 477 East Adams Ave. Detroit, Mich, he was Exonerated by a Corners Jury. Dr Burgess. He was also arrested in Detroit on charges of Robbery Armed and several times as a suspect..... Not in jail at this time...10-12-32.

28545.....RAYMOND BURNSTEIN. Age 23---1926. Height 5-6  $\frac{3}{8}$ . Weight 135. Eyes Blue. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Dark. Build Slim. He has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Robbery Armed, Murder and Extortion. He is now serving a Life sentence in Marquette Prison for the Collingwood ave Masacre, of Sept. 1931.....10-12-32.

24775.....FRED SMITH alias FRED KAISER alias ALBERT RITCHIE alias "KID SMITH". Age 20---1925. Height 5-9. Weight 126#. Eyes, Hazel. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Sallow. Build Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Robbery Armed and has been brought in for investigation several times. He is not in jail at this time....10-12-32.

4780.....BENJAMIN MARKUS. Age 36---1928. Height 5-8. Weight 190#. Eyes, Slate. Hair Brown and Curley. Complexion Florid. Build Medium Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Extortion and was turned over to the U.S. Government on a charge of Violation of the U.S. Prohibition Laws. He is not known to be in jail at this time.  
10-12-32 .

16151.....HARRY FLAISH alias FLAISH alias FLAISH alias FLAISH alias FINK. Age 19---1921. Height 5-6. Weight 190. Eyes Hazel. Hair Light Brown. Complexion Medium. Build Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Kidnapping, Receiving Stolen Property, Counterfeiting, Robbery Armed, Extortion and Assault with intent to kill. He was wanted on the Lindberg Kidnapping case, he was in and released. He also was tried on the Collingwood Ave. Masacre Murder but was released after Solly Levine Disappeared. He is not in Jail at this time but is waiting trial on a Prohibition charge by the U.S. Court.....10-12-32.



14861.....ABE BURNSTEIN. Age 26---1920. Height 5-5 7/8. Weight 160. Eyes Hazel Slate. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Sallow. Build Medium Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Gambling, Disorderly Person, Murder and Extortion. He admitted shooting one Marty Levey at 10 West Columbia St. Detroit, Mich, Nov. 17, 1920. but he was Acquitted in Court. He is not known to be in jail at this time.....10-12-32.

✓ 14498.....JOE BURNSTEIN. Age 20---1920. Height 5-4 7/8. Weight 129. Eyes Violet Blue. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Medium. Build Medium Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Grand Larceny, Carrying Concealed Weapons, Robbery Armed, Felonious Assault, and also Violating the Interstate Commerce Law. He is not known to be in jail at this time.,.....10-12-32.

✓ 11663.....SAM PURPLE alias GEORGE COMEN. Age 19---1919. Height 5-7 5/8. Weight 166#. Eyes Gray Blue. Hair Brown. Complexion Florid. Build Medium Stout. This man was arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Carrying Concealed Weapons (He got 3 years probation that time) Uttering and Publishing ( he got 3 to 14 years in Ionia that Time) and also was arrested on a charge of Violating the U.S. Prohibition Law, and was turned over to the U.S. Marshall. He is Now WANTED by this department on a charge of Murder...10-12-32.

10278.....HENRY SHORR. Age 20---1918. Height 5-8 5/8. Weight 149. Eyes. Azure Pale. Hair Light Brown. Complexion Swarthy. Build, Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Violating the Interstate Commerce Laws, Robbery Armed, Extortion, Larceny from the Person and also Grand Larceny. He is not in jail at this time, but if he is brought in the Special Investigators Bureau would like to question him..... 10-12-32.

10320.....MAURICE RAIDER. Age 19---1918. Height 5-4 1/8. Weight 132. Eyes Hazel Slate. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Sallow. Build, Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Grand Larceny, Robbery Armed and Murder. He is now doing 12 to 15 years in the Michigan State Prison at Jackson, Mich. having been convicted of Manslaughter in 1930. He was granted a new trial by the State Supreme Court in 1931, but the conviction was upheld and he is now back home. Jackson..10-12-32.

28205.....SAM BURNSTEIN alias BURNSTEIN alias SAM STEIN. Age 23---1926. Height 5-5 5/8. Weight 225. Eyes Blue. Hair Brown. Complexion Florid. Build Stout. This man has been arrested in Detroit on charges of Prohibition Law, Attempt Breaking and Entering, Grand Larceny, Robbery Armed and also Extortion. He has been convicted several times. He is also WANTED for questioning by the U.S. Immigration Authorities. He is not known to be in jail at this time....10-12-32.

31571.....ISADORE BURNS FIN. Age 19--1927. Height 5-5. Weight 136#. Eyes Hazel. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Medium Dark. Build. Slim. Arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Gambling, Carrying Concealed Weapons, Investigation for Throwing Stench Bombs, and Robbery Armed. He is not known to be doing any time..... 10-12-32.

27946.....PHILLIP KEYWELL. Age 25--1926, Height 5-8 1/8. Weight 148#. Eyes Hazel. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Dark. Build Slim. This man has a long record of arrests by the Detroit Police on charges of Grand Larceny, Robbery Armed, Assault With Intent to Kill, Fugitive, Kidnapping and Murder. He is now serving a Life Sentence in Jackson Prison, having been sentenced by Judge Cotter on Oct. 10, 1930. for the Murder of a Colored Boy who found some liquor that had been planted by Keywell and some of his Gang..... 10-12-32.

27717.....LOUIS FLAISHER alias FLAISH alias LOUIS FLEISHER alias Fleish. Age 21--1926. Height 5-10 1/2. Weight 145#. Eyes Gray Blue. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Medium. Build Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Disturbing the Peace, Carrying Concealed Weapons (2 years probation on that charge) Carrying Concealed Weapons again (Fined \$500. or 90 days on that charge) Receive Stolen Property, Robbery Armed and Murder. He is now serving a sentence of 10 years in the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kas. from the Federal Court Detroit, Mich. on a charge of Theft-Interstate Shipment..... 10-12-32.

30083.....JACK STEIN alias MAX PROST alias MAX MOSKOWITZ, alias LOUIS KLEIN alias HYMAN MOSKOWITZ. Age 29--1927. Height 5-6 1/2. Weight 210. Eyes Blue. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Dark. Build Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Murder, Robbery Armed and he did a 5 year stretch in Leavenworth on a charge of Violating the Harrison Narcotic Act out of Detroit. He has been arrested in Buffalo, N.Y. and served time for 2nd Degree Grand Larceny (Pickpocket) and Got a Sentence of 2 to 3 years in the New Jersey State Prison out of Jersey City, N.J. on charge of Pickpocket. He is not in jail at this time, and he was picked up here in July 1932..... 10-12-32.

27718.....SAM DAVIS alias THE GORILLA. Age 18--1926. Height 5-1. Weight 101#. Eyes. Hazel. Hair, Light Brown. Complexion Florid. Build, Medium Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Violating the U.S. Codes, Robbery Armed, Extortion, and Carrying Concealed Weapons. He is now BADLY WANTED by the Detroit Police Department on a charge of Murder. He is said to have killed one Harry Gold in Detroit Mich. on the Night of Feb. 17, 1932. Wanted..... 10-12-32.

31946.....WILLIE LAKS alias WILLIAM STEIN. Age 47---1928. Height 5-7 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Weight 155#. Eyes. Blue. Hair, Dark Brown and Gray, Complexion Dark. Build, Slim. This man did a 5 year stretch in Levensworth on Narcotic Act. Has been arrested for murder, and is now WANTED ON CHARGE OF NARCOTICS BY THE DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT..... 10-19-32.

32562.....Louis Achtman. Age 34---1928, Height 5-6 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Weight 160#. Eyes Gray Blue. Hair Black. Complexion Dark. Build, medium. Has been arrested for Extortion, Violating the Prohibition Laws and for Investigation of Arson. He is not in jail at this time.....10-19-32.

32561.....JOHN VOLP. Age 32---1928. Height 5-5 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Weight 137. Eyes Hazel. Hair, Dark Brown, Complexion medium, Build Stout. Suspected of Hi-Jacking,

32563.....JACOB LEVITES. Age 40--1928. Height 5-6 1/8. Weight 127#. Eyes Gray. Hair Gray Mixed. Complexion Dark. Build Slim. Has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Extortion and Disorderly Person. He is now wanted for questioning by the U.S. Immigration Authorities. .... 10-19-32.....

32564.....CHARLES LETTER....Age 33---1928. Height 5-9. Weight 199. Eyes Hazel. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Dark, Build Med. Has been in for Extortion and Grand Larceny. He is not in at this time and is wanted by the U S, Immigration Authorities for Questioning...10-19-32.

32560.....JACK REDFERN. Age 29---1928 Height 5-8. Weight 118. Eyes Gr. Blue. Hair Med. Brown. Complexion Medium, Build, Slim. Has been in for Robbery Armed, and Disorderly Person. He is not doing time now...10-19-32.

32613.....LOUIS RAPOPORT...Age 32---1928. Height 5-10 7/8. Weight 195. Eyes Violet Blue. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Dark. Build Medium. Has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Felonious Assault, Disorderly Conduct and Violating the Prohibition Laws. He is not in jail at this time.....10-19-32.

25710.....LOUIS GELLMAN. Age 25--1928. Height 5-2-3/8. Weight 133#. Eyes Hazel. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Dark. Build Medium. Has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Viol. U.S. Code Counterfeiting, Murder, Extortion and Robbery Armed. He is not known to be serving any time.....10-19-32.

Purple Gang Continued.

7.

24243.....SAMUEL GOLDFARB. Age 23--1925. Height 5-3 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Weight 123#. Eyes Hazel. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Dark. Build Slim. Has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Robbery Armed, Violating the Prohibition Laws, and Disorderly Person. He is not doing any time as far as we know.....10-20-32.

24687.....ALFRED RUSSELL. Age 20--1925. Height 5-9 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Weight 167#. Eyes Azure Pale. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Medium, Build Medium. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Robbery Armed, Pandering and Carrying Concealed Weapons. He is an Ex-Taxi Driver. He is not known to be in jail at this time.....10-20-32.

33780.....JOSEPH LIEBIROFF. Age 24--1928. Height 5-4 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Weight 133#. Eyes Slate Blue. Hair Brown. Complexion Dark. Build Slim. He has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Robbery Armed and also as a Disorderly Person. He is now wanted by the U.S. Immigration Authorities for Questioning. He is not in jail at this time. 10-20-32.....

33770.....EARL PASHAN. DEAD. This man was shot on Oakland on July.22.1931. Died at Receiving Hospital. at 9:15 P.M. Identified at the Hospital by Finger Prints.

33771.....JOE SAXER. Age 29--1928. Height 5-7  $\frac{7}{8}$ . Weight 139#. Eyes Hazel. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Dark. Build Slim. Has been arrested on charges of Investigation, Larceny by Conversion, and was sentenced to serve 18 months in Levensworth Penitentiary from Detroit, Mich Federal Court on charge of National Prohibition Act, in March 1931. He should be getting out about now.....10-20-32.

29505.....JACOB WILLMAN alias JACOB WILLMAN. Age 20--1927. Height 5-5  $\frac{7}{8}$ . Weight 123#. Eyes Hazel. Hair Brown. Complexion Medium, Build Slim. Has been arrested in Detroit on charges of Robbery Armed, Larceny from Person and Violating Parole. He is now doing time in Ionia Reformatory for Parole Violation. Returned in 1931.....10-20-32.

28453.....HYMIE ALTMAN alias HARRY ALTMAN alias Higger Hymie alias JEW ALTMAN, Age 22--1926. Height 5-7 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Weight 166 Plus. Eyes Hazel. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Dark. Build Medium Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Violating Immigration Laws, Investigation, Robbery Armed, Loitering in a House of Prostitution, Violating the U.S. Prohibition Laws, Copyright Laws Extortion and Murder. He is not in jail at this time. ....10-20-32. ....

## Purple Gang Continued.

31897.....HARRY MILLMAN. Age 18--1928. Height 5-7 1/8. Weight 135#. Eyes Blue. Hair Dark Brown. Complexion Dark. Build Slim. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Robbery Armed, Extortion, Kidnapping, Violating the Prohibition Laws, Carrying Concealed Weapons, and also Hi-Jacking. He is not known to be in jail at this time.....10-20-32.....

30452.....EDWARD SHAW alias LITTLE ABE alias JACK STEIN alias ROBERT GRAY alias ABRAHAM WAGNER. Age 20--1927. Height 5-3 1/4. Weight 103, Eyes Hazel. Hair Black. Complexion Medium Dark, Build. Slim. This man has been arrested in Eastview N.Y. charge Narcotics, New York City, Homicide, Los Angeles, Calif. charge Suspicion Burglary and in Detroit on charge of Robbery Armed. He is wanted on charge of homicide in New York City.....10-20-32.

41273.....ABE OLENICK. Age 30--1931. Height 5-11. Weight 236#. Eyes Hazel. Hair Dark Brown, Complexion Build Medium Stout. This man has been arrested by the Detroit Police on charges of Disorderly Person. He was brought in on one occasion for investigation of the shooting of Ben Bronson. He is not in jail at this time.....10-20-32.

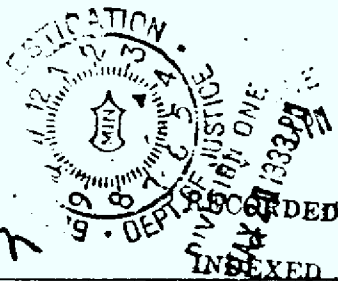


April 28 - 1933

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover  
Washington D. C. (b)(7)(C)  
Dear Sir:

In Regards to some information  
and help to clear up a murder  
case which took place in Dec 9<sup>th</sup>  
1929 in Cal. Co. near Turner &  
George Gordon who  
was killed in his own barn yard  
at about dusk on that night as  
near as we can correctly find  
out. 62-28647-1

There was a girl took the blame  
of killing in fighting self defense  
by hitting him on the head with  
a heavy gun bending the barrel  
of gun. She approached him and



62-28647-1

DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION

MAY 1 1933 P.M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Div. One

FILE 9

ack 5-4-33

clucked with him taking  
the gun away from a big  
strong man & taking the gun <sup>away</sup>  
from him & killing him and not  
one mark on her hands or body.  
Now she changed the statement  
to another man that she hit  
him with a stone poker. and  
got \$5000 for killing him from her  
Uncle. who will admit was  
in that vicinity at the time of the  
killing with an attorney of law  
from Detroit. this attorney admits  
he started a argument with him  
[redacted] by being in the barne (b)(7)(c)  
with this girls mother [redacted]  
had married about 1 1/2 years before  
they killed him we have plenty of  
evidence that this girl did not

Killed him but took the blame  
to cover the men. He was killed  
for a secret he knew that  
might be very harmful to the whole  
gang. which we understand  
belongs to a Purple Gang in  
Detroit and said they could  
get a man killed for \$2500 this  
Uncle tried to hire a man in  
Turner in Oct 1929 to kill him for  
they killed him in Dec. he came  
& told us his self and told plenty  
people. But this girl that took  
the blame was freed in twenty  
minutes after the Prosecutor  
& Sheriff arrived at the place  
just on her own story no finger  
prints were taken no investigation  
made no arrest were made

and any one would know they  
had a story and she knew her  
part in the Play Well.

now I have gone to the State  
Help in Lansing and they will  
not do any thing to help clear  
this up and we all know its foul  
Play & the actual Murder is still  
at large & the state is protecting  
them when they dont try to clear  
it up. There was six men set on  
Corner inquest and we went and  
ask them after the funeral and  
not one of them knew the Conditions  
of his body or how many cuts  
were on his head. I now don't  
think the Inquest was <sup>thorough</sup> ~~very~~  
and ~~you~~ ~~like~~ to have them get away

(b)(7)(c)



There was no Dr. Examined his  
Body. But the Undertaker that  
took care of this Body said he never  
met his death by the way they  
said they killed him. his skull  
was on fracture & but 7 cuts on his  
head & one hole looks like a shot.

with murder. Do you think  
that there is any thing that  
can be done? If so I would  
be glad to send you the evidence  
that people has come to <sup>with</sup> us  
and we have gathered ourselves  
and see if you dont think  
there should be something done.  
This girls statement she made <sup>and</sup>  
the statement they took from this  
attorney in Detroit does not seem  
to work well together do not correspond  
at all. I would like to have some  
advice what to do. as it seems  
I can never give him up. If you  
can help me it would be greatly  
appreciated. Respect yours.

[REDACTED]

(b)(7)(C)

JLR:EB  
RECORDED 62-28647-1  
&  
INDEXED

May 4, 1933.

[REDACTED]

(b)(7)(c)

Dear Madam:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of April 28, 1933.

I regret to advise you that the matter of which you speak, concerning the murder [REDACTED] would appear to be a State matter exclusively. Inasmuch as the investigative jurisdiction of the United States Bureau of Investigation is limited to violations of the Federal laws in which the United States is or may be a party in interest, it would seem that there is no ground upon which this Bureau can render assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

Director.

JLR  
[Signature]

BUREAU FILES DIVISION  
MAILED  
MAY 4 1933

MAA

# Leebove, Racketeers' Lawyer, Revealed as an Associate of Purple Gang's Parole Seeker Gov. Comstock's 'Angel' Known in N. Y. for His Underworld Affiliation

## Michigan Looks Askance as Man Whom Gunmen Depended On to Avoid Pen Guides Prison Policy

Changing from suavity to sneering nonchalance to intelligent irascibility, Isaiah Leebove, the mystery man of Michigan politics faced the legislative Lobby Investigating Committee at Lansing yesterday. Hotly he denied that he sought aid in the release from Marquette of the three men who were convicted of the horrible Purple Gang massacre on Collingwood Ave.

Yes, he knew the New York attorney who was trying to "spring" them; yes, he did meet him at the prison; yes, they talked over the case and the New York attorney told him the hoodlums had been "framed."

The inquiry is still under way.

And over the State of Michigan there is sweeping in rising crescendo the question: WHO IS THIS MAN LEEBOVE?

The State of Michigan is presented with the amazing situation of a New York lawyer who has made a fortune keeping gangsters and racketeers out of

prison being given the position by the Governor of the State of "special investigator"

Michigan prisons. It smacks of something like asking a rabbit to guard a leaf of lettuce.

Since Gov. Comstock took office, more than 1,300 criminals have been given their freedom.

From New York comes the report of Frederick Kaplan, the "friend"

Marquette Prison was an associate of the prison investigator in his New York law office.

### Governor's Dearest Friend

Leebove admits that the first time he ever voted in this state was last November—for Gov. Comstock, who in turn calls him his dearest and most trusted friend on earth.

On the stand he freely admitted that he was Comstock's political angel, that he had financed his campaign; gave, he said \$20,000.

He says his residence is in Clare, Mich. His name does not appear in the State Gazetteer. He bought a home there last fall. But he has a residence and a law office in New York.

As a New York lawyer he has been the attorney for some of the most notorious criminals in the history of New York's underworld. One of his clients was Arnold Rothstein, a gangster so powerful that he was beyond the law and only met his punishment when rival gangsters slaughtered him through a woman decoy.

Leebove is known to have been an oil promoter in Texas and Oklahoma, before and during his career as a lawyer for gangsters and professional bondsmen in New York. He came to Michigan recently for the purpose of promoting oil wells.

### His Club Thrice Raided

Among his other activities he was president of a Democratic club in New York which was raided three times by the police as a gambling joint. He succeeded in having the police enjoined from molesting his place.

Somewhere in his activities, whether in oil or law or gambling, he made the acquaintance of Mr. Comstock, who enjoys convivial companionships and is not averse to a turn at the wheel.

He says he financed "Bill" Comstock because he loves him and that his interest is purely altruistic. Comstock in return made him his special prison investigator because he has absolute faith in his sincerity and his integrity.

The New York lawyer and oil well promoter and the genial and happy-go-lucky Governor have become the Damon and Pythias of Michigan politics.

And so folks are asking louder than ever: WHO IS THIS MAN LEEBOVE?

Out of New York comes the fol-

*Detroit Free Press*

6-16-33

NOT RECORDED

62-23190-A



NEW YORK, June 15--Isaiah Leebove's practice has been almost entirely with racketeers and gunmen in New York and he did a great deal of work for Arnold Rothstein, who was murdered in the Park Central Hotel in November, 1928.

Leebove was born in Pittsburgh, Nov. 27, 1894. His right name is supposed to be Isador Leebove. He graduated from Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn., with the degree of bachelor of law, and went to Texas, where he practiced law. Later he practiced in Oklahoma, and then moved on to New York.

He arrived here with an apparently unlimited supply of money, popularly said to have been made in Oklahoma oil deals. His name was soon prominently associated with those of underworld characters.

#### Called 'Gangsters' Mouthpiece

Soon he became known as the "mouthpiece" of racketeers and gangsters. So strong was he that many held him to be the successor of the late William Fallon, known in his time as the greatest "mouthpiece" New York crooks had ever had.

Leebove went everywhere with Rothstein and was among the

regular patrons of Lindy's Restaurant, from which Rothstein was called by telephone to his suite in the Park Central before he was shot. Not long before Rothstein was killed, he and Leebove had an argument.

Apparently he made a great amount of money out of friendship with Rothstein, receiving a \$40,000 fee from a New York union to defend two men accused of murder in a strike which was financed with a loan by Rothstein.

Leebove was friendly with Rothstein's associates and once he won \$60,000 in a dice game with Nick the Greek, perhaps Broadway's best known gambler. After Rothstein's death, Leebove was the lawyer for Nick, Alvin C. Thomas, Sidney Stajer and Jimmy Meehan, who were held for a time as material witnesses. Meehan ran the famous revolving poker game which is supposed to have been the cause of Rothstein's killing.

#### Rushed to Aid of 'Legs'

Always anxious to see his name in the newspapers, Leebove was ready to defend any gangster in difficulties. When "Legs" Diamond was wounded near his home in Acra, Green County, Leebove raced up from New York and announced that he was Diamond's attorney, although Diamond had not asked for one. He had, however, repre-

sented Diamond before and also, on occasion, Owney Madden.

The information here is that Leebove is working with Frederick Kaplan, another New York lawyer, now in Detroit, who is seeking to obtain pardons from the Governor.

Kaplan is said to have occupied offices with Leebove at 521 Fifth Ave. In the latest telephone book and City Directory, Leebove still lists that address as his office.

Kaplan was reported as having been retained by Rothstein to defend Charles Fawcett, who was accused of holding up a coffee pot in the Bronx. Magistrate Albert Vitale dismissed the charge, although two persons had identified Fawcett as the robber. This was one of the charges that led to Vitale's removal by the Appellate Division. Another was that he had borrowed \$20,000 from Rothstein.

#### In Mysterious Accident

Five or six years ago, Leebove was attorney for two men held in Connecticut for a crime in New York. He went up to Connecticut with the two detectives assigned to bring back the men and on the return trip he is supposed to have run his car in a ditch, one of the detectives being injured seriously. One of the prisoners escaped. A detective held on to the other.

The files show that in 1926 Leebove was involved in a hit-and-run accident at Newington, Conn., in which Mrs. Arthur L. Young was killed. He and his chauffeur, Rufus Wood, a Negro, were held in \$15,000 bail each on charges of reckless driving, manslaughter and evading responsibility after an accident. Leebove and the chauffeur had been arrested soon after the accident as they were riding through Meriden. Leebove said he drove off because witnesses shouted, "Lynch him."

Leebove was famous here for the lengths to which he would go in defense of clients wanted by the police. His dispute with Magistrate Hyman Bushel was characteristic of him.

The trouble with the Magistrate came during the hearing of a swindling charge against Dapper Dan Collins, confidence man. Collins was charged with having fleeced an Egg Harbor man out of \$30,000 and the State of New Jersey wanted him. Magistrate Bushel ordered Collins held in jail without bail. Leebove argued against it and grew so arrogant that the Magistrate put him in the detention pen and kept him there for an hour.

#### A Threat and an Apology

When released, Leebove breathed fire and screamed vengeance through the newspapers, to the delight of the underworld. Later he

quietly apologized.

In 1927, Leebove became a theatrical producer. He had a play "New York," and the management of the Broad Street Theater in Newark, N. J., tried to keep it out because of its reported salaciousness. Leebove won a court fight to have the theater carry out its contract. A few weeks later the play opened in New York. It turned out to be a modern version of "Nellie The Sewing Machine Girl" and didn't last long.

While New York was in an uproar over the Lindbergh kidnaping, and prominent underworld characters were being quizzed daily, Leebove suddenly disappeared. He was heard from later in Michigan, where it was announced he was attorney for Salvatore Spitalo and Irving Blitz, Colonel Lindbergh's go-betweens in the fruitless endeavors which he made to contact the kidnapers of his child.

Leebove's last home address in New York was 28 E. Tenth St. It is a fashionable house. The superintendent there said that Leebove had moved out about two months ago, leaving no forwarding address. He also said that Leebove had not occupied the apartment for some time before he moved.

*Detroit Free Press*  
6-16-33

# Leebove Denies He Sought Liberty for 3 Gang Killers

## Ex-Counsel for Arnold Rothstein Resents Legislative Probe of Purple Tie-Up

By Hub M. George

LANSING, June 15—Isaiah Leebove, financial "angel" of Gov. Comstock's campaign, dropped his mystery role Thursday to tell the House Lobby Investigating Committee that he never had attempted to influence the "springing" of Ray Bernstein, Harry Keywell and Irving Milberg, sentenced from Detroit to Marquette Prison for life for the Colingwood Avenue massacre.

The charge had been entered on the records a few minutes earlier by Senator Ray Derham, of Marquette County, that Leebove, on his survey of prisons, and Edward N. Frensdorf, by long distance telephone call, had attempted to prevail on Warden James Corgan, of the prison, to grant a private interview with these prisoners to Fred Kaplan, a New York lawyer friend of Leebove's.

"Kaplan was in Marquette when I got there, had been there three or four days, and told me he was interested in these so-called Purple Gangsters," Leebove testified.

### No Special Courtesies

"I went to Warden Corgan and advised him that Kaplan was in Marquette in behalf of the Purple Gang. I told the warden that I didn't want him in any way to extend any courtesies to Kaplan because he was a friend of mine.

"I feel that you owe it to me to call Warden Corgan and verify what I say."

Leebove proved an alert witness. The path of the interrogators was thorny. Well-groomed, suave, a master of every situation, he had the investigators backing away from his own questioning at the finish.

"Yes, I contributed \$20,000 to \$21,000 toward the election of Comstock. If he ran again, and I was able to make the contribution \$300,000, I'd be glad to. What about it?" he challenged.

"I object to your sticking your nose into my private business, which is none of your business," he told Rep. Ate Dykstra.

"Yes, I represented Arnold Rothstein in New York. Why go into that? I don't think it is any of your affair," he tartly observed.

The witness testified that he had been in Michigan four or five years, had known Comstock about five years and that he lived in Clare.

### State 'Taken Over'

Chairman Lawrence O'Neill observed that public charges had been made that he "had taken over the State," and asked him to answer.

"That's a tough question. It doesn't mean anything. Before a man is called upon to answer, I believe he should know what the question means. Does it mean something treasonous? 'Selling out' I believe was the phrase used."

Clarification of the question elicited the answer that Leebove had "never expected anything, never wanted anything, and never will want anything, but I still hold that I have a right to want. I can see no harm in wanting things that are just, and things that the

average citizen has a right to ask of his Government."

The witness and Rep. Dykstra clashed heatedly when Dykstra asked his given name and whether he had defended Rothstein.

"Those questions are foolish. It's a damn bad policy to bring a man in here that hasn't been accused of wrong-doing—that there never was any reason to question—that you can't show the slightest right to question within the scope of the authorization for this inquiry," Leebove asserted.

### Naughty Words Deplored

"And that's mighty bad language you're using," Dykstra replied. A moment later he added: "You came here to lecture the Committee and not to answer questions."

"It certainly wouldn't do you any harm to be lectured to, but that is

*Detroit Free Press*

6-16-33

not my purpose," Leebove answered.

"I can't conceive of any benefit I could get from a lecture by a man like you," Dykstra retorted.

Prior to the appearance of the witness Dykstra had said:

"I want to make it clear that I believe Gov. Comstock is high purposed and well-meaning. But I think he is in bad company. Reposing of power in the hands of a gangster lawyer is not serving the best interests of the State, and I think the Governor's attention should be called to it publicly, so he may find some way to break away.

As the hearing broke up, Dykstra still insisted that the witness had refused to answer his question.

#### Dares the Questioner

"The only question I objected to was that concerning my maiden name, and I even answered that," Leebove declared. "I understand you are a good Christian and a churchman. I dare you to raise your right hand and swear this inquiry has nothing political about it. There is not a thing on your mind you can ask me about that I won't answer. I dare you to ask me any question."

Dykstra insisted that time would not permit resumption of the attempt.

While Leebove did not affirm the accuracy of a newspaper article purporting to reveal New York underworld connections, he said that there was nothing in it that reflected on his character or charged improper acts, except that he had defended a lot of unfortunates, often without fee.

"If Mr. Smith (Councilman John W. Smith, of Detroit) really wanted to find out," he said, "he would have learned that much of my life I have been associated with people in trouble. Yet since he was 20 years old he has been a ward of the public purse."

#### Callaghan Tries It

Dykstra finally abandoned his questioning at the hearing and told the chairman that the witness had refused to answer. Rep. Miles M. Callaghan, first summoned as a witness and later accepted as an unofficial interrogator for the committee, made more headway. Leebove is a constituent in Callaghan's district.

The witness admitted spending between \$6,000 and \$7,000 on Comstock's 1933 campaign, when it was hopeless, and perhaps \$15,000 on the 1932 campaign. His Wayne County campaign report had accounted for \$9,000.

"I'm interested in good government and have complete faith in Gov. Comstock," he ventured.

"I've given a few paltry dollars and they make a big fuss over it. That contribution was solely out of friendship for Comstock."

#### Describes Prison Survey

The witness described in detail his survey of prisons, and explained that he had volunteered his services, without cost, when Gov. Comstock mentioned his own inability to find time to act. He spent five or six weeks on the survey, he revealed. It was carefully explained to all prison employees that no threats were involved in their voluntarily agreeing to salary adjustments because of the State's financial plight.

Leebove professed to know nothing about the replacing of 35 Jackson Prison employees a few days after his survey was completed.

The name of Lee Garvin, Marquette attorney, figured in the Kaplan negotiations. He had introduced Kaplan to Warden Corgan, for a retainer, Leebove asserted.

"Kaplan told me he represented the so-called Purple gangsters. If I should tell you what he actually said, I know it will sound like something political.

"He told me: 'These boys are here because of one of the worst frame-ups I've ever heard of, Harry S. Toy, the prosecutor, of Wayne County, is responsible. He knew they were not guilty, yet he participated in their conviction because he saw political advantage accruing to him thereby.'"

#### Asked About Influence Used

"Did you use any undue influence in asking the warden to permit Kaplan to interview these prisoners, privately?" Callaghan asked.

"I did not. The entire episode is just a silly situation. I might say further that I don't think your committee is honest or conscientious in asking those questions."

Leebove was asked about the road built in front of his home in Clare.

"I wonder where Smith (Councilman Smith) thought I ought to live, in a swamp or in the Everglades? I have never petitioned for that road, never talked to anyone about it nor used any influence in obtaining it. That is a part of what is known as the Taft Highway, and is a part of the State program," he replied.

Senator Derham, lacking names and circumstances which Leebove later supplied, had introduced the subject of the "springing of the Purple gangsters and insisted that Leebove was reported to have appealed to Warden Corgan to permit a private interview between Kaplan and his inmate clients.

Derham insisted that corroboratory evidence would be produced by Corgan and by Edward Frensdorff, whom he stated had made a similar appeal over the long-distance telephone. Both have been summoned as witnesses.

#### **Calls Charge Too Broad**

Derham said that he thought the intimation that Leebove "had taken over the State Government" was too broad, but did think that he exercised considerable influence.

The Leebove survey had disrupted the morale of prison personnel, Derham testified.

Derham, a lawyer, said that the Governor has no authority to send a private citizen as an unofficial emissary to survey prisons.

"Here is a man who has defended the second most notorious gangster in the United States, and prison employees paraded before him for salary adjustments.

"Any attorney who defends and represents a client of the type of Legs Diamond is entitled to censure and is not a good citizen."

Derham sponsored the Senate resolution requesting a grand jury, directed by Supreme Court Justice Howard Weist, to inquire into lobbying and bribe charges.

#### **Metzger Takes Stand**

Samuel T. Metzger, agricultural commissioner, was certain that Leebove had not influenced to the slightest degree the appointments in his department.

He was equally certain that no collections that might be regarded as compulsory Democratic Party "tribute" are permitted. Voluntary contributions are acceptable, he said, explaining that all appointments are on recommendation of the Democratic State organization.

Metzger admitted that he had more than a passing interest in the pending pari-mutuel racing legislation, but explained that it was actuated by his desire to see the State reap the revenue available from this direction. The so-called Metzger bill, introduced in the Senate by Senator Claude B. Root, was in fact brought to Lansing by a man named Dowling, of Owosso, Metzger said.

#### **\$380,000 Is Scented**

Proffers of contracts were available which would net Michigan \$6,500 a day for 60 days of racing this season and 100 days next season at the State Fairgrounds in Detroit, Metzger said. He told the Committee that only one of these offers was in writing, but that the others had been made orally by responsible persons. He said that he knew of no Leebove interest in racing.

Metzger was hazy on the details of the sale of a car of potatoes to Kalamazoo State Hospital by the Leonard, Cross & Riley commission house, of Greenville, headed by his son Thomas. He agreed that Kalamazoo producers undoubtedly could supply the hospital cheaper than the Greenville concern, but he doubted whether there were sufficient potatoes available for immediate delivery in the Kalamazoo vicinity. He denied any personal connection with this firm.

With a Friday adjournment limiting the time of the hearing, a night session was ordered to hear John L. Lovett, of the Michigan Manufacturers Association; Edward N. Frensdorf and others. The prison wardens are expected Friday from Marquette and Jackson.

Search has failed to disclose the whereabouts of Constantine A. (Teeny) Daniels, wanted for questioning in connection with Senator Edward B. McKenna's "fixing-for-life" bribe charges, and it is doubtful whether he will be available before the adjournment.

#### **Toy Denies Kaplan Charge That Conviction Was Unfair**

Prosecutor Toy read the charge which Leebove said that Kaplan made against him.

"These men were convicted before Judge Van Zile," he declared. "They had two eminently capable trial lawyers to defend them, Rodney Baxter and Edward Kennedy. None of them took the stand in his own defense.

"After their conviction they appealed, and the Supreme Court of the State of Michigan held that they had been given a fair trial and sustained Judge Van Zile.

"Some months ago this man Kaplan came to my office from New York and demanded copies of the apartment house register and other evidence. I told him he would have to get a court order, and he had not appeared in the case. I have heard nothing since until I read in the paper that he was at Marquette with Mr. Leebove."

*Detroit Free Press*

6-16-33

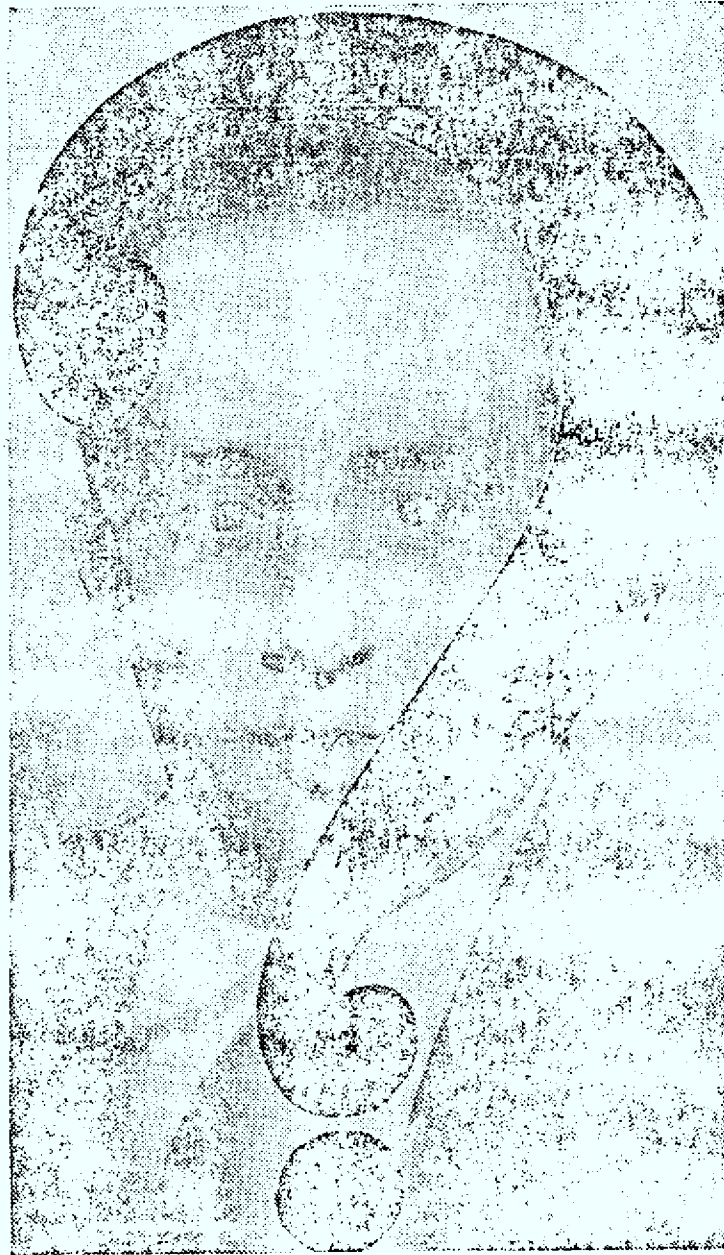




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Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

# Not Who, but Why?



ISAIAH LEEBOVE

*Detroit Free Press*  
6-16-33  
62-23190-A

*m*  
*ag*  
COPY

(b)(7)(c)

August 22, 1933.

Mr. Joseph B. Keenan,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

Dear Sir,-

SEP 22 1933

62-29595-1  
SEP 20 1933  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
9

If it is the privilege of a private citizen, may I call to your attention for investigation a condition which I am satisfied exists in the State of Michigan, the correction of which warrants federal assistance.

I am addressing this request to you because of recent statements in the press relating the determination of the federal government to stamp out politico-gangster government. I am not directing the message to Senators Couzens or Vandenberg because I do not wish it to carry any political implications.

May I state first, as evidence of good faith, that I am ready to assist you in any manner within my power. Unfortunately I have no evidence in support of my conviction of wrong doing but I feel that it lies within your power to unearth such evidence and bring it to light, or if I am in error, reassure me along with many other citizens of Michigan that there is no ground for my suspicion.

I am convinced that Governor Comstock and a Mr. Isaiah Leebove are in the business of delivering prisoners from jail for a price. I will enumerate from memory, and in the order of their occurrence approximately, events reported in the press leading to my stated conviction; 1. Governor Comstock inaugurated. 2. Arthur Rich (probably most wealthy Michigan prisoner released). 3. Isaiah Leebove (said to be former N. Y. gangster lawyer) revealed as sole contributor to Comstock campaign fund. 4. Many other prisoners released (over objection of trial judges in many cases. 5. Mr. Leebove appointed by Governor to make private survey of all Michigan prisons. 6. In course of his investigation Leebove

*Refer to 9-19-33 8:30 PM*  
*Letter to Mr. Leebove 9/11/33*

August 22, 1933

attempts to force Warden Corgan of Marquette Prison to permit private interview by attorney with three Purple gangsters (Bernstein, et al). Attorney was Fred D. Kaplan of New York, said to have been employed in New York office by Mr. Leebove. 7. Warden Corgan discharged along with wardens of other prisons. 8. New trial petitioned for the three Purple Gangsters in Detroit by Attorney Kaplan. New evidence revealed as perjured and forged by Prosecuting Attorney Toy. 9. Recall petitions out for Governor's recall because of his connection with Leebove. This effort quickly dropped. Probably because it was in weak hands with professional leadership. At any rate the recall would be an unsatisfactory and drawn out method of correcting the situation. 10. Resignation of the three members of the Recorders Court Jury Commission in Detroit requested and demanded by the Governor. Splendid record of the commission attested to by local judges. 11. Hearing on petition for new trial mentioned above, being delayed by Kaplan in every way possible. Apparently waiting for new jury commission to hand pick his jury if he is able to get new trial for gangsters.

No doubt you have investigators in the field who are familiar with the situation I have outlined and who are capable of determining if the conclusions I draw are correct.

I notice that October 6th. is the date set for the Senate Committee inquiry into Detroit rackets. In my opinion the mayor, police commissioner and Prosecutor Toy in particular are doing their utmost to combat gangsters and racketeers. Their efforts will be of little avail if the chief executive of the state is aiding or operating a racket, and to accomplish his end is willing to go so far as to tamper with the jury system and prison administration.

In fairness to you I assure you that none of the dismissed officials are friends of mine or known to me. My sole purpose in asking your aid is to see the wrong corrected if my suspicion is well founded, or to be satisfied through your investigation that I have misjudged the accused.

Yours very truly,

(signed) [REDACTED]

(b)(7)(c)

JBL:AEK

RECORDED

INDEXED

62-29575-1

September 19, 1933

P 2 2 1933

(b)(7)(c)

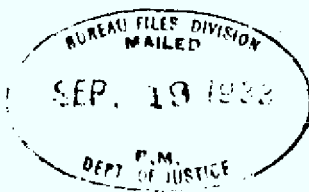
Dear Sir:

Your letter dated August 22, 1933, addressed to the Honorable Joseph B. Keenan, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, has been referred to the Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, for attention.

A Special Agent from the Detroit Office of this Division, located at 625 Lafayette Building, Detroit, Michigan, will call upon you in the near future with reference to the information reported in your letter concerning alleged irregularities in dealing with prisoners in the State of Michigan. The Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit office of this Division is Mr. William Larson.

Very truly yours,

Director.



*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten initials]*



JBL:GJ

RECORDED

INDEXED

62-29595-1

September 15, 1933.

SEP 22 1933

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KEEMAN, SPECIAL ASSISTANT  
TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

In accordance with your request, the Detroit office of this Division has been furnished with a copy of the letter addressed to you by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] dated August 22, 1933, containing his views with reference to irregularities in dealing with prisoners in the State of Michigan. (b)(7)(C)

A Special Agent of this Division will call upon [REDACTED] in the near future and the results of that interview will be forwarded to you. (b)(7)(C)

Very truly yours,

Director.

*J. E. M.*

*Dir.*

JBL:CJ

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

62-29575-1

September 15, 1933.

SEP 22 1933 Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
625 Lafayette Building,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

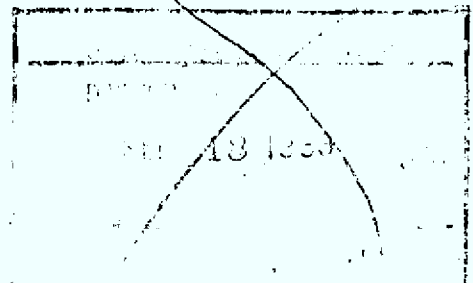
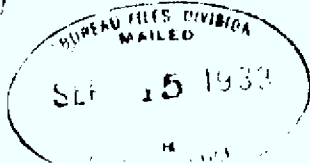
Transmitted herewith are copies of a letter addressed  
to Mr. Joseph B. Keenan, Special Assistant to the Attorney  
General, dated August 22, 1933, by one [REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)  
[REDACTED] in which he detailed  
his views concerning irregularities in dealing with prisoners  
in the State of Michigan.

Mr. Keenan desires that an agent interview [REDACTED]  
Investigation should be restricted to such interview and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] should be advised that, in the absence of any violations  
of Federal Laws, no action can be taken by this Division. (b)(7)(C)

Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. #676683



Copy of the ...  
...  
Yonkumpling -

Could one of  
our agents see the  
man?

JH



RECORDED

62-29595-3

August 11, 1937

HES:MK

Special Agent in Charge,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

(b)(7)(D)

Re: [REDACTED] Informant;  
MICHIGAN US.

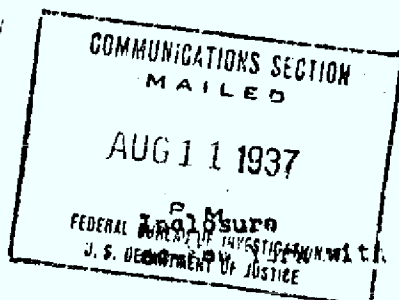
There are transmitted herewith copies of a telegram dated July 31, 1937, from [REDACTED] together with the address book mentioned in this telegram.

It is desired that this individual be interviewed if possible, and the purpose for which this telegram and address book were forwarded to the Bureau ascertained. In the event you are unable to locate [REDACTED] it is desired that a discreet investigation be conducted at Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, to ascertain if the individuals mentioned in this telegram are involved in any violations over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

Inasmuch as the address book transmitted herewith contains numerous names and addresses as well as telephone numbers of individuals who apparently reside in New York City, it is desired that the address book forwarded to you be transmitted to the New York office for its information and possible future reference after it has served its purpose in connection with the investigation conducted by your office.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.



Enclosed with copy of telegram

No copy of above described  
address book retained in

per 100-211



SPC:LL

August 30, 1933

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

Special Agent in Charge  
Division of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
1900 Bankers' Building  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith copies of a letter dated August 16, 1933, from Mr. George G. Bywater, Special Agent in Charge, Division of Investigations, United States Department of the Interior, Albuquerque, New Mexico, concerning alleged activities of Al Bushouse, Casey Bushouse and others, who, it is contended, are members of the Purple gang of Detroit and the Al Capone gang of Chicago.

This information is being conveyed to you for your information. It is requested also that when an agent is next at Grand Rapids, Michigan, that he interview [redacted] for additional facts concerning this matter.

(6X7XC)

Very truly yours,

Director

Inclosure No. 661275  
cc-Detroit



SPC

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS

WASHINGTON

August 23, 1933.

Mr. George G. Bywater,  
Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigations,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Bywater:

I have received your letter of August 16, relative  
to information obtained from [REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)

[REDACTED] I have transmitted a copy per Dept. of  
INTERIOR  
of your letter to the Director, Division of Investigations,  
Department of Justice, for his consideration.

Very respectfully,

Acting Director of Investigations.

Copy to the  
Director, Division of Investigations,  
Department of Justice.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED  
1933

62-29418-1

Aug 31 1933

Div. One

FILE

COPY

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIONS

m 3

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

Albuquerque, New Mexico  
August 16, 1933

Mr. Louis R. Glavis,  
Director of Investigations,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

(b)(7)(C) per DEPT OF  
THE INTERIOR

Dear Mr. Glavis:

The following information was obtained from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] came into the office this morning and stated that information received by him [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was to the effect that Al Bushouse, Casey Bushouse and two other Bushouse boys are members of the Purple gang of Detroit and the Al Capone gang and act as go-betweens between the two outfits. The Purple gang operates from Kalamazoo, Michigan.

[REDACTED] further states that [REDACTED] of Al Bushouse of Comstock, Michigan, that Al Bushouse often visits her when in a jam, states that he is being trailed and hides out in a woods about one mile south of Comstock. [REDACTED] also claims that Al Bushouse has threatened her, and that she is fearful of the gang. She also states that other members of the gang visit the home of Al Bushouse and threaten him through his wife in order to obtain money from his wife's parents. It is supposed that Al Bushouse is acquainted with this last fact, and that his wife, through fear, signs a note to her parents in order to cut in money for the gang.

This information is given to you for proper disposition.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd) Geo. G. Bywater

Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigations.

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
NOT FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

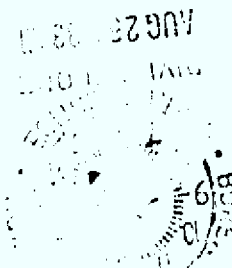
62-29418-1

**BEST COPY AVAILABLE**

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



The Director,  
Division of Investigations,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.



POSTAL  
JUL 31 1937

W3 95 NL

TD DETROIT MICH JULY 30 1937

EDGAR HOOVER

DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHN DC

AS PER INSTRUCTIONS INVESTIGATE ISIAH LEEBOVE FORMERLY CONNECTED

WITH ARNSTEIN, RED MCNABB, BITS AND SPITALE AND OTHER UNDERWORLD  
OF NEWYORKCITY HE NOW SURROUNDED BY ONE OF THE NAME OF ARTHUR  
CLARK FORMERLY OF NEWYORK SHOT IN GANGSTER QUARREL AT MIAMI  
FLORIDA ALSO SURROUNDED WITH SAM GINSBURG AND SAM GARFIELD BOTH  
OF THE PURPLE GANGSTERS ALL USING STRONGHOLD METHODS AT THE  
MTPLEASANT MICHIGAN FIELD I AM ALO FORWARDING TO YOU [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WITH NUMBERS OF FORMER CONNECTIONS IN  
NEWYORKCITY WHICH MAY HELP YOU SOLVE SOME OF THE MAJOR CRIMES  
IN THAT CITY

(b)(7)(D)

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

62-29595-3

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Boardman	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Dawsey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....



H  
ay

U. S. Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice

1900 Bankers Bldg,  
Chicago, Illinois  
September 14, 1933

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

SEP 20 1933

62-29418-2

DIVISION

SEP 18 1933

Dear Sir:-

Re: ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF AL BUSHOUSE AND OTHERS,  
members of the Purple Gang of Detroit, and the  
Al Capone gang of Chicago.

SEP 20 1933 PM

With reference to the letter from the Division dated August 30, 1933, and the inclosure from [redacted] Special Agent in Charge, Division of Investigation, United States Department of the Interior, Albuquerque, New Mexico, dated August 16, 1933, concerning the above-mentioned matter, Special Agent [redacted] checked the city directories of Grand Rapids, Michigan, but could not find a [redacted] listed, and in talking with United States Commissioner [redacted] he advised that the Bushouse families all lived in Kalamazoo and Comstock, a small village just out of Kalamazoo, Michigan. He stated that he knew this to be a fact for he had disposed of one case against them, and that there was another one pending in court. (b)(7)(C)

Agent Van Wagoner called upon [redacted] Kalamazoo, Michigan, who advised that [redacted] (b)(7)(C)

With this information at hand, Agent [redacted] called upon [redacted] Commissioner of Police, Kalamazoo, who assigned [redacted] Detectives of the Kalamazoo Police Department, to assist agent in making his investigation, inasmuch as these two detectives knew most of the Bushouses and all about their activities. As a matter of fact, [redacted] advised that Al Bushouse used to be a former policeman and well thought of at one time, but since that time he had lost everything he owned, as well as the respect others had for him. (b)(7)(C)(D)

Agent [redacted] accompanied by [redacted] called on [redacted]

[redacted] but that none of the Bushouses lived up there. She stated that Nicholas Bushouse, who lived in South Burdick Street, Kalamazoo was the father of Pete, John/Bert (LeBertus Gerard) and Casey/Cornelius; that these brothers all lived in Kalamazoo; [redacted] John G. Bushouse was a half cousin to these boys, but had nothing to do with them; that Pete was the leader of the crowd, but that John was the most vicious of them all. She stated that Pete, John and Bert were members of the Al Capone gang, and that Pete dealt through a middle man of Al Capone, who lives in Kalamazoo, but she cannot think of his name.

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(b)(7)(C)(D)

[redacted] that Casey was supposed to be a member of the Purple gang, whose headquarters were in Detroit, but that most of the gang were now serving time at Marquette, Michigan. She stated that Casey was not mentally right, and that he talked too much and none of the other Bushouse boys would let him in on anything, and would not trust him. She said that when Casey became intoxicated, he would tell all he knew, and more, he would make up the most fanciful stories and relate things that never could or did happen. [redacted] informed that Casey only [redacted]

[redacted] when he wanted sympathy. [redacted] and that Casey was [redacted] that he has never amounted to anything, and never had the brains to be a member of any gang, but that he was the best one of the bootleggers of the boys; that he was an ex-soldier; that when he was in jail he received permission to get out due to a tubercular condition which he had. [redacted] advised that sometime during December of 1931, just about two weeks after he had been released from jail, [redacted] and had been drinking just enough to make him want to talk; that among other things he stated he was a member of the Purple gang; that someone was then waiting outside in a car for him; that whenever he went any place the gang would always follow him in order to give him protection. [redacted] advised that in her honest opinion that these things never existed, and that they were mere stories made up by Casey. She stated that when Casey [redacted]

[redacted] that he was working for his brother, Pete, who was an Al Capone man; that he was bringing alcohol from Chicago to Kalamazoo, and that all he received was \$2.00 for the trip; [redacted] it was a mighty small sum to receive for the risk involved.

Detective [redacted] informed Agent [redacted] that Casey was now driving a beer wagon around Kalamazoo.

(b)(7)(C)(D)

[redacted] advised that Al Bushouse used to be a motorcycle policeman; that he had a good business sometime ago; that about five years ago Al began going downhill; that he sold his stores at Comstock and went to Florida; that he remained there about three months, and returned to Michigan; that he started a plumbing business, about which he knew nothing, and failed; that he had gone through all of his money and had borrowed thousand of dollars from anyone who would lend it to him. [redacted] further advised that Al has a couple of loaded guns in his house all the time; that she does not believe Al is exactly mentally sound; that she believed that Al was dangerous; that he would tell some of the wildest stories; and that instead of any [redacted] (b)(7)(C) gang being after Al, she believed it was [redacted] who lived south of Kalamazoo, who had Al scared to death, and that Al would occasionally hide out in the woods [redacted] to get away from him; that this was two years ago when all this happened, and since that time she has not heard anything more about it. [redacted] advised that Al has never threatened her nor is she scared of any gang, but she added that she is somewhat frightened of Al, due to his peculiar actions of late, and she does not know what he might do, and does not believe that he is responsible for what goes on.

[REDACTED] to sign notes in order to obtain money, but she did not believe that the money was for any gang, but more to get money on which to live, for Al has not worked for years, and is good for nothing. She said that Al's wife [REDACTED] someone came to her door, and threatened her and her children; that if she did not sign a note so Al could get money, they would kill her and her children. (b)(7)(C)(D)

[REDACTED] was somewhat afraid of Al and [REDACTED] and probably mentioned the matter to him and he became alarmed over the situation and reported it, but so far as she is concerned, there is nothing to it, and she knows of no gang which is behind the matter, nor does she know of any one else connected with the gangs mentioned above, other than the Bushouse boys, and what their actual connection was she could not say, but she knew that Pete was the one with the brains behind the group, but that his only activity was dealing in liquor. She stated that she had no complaint to make, nor had made any, but that it must have come from [REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)(D)

[REDACTED] was present all during the interview, and agreed with what was said.

[REDACTED] He advised that Al one time signed to a note for \$550, but that the matter was settled out of court. He stated that at the present time he does not believe Al has a thing in the world; that he has lost his home and business properties, and that he is hard up for money on which to live and that Al has not done an honest day's work for years. (b)(7)(C)(D)

[REDACTED] advised that there is no gang after Al; that there is nothing to this story; that all of Al's trouble centered around one [REDACTED] who was supposed to be a big politician, and had gotten out of Al all the money he could, and when there was no more he probably threatened him. He stated so far as he knew, Armstrong was not connected with any gang. [REDACTED] informed the writer that the stories he had heard about the whole matter were so wild, and so mixed up that they could not get heads or tails out of it, and that there was no gang after Al, and if there were one, it is an imaginary one. [REDACTED] stated that he believed Al should be examined by a good physician to see if he was mentally balanced. (b)(7)(C)(D)

-4-

(b)(7)(c)

Detectives [redacted] and [redacted] stated that they had known the Bushouse boys for years; that they were harmless and that there is some insanity in the family, but that none of them are dangerous characters. (b)(7)(D)  
They gave very little weight to any of the stories that [redacted]  
was forced to sign notes [redacted] in order to obtain money for the gang, and [redacted] said there was no truth in this statement.

(b)(7)(c)(D)

Very truly yours,

*D. O. Smith*

D. O. SMITH, Acting,  
Special Agent in Charge

EVW/dr.



September 29, 1933

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

(b)(7)(C) In connection with the complaint made by [redacted] San Francisco Police Department, regarding his failure to obtain a photograph of OWEN MADDER, Mr. Tolson has requested that you be advised regarding the practice in filing in the Single Fingerprint Section the records of well known gangsters, as well as the efforts made to obtain photographs in each instance.

(b)(7)(C) At the time the Single Fingerprint Section was created it was decided that only the records of kidnapers and extortionists should be inserted therein. Just recently, the practice was adopted of placing in this Section the records of racketeers and gangsters which were brought to the attention of this Unit from time to time. The Chicago Office recently submitted a list of 157 so-called public enemies, the Detroit Office a list containing the names of different gangs including the "Purple Gang" and the St. Louis Office furnished a list of the members of the William Cobeck gang. In addition, as information is received relative to other notorious criminals these names are added to the file. No effort on the part of the Unit has been made to obtain through the Field Offices a list of gangsters, and the writer has been reluctant to make such a request, as up to the present the Equipment Section has not been able to take care of the large number of requests for positive photostats of the records of kidnapers and extortionists which have been obtained through a check of the Technical files and from current records received in the Unit. This week Mr. Tolson's attention was called to the fact that we had just sent to [redacted] 84 records to be photostated and that there were ready in the Unit approximately 300 others. [redacted] with his current work has been unable to prepare more than 100 of such records each week and arrangements were made to have one of the Unit's technical men work at night with the photostating machine, in order to take care of the accumulated work. Prior to the completion of the daily check of the technical files being conducted by the regular employees, which will be about three months, there will be a steady flow of records of kidnapers and extortionists to be placed in the Single Fingerprint file. However, if you desire, a form letter will be sent to each Field Office requesting that they be obtained from the principal police departments the names of well known criminals whose records can be segregated in the Single Fingerprint file. A form letter for this purpose is attached hereto.

In every case added to the Single Fingerprint Section it is the practice to obtain a photograph of the subject either from our records

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OCT 4 1933

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DIRECTOR

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Memo. for the Director.

- 2 -

September 29, 1933.

or through the Field Offices. In many cases no photographs are available.

Respectfully,

John J. Edwards.

REC-100

October 2, 1933.

62-20837-14

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON.

1933

(b)(7)(C)

With reference to the attached memorandum of explanation from Mr. Edwards concerning the complaint made by [redacted] of San Francisco, regarding his failure to obtain a photograph of Owen Madden, I am still at a loss to understand why the Identification Unit did not recognize the case of Owen Madden. The reputation of Owen Madden, or Quincey Madden as he is more often referred to, is almost as well known as that of Al Capone and I would think that at least someone in the Identification Unit should familiarize himself with the current press, for if this had been done the Unit should have immediately recognized the request of [redacted] of San Francisco when he asked for the photograph of Quincey Madden. I recognize the fact that it is impossible for anyone to be familiar with all of the gangsters and hoodlums of the country, from either working in this Division or reading the newspapers, but it would be possible to recognize those who have outstanding records over a long period of years, and among these Owen Madden ranks first in the East, and particularly in New York City. In fact, the papers have for many months carried stories every few days concerning this individual's activities, his influence, and his political connections, and for this reason I cannot understand why the name was not at once recognized by the Identification Unit. It makes this Division appear rather silly to inform the Chief of Police of a large city that we have no photograph of such a notorious character on file in our Division. In fact, as I gathered from the outgoing letter from the Division of September 29, 1933, we do not at this time have a photograph of Madden, New York #B-25443.

I want to very emphatically insist that our Identification Unit procure photographs on fingerprint cards received, particularly in the cases of notorious criminals, such as Owen Madden.

I noted in Mr. Edwards memorandum of September 29, 1933, he states that the Equipment Section is unable to take care of the large number of requests for photostatic work. Will you please look into this matter at once.

Mr. Tolson,

2.

10-2-37

and if we have not sufficient physical facilities or personnel for the handling of the work of the Equipment Section, I want steps taken immediately to procure the same.

I also approve the form letter attached by Mr. Edwards requesting all field offices to obtain from the principal police departments the names of well known criminals whose records can be segregated in the fingerprint files.

Very truly yours,

Director.



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

JJE:LBS

September 29, 1933.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hughes  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Locke

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

In connection with the complaint made by [redacted] San Francisco Police Department, regarding his failure to obtain a photograph of OWEN LADDEN, Mr. Tolson has requested that you be advised regarding the practice in filing in the Single Fingerprint Section the records of well known gangsters, as well as the efforts made to obtain photographs in each instance.

At the time the Single Fingerprint Section was created it was decided that only the records of kidnapers and extortionists should be inserted therein. Just recently, the practice was adopted of placing in this Section the records of racketeers and gangsters which were brought to the attention of this Unit from time to time. The Chicago Office recently submitted a list of 157 so-called public enemies, the Detroit Office a list containing the names of different gangs including the "Purple Gang" and the St. Louis Office furnished a list of the members of the William Cobeck gang. In addition, as information is received relative to other notorious criminals these names are added to the file. No effort on the part of the Unit has been made to obtain through the Field Offices a list of gangsters, and the writer has been reluctant to make such a request, as up to the present the Equipment Section has not been able to take care of the large number of requests for positive photostats of the records of kidnapers and extortionists which have been obtained through a check of the Technical files and from current records received in the Unit. This week Mr. Tolson's attention was called to the fact that we had just sent to [redacted] 84 records to be photostated and that there were ready in the Unit approximately 300 others. [redacted] with his current work has been unable to prepare more than 100 of such records each week and arrangements were made to have one of the Unit's technical men work at night with the photostating machine, in order to take care of the accumulated work. Prior to the completion of the daily check of the technical files being conducted by the regular employees, which will be about three months, there will be a steady flow of records of kidnapers and extortionists to be placed in the Single Fingerprint file. However, if you desire, a form letter will be sent to each Field Office requesting that there be obtained from the principal police departments the names of well known criminals whose records can be segregated in the Single Fingerprint file. A form letter for this purpose is attached hereto.

In every case added to the Single Fingerprint Section it is the practice to obtain a photograph of the subject either from our records

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Memo. for the Director.

- 2 -

September 21, 1933.

or through the Field Offices. In many cases no photographs are available.

Respectfully,

  
John J. Edwards.



Kansas City, Missouri  
January 12, 1934.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE E. E. CONNELLEY

RE: VERNON C. MILLER (DECEASED) ET AL  
CONSPIRACY TO DELIVER FEDERAL PRISONER  
K. C. FILE NO. 62-760-

On December 21, 1933, while at the Kansas State Penitentiary, Lansing, Kansas, Deputy Warden [redacted] stated that a convict named [redacted] prison registration number [redacted] had further information that he desired to furnish the Government which might aid in the apprehension of parties responsible for the death of the officers at the Union Station, Kansas City, Missouri, on June 17, 1933. Convict [redacted] stated that he believed, and it was the consensus of opinion among the convicts, that the Union Station Massacre was pulled off by several ex-convicts. He named the following:

Fred Barker, who formerly served a sentence in the Kansas State Penitentiary, his registration number being 9836, having been released from the Kansas State Penitentiary in 1931.

Arthur R. Barker, alias "Doc" Barker, alias Bob Barker, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary at McAlester, Oklahoma on a murder charge, but was paroled or pardoned sometime ago, the prisoners in the penitentiary having received information that Fred Barker paid \$10,000.00 to have his brother released.

Volno Davis, who was also serving a sentence in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary and who, it was reported, was released from that institution, reports being that Fred Barker paid \$300.00 for his release.

A former convict named "Shy" Corpus. Investigation developed that this man may possibly be Alvin Karpis, Kansas State Penitentiary Register Number 1899. Records show he was released from that institution on 4-13-1931.

Harry Campbell, whom [redacted] states is a known killer but was unable to furnish any information as to whether or not Campbell had ever served any time or not.

Convict [redacted] states that all these parties mentioned are known as killers and would not hesitate to kill an officer at

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that he had been arrested and that both he and Campbell had been taken to the Oklahoma State Penitentiary at McAlester, Oklahoma, for safe keeping, but that Campbell got out, and as near as he can recall, sometime in 1921 Campbell disappeared for about five years and his whereabouts were unknown to anyone. He states Campbell never told anyone where he was. [redacted] states he might have served time some place, but Campbell never said. (b)(7)(c) (b)(7)(D)

[redacted] stated that this gang first had its inception about five or six years ago; that a convict by the name of Doyle, after having been released from the State Penitentiary, at Lansing, Kansas, was induced to go to Detroit where he met the "Purple Gang"; that it was the practice of this gang to solicit new members from convicts who were released from the State Penitentiary at Lansing; that convict Doyle in this manner met Fred Barker, and that the two of them became the ring leaders of this mob; that they became quite ambitious and after procuring machine guns began the business of robbing banks; that while in this business they became acquainted with Volney Davis, Harpis and Campbell. (b)(7)(c) (b)(7)(D)

[redacted] stated that he was with Nash in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1927; that at that time he was on his way to Hot Springs, Arkansas; that it was his intention to make a connection with Nash's gang in Hot Springs in order to make some easy money. However, he stated that he got a wrong steer and was not able to make the proper connections. At that time he also saw Harry Campbell in Hot Springs, and that he likewise was trying to make a connection with Nash's gang. He was informed by Campbell that if he wanted to become a member of that outfit that he had to do what the bosses told him to and that Campbell told Lawson that the "bosses" were Frank Nash and Freddie Barker. [redacted] therefore, was unable to make this connection, but knew that Fred Barker, Doc Barker, Volney Davis and Alvin Harpis were members of this gang. (b)(7)(c) (b)(7)(D)

Agent [redacted] questioned [redacted] closely as to whether or not Richard Tullman Galatas was then connected with this gang in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and whether or not he was the brains of the outfit. Lawson stated that he personally did not know Galatas. However, he stated that there was what they call an "around the corner thief" who really controlled the mob. His interpretation of an "around the corner thief" was a man who did not actively participate in crimes but who was the pay-off man, who disposed of the loot and took care of the proper protection. [redacted] stated that it was due to this ability on the part of the mob to have sufficient protection that comprised the inducement for men of (b)(7)(c) (b)(7)(D)

U. S. Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice  
Honolulu, T. H.  
February 8, 1934

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

Dear Sir:

Re: Cooperative Dairymens' Loan  
Association, Los Angeles, Calif.

Confidential information has been received to the effect that the above named Association was organized by members of the so-called "Purple Gang" which formerly operated in Detroit, Michigan. It is said that the following gangsters are connected with the said Association:

Tony Fringi Bill Mylan Al Paradis  
Joe O'Donnell and Johnny Gallo

The individuals listed are said to be the remaining members of the so-called "Purple Gang" which is alleged to have fled from Detroit, Michigan.

It is said that gangsters in Los Angeles have also organized a dry cleaning association which association during the last year is alleged to have dynamited and destroyed dry cleaning establishments in the Los Angeles district upon their refusal to join the said association. The gangsters listed are said to frequent Al Lang's Gymnasium in Los Angeles.

The following individuals, who reside in California, are said to be, in the vernacular of the under world, "Red Men":

(b)(7)(c) [REDACTED] San Francisco, [REDACTED] alias [REDACTED] narcotic racketeer, who is said to have been arrested in 19 [REDACTED] San Diego, California, in 1932.

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62-30895-1

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See 62-23190-171 for list of names.

Director, Division of  
Investigation, Washington -2-

February 8, 1934

(b)(7)(c)

[REDACTED] San Francisco, who is said to have shot a man named Smith, and was arrested in Sacramento, California, in 1930 or 1931. He is also said to be in the illicit traffic in narcotics,

[REDACTED] San Francisco. Milt is said to be a wholesale and retail drug peddler in San Francisco, and is alleged to have come from some part of the East coast,

[REDACTED] both of San Francisco, are supposed to have shot a Chinaman in San Francisco some time ago.

[REDACTED] San Jose, is said to be a "pimp" and a gangster, and it is alleged that about two years ago [REDACTED] and

✓ [REDACTED] held up [REDACTED] and took from [REDACTED] certain diamonds which were alleged to have been stolen,

[REDACTED] whose girl "Babe" operates the Western Hotel at San Diego, California, is said to be a narcotic peddler and is alleged to have held up a bank near Los Angeles a couple of years ago and it is said that his share of the proceeds of the hold up amounted to \$13,000.00. He is said to drive a Packard car.

[REDACTED] who was recently released from McNeil Island, that is about Christmas time of 1933, is said to have killed a man by the name of Rocha or Roka somewhere on the West coast.

[REDACTED] San Francisco, California, is said to be a gunman and a very bad character.

In connection with the shooting of the gangster named Rocha or Roka, it is said that a man by the name of [REDACTED] and one by the name of [REDACTED] were mixed up in the same.

This data is being submitted merely as a matter of information to the Division, and to the offices receiving copies of this report for possible future references in connection with any investigation into the activities of gangsters.

Copies:  
San Francisco -2  
Los Angeles -2  
Detroit, Mich. -2  
JPMAC/MIC

Very truly yours,

*J. P. MacFarland*  
J. P. MacFarland,  
Agent in Charge.

# U. S. Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice

Honolulu, T. H.  
P. O. Box 412,

February 12, 1934

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

Dear Sir :- Cooperative Dairmen's Loan Association  
Los Angeles - Purple Gang  
Miscellaneous.

(b)(7)(C)(D)

Referring to the writer's letter of February 8, 1934,  
in the above captioned matter, please be advised that the  
informant who furnished the data set forth in the said letter,  
[REDACTED] a prostitute, in the Senator Hotel at  
Honolulu, T. H.

It might be indicated that [REDACTED] acts as an  
informant for the police in Honolulu on various matters, especially  
with reference to narcotic users. She was at one time a user  
of opium.

Very truly yours,

*J. P. MacFarland*  
J. P. MacFarland,  
Special Agent,

San Francisco

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FEB 26 1934 A.M.	
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SPC:AEK

March 2, 1934

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62-31027-1

Mr. Sylvan Bernstein,  
787 Prospect Avenue  
Bronx, New York City, New York.

Dear Sir:

Kindly be advised that your letter of February 19, 1934, advising that you have information concerning certain kidnapers has been referred to Mr. F. X. Fay, Special Agent in Charge, Division of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice 370 Lexington Avenue, Room 1403, New York City, New York, and will be given appropriate attention.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 1934

Edgar Hoover, Chief  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear Sir:

I would like to become  
a member of the Dept of Justice  
or some branch of the Secret  
Service. I am a former mem-  
ber of the Detroit Purple Gang  
and have connections in Chicago  
Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo  
and here in New York + New  
Jersey, also some in Boston  
(and I think I can be very  
valuable to the Service in  
breaking up the narcotic ped-  
lers and also in the (snatch)  
out Kidnapping racket and  
know some of the biggest  
narcotic dealers in the

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country also some snatcher's  
I would like to know how  
I can become an agent and  
hope to hear from your  
department or you in the  
near future. I remain

Respectfully yours,

Sylvan Bernstein  
787 Prospect Ave  
Brooklyn  
New York City

# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY**

No. **62-5142**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/7/34</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>4/2/34</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] (b)(7)(C)</b>
TITLE <b>SYLVAN BERNSTEIN (INFORMANT)</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING GANGSTERS</b>

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Agent interviewed Sylvan Bernstein, for the purpose of obtaining any information in regard to Division cases. Subject was born in New York, and worked for various firms until 1929. He then went to Chicago and worked with gangsters in the bootlegging racket and other rackets for two years. He worked for gangsters in Detroit until 1933. Knows various gangsters in Chicago, Detroit and New York, but has no detailed knowledge valuable to the Division.

--C--

## REFERENCE:

Division letter, March 2, 1934.

## DETAILS:

Agent interviewed Sylvan Bernstein, 787 Prospect Avenue, Bronx, New York, who claimed he was a former member of the "Purple Gang", and had underworld connections in Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, New York, New Jersey and Boston, and indicated in his letter to the Division that he would be of aid to the Division in case he

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <b>[Signature]</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	<b>62-31027-2</b>	RECORDED AND INDEXED <b>APR 8 1934</b>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: <b>Division New York</b>		UNITED STATES <b>APR 9 1934 A M</b>	CHECKED OFF <b>APR 20 1934</b>
		BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ROUTED TO: <b>[Signature]</b> FILE	JACKETED

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62-5142

were retained as an Agent.

Sylvan Bernstein stated he was born in New York City, March 8, 1907; that he attended public school 83, and De Witt Clinton High School, but did not graduate. He worked as an errand boy for Harry Hess & Co., novelty importers, for two years and quit of his own accord. He then worked for B. Edmond & David Co., silk house, as an examiner in the tie goods department for about one year. He then worked for Powell and Campbell Shoe House, 122 Duane Street, New York, as a clerk in the stock shoes department for about a year. He worked for Barnett & Effros Dress House as a shipping clerk for packer for two years. He worked for the United States Post Office from 1926 to 1929 at station 205 West 69th St., as a clerk. He resigned from the Post Office and went to Chicago, where he was employed as a guard for racketeers in the bootlegging and other rackets. He was employed in the Al Capone gang for a while. He became acquainted with Teddy Newbury, Sammy Hunt, Maxy Isen, Johnny Weasel, Freddy Drecker, and worked with them in the dope racket and gambling for about two years. He left Chicago and went to Detroit, where he worked for "Honey Boy" Joe Miller in the policy racket, working numbers. This was in 1931. He also became acquainted and worked with Harry Flasher, Issy Bernstein, Joey Bernstein, (no relation) Charlie Lighter, and Henry Schol in the bootlegging and hand-book rackets. He stated that these men are still engaged in rackets in Detroit and have a brewery and alcohol still there.

In the Fall of 1935, he came back to New York and is now not working anywhere, but associating with gamblers and underworld characters. He stated he is acquainted with various "big shot" racketeers in New York in the Bugs-Meyer gang. He mentioned the names of Lipkey and Currah. He stated these gangs are engaged in the Union racket, slugging, dope and "snatch" rackets. He stated he knows Dutch Goldberg. He stated that Albert Silvers, deceased, and Dr. Erwin R. Silvers, who were convicted in the Verne-Miller case, in connection with the Kansas City Massacre, were well known to him. In answer to inquiries regarding various important Division cases, such as the Lindbergh kidnaping case, the Bremer kidnaping case, and the Kansas City massacre case, he could give no detailed information of value to the Division. He could give no information concerning the whereabouts of John Dillinger. He stated, however, that were he employed by the Division, he has avenues of information through his former connections in the various cities



82-5142

mentioned heretofore, whereby he could obtain very valuable information.

Subject stated he does not want to tie up again with gangsters and the underworld here in New York, and indicated he would rather be tied up with the government and do some investigative work. Subject appears quite willing to cooperate and help the Division and at some future time he may be able to give us valuable information in particular cases.

--- CLOSED ---

( INTER. OFFICE )  
Department of Justice

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

US NAVAL COMMUNICATION SERVICE

APRIL 8 1934

J E D DUNK  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
619 FEDERAL BUILDING  
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA

SAL TERRANO ALIAS TAR BABY SAID TO BE MEMBER OF PURPLE GANG ARRIVED  
HONOLULU ON MALOLO FROM LOS ANGELES ON TWENTY FIRST STOP MILITARY INTELLIGENCE  
UPON ADVISE FROM WRITER THAT SUBJECT SAID TO BE HANDY WITH DYNAMITE RELATED  
STOP ABOUT PLOT ORIGINATING LOS ANGELES TO DYNAMITE PANAMA CANAL ZONE AND  
NAVAL BASE HERE INDICATING YOUR OFFICE MAKING INVESTIGATION OF MATTER STOP  
TERRANO SINCE ARRIVAL HAS VISITED HOUSES OF PROSTITUTION AND HAS UNDERWORLD  
CONNECTIONS STOP SUBJECT SAID TO BE IN POSSESSION OF LARGE SUM OF MONEY  
STOP CHECK IMMIGRATION CARD MATSON OFFICE ON SUBJECT AND FORWARD INFORMATION  
AS TO HIS CONNECTIONS AND IDENTITY STOP DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT NOT AVAILABLE  
AT THIS TIME STOP SUBJECT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MAN BY NAME OF JACK WARD STOP  
THIS IS A GOVERNMENT MESSAGE  
J P MAC FARLAND DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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170 SEP 9 1964

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APR 26 1934

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DIV. OF INVESTIGATION	
APR 25 1934	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
ONE	FILE

NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to No.

Op-16-A  
P9-2/EG57(4-9)  
A4-5/EF61(4-9)

APR 11 1934

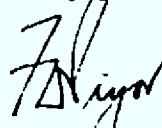
~~SECRET~~

Dear Sir:

Information from a source considered to be reliable has been received to the effect that the U.S.S.R. Icebreaker KRASSIN, while en route through the Panama Canal about 15 or 16 April, will drop off a number of extreme radicals who are to take active part in communistic activities in the vicinity of the Canal Zone. It is understood that these communists are being placed in the Canal Zone not only to spread propaganda, but to create acts of violence that may endanger the safety of the Canal.

The State Department, the War Department, the Commandant, Fifteenth Naval District, and the Commander Special Service Squadron have been advised of the above information.

Very truly yours,



F. D. Pryor,  
Commander, U. S. Navy,  
Acting Director of Naval Intelligence.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,  
Director of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

62-30119-27

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APR 15 1934

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