FBI File: Bud Abbot

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SUBJECT: BUD ABBOTT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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SUBJECT: Bud Abbott

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NOTES: 

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NO DUPLICATION FEE FOR THIS PAGE

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RC-385F3
FBI

Date: 3/5/58

Transmit the following in

(Type in plain text or code)

Via: AIR TEL AIR MAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: BUD ABBOTT

ITEM: INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE MATTER

CC: Los Angeles

On 3/3/58 Officer [redacted] advised that a police informant furnished information to the effect that BUD ABBOTT, the well known motion picture and TV star, is a collector of pornography and allegedly has 1,500 reels of obscene motion pictures which he shows in his home where he has a projector of his own. The police informant was approached by ABBOTT to furnish some girls for a private party he is having at an early date.

On 3/4/58 Officer [redacted] advised he had received no further specific date as to when the party is to be held but stated that Ad Vice intends raiding the party when and if it is held and will confiscate all films they are able to find in their search incidental to their arrests.

Although ABBOTT is an alleged collector and there is not an allegation of interstate transportation of this matter, a case is being opened in this office as a control file to follow and report to the Bureau information coming to the attention of this office through police liaison with Ad Vice, LAPD. Officer [redacted] is well aware of the Bureau's interest in this category and any films obtained will be submitted to the FBI Lab for examination and comparison purposes.

2 - Bureau
1 - Los Angeles

KEY:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Approved: [Redacted] Special Agent in Charge

Sent: [Redacted]

Per: [Redacted]
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March 8
1946

Mr. J. E. Hoover
The Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you so much for your letter and the interest you take in our program.

We are to be in production for the next two months and, if you are in California during that time, it would give me great pleasure if you would visit our studio and be our guest for lunch.

Very sincerely yours,

Lucille Ball

LC: ap
February 28, 1946

Messrs. Abbott and Costello

c/o Edward Sherman Agency

2610 Wilshire Boulevard

Beverly Hills, California

Dear Abbott and Costello:

Last Thursday night I had the pleasure of listening to your radio program and got a terrific kick out of your play on words on the meaning of FBI.

I thought your explanation was excellent.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

SE 15
March 4, 1943

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of February 23, 1943, wherein it is noted that [redacted] of Illinois has furnished certain information to your office concerning the above captioned radio program, requesting that a transcript be made for the purpose of decoding same. It is also noted that [redacted] is very nervous and upset over the long illness and loss of her husband, indicating that her information may not be reliable. On the other hand, it is stated that through a discreet inquiry she is reported as a leader in [redacted] and very highly regarded by those who know her. The Bureau can draw no conclusion from the information furnished concerning [redacted] reliability. It is also to be noted that the full name of [redacted] was not set out which would enable the Bureau to properly check the indices for the purpose of ascertaining whether she had previously furnished information of a similar nature.

It is further noted that [redacted] claims to be a writer of radio script by profession and due to her knowledge of radio she claims to understand the use of key words in a radio program. Although she has furnished eighty-five key words, she has furnished definitions of only twelve of those words. From the information furnished the Bureau does not understand how [redacted] chose the words contained in the list, labeling them key words, and was only able to give definitions of a small fraction of these.

Inasmuch as [redacted] complaint as set forth in the above reference letter from your office could be similarly applied to practically any radio program, no further action is being taken by the Bureau in this matter. The above is being called to your attention in order that in the future when complaints of this nature are received by your office, the complaints will be thoroughly investigated and the reasons for their support stated and requested to supply all facts to substantiate their complaints in order that same may be properly evaluated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Springfield, Illinois
February 25, 1943

Director, FEI

Attention: Technical Laboratory

Re: BUD ABBOTT and LOU COSTELLO
Radio Programs on February 4 and February 18, 1943.
ESTIMATED

Dear Sirs:

This is to advise that an agent of this office was recently contacted by Illinois, who advises that she is by profession a writer of radio script and an author, and due to the knowledge she has of radio, she would like to request that a transcript of the above mentioned programs be decoded. She states that she understands key words in a radio program due to her experiences as a radio script writer and wishes to submit a list of key words taken from these programs with a few of her interpretations of the meaning of the words, which are set out in parentheses following the words.

The following words were taken from the program on February 4, 1943:

Fog (artificial)
Cold or hot (any kind of weather?)
Kick in the Fumes (instead of pants)
Boats (Brooklyn)
Fire (Lorraine)
Which ocean (?)
Only one
South
Turn north quickly
Rocky coastline
Two weeks
High-powered boats
Dive bombers hit a rock (bomb) RETURNED
Eels in boat
Both sides (submarine)
Two weeks
Eleven maps
Army and Navy
Camel Caravan

Copies distributed 1/15/39

#36
The following words were taken from the February 18th program:

10,000 cattle
New York
Hollywood
Telegram
Important
Egg shortage
California
Gum
Clark Gable
Platoea
Parachute
Jim Wellington
American boy
Cartographer
Rand McNally
T-Zone - Test
Brooklyn Dodger
Scrap drive
Meat ration
Hollywood tonight
Anthony - Cleopatra
Pog horn
Mile
overflowing
Some places
Seven trails
Dead of night
Twenty miles of desert
Twenty miles
One trip
Wheaties
Song - "Time Goes By"
Sahara Desert
Egypt
Kromel
Camp (Cleopatra)
Sugar stamp
Julius Caesar - Mark Anthony (Alexandria?)
Sahara
Roman
Very drowsy
Sphinx
Radio drama
Dep
Side burns
Battle
Moonlight
River (Cause)
More
Now
Heard
Dancing girl
Salome
Guard
Man comes into
Program (Fiddish)
Fall of lard
Kill me
Fan dancing
Wind wills
Green snake
Red Snake
Horses
To Betty Davis' frolic
54 years old
Eleven Camps (in one week)

A discreet inquiry reflected that [redacted] is very nervous and upset over the long illness and loss of her husband, although she is considered a leader in [redacted] and very highly regarded by those who know her. [Redacted] claims she is acquainted with several Government officials in Washington, that she is distantly related to Mrs. ROOSEVELT and assists in preparing material for the President's recent campaign.

In view of the possibility that [redacted] may write to the Bureau, the above is being submitted for your information and no further investigation is being conducted by this office.

Very truly yours,

ARTHUR H. GROWL
Special Agent in Charge

FVG/jj
65-0