FBI File: Huey Long
Part 2 of 2

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Section 5
August 3, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROOSE

There is enclosed herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent W. W. Dunker, dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 2, 1939, relative to the investigation being conducted in Louisiana.

A copy is likewise being furnished to the Attorney General.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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P.M.
GENERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
D.C. 52762-1746
PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 3, 1939

There is enclosed herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent C. S. Dunker, dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 2, 1939, relative to the investigation being conducted in Louisiana.

A copy is likewise being furnished to Assistant Attorney General J. John Rogers.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

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

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith the Bureau's copies of the report of Special Agent C. W. DUNKER, New Orleans, dated July 2, 1939, setting out details of interviews conducted with State Senator JAMES A. NOE, State Treasurer A. P. TUGWELL, and other individuals concerning the general situation in the State of Louisiana, and also giving the details of the 5% salary contributions made by State employees to the Louisiana State Political Party.

These interviews and information concerning the 5% salary contributions were made pursuant to the request of U.S. Attorney RENE A. VICOSCA at New Orleans, with the approval of the Director, and it is, therefore, respectfully requested that you authorize me to furnish Mr. VICOSCA with one copy of the report mentioned.

Very truly yours,

B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge.

RECORDED & INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 5 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRMAIL—SPECIAL DELIVERY

BES: WH
62-973
Interviews with State Treasurer, officials State Highway Dept., and official U.S. Bureau Public Roads indicate that caution is exercised in connection with collecting 5% contributions from State salaries so that no contribution will be obtained from any person whose salary may be reimbursed in whole or in part by Federal Government, so far as State Highway Department is concerned, and that this practice has been uniform since 1935. Information received that 5% contributions obtained from employees of all but few State departments, and indications are this money accompanied by J. M. PUSH, Business Mgr., Board of Commissioners of Dock Board of State of La., at New Orleans, S tete Party report ed to have no Treasurer who takes care of or makes accounting of party funds or of these contributions. JAMES A. NOE, State Senator of Louisiana, advised he had promised newspapermen everything he got on irregularities in La.; that 5% contribution is collected by heads of State departments from employees who are paid with mingled State and Federal Funds, but claimed he would not supply complete detail of irregularities unless he could be assured Washington would carry through prosecution. CHESTER MARTIN, formerly employed in State Highway Commission, alleged he paid 5% kickback contribution. JOHN CAMERON NELSON, former employee of State Employment Bureau, under subpoena to appear before grand jury inquiring into WPA irregularities, claims that officials of State Employment Bureau, including B. W. CASON, have embezzled Social Security funds paid out under unemployment compensation by causing duplicate pay orders to be issued which were subsequently destroyed after checks issued thereon had been cashed by employees.
AT BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents J. O. PAYRONNIN and C. E. WEEKS:

On June 22, 1939, on telephonic instructions of Special Agent in Charge, Agents interviewed Mr. ANDREW F. TUGWELL, State Treasurer for the State of Louisiana at his office. Mr. TUGWELL confirmed items appearing in newspapers of recent date to the effect that he had been calling on his opponents in the gubernatorial race to explain the disposition of the 5% deductions from salaries of numerous employees of the State of Louisiana. He said that he does not pay 5% of his salary to anyone; that it is not deducted; and that no such deductions are made in his office; that when he first took office in 1928, J. H. FUSE, Business Manager of the Board of Commissioners, Board of the State of Louisiana, came to his office and talked to one of his assistants and asked for the 5% contribution from his employees; that he was informed that Mr. TUGWELL was not there. He came back the next month and at that time he was informed that he was not going to get any 5% contributions from that office. He never came back and has never made any attempts to secure such deductions from the employees of the State Treasurer's office. Mr. TUGWELL said that he does not believe that such contributions are made in the Department of Education, and possibly one or two of the other departments, but he believes that other than that the practice is pretty general; this, of course, he says he cannot state as a matter of firsthand knowledge, but it is a matter of hearsay, and he is satisfied in his own mind this is a practice and procedure. He said, however, as he has no information that would tend to prove that this is obtained by extortion; that he has never heard of any individual being relieved of his duties for failure to make such payments, and he feels it is quite possible no person ever has been fired for refusal or failure to make these contributions. He stated that they are not actual deductions from the salary checks of the employees, but that they are collections of cash amounting to 5% of the monthly salary, made once a month. He recalled the case of CHESTER MARTIN which received a great bit of notoriety, in which case MARTIN, an employee of the State Highway Commission, alleged that deductions were being made from salaries of employees of the State Highway Department engaged on Federal Aid Projects. He stated that MARTIN made a mistake in that case because MARTIN had refused to make the contributions and was never fired for that; as a matter of fact, MARTIN continued in his employment for some time and then commenced outside activities attempting to bring the matter to a head in the State Senate, and made such a nuisance of himself that they were apparently justified in relieving him of his duties. When questioned as to whether he could name any source of information where first-hand evidence of such collections being made could be secured, he stated that he could not, despite the fact that he is satisfied that thousands of State employees do make such contributions. When asked what disposition is made of the money collected, he stated that there is no information available to him as to where the money
does go and that he does not know for a fact, but he strongly believes that all this money is collected by PUSH and turned over to Mayor ROBERT S. MAESTRI of New Orleans. The ostensible purpose for this collection is to provide the party with campaign funds. When asked if he had ever benefitted from such campaign funds he stated that he had not; that at the time he ran for his present office he paid all of his own expenses, such as traveling expenses, but he did not advertise for the ticket, which included the use of a handwagon. etc., he received a "free ride" and he does not know how that part of the campaign was financed.

When questioned as to whether the Democratic Party or the Administration faction of the Democratic Party had a treasurer with whom the funds of the party were deposited, he stated that if they had such an office or position he had never heard of it. He stated that there is no party treasurer, and he did not know any way any accounting has ever been made of the contributions or campaign funds within the State. Asked how this practice was inaugurated, he stated that during the administration of HUEY P. LONG, he occasionally levied a demand for contributions of 5% of the state employees' salaries when his campaign expenses required it, but that when RICHARD W. LECHIE became Governor this became a permanent thing and the state employees were required to make these contributions, not only when needed but every month. He had no information as to the uses the fund derived from such contributions was put to, but said that he had heard that certain persons were on the State payrolls whom he had never been able to find were on any particular State payroll, and assumed that they were receiving a salary out of this fund; he mentioned, for example, Dr. GEORGE LONG, brother of the present Governor and the late Senator HUEY P. LONG, and also Mrs. LONG, the widow of the late Senator LONG. He said it is quite probable they are drawing a salary from this fund, although he does not know that for a fact. He stated that whatever use or disposition is being made of the funds, he believed that no one would be paying income tax on it, and that would probably be the best angle to approach an investigation or prosecution from; that he does not believe any coercion could ever be proven. When questioned as to the possibilities of Federal funds finding their way into such contributions, he stated that it is very doubtful to him that such is the case, or if so, that such could be proven to be the case. He said the State Highway Department is the chief beneficiary of Federal aid among the state departments; that he understands that the Welfare Department and Labor Departments also receive some Federal funds, but he could not elaborate on this or explain just the nature of these funds or the uses to which they were put. However, he said as to the Highway Department, that there are certain projects toward which the Government makes grants or extends Federal Aid; that it is his understanding these are all contractual projects, and that the government aid goes to the payment of contractors except that one branch of employees of the Highway Department known as the engineers and draftsmen do some work on these projects, and it is his belief that their salaries were reimbursed in whole or in part by the Federal Government, and he said that a check could be made as to this angle of it. However, he said it
is quite possible that if such is the case, those particular employees are not making contributions because he is certain the persons within the administration had been very careful not to involve themselves in violations of any federal statutes in connection with such activities. Asked as to the handling of Federal funds through his office, he stated that there is maintained an account in the bank for each department and possibly several accounts for a department that, for example, in connection with the Highway Department, a certain amount of money is appropriated for their use each year and when such money is available to his office it is deposited to the account of the Highway Department in what is known as the General Highway Fund. He stated that when Federal funds have been furnished his office for the State Highway Department, they are deposited in an identical manner as State funds, and his office maintains no separation of such funds, but they are mingled so far as his office is concerned, and that so far as his office is concerned no accounting has to be made for the use of such funds; that his office merely acts as a bank or depository for funds of the State, the use of which have been designated by the Legislature, and that when withdrawals are made vouchers are prepared which must be sent with the proper proofs to the State Auditor's office, where they are approved and they are then sent to his office and paid without question by his office. He did not know exactly how the individual departments made their accounting to the Government for the use of funds of the Government, or how it claimed reimbursements from the Federal government for the funds that have been expended. He stated that the information would have to be obtained directly from the department itself. Mr. Tugwell was asked if he had any information as to what total the monthly contributions might reach and he stated that while he had no factual information, in his opinion, it probably ran as high as $20,000 or $25,000 per month from his judgment of the number of State employees and the probable extent of the State payroll.

During this interview, Mr. Tugwell exhibited to agents a letter he received dated June 26, 1939 from Robert C. Weber, 2012 Laurel Street, New Orleans, which read as follows:

"Dear Sir:"

I would like for you to let me have some information. I have been told that my name is or has been carried on the state payroll for $100 per month. I have been suffering on account of this because lots of my friends said to me I don't need any work. This check is said to come to Joe Weber, Assessor of the 4th District, 10th and 11th Wards in New Orleans. I would like for you to secure one of the checks or tell me if this is true."

"Hoping to hear from you soon,

Yours very truly,
/s/ Robert C. Weber"
Mr. TUGWELL said that such letter indicated to him that there were probably numerous fictitious persons on such payrolls throughout the state; that, however, he had no way in which he could personally check the present instance or check any such instance.

Incidental to this interview, Mr. TUGWELL also mentioned that while his office is a depository for State funds, it does not handle funds of the Louisiana State University or the Charity Hospital, at New Orleans; and that his office had a contact with WPA funds, FHA funds, or other government grants or contributions. Mr. TUGWELL remarked that the Department of Education of the State of Louisiana sold five or six millions of dollars of bonds five or six months or so ago, and that in addition to these five or six millions of dollars of bonds, the United States Government gave the Department of Education a grant of about four millions of dollars; that, however, none of these funds or monetary matters were handled through his office.

It might be noted, in this connection, that Mr. TUGWELL was not very familiar with the functions of his office in handling funds, as indicated by his reaction to a number of the questions put to him, and he was forced to call upon assistants to advise him as to the manner in which funds received from the Federal government were deposited and as to whether any accounting was kept as to the uses of such funds.

It may be noted, in this connection, that Mr. TUGWELL frequently referred to as "BAT" TUGWELL, is from Winnfield, Louisiana and is a candidate for Governor of the State of Louisiana; that he was previously chairman of the Highway Commission of the State of Louisiana, and he informed agents that previously to that he was connected for a number of years with the railway owned and operated by the Tremont Lumber Company at Winnfield, Louisiana.

It was ascertained that ALICE LEE JOSSEY, who in private life is MRS. WILLIAM A. THARP, resides at 727 Lafayette Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, telephone number being 3340. She was absent from the city during this investigation.

Interview was had with J. M. NUGENT, Vice Chairman, State Highway Commission, in the absence of the Chairman, Mr. ABERNATHY. When questioned as to whether he contributes 5% of his salary each month to any person, he stated that he does not, but that he wished 5% was all he had to contribute; that he makes contributions whenever he is called upon for same, after securing advice as to how much he ought to contribute. He said that it is a common practice for 5% of the salaries of the most of the employees of the State Highway Department to be collected as contributions to campaign funds by FOSTER COUVILLION, Purchasing Agent for the Department, but he said he did not know to whom these funds were paid by Mr. COUVILLION; that he did not know who was the treasurer of the party or of the faction of the party to which he belonged who handled these funds, or anything further about them after they reached Mr. COUVILLION. He stated that
no one is forced to make such contributions according to his understanding, and so far as he knows no one has ever been fired or subjected to any administrative action for failure to make such payments. He stated that as long as he does not have to make them himself, he does not try to follow what is done with them. When questioned as to whether any of the employees of the department engaged on Federal Aid Projects made such payments, he stated he was certain they did not. When questioned as to the nature of Federal Aid received by his department, he informed frankly that he is not altogether familiar with it and it would be necessary for him to call upon the employees of the department who handles Federal Aid to find out.

Accordingly, interview was had with W. B. POSTELL, Assistant Office Engineer in Charge of Federal Aid of the State Highway Department, this interview being made in the presence of Mr. NUGENT, who stated that he himself was interested in finding out how Federal funds were handled by his department. Mr. POSTELL explained that under the Federal Highway Act of 1916, Federal contributions known as Federal Aid, were made to each state on the basis of population, area and number of miles in the state highways system. This money is derived from the excise tax on automobiles on the basis of the amount of such taxes obtained or collected in the year 1916. Each state is advised of its allotment for each fiscal year; thereupon the state which has, of course, furnished the Federal government through the United States Bureau of Public Roads, a plan of its Federal Aid highway system, which should not exceed 9% of the total mileage of roads within the state, which limitation is made by statute. He stated for the fiscal year closing on the date of the interview, which was June 30, 1939, the State had received $1,791,000 of regular Federal Aid; in addition to that they had received an apportionment of $238,000 for "feeder" roads, which is for the benefit of farmers to reach the state highway system. In addition to this, under the emergency act, they received a grant of $20,000,000 to be used exclusively in the elimination of grade crossings. These grants or appropriations by the Federal Government may be used only for the payment of contract work let under a system of bidding approved by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads, the bid of the lowest bidder being accepted in event investigation proves him satisfactory both to the State and to the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads. The State makes up what is known as a P. S. & E. Plan -- this is a Plan, Specifications and Estimate -- on each project that is to be undertaken during the fiscal year. This plan is submitted to the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads for approval. If approved, then the contracts are let. On each one of these estimates is added 10% for engineering and contingencies which is not paid or allowed by the Federal Government until the entire project has been completed, and then only if the cost of such services does not exceed 10% of the contract. On each Federal Aid Project undertaken are resident engineers. These resident engineers may not devote their full time exclusively to that particular Federal project; they may put just one day a month or one, two, or any given number of days; they may be engaged in connection with two or three federal projects or they may work two or three days each month and the remainder of the month on a purely State
project. When each Federal project is undertaken and work actually commences, they write a letter to J. A. ELLIOTT, District Engineer, U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, Fort Worth, Texas, advising the date on which work began and the name of the resident engineer and the name of the contractor are submitted. The engineer, of course, is a State employee.

Mr. POSTELL stated that every employee of the State Highway Department makes a contribution of 5% of his salary each month to Mr. POSTELL COUVILLON, Purchasing Agent, as a contribution to campaign expenses, except those individuals who work in connection with the Federal Aid projects; that even if an individual works one day on one of these projects he is not required or asked or permitted to make such a contribution. He stated that he himself makes this contribution and that he was hoping that his salary might be reimbursed by the Federal government so that he could get out of paying the 5%. He stated, however, that no one is forced to pay this 5%: that there are some individuals in the Department who have been refusing to pay it and they have never been fired, and no one has ever taken action against them. He stated from that it does not appear to him that it is a matter of actual coercion.

As to the manner in which Federal funds are contributed to these projects, Mr. POSTELL explained that as work progresses on a particular Federal Project, the contractor bills the State Highway Commission for his estimate of expenditures for the month, including the labor and materials, all of them being furnished by the contractor. The Highway Department then upon looking this over if they find it is satisfactory pays him 85% of his estimate, reserving 15% for contingencies. They then submit the voucher to the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads, whose local office is in the Post Office Building, where it is audited and approved and sent to the District Engineering Office in Fort Worth and from there to the head of the Bureau in the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C. for ultimate payment. However, as to the resident engineers or any employees of the State Highway Department engaged in connection with the project, the Federal Government will not pay any funds until the project has been absolutely completed, at which time the final estimates on the project are drawn up and the name of each resident engineer or other State employee engaged on the project is furnished, together with the statement of the number of days he worked each particular month on that particular project; that that information is sent to the local office of the Bureau together with the full recapitulation of the cost of the project, and if everything is satisfactory to that Bureau, it will reimburse the State for the engineering cost on the same basis it will reimburse the State for other contractual expenditures, which is on the basis of 50%. There are certain items of each project which the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads will not approve and will not contribute to, such as right of way, either purchasing or making available right of way.
Mr. POSTELL exhibited to agents records kept in connection with the Federal Aid projects. It is noted that in the final accounting there is attached a list of sheets showing the statement of engineering costs, these including the name of the particular engineer, the days he devoted to that particular project each month, the rate of his salary, and the amount charged that particular project; as, for example, an engineer spent one day in connection with a particular project, his salary is stated to be at the rate of $200 per month and there was charged against the project the amount of $200 engineering costs, of which they hope to recover 50% from the Federal government. This itemization goes only to the local office of the Bureau of Public Roads, and that would be the only Federal office that had the names of individuals, a recapitulation only going to the District Office and the Washington headquarters. As to grade crossing projects, these are handled in exactly the same manner except that the government will reimburse the State for 100% of eligible items as distinguished from 50% in the regular Federal Aid projects. It will not, of course, purchase right of way. Mr. POSTELL was very carefully questioned as to possible contributions by any employees of the State Highway Department in whose salary there might be any contribution by the Federal Government in any form, and he stated very positively that such salaries had at all times been exempt from such contributions, and that even if such employees volunteered, they would not accept such contributions from them. As to the handling of Federal funds, he stated that the government never paid anything in advance, but that the State always paid for everything and that such funds were thereafter reimbursed by the Federal government so that no Federal funds were used to pay anyone directly, not even the contractor. He said a careful accounting is kept at all times of what Federal funds are used, and what they are used for, and that Auditors of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads come around frequently to check this. However, he said there is maintained in the American National Bank in New Orleans a separate account which they refer to as the Federal Highway account, into which all the Federal contributions or reimbursements are paid, and from which account they are transferred to the general highway fund, and that no actual expenditures are made from this account, they being merely for the purpose of facilitating the account. He stated that when the Federal Treasury sends a check to the State Treasury for such funds or reimbursements, the check is sent to him; that he attaches thereto a note showing the distribution made of the money for which this is a reimbursement. The check, with this note attached, then goes to the Auditor's office, where an entry is made and the check is returned to the State Treasurer, who deposits it in an account to the credit of the Highway Department. When asked for a concrete example of a project under way where State Highway employees are being used, he referred to the Mississippi River Bridge being constructed at Baton Rouge. He stated that this is a Federal Aid highway project; that the bridge will cost about $9,000,000, and that there will be approximately a $2,000,000 Federal contribution thereon. He said that about 26 employees of the State Highway Department are engaged in connection with the bridge, under the Project Engineer, Mr. ERICKSON, these men test materials and make other inspections in connection with the work, report on its progress, etc. Questioned as to whether any
of these men are making contributions to the campaign fund, he said that not one of them is, although they are being paid out of the State funds at the present time, for the reason that it is hoped that some of these funds will be reimbursed by the Federal government when the project is completed. Mr. POSTELL further stated that he had in his office a record of every Federal Aid project in the State since 1919, and that a copy of this record is on hand in the local office of the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads, and at Washington. The cost of the activities in connection with each of these projects is broken down and segregated in these records so that there is a full accounting for every expenditure. At the present time there are 54 Federal Aid projects under way in the State of Louisiana.

On June 30, 1939, Agents WEISS and PETERSON interviewed M. J. CRAMER, Senior Highway Engineer of the Bureau of Public Roads, United States Department of Agriculture, Post Office Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who is the head of that office at Baton Rouge. Mr. CRAMER verified practically all the information given by Mr. POSTELL. He stated he had been situated at Baton rouge for a number of years; that he understands fully through reports that frequently reach him, sometimes through the newspapers, sometimes as a matter of gossip, but generally understood and known, that employees of the State Highway Department contribute to Mr. FOSTER CONVILLION, Purchasing Agent, 5% of their monthly income, which is alleged to be a contribution for campaign expenditures. He had no information that this was compulsory. He said he had heard that there were some who had refused to pay and had been fired. Questioned as to whether any employee of the highway department whose salary might be reimbursed by the Federal Government was making any such contributions to his knowledge, he stated that, of course, he could not make a statement as a matter of fact, but that he feels certain that they are not; that it is commonly known and referred to around the State Highway Department that to get assigned to a Federal Aid project is equivalent to a 5% raise in salary. He said further that he and the inspectors working under him are quite familiar with the employees of the State Highway Department, particularly the resident engineers, who are the only employees whose salaries might be reimbursed by the Federal Government, and that he feels confident that word would come to him if any of these individuals made such contributions. He said it is his recollection that some years ago, about 1930, when the Senate Investigating Committee was in New Orleans investigating HENRY LONG'S income, an individual named HENRY RICHARDSON, a resident engineer, was testifying before the Committee, and testified to having made the 5% contribution and was asked if they were voluntary and he said they were not on his part. He said he was not certain that this information was correct but that he has some recollection to that effect; and he said that thereupon there was a great deal of ado about the matter, and he had himself consulted A. P. TUCWELL, present State Treasurer, who was then Chairman of the Highway Commission, about the matter, and Mr. TUCWELL assured him that no employee of that department whose salary might be reimbursed by the Federal Government, in whole or in part, would ever have to make any
5% contribution, and as a matter of fact they would not be permitted to.
He stated that it is his understanding that ever since that time, there
has never been a 5% contribution made by any person engaged in connection
with a Federal Aid project.

With reference to the construction of the Mississippi River
Bridge at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, he verified the information given by
Mr. POSTELL that there were about 25 or 30 engineers engaged on the pro-
ject, but stated that it is his understanding that none of them were
making the contribution, and that he believed that he would hear it
if they were. He said that if they were making such contributions
and it was found out, of course the State would just not put in any
claim for reimbursement of the salary, so he suggested that if any
investigation was going to be made, that the only investigation that
would be feasible would be that on projects which had been completed,
because the State could always thwart an investigation on a pending
project by not claiming reimbursement. He said, however, he would be
greatly surprised if anyone found that such contributions had been made,
inasmuch as they are quite interested in keeping tabs on such situations.

The statements of Mr. POSTELL as to the manner of keeping
records of these projects, and the manner of handling the funds, he
verified in their entirety. He exhibited records of his office reflect-
ing about the same thing as those exhibited by Mr. POSTELL, and indicat-
ing that he had the name of every resident engineer or State Highway
employee whose salary had been claimed for reimbursement in whole or
in part out of Federal Aid money.

He was asked as to whether the salary of CHESTER MARTIN who
had caused a great deal of attention to be focused on the alleged "deduct"
situation sometime ago had ever been reimbursed by the Federal government,
and he said that it had not; that MARTIN was a clerk in the State Highway
office, and that his salary was not one which could be reimbursed by the
Federal Government in connection with any Federal Aid project; that he
was paid entirely out of administrative expenses of the State Highway
Commission, to which the Federal Government contributes nothing.
AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents R. L. SHIVERS and C. W. DUNN.

On June 30, 1959, between 11:00 a.m. and 12:10 p.m., JAMES A. NOE, State Senator from Monroe, Louisiana, was interviewed in Room 730, St. Charles Hotel. Pursuant to instructions from Special Agent in Charge B. F. SACKETT, NOE was requested to come to the New Orleans Division Office; however, NOE advised that he did not want to take the attitude that he was running to the office for help, but wanted to be honest and was going to devote his money and efforts to cleaning up Louisiana politics. He further advised that he was being followed, and if it was found out he came to the New Orleans Division Office, it would result in unfavorable publicity; that he would, however, cancel all appointments in event Mr. SACKETT wished to talk to him at the hotel.

In this connection, NOE advised that he received two anonymous telephone calls which had threatened him to "lay off." NOE inquired as to the reason for interviewing him, and he was advised that agents had been instructed to interview him for the purpose of obtaining information which might indicate a violation in which the United States is or might be a party in interest, involving a violation of the law over which the Bureau had investigative jurisdiction. At this time NOE was requested to keep the interview in confidence. NOE did not indicate that he would keep the interview in confidence, and advised he had previously promised DREW PEARSON of the Washington Merry-Go-Round and MCCORMICK of the Chicago Tribune that he would give them all the information he received, and which they would publicize throughout the country, as he believed these men were honest and would assist him in this fight.

NOE advised that with reference to the 5% kickback, usually 40% government funds are used in the project and about 60% State funds, which go together in the general fund of the Highway Department; that a certain portion is paid to the contractor, and a certain portion is paid to the supervisors, which would result in their getting 40% government money, and the supervisors in turn are required to kick back 5% of their salaries to the heads of the departments, as well as the people working for the contractors; that this 5%, after being collected from the heads of the departments, is reported to be turned over to ROBERT MAESTRI, and is reported to amount to over a million dollars a year. NOE advised that CHESTER MARTIN probably could give more detailed information relative to the kickback.

NOE advised that with reference to the bridge at Baton Rouge, he had received information that part Federal money went into the project, and that the employees were required to kick back 5%; that in this project the employees are paid out of mingled Federal and State funds. He advised that one of the engineers on the project, whose name NOE would not mention, claimed that the politicians were stealing $500,000 on the project, but NOE would not explain how this was being taken.
NOE advised that a lot of equipment was purchased for the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute at Ruston, Louisiana by State and Federal money, and it was arranged whereby the Standard Office & Supply Company, Monroe, Louisiana, would make a bid of between $60,000 and $70,000 dollars on the furniture, which bid they did receive. He advised that upon delivering certain furniture and fixtures, one of the teachers at the school objected to the goods delivered not being up to specifications whereas ABERNATHY called the Governor, and the Governor instructed the school to accept the fixtures. He advised that about $50,000 was reported to have been made on this deal; that KILPATRICK of the Standard Office & Supply Company, using ABERNATHY'S influence, sold office furniture and fixtures to schools and court houses all over the State.

NOE advised that he had already supplied the Attorney General with copies of affidavits relative to irregularities in the WPA and understood that the Bureau received copies. He advised that he was getting three additional affidavits from men who put bricks in a house of RICHARD LECHE and marked the bricks when they put them in for future identification, and that these bricks used were WPA bricks. NOE advised that the Maxwell Supply Company of Houston, Texas sold a certain kind of mud which was used in oil wells and was absolutely necessary to drilling; that all the oil companies in Louisiana are forced to buy mud from this company, and that Governor LECHE was head of this company.

NOE advised that EARN K. LONG has purchased a great deal of property in New Orleans and in Winnfield, Louisiana, and has large herds of cattle; that LONG has sold thousands of dollars worth of cattle to the State institutions. NOE advised he is presently checking LONG'S property holdings.

He advised that STANLEY BERNHARD and HAMPTON REYNOLDS have separate contracting companies; that they sell cement to WPA and PWA and are the only companies that are permitted to bid on this material; that they will alternate in their bidding, one bidding high and one bidding low; that REYNOLDS fictitiously has his company at Birmingham, Alabama, so it will look better. He advised that no other companies are permitted in any way to interfere with the operation of these two companies in their bidding on projects as aforesaid. He advised that WILLIAM J. HAYS, another contractor, bid on a job in New Orleans and obtained the bid; that he was the lowest bidder, but that MASTRI closed down this project; that they went out and found how much profit HAYS would make on the job and paid HAYS $5,000, whereupon HAYS quit the job and one of the other companies took it over; that HAYS is now in California and is afraid to talk, but that his wife would "talk her head off."

NOE advised that he received information from a person whose name he would not mention but who was present at the time LECHE resigned, that ROBERT MASTRI and EARL K. LONG told LECHE he would have to resign
but that LECHÉ did not want to do so as he was trying to make a come-
back by exposing SMITH; that LECHÉ did not want to quit and cried like
a baby when he was forced to. NOE further advised that he presently
has a man working for him who is right next to LECHÉ and will keep him
advised of everything that goes on, but he would not mention this man's
name.

With reference to vote frauds, NOE claimed that JIMMY MORRISON
of Hammond, Louisiana had affidavit of vote frauds which took place in
the last election (this has already apparently been checked).

NOE stated that in making his investigation he had tried to
protect Dr. SMITH as he felt that Dr. SMITH was all right, and he be-
lieved that Dr. SMITH became dishonest because he saw everyone else
taking graft and decided he would take some himself. NOE advised that
the set-up in the State was that EARL E. LONG, RICHARD W. LECHÉ and
ROBERT MAESTRI were the ring leaders, while E. N. JACKSON, CLEM SISLEY,
SHIRLEY WIMBERLY, GEORGE CAILLEWELL and T. F. HANN are under them in the
political graft. NOE appeared cooperative and he undoubtedly has some
pertinent information relative to a general check-up of the State graft
and additional affidavits of various irregularities. He indicated that
he was not convinced that Washington would carry through any investiga-
tion started, due to the fact that previously some indictments had been
returned against prominent people but were dismissed.

NOE advised, off the record, that he understood the half-wit
brother of Dr. SMITH had caused a niece of this brother, who is about
15 years of age, to become pregnant and married her; that a Cesarean
operation was finally necessary, which was paid for by Dr. SMITH.
The following investigation was made by Special Agent S. E. Wolf, on June 30, 1939:

CHESTER E. MARTIN, RFD No. 2, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (who may also be located through the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for whom he is a sales representative) appeared at the New Orleans Office on June 30, 1939. Mr. Martin had been employed by the Louisiana Highway Commission from October 1, 1935 to May 15, 1936, during which time he was charged certain of deductions from his salary in the nature of a "kickback." This matter received certain publicity in May 1936 when Mr. Martin disclosed to the newspapers, as well as the United States Attorney's Office, New Orleans, this "kickback" situation and also the fact he had been actually dismissed from his employment when he refused to make certain of these payments, and that his employment was on projects, the expenses of which were partially defrayed with Federal funds. They were known as Federal Aid Projects.

The following written and signed statement was obtained from Mr. Martin:

New Orleans, La.
June 30, 1939

"I, Chester E. Martin, make the following free and voluntary statement to S. E. Wolf, known to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Dept. of Justice, no threats or promises of any sort having been made to me to induce me to make this statement."

"About Oct. 1, 1935 I received a telegram from Hunter Allen, then engineering auditor in charge of the estimate department of the Louisiana Highway Commission.

"Allen sent me this telegram care of my home in Covington, La. which was forwarded me at Leeville, La. It requested me to come to work for Mr. Allen's dept. at $125.00 per month on Oct. 15, 1935. A day or so later I received another telegram from Mr. Allen requesting me to come to work the following Monday. I went to work October 7, 1935 at Baton Rouge, La. in Mr. Allen's department as computer of earth work at a salary of $125.00 per month.

"I received my first pay check for the time I worked from October 7 to 15, 1935, receiving this check on or about October 15, 1935. Immediately thereafter, Mr. A. E. Cooper, Jr. who worked in the same department as I, asked me if I had been to see 'Mr. Ten Per Cent,' which statement of Mr. Cooper was overheard by Mr. Clifford Allen, also then working with the Louisiana Highway Commission. Cooper explained to me that 'Mr. Ten Per Cent' was the man to whom we employees of the Commission paid five per cent of our salary. The title of 'Mr. Ten Per Cent' meant merely the sum we paid amounted to ten per cent of one-half month's salary.

"I wanted to make certain Cooper was not just joking' with a new man (as I was) about this matter of 'kick-back', so I talked to Mr. Charles Peters, Assistant to Hunter Allen, and he verified what Cooper had told me previously and I also learned from Cooper and Peters that Frank
Williams was the man to receive this money. Williams, I understood, was carried on the payrolls, as right-of-way men working out of the Right-of-Way Dept. of the Louisiana Highway Commission. It was understood by rumor Frank Williams was transferred to the Governor's Office about the latter part of 1935 or first of 1936.

"After talking with Peters I saw Frank Williams and told him I understood he was the man to whom I was supposed to pay 5 per cent of my salary - and when he found my name on his list, I paid him in cash 5 per cent of the check I received Oct. 15, 1935.

"Albert Stegner, who worked in the same office as I did, later was the man to whom I made these payments of 5 per cent - but I cannot recall if he received the second payment I made November 15, 1935 or thereabouts, which was 5 per cent of my salary from October to November 15, 1935. We understood Stegner, like other men in the various departments, had been appointed by Williams to receive our 5 per cent payments and that he turned them over to Williams. I made these payments to Stegner through January, 1936, making them regularly - and the last payment I made at that period was on or about January 15, 1936.

"I made no payments from January 15, 1936 to May 12, 1936. James A. Roel, Lieutenant Governor, who took office of Governor about January 15, 1936 when Governor O. K. Allen died was Governor of Louisiana until May 12, 1936 when Richard W. Leche became Governor of Louisiana. During that period January 15 to May 12, 1936, the word was passed around among the Commission employees we did not have to pay this 5 per cent of our salary.

"As I recall, Hunter Allen about May 15, 1936 told we employees we must resume payment of the 5 per cent of our salary check as of May 15, 1936. He told us, and as I recall, it was a formal announcement, we were to make the payments to Foster Couvillion, purchasing agent of the Louisiana Highway Commission.

"From May through November, 1936 I made regular monthly payments in cash to Couvillion of 5 per cent of my salary, which amounted to $7.00 per month. I might state that Hunter Allen explained to us employees at the time of announcement of resumption of these payments on May 15, 1936 that he understood the reason for it was a campaign deficit existed which could be cleared in 3 or 4 months by collection of this amount from the employees which he said amounted to about $10,000.00 per month as he understood.

"I did not make the regular 5 per cent payment in December 1936 and it was understood the reason the sum was not collected that month was because it was the Christmas month and sort of in the nature of a favor being extended the employees. However, during December, 1936 & the early part of January, 1937 it was rumored around the Commission offices a large printing press was being purchased and certain newspapers for State-wide distribution were to be published.

"On or about January 1, 1937 I received 10 subscription blanks to a newspaper, The Daily Progress and was told to sell them at $2.00 each by January 15, 1937. Like subscriptions were distributed to other employees, and I understood the employees earning under $100.00 per month salary were given 5 subscriptions to sell, while those earning over $100.00 per month
received 10 subscriptions for sale.

"Mr. McGaw, Assistant Chief Draftsman, announced about January 15 or 16, 1937 we could pay $10.00 for the subscriptions January 15, 1937 and pay the remaining $10.00 the following pay-day. I immediately gave to Mrs. 
Sullivan, Secretary to Mr. J. A. Kincaid, Office Engineer, Louisiana 
Highway Commission, my personal check for $10.00 dated January 16, 1937 
made payable to the Daily Progress. I asked her for a receipt and she 
said she felt it was not necessary if she felt the cancelling check was 
sufficient receipt.

"On January 22, 1937 Mr. McGaw made the announcement in the drafting 
room we had to pay the remaining $10.00 for our subscriptions to the 
Daily Progress and we had to 4:30 P.M. to do it. I then immediately 
paid the remaining $10.00 I owed for my 10 subscriptions that day to 
Miss Sullivan by personal check as I had done before. I don't know why 
we were not required to pay the regular 5 per cent in January 1937 but 
it was generally understood the reason was because we had paid $20.00 
for the subscriptions to the Daily Progress, and because it was also 
understood we had paid this sum from our own pockets rather than by 
actual sale of subscriptions.

"I made 5 per cent payments of my salary check from February 15, 1937 
through October, 1937, making the monthly payments of $7.00 each by per-
sonal check to Foster Covillion.

"Relative to the June 15, 1937 5 per cent payment in the sum of $7.00 
I did not make any effort to pay that time as I wanted to satisfy myself 
as to whether or not there was maintained a system of checking up on 
those who did not pay on the regular date. On July 3, 1937 Hunter Allen 
told me at my desk Mr. Kincaid told him Mr. Covillion had called Kincaid 
to have me see him (Covillion). I immediately made out my personal check 
in the sum of $7.00 and took it to Mr. Covillion and laid the check on 
his desk and walked out. Mr. Covillion did not say anything then or later 
indicating he wanted anything else with me.

"I was not required to make regular 5 per cent payments in November and 
December, 1937 and it was understood we would have additional subscriptions 
January 1938 to sell to the Daily Progress.

"About January or February 1938 I received a booklet of 10 subscription 
forms to the Daily Progress to be sold at $2.00 each. There was no 5 per 
cent "kick-back" to be made in January, 1938, as I recall, but these pay-
ments were to be resumed the following month. I am not certain if these 
'kick-backs' were ignored in January or February, 1938, but during the 
particular month the subscription forms were issued the payments were 
ignored, and then resumed the following month. I did not sell these 
subscriptions and also did not make the regular 5 per cent payments from 
my salary from January, 1938.

"On two or 3 occasions during 2 or 3 months thereafter Violet May Roseman 
stenographer for Hunter Allen told me Mr. Covillion wanted to see me and 
I always ignored this admonition. About April, 1938 Mr. Kincaid called 
me in his office and asked what I was going to do about making the 5 per 
cent payments - that there were a lot of 'big shot' politicians around 
there and he did not think I could get away with it. Hunter Allen also 
talked to me immediately after Kincaid had talked to me and Allen tried
to persuade me to resume making the 5 per cent payments.

"On May 16, 1938 I had placed on each of the desks of the legislators in the State Capitol at Baton Rouge, La. a letter outlining what had been going on and telling of the way State employees were having to 'kick-back' part of their salary and the next day sent a copy of this same letter to the Times-Picayune newspapers at New Orleans and the Morning Advocate & States Times Baton Rouge, La.

"On May 18, 1938 Mr. Kincaid called me in Hunter Allen's office and had me sign a voucher for $15.00, which as I understood, was to pay me for work on May 15, 17 & 18, 1938. I got no satisfaction from Kincaid as to whether this meant I was being discharged or not. We referred me to Mr. L. P. Abernathy, Chairman of the Louisiana Highway Commission - that he, Kincaid, knew nothing at all about it. Abernathy was not in his office and I told Mr. Harry B. Hinderliter, State Highway Engineer, whose office adjoins Abernathy's exactly what had transpired and he said he felt I could conclude I was discharged.

"I may state that about November, 1935 or thereabouts my duties changed from earth worth computer to that of what I understood were those given over to engineer auditors but I don't know if my classification was changed on the payrolls to engineer auditor.

"During the time I worked from October 2, 1935 to May 18, 1938 I worked on 14 projects which are identified as Federal Aid projects. These were projects in the construction of which Federal funds were used to defray the expenses either in whole or in part.

"I have read the foregoing statement of slightly more than 10 pages in long hand and it is true."

/s/ C. E. Martin

WITNESS:

Jack E. Minor
Sidney M. Wolf
Special Agents
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Dept. of Justice
1306 Masonic Temple Bldg.
New Orleans, La.

The above-quoted statement is being retained in the New Orleans file in this case, and it should be noted that the information relative to the original disclosures made by Mr. MARTIN above referred to, as they occurred in 1938, are contined in New Orleans Division File 86-17. Mr. MARTIN said CLIFFORD ALLEN referred to in his statement is no longer with the Louisiana Highway Commission and presently resides at Greensburg, Ia.; that ALBERT STEGNER, also referred to in his statement, is presently employed, so far as he knows, by the Rural Electrification Administration out of Jackson, Mississippi. MARTIN said that a Miss VARNADO, former payroll clerk, Louisiana Highway Commission, who was demoted shortly after MARTIN was discharged May 18, 1938 may be able to furnish interesting information as to how the funds of the Commission are handled. He said one HORACE LAWLER, who formerly worked in the drafting room of the Louisiana Highway Commission, and who he understands presently resides in Houston,
Texas, is a former employee of the Louisiana Highway Commission and is familiar with announcements that were made in the Commission offices to the employees relative to 'kick-backs' as indicated in Mr. MARTIN'S statement. He said one PATE GREEN, whom he believes now to be in Houston, Texas, and who formerly had the same position as CHARLES PETERS, mentioned in MARTIN'S statement, may be able to furnish interesting information as to these kick backs. Mr. MARTIN said he is the only individual who has been actually discharged for failure to make the kick-back payments, and he believes it will be very difficult to obtain information from employees of the Louisiana Highway Commission, for the reason they will feel they are not only jeopardizing their livelihood, but perhaps their own personal safety in disclosing any information. MARTIN had a photostatic copy of a memorandum dated July 25, 1935 c/o HARRY B. HINDERLITE, addressed to the resident engineers on paving projects, which was to the effect that Tee-Juana Crack filler (a substance used in making the expansion joints in laying concrete pavement, as explained by Mr. MARTIN) on Federal Aid Projects must be shown as non-participating. In other words, no Federal funds could be expended to purchased Tee-Juana Crack Filler. MARTIN said the Louisiana Materials Company, represented by JIM THOMAS, the Louisiana politician is the agent for this Tee-Juana Crack Filler, and it is his opinion the above-mentioned memorandum by HINDERLITE is purely a subterfuge by which the Tee-Juana Crack Filler is used on Federal Aid Projects and only ostensibly paid for with State funds. MARTIN had no basis for this notion other than the fact that he feels THOMAS, because of his political standing, has been able to sell this material for use on Federal Aid projects and it is probably paid for out of Federal funds. MARTIN also had copy of a letter from one S. C. SMITH, dated September 26, 1936, addressed to Mr. FOSTER GOUILLION, Louisiana Highway Commission, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to the effect "enclosing contributions of my party for month of September 1936." It is understood that MARTIN obtained the carbon copy of this letter from the resident engineer file in the office of the Louisiana Highway Commission at Baton Rouge. MARTIN also told of an instance about the time of the Democratic National Convention in 1936 when tickets were being sold at $1.00 each, ostensibly to send Democratic delegates from Louisiana to the Convention. MARTIN said one McBRIDE, then District Engineer for the WPA at Baton Rouge, told him of a threat to an individual whose identity he did not know, to cause him to lose his job if he did not pay his $1.00. He said McBRIDE now works for the Gulf States Utilities at Baton Rouge. He also advised that at that time, HUNTER ALLEN, mentioned in his signed statement, had suggested to MARTIN that he pay his $1.00, and further stated that after the Louisiana legislature adjourned, it being in session at that time, there were going to be individuals dropped from the payroll, and he, ALLEN, did not think that MARTIN wanted to have his name taken from the payroll.

MARTIN informed that in all instances where alterations were made in the plans for collecting kick-backs, the same would be accomplished chiefly by rumor and supposition on the part of the employees, and it was always difficult to "put your finger" on any definite statement by a particular individual, or if a definite statement had been relayed to the
employees, the source of the particular statement. MARTIN exhibited photostatic copy of the last pay voucher he received from the Louisiana Highway Commission at the time of his discharge, and there is no indication on this instrument as to the source of the funds out of which the check was paid. MARTIN also has photostatic copies of various checks he tendered in payment of "kick-backs" during the latter months of his employment, as well as for subscriptions to the Daily Progress. He also has the originals of certain of these checks.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent R. L. SHIVERS:

United States Attorney RENE A. VIOSCA, New Orleans, telephonically contacted agent at the New Orleans Office on June 30, 1939, and stated that he had subpoenaed one JOHN CAMERON NELSON as a witness before the grand jury in the general WPA matter which that body is investigating, but that he was unable to reach NELSON and desired that he be interviewed by an agent of this office inasmuch as he had information which seemed to be pertinent to the grand jury inquiries. He stated that Mr. NELSON had been interviewed by Assistant United States Attorney J. SHELLY WRIGHT, and it appeared he has information concerning the use of Social Security funds.

JOHN CAMERON NELSON called at the New Orleans Bureau Office and was interviewed by Agent. He stated he has been employed as an interviewer by the State Employment Bureau of Louisiana for 16 months prior to May 5, 1939; that on the later date, he resigned his position to go to the Veterans' Hospital in Alexandria, Louisiana, where he remained until June 22, 1939. Mr. NELSON stated he has submitted an affidavit concerning his knowledge of certain matters into which the grand jury is inquiring; that the said affidavit was turned over to the Attorney General of the United States, Hon. FRANK MURPHY, who in turn transmitted the affidavit to United States Attorney RENE A. VIOSCA at New Orleans.

Mr. NELSON advised that B. W. GASON is the Commissioner of Labor for the State of Louisiana and in such capacity has charge of the employment of the State Employment Bureau which is located at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He said that there are twenty-three regional or district offices of the State Employment Bureau operating in the State of Louisiana, and that he was employed as an interviewer at the office in Bastrop, Louisiana until he resigned on May 5, 1939 as aforesaid.

Mr. NELSON stated that the employment compensation fund was administered by the Commissioner of Labor, B. W. GASON; that in the administration of this fund, checks are issued by the Treasurer of the State of Louisiana to claimants entitled thereto. Mr. NELSON advised that claimants entitled to unemployment compensation would file an application at the regional or district office, that if the claimant were found entitled to compensation, a pay order would be issued which would bear the name of the claimant and the name of the interviewer at
the regional office; that this pay order would be transmitted to the
office of B. W. CASON at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who would examine the
same and if found to be correct would cause a check to be drawn to the
order of the claimant, which would be transmitted to A. P. TOWELL,
Treasurer of the State of Louisiana, who would, accordingly, counter-
sign same and mail it directly to the claimant. He said the State of
Louisiana and the United States Government have been defrauded of con-
siderable sums of money by the officials connected with the State Em-
ployment Bureau, who would cause duplicate pay orders to be issued to
fictitious persons, that the officials in the State Employment Bureau
at Baton Rouge would cause checks to be issued on these fictitious or-
ders to fictitious individuals, and that after the checks had been re-
turned from the bank, the cancelled checks and the duplicate pay orders
would be destroyed.

In consummating this fraud, Mr. NEISON stated that the office
of the State Employment Bureau at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, would commu-
cicate with one of the regional offices and advise that office that a cer-
tain pay order which bore a given number and a given Social Security
number could not be located and requested that a duplicate pay order
be prepared and transmitted to the Baton Rouge office, and that upon
receipt of this request the regional office would prepare a duplicate
pay order but that the said duplicate would not bear the claimant's name
and would only show the name of the interviewer employed at the said re-
gional office; that when this duplicate pay order reached the State Em-
ployment Bureau at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that office would give it a
different Social Security Number and make it payable to a fictitious
person, that a check would then be drawn payable to this person who
would be transmitted to the office of the Treasurer of the State of
Louisiana, where it would be returned countersigned and returned to
the State Employment Bureau. Mr. NEISON stated that some official in
the State Employment Bureau would then cash this check which would be
in the sum of $18.00, and that when the check was returned to the State
Employment Bureau by the bank after it had been paid, the said check
and the fictitious duplicate pay order on which it was drawn would be
destroyed. Mr. NEISON called attention to the fact that the checks
drawn on original pay orders were mailed directly by the office of the
Treasurer of the State of Louisiana, and pointed out that the checks
drawn on the duplicate pay orders were returned to the office of the
State Employment Bureau at Baton Rouge, by the State Treasurer, instead
of being mailed out to the claimants as required by law.

It was Mr. NEISON'S opinion that it would be impossible to
find a record of this practice at the headquarters office of the State
Employment Bureau at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, inasmuch as the duplicate
pay orders and the checks issued thereon would be destroyed after the
checks were paid. He said the only way to uncover these irregularities
would be to go to the regional offices throughout the State and collect
all of the requests which the office in Baton Rouge had sent to these
regional offices for duplicate pay orders, and that if these requests
could be obtained they could then be checked against the records of the office at Baton Rouge, and that that office would be unable to account for the duplicate orders. He said that a Social Security number would appear on all of the requests which the office at Baton Rouge had transmitted to the regional offices and that by checking the records in the office at Baton Rouge it would be found that a check was issued to the claimant with that Social Security number on the original pay order which was issued, which would of course show that there was no reason to request a duplicate pay order. It was stated by Mr. Nelson that an investigation of these facts would disclose that a considerable amount of money had been obtained by officials of the State Employment Bureau through these machinations.

Mr. Nelson further advised that if his information became public the regional offices would be directed to destroy all of these requests which the head office at Baton Rouge had made upon them for duplicate pay orders. It was stated by him that steps should be taken to contact the regional offices immediately for the purpose of obtaining the requests which they had received for duplicate pay orders, and that if these requests could not be obtained there would be no way to trade or verify any of the information which he has furnished.

No further investigation is being conducted until authorized by the Bureau.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT New Orleans, Louisiana
FILE NO. 62-976

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<td>6-30 to 8-30</td>
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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Interviews with State Treasurer, officials State Highway Dept., and official F.S. Bureau Public Roads indicate that caution is exercised in connection with collecting 5% contributions from State salaries so that no contribution will be obtained from any person whose salary may be reimbursed in whole or in part by Federal Government, so far as State Highway Department is concerned, and that this practice has been uniform since 1928. Information received that 5% contributions obtained from employees of all but few State departments, and indications are this money accumulated by J. J. FURN, Business Mgr., Board of Commissioners of Dock Board of State of La., at New Orleans. State Party reported to have Treasurer who takes care of or makes accounting of party funds or of these contributions. JAMES A. NIX, State Senator of Louisiana, advised he had promised newspapermen everything he got on irregularities in La., that 5% contribution is collected by heads of State departments from employees who are paid with mixed State and Federal Funds, but claimed he would not supply complete detail of irregularities unless he could be assured Washington would carry through prosecution. CHESTER MAHON, formerly employed in State Highway Commission, alleged he paid 5% kickback contribution.

JOHN CAMERON NELSON, former employee of State Employment Bureau, under subpoena to appear before grand jury inquiring into WPA irregularities, claims that officials of State Employment Bureau, including E. W. CASON, have embezzled Social Security funds paid out under unemployment compensation by causing duplicate pay orders to be issued which were subsequently destroyed after checks issued thereon had been cashed by employees.

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<th>APPROVED AND FORWARDED</th>
<th>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</th>
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5 Bureau
5 New Orleans

HE WAS ASKED TO KEEP THE AGENTS VISIT CONFIDENTIAL AND THE USE OF THE TRIBUNE AND DREW PEARSON OF THE WASHINGTON MERRY GO ROUND COLUMN THAT HE WOULD GIVE THEM ANY INFORMATION RECEIVED FOR PUBLICATION.

IT WOULD NOT THEREFORE APPEAR SAFE TO INTERVIEW NOE WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT HE WOULD KEEP THE INTERVIEW IN CONFIDENCE.

FOR THIS REASON I WILL NOT PERSONALLY TALK TO NOE NOR WILL I HAVE ANY AGENTS AGAIN CONTACT HIM UNLESS YOU INSTRUCT TO CONTRARY.

HE DID NOT SEND ANY WRITTEN STATEMENTS OR DOCUMENTS TO US. HE STATED THAT HE TURNED ALL STATEMENTS AND AFFIDAVITS OVER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AT THE TIME HE WAS IN WASHINGTON SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AND HE UNDERSTOOD YOU HAVE COPIES OF THEM. HE OF COURSE HAS RECEIVED ADDITIONAL PERTINENT INFORMATION SINCE HE RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON WHICH HE HAS NOT APPARENTLY SENT TO WASHINGTON. NOE INDICATED THAT HE HAD INFORMATION THAT JAMES HOWELL SMITH WAS IMPlicated IN IRREGULARITIES AT LSU BUT THAT HE HAD THIS INFORMATION LEFT OUT OF AFFIDAVITS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED BY WPA WORKERS BECAUSE OF HIS NOES PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP FOR DOCTOR SMITH. FOR THE BUREAU INFORMATION, AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY INFORMED, I SECURED CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INDICATING THAT NOE CAUSED THE AFFIDAVITS ALLEGING WPA IRREGULARITIES WHICH FORMED THE BASIS FOR THE WASHINGTON
LOUISIANA STATES OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING WHICH SENATOR TAYLOR A. MORRIS HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED BY HIS AGENT IN HIS OFFICE, HE UNDOUBTEDLY HAS GREAT DEAL OF DETAIL INFORMATION AND FACTS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO A SUCCESSFUL GENERAL INVESTIGATION OF THE STATE BUDGET AND IS STILL SECURING STATEMENTS, AFFIDAVITS AND INFORMATION INDICATING ADDITIONAL IRRATIONALITIES OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS. WHILE HIS ATTITUDE WAS FAVOURABLE HE FRANKLIN STATED HE DID NOT KNOW HOW MUCH TO TELL OUR AGENTS SINCE HE WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT WASHINGTON WOULD CARE AND ANY INVESTIGATION LAUNCHED DUE TO THE FACT THAT IN IOTAINA RETURNED SOME TIME AGO AGAINST PROMINENT PEOPLE HERE HAVE BEEN DISMISSED. HE FURNISHED GENERAL INFORMATION WHICH WOULD NOT BE OF MUCH VALUE IN OUR INVESTIGATION. HE KNEW NO SPECIFIC FACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIVE PERCENT DEDUCTION FROM STATE EMPLOYEES PAY WHICH WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IN SUCH AN INVESTIGATION. HE DID FURNISH A LITTLE INFORMATION INDICATING US AVE WPA MATERIAL AND LABOR ON GOVERNOR LEE'S PRIVATE RESIDENCE. MR. MORRIS INDICATED THAT IF WASHINGTON WOULD ASSURE HIM THAT WE WOULD GO THEM WITH A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THE FACTS, HE WOULD THEN GIVE US SPECIFIC AND DEFINITE INFORMATION. IT IS MY PERSONAL BELIEF THAT SUCH INFORMATION
WORST MOSTLY RELATES TO WPA LABOR AND MATERIAL IRREGULARITIES AND
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OVER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AT THE TIME HE WAS IN
WASHINGTON SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AND HE UNDERSTOOD YOU HAVE COPIES
OF THEM. HE OF COURSE HAS RECEIVED ADDITIONAL PRESENTMENT INFORMATION
SINCE HE RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON WHICH HE HAS NOT APPARENTLY
SENT TO WASHINGTON. NOE INDICATED THAT HE HAD INFORMATION THAT
JAMES MORRISON SMITH WAS IMPlicated IN IRREGULARITIES AT LSU BUT
THAT HE HAD THIS INFORMATION LEFT OUT OF AFFIDAVITS PREVIOUSLY
SUBMITTED BY WPA WORKERS BECAUSE OF HIS NOES PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP
FOR DOCTOR SMITH. FOR THE BUREAUS INFORMATION, AS I HAVE
PREVIOUSLY INFORMED, I SECURED CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INDICATING
THAT NOE CAUSED THE AFFIDAVITS ALLEGING WPA IRREGULARITIES WHICH
POURED THE BASIS FOR THE WASHINGTON PAYOFF GO ROUND COLUMN TO BE
WRITTEN AND THE WORDS WERE NOT COMPARED TO CONFERENCE
INFORMATION.

SUCKITT
Honoroble J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I today sent the Bureau two teletypes giving today's developments in the Louisiana political situation, and this is for the purpose of confirming these teletypes and giving more details of the information contained therein.

This morning I telephonically contacted General GUERRRE of the Louisiana State Police under appropriate pretext, and engaged in a general conversation with him concerning the matter. In this way it was determined that the State Police had absolutely no leads concerning the present whereabouts of Dr. JAMES MONROE SMITH other than the information I had previously reported that he was seen near St. Francesville, Louisiana Sunday night. It was also determined that Dr. SMITH'S wife's nephew, EMERY ADAMS, who is an executive of a grocery chain store organization in Baton Rouge, in which chain store Dr. SMITH also has a large financial interest, drove SMITH away from Baton Rouge Sunday. It appears that last night ADAMS surrendered to the State Police at Baton Rouge when he heard his presence was being sought for questioning. However, he definitely declined to make any statements or furnish any information concerning where he drove SMITH and was subsequently released on a $5,000 bond, being held as a material witness. A warrant was issued last night by the District Court of East Baton Rouge Parish, based upon affidavit sworn to by a Deputy State Supervisor of Public Funds, charging SMITH with having embezzled $200,000. General GUERRRE expects to issue a circular containing SMITH'S photograph and description sometime today, which he expects to send all over the United States. He had not located any fingerprints of SMITH, however, at the time I talked to him. GUERRRE did not ask for any assistance in connection with the distribution of such circular by our Bureau nor, of course, did I mention any such a possibility.

In my teletype I suggested that the Bureau search its civilian fingerprint files on the remote possibility that Dr. SMITH may have had his fingerprints taken for civil identification purposes and sent to Washington sometime ago. I have not heard from the Bureau in this regard up to the dictation of this communication. I did not mention to GUERRRE the fact that the fingerprint files of the Bureau would be searched.

I had lunch today with Colonel THOMPSON, the publisher, and CLARK SALMON, the managing editor, of the New Orleans Item-Tribune newspapers, both of whom you met while you were in New Orleans. During my
general conversations with these gentlemen, I secured confidential information from CLARK SALMON to the effect that Dr. SMITH had obtained a $100,000 loan from the Hibernia National Bank in New Orleans on June 15th and previously thereto had obtained a $300,000 loan from the National Bank of Commerce at New Orleans, and another $100,000 loan from the City National Bank at Baton Rouge; that SMITH had put up as collateral Louisiana State University bonds which apparently had not been authorized by the State Board, and that these bonds were presently in possession of the banks. SALMON knew of these facts but would not publish them until they were announced by the state investigative officers. Later in the day, the State Attorney General ELLISON issued a statement which confirmed this information in detail, and giving date of the $300,000 loan from the National Bank of Commerce in New Orleans as May 2, 1939 and the date of the loan negotiated by SMITH from the City National Bank of Baton Rouge as June 9, 1939; the date of June 15th for the $100,000 loan from the Hibernia National Bank of New Orleans was also confirmed. It appears that according to the Attorney General's public statement, Dr. SMITH issued notes payable to these banks in the sum of the loan, in the name of Louisiana State University without the approval and consent of the State Bond and Tax Board, which made such loan, of course, illegal. It was also apparent that SMITH deposited as collateral for these loans bonds of the Louisiana State University. However, the details concerning the exact series of these bonds have not been made public, and apparently are not available at this time. Attorney General ELLISON ventured the opinion that the Louisiana State University nor the State of Louisiana were not liable for the loans negotiated by SMITH since such loans were unauthorized and did not constitute a legal obligation of either the State or the University. It was his contention that the banks would have to suffer the loss. It will be seen that the total of these loans is $500,000. It is believed that the proceeds of the $100,000 loan negotiated through the Hibernia National Bank on June 15, 1939 by SMITH were used by him to purchase a cashier's check with which he closed out his brokerage accounts with Fennar & Beane, a New Orleans brokerage concern.

It appears that SMITH was an extremely large speculator in the wheat market since at one time he was committed for two million bushels of wheat, which is all the Federal government regulations allow one man to have, and at the same time his intermediary broker, J. M. BROWN, had one and one-half million barrels of wheat, presumably for SMITH.

I learned from CLARK SALMON, confidentially, and this fact has not as yet been published by the press, that on a number of occasions Fennar & Beane, pursuant to SMITH'S orders, made checks payable
to various high officials of the State administration, which sums represent proceeds of SMITH'S brokerage account. This much was admitted apparently by Penner of that firm to Salman; however, Penner would not disclose the names of these State officials. Penner was of the personal opinion, however, that Smith had checks drawn in the names of various persons in order that he could carry through his representations that he was dealing for a group of individuals, and not individually. This assumption, however, is very thin and is not believed to be accurate.

This afternoon Sheriff Newman H. DeBreton of East Baton Rouge Parish offered a personal reward of $250 for information leading to SMITH'S arrest, such reward, however, not to be payable to peace officers. Later this afternoon, it was announced that a special session of the East Baton Rouge Parish Grand Jury will convene at Baton Rouge at 10:00 o'clock tomorrow morning to hear testimony regarding SMITH'S irregularities.

In my teletype and communication last night, I informed you that Dr. E. S. Richardson had been named President of Louisiana State University. Today, Richardson declined to accept the position, stating he preferred to remain President of the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute at a salary of $6,000 per annum rather than accept the $12,000 salary as Acting President of Louisiana State University. Governor Long immediately named Paul M. Herbert, who has been Dean of the Louisiana State Law School since 1936, as Acting President. Herbert is only 31 years of age at the present time, and first began teaching after his graduation from the Yale University Law School in 1929. He was appointed Dean of the Loyola Law School in New Orleans in 1932 and Dean of the Louisiana State University Law School in 1935.

Special Agent C. E. Weeks in a casual conversation with Assistant United States Attorney Herbert W. Christenberry at New Orleans ascertained that the Federal Grand Jury had voluntarily and on its own initiative requested an opportunity to investigate the allegations of irregularities in the W.P.A. Administration at Baton Rouge, and that also the Division of Investigation investigators had informed the United States Attorney's Office that the individuals who had made written affidavits alleging irregularities declined to make any statements, claiming they wanted to make such statements at a public hearing. It was also determined that among the allegations are some indicating that certain buildings had been fabricated in the Coliseum of the Louisiana State University by WPA workers by WPA funds and had then been taken to the private residence of ex-Governor Leche at Covington, Louisiana and set up as houses for the Governor's use. The WPA Investigation is also said to involve the Superintendent of Construction at Louisiana State University in these irregularities. It was also indicated that the Division of Investigation men had not submitted a written report to the United States Attorney's Office as yet; however, they apparently have conferred with the United States Attorney's Office on the matter. It
was determined that subpoenas have been issued today for various WPA employees requiring them to appear before the grand jury this Friday, June 30th, to testify relative to the alleged irregularities. It is the expectation of the United States Attorney's Office that extensive testimony and evidence will be presented to the Federal Grand Jury over a period of probably several weeks.

Today's press here carried a story from Washington indicating that Secretary ICKES was instructing the P.W.A. to check into the funds expended by that organization in Louisiana. However, to date there has been no evidence of any activity of P.W.A. investigators.

I learned this afternoon that staff members of the New York Times and the New York Herald-Tribune newspapers are today in New Orleans collaborating with the staff of the New Orleans Item-Tribune, and that these men will stay here for at least several days going into the situation thoroughly and sending dispatches to their papers for publication. I also learned that there was a staff representative of the Chicago Herald-Tribune presently in New Orleans collaborating with the staff of the New Orleans States and Times-Picayune newspapers. These two last-mentioned newspapers are anti-State administration and have, as you know, been interested in exposing conditions in the state as much as possible. The Item-Tribune has been more or less pro-administration. For these reasons, I am of the belief that the articles which will appear in the Chicago Tribune will probably be more vicious and anti-State administration than those which will appear in the New York newspapers mentioned.

The New York Times representative who just arrived in New Orleans today, told CLARK SALMON that the rumor in the East is very persistent to the effect that you are coming to New Orleans personally to look into the entire Louisiana situation. A short time later my friend, F. EDWARD HERBERT, City Editor of the New Orleans States, called me and informed that there is a story being told by an individual who is a friend of EARL LONG, whose name HERBERT did not know, that he saw a telegram addressed to EARL LONG by you last night in LONG'S possession at Baton Rouge, advising that you are coming to Louisiana to institute an investigation. I thought you might be interested in these rumors.

The press today carried a story that the Congressional Sub-Committee of which Representative CLIFFORD W. WOODRUM of Virginia is Chairman, was expected to make investigation of the W.P.A. Administration in Louisiana, and were only delaying starting this investigation until funds were received upon which to conduct same. There is also some indication late this afternoon that the Internal Revenue agents were
seeking SMITH's apprehension since the press reported that such agents were checking the passport records locally for any information concerning SMITH.

Governor EARL LONG today adopted a more or less crusading spirit and attitude. He publicly proclaimed that a thorough investigation not only into all of the affairs of the University but into other state departments where irregularities may be expected, would be pushed to the fullest extent, even though it might involve some very close friends of his. He definitely adopted a "let the chips fall where they may" attitude.

The general belief here is that LONG is utterly unpredictable and no one dares to venture even a guess as to what he may plan to do. There appears to be a general belief here now that Dr. JAMES MONROE SMITH is probably hiding out not far from Baton Rouge in order to bargain for leniency on the possibility of making at least partial restitution; or that he may wait until the hue and cry die down and then come in and surrender, much like SAMUEL INSULL did.

There have been no resignations of any State officers today, to my knowledge, nor has LONG issued any statements regarding any contemplated requests for resignations. Neither has LONG issued any statements on the specific policies of his administration. I believe, however, that at the first meeting of the Legislature LONG will advocate the repeal of the law which is now in effect making it necessary for the Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police to approve Deputies Sheriff before they can be appointed. Also, as a possible indication of LONG'S future policies as Governor, it will be recalled that at the Louisiana Peace Officers' Convention he told the assembly that when he was in the Governor's chair he would carry out the policies and principles laid down by his brother, HURI L. LONG.

Ex-Governor and Mrs. RICHARD LECHE left Baton Rouge immediately after EARL LONG took oath of office, as Governor, last night motoring to their home in Covington, Louisiana, where they still are today so far as is known. It will be recalled that Governor LECHE apparently was extremely ill and bedridden last Wednesday night when he announced his intention to resign. The newspaper photographs of the resignation of LECHE and the inauguration of LONG last night show LECHE in a very amiable and happy frame of mind, and just about in the
same condition as he was when General MURPHY and yourself were here a few weeks ago. The newspapers commented rather sarcastically today upon the fact that the Governor seemed to have recovered his health rather miraculously after the announced resignation.

I have sent you complete newspaper clippings from today's press, air mail special delivery. I will keep you advised of further developments as they occur.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA
DR. JAMES MONROE SMITH

SAC Bugas called from Detroit to advise he had just learned that Smith and his wife bought a Ford car from an agency in Dearborn, Michigan, on Tuesday, June 27, for which they paid about $800.00 in cash. The lady gave the name of T. M. Smith at the time of the purchase.

A license plate was obtained for the car and a check by the Detroit Police Department and other authorities in Detroit has reflected that the car went into Windsor, Canada, from Detroit between 4:00 p.m. and midnight, probably shortly after 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, June 27.

The license number is 43792, 1939 Michigan plates. Mr. Bugas did not have the motor number but he is to obtain that information.

Dr. Smith and his wife purchased visitors permit No. P-23543.

In answer to my inquiry, Mr. Bugas stated that Doctor and Mrs. Smith have been definitely identified from the descriptions that appeared in a teletype.

According to Bugas, the Detroit Police and the Michigan State Police have been vigorously investigating this case since Monday. I instructed him to keep his investigation very discreet and that if there is anything the Bureau wants he would be advised.

Respectfully,

[J. J. Bean]
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA

SAC Sackett called from New Orleans and stated the United States Attorney would like for the Bureau to get transcripts of the records for 1937, 1938 and 1939 of a lumber concern believed to be the Independence Lumber Company of Covington, Louisiana.

The U.S. Attorney has talked to Paul Hanson, who is in charge of the WPA Investigators in New Orleans, and questioned him about what information he might have concerning irregularities and particularly about any evidence against ex-Governor Leche. It appears that Hanson interviewed Leche concerning WPA labor and materials alleged to have been used on his private home in Covington, Leche having built a $75,000.00 home and made certain grounds into a park. Leche claims he paid George Caldwell, Superintendent of Construction at Louisiana State University, for the labor on his home and that he used his own money in paying for the materials. The lumber is supposed to have been purchased from the Independence Lumber Company of Covington, Louisiana, and Leche states he paid this company for the lumber.

Paul Hanson has not gone to the Independence Lumber Company to verify Leche's statement and the U.S. Attorney is not satisfied with Hanson's investigation. The U.S. Attorney would like for the FBI to obtain transcripts of records from this company pertaining to purchases, payments, et cetera but does not wish Hanson to know we are taking such action. After this information is obtained, Mr. Sackett stated that the U.S. Attorney probably will desire further investigation conducted in this respect by the FBI.

The WPA investigators are not sure about the name of the lumber company, that is, The Independence Lumber Company; however, they are to endeavor to definitely establish the name of this company.

Mr. Hanson has six men working on the investigation and has told the U.S. Attorney he will be able to furnish a picture of the situation in about three or four days. It is the opinion of the U.S. Attorney that
Hon. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U.S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

June 22, 1939.

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I believe you will be interested in the following information in connection with the recent visit of General Murphy and yourself to New Orleans.

Yesterday afternoon, some hours before Governor Leche indicated to the press his intentions to resign the Governorship, an agent of this office was in conversation with a confidential informant of ours, who is connected with a very large bookmaking establishment in New Orleans. During this conversation this individual stated that the gamblers, bookmakers and others in the underworld in New Orleans, believed, as a matter of fact, that when General Murphy was in New Orleans he flatly told Leche that the latter would never be appointed Federal Judge, and that he, General Murphy, would give him the same treatment that Pendargast received in Kansas City recently.

Another confidential contact of this office at the New Orleans Police Department has informed us that your visit here occasioned a great number of rumors and "scares" among officials of the Police Department, and throughout the city there were various rumors as to the purpose of your visit, some of them indicating you were making a tour of places you intended to raid, particularly as to houses of prostitution, and it was stated as a result of your visit thirty-six prostitutes were thrown in jail and kept there for a week during the time you were here.

This informant further indicated it was his belief that there would be an investigation in this State that would make the Pendargast investigation look like a "two-bit swindle", and that this investigation would be within a year.

I thought you would be interested in this reaction to your visit here recently.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA

SAC Sackett called from New Orleans and advised that the inquiry at the bank relative to the three loans totaling $500,000.00 obtained by Dr. James Monroe Smith has been completed. In answer to his inquiry as to whether this information should be furnished U. S. Attorney Viosca, I told Mr. Sackett this would be referred to the Director for his instruction.

In connection with the request made by U. S. Attorney Viosca that we make an investigation at the Independence Lumber Company, Covington, Louisiana, I informed Mr. Sackett the Director had given permission to make this investigation, as well as to question J. L. Brown, a broker in New Orleans. Mr. Sackett also is to check Brown's bank account at the Louisiana Savings Bank. Mr. Sackett stated he would like for the Director to be advised of his reaction to the present status of the investigation being made in Louisiana. It appears to Mr. Sackett that U. S. Attorney Viosca does not know exactly what he wants under the blanket authority from the Attorney General and does not believe the investigation will be handled in the manner it would be handled by the Bureau.

The WPA angle, according to Sackett, at the present time presents the best possibilities on which to probably prosecute the majority of the officials, such as Leche, Ellison, Jackson of the State University, Caldwell and a number of others. Mr. Sackett stated there is no question but that these individuals used WPA funds and material in building private estates. To thoroughly investigate this angle, Mr. Sackett contemplates it will require the services of from twenty-five to thirty agents. Mr. Sackett does not think a general income tax setup would be very productive as these individuals have been very careful, profiting by the mistakes of Capone and others.

Mr. Sackett also does not think the five per cent kickback
MEMO FOR THE FILE

on the part of the State employees will materialize in so far as a Federal angle is concerned since there will not be any proof that the employees have been intimidated or threatened if they did not pay the five percent and inasmuch as there is a distinct question as to the comingling of Federal funds with the State funds being a violation.

Mr. Sackett is of the opinion that if the Bureau continues to check on minor angles for U. S. Attorney Viosca without knowing the background and the WPA investigation ultimately is unsatisfactory, which Sackett states undoubtedly will be the outcome, the FBI will be requested to take over the case.

I advised Mr. Sackett that the Director would be informed of the information furnished. I also advised Mr. Sackett that whenever he calls the Bureau in my absence that he should talk to Inspector Sears.

E. A. TAKM
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA

SAC Sackett called from New Orleans to advise that United States Attorney Viosca had just requested that we ascertain the details of the following loans obtained by Dr. James Monroe Smith, having in mind a possible violation of the National Bank Act:

Date    FROM                  INDEXED
May 2, 1939 National Bank of Commerce, New Orleans $300,000.00
June 3, 1939 City National Bank of Baton Rouge 100,000.00
June 15, 1939 Hibernia National Bank New Orleans 100,000.00

Sackett stated he would take no action without specific instructions from the Bureau.

Sackett requested that the Civil files of the Identification Division of the Bureau be searched for prints of Smith and his wife.

With reference to Sackett's previous suggestion with respect to a check at the Department of State, Mr. Newby in the Washington Field Office was requested to obtain the passport information immediately.

Respectfully,

AR.

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

July 1, 1939  

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR  

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA  
DR. JAMES MONROE SMITH  

I called SAC Bugas and inquired if  
he had been contacted by the Agent who was  
going up in Ontario to Wigwassan Lodge.  

Mr. Bugas stated that the Agent had  
called him about 12:30 p.m. and had informed  
him that he was taking a boat over to the lodge  
and would be out of communication for a few  
hours and then he would come back to the main-  
land and call Mr. Bugas.  

I instructed Mr. Bugas to furnish no  
information by teletype to New Orleans or any  
other office but to notify the Bureau in  
Washington by telephone. I also told Mr. Bugas  
to keep the Agent up in Canada for a day or two  
and to have the Agent understand that he was to  
make no arrests but to notify Mr. Bugas in the  
event he came upon any important information,  
and for Mr. Bugas to notify me.  

Respectfully,  

E. A. TAMM  
RECORDED  

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
JUL 6 1939  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Transmit the following message to: SAC-NEW YORK

PLEASE FURNISH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO MISTER HOUSTON AN UNCLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE LOUISIANA SITUATION MISTER RACKETT ADVISED THAT MISTER VIOOSCA CALLED UPON MR. SACKETT THIS MORNING ADVISING THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO ASK MR. SACKETT FOR ANY ASSISTANCE DESIRED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SITUATION. VIOOSCA STATED THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD AUTHORIZED HIM TO CONTACT ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES AND TO SECURE ANY INFORMATION INDICATING ANY KIND OF A FEDERAL VIOLATION AND TO ASK FOR ANY ASSISTANCE HE NEEDED. VIOOSCA IS NOT CONFIDENT OF THE ACCURACY OR THOROUGHNESS OF THE EPA INVESTIGATION THAT HAS BEEN MADE INTO THE IRREGULARITIES AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND HAS BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE EPA INVESTIGATORS OF AN ACCURATE NATURE ALTHOUGH THE EPA MAN IN CHARGE OF THIS INVESTIGATION IS RETURNING TO LOUISIANA FROM WASHINGTON TOMORROW. MISTER VIOOSCA REQUESTS THAT THE BUREAU IMMEDIATELY INSTITUTE A GENERAL AND BROAD INQUIRY OVER THE STATE OF LOUISIANA TO ASCERTAIN ANY EVIDENCE OF IRREGULARITIES, CONTACTING SUCH PERSONS AS A. P. TUGGELL PRESENTLY STATE TREASURER WHO HAS RECENTLY DENOUNCED THE ADMINISTRATION INDICATING HE HAS INFORMATION AGAINST IT, ALICE LEE TROJIAN FORMER SECRETARY TO HULY LONG, FORMER LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF AN OTHER, IN ACCORD WITH YOUR INSTRUCTIONS.

MISTER VIOOSCA IS REQUESTING THE INTERNAL REVENUE RECORDS WHICH ALL INCOME TAX DATA ACCUMULATES. ON DOCTOR SMIT AND VIOOSCA WILL LEAVE THE HOSPITAL TO GET AN X-RAY SENT VIA COPIES DESTROYED. 170 SEP 17 1958. M. Per A
To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. SAC-NEW YORK (8)

Transmit the following message to:

WHETHER A TAX COMPLAINT SHOULD BE FILED AGAINST SMITH. IN THE EVENT HE FILES SUCH A COMPLAINT HE WILL ASK THE FED TO LOOK FOR SMITH. MR. VIOSCA IS ALSO DESIROUS THAT THE BUREAU INVESTIGATE THE KICKBACK RACKET IN LOUISIANA WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF SOME INQUIRY ABOUT A YEAR AGO TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PAYMENT OF FIVE PERCENT OF THE SALARIES OF ALL EMPLOYEES INTO A STATE FUND USED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES MAY BE A VIOLATION OF ANY FEDERAL STATUTE IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME FEDERAL FUNDS BEING UTILIZED TO PAY STATE EMPLOYEES. THIS KICKBACK INVESTIGATION IN ACCORD WITH YOUR AUTHORIZATION HAS BEEN INITIATED. SACKETT HAS BEEN APPROPRIATELY CAUTIONED AGAINST DISCLOSING THE NATURE OR IDENTITY OF OUR INVESTIGATION. SACKETT ADVISES THAT J. EMERY ADAMS NEPHEW OF MRS. SMITH WHO IS REPORTED TO HAVE DRIVEN THE SMITHS TO MEMPHIS IS IN THE PROTECTIVE CUSTODY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ELLISON OF LOUISIANA WHO WILL NOT EVEN PERMIT GENERAL CERE OF THE STATE POLICE TO TALK TO HIM. ALL OF THE SMITH FAMILY IN BATON ROUGE HAVE DECLINED TO TALK TO THE STATE POLICE WHO HAVE FAILED TO DEVELOP ANY INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO SMITH'S BACKGROUND. J. EMERY ADAMS IS REPORTED TO BE AN ALLEGED BEFORE A CROWN JURY IN BATON ROUGE AND NOT WISHING TO TESTIFY TO CONTACT ME FOR INFORMATION. I AM TELLING THE VIOSCA OF THE SMITHS AND ANY DEPARTMENTAL POLICY/PROCEDURE INVOLVED. NOT THE INTENTION OF AUTH.

SENT VIA

THE 400M Per A
To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to:

AAC-New York (9)

Viosca has asked Mr. Sackett to ascertain the details of loans obtained by Dr. Smith from the National Bank of Commerce, City National Bank of Baton Rouge and Nibertia National Bank.

Edward Tamm
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA
DR. JAMES MONROE SMITH

I called SAC Sackett at New Orleans and informed him
the Director had stated it would be satisfactory to
investigate the loans obtained by Dr. James Monroe
Smith totaling $500,000.00, set out in a previous
memorandum of a telephone call from Mr. Sackett.

In answer to Mr. Sackett's inquiry as to whether a
check had been made at the Passport Division of the
Department of State, he was informed that both
Dr. Smith and his wife have passports issued May 8,
1937, which can be renewed merely by request at any
Passport Agency, and that the State Department has
been requested to place stops against the passports
every place. Mr. Sackett stated that Mrs. Smith
return from a trip to Europe about three or four
weeks ago. He is therefore having some of the
Counsels checked to determine whether any leaves were
taken.

Mr. Sackett stated that A. P. Tugwell, State Treasurer,
has been interviewed. He could furnish nothing but
general information already in the Bureau's possession.

Attempts to interview J. Emery Adams, the nephew of
Mrs. Smith, thus far have been unsuccessful.
FBI NEW ORLEANS 6-27-39 2-43

DIRECTOR

RE: LOUISIANA POLITICAL SITUATION. I HAVE JUST DETERMINED FROM GENERAL GUERRE, SUPERINTENDENT OF STATE POLICE, THAT HE HAS NO LEADS AS TO PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF DR JAMES MONROE SMITH. SMITH'S WIFE, NIEPHOW, EMORY ADAMS, WHO GUERRE SAYS DROVE SMITH AWAY FROM BATON ROUGE, SURRENDERED TO STATE POLICE LAST NIGHT AT BATON ROUGE, IS BEING HELD AS MATERIAL WITNESS MAKING FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR BOND. GUERRE SAYS ADAMS REFUSES TO TALK OR IN ANY WAY DISCLOSE WHERE HE TOOK SMITH UPON ADVICE OF HIS COUNSEL, A WARRANT WAS ISSUED LAST NIGHT BY THE DISTRICT COURT, EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, CHARGING JAMES MONROE SMITH WITH HAVING EMBEZZLED ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. FROM LATEST INFORMATION AT HAND IT APPEARS THAT DURING PAST WEEK OR TEN DAYS SMITH SECURED AN ILLEGAL LOAN FOR THE UNIVERSITY FROM THE BANK THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. DEPOSITING THIS SUM TO HIS BANK ACCOUNT AND WITHDRAWING SAME BY CASHIERS CHECK IN ORDER TO FUND BROKERAGE ACCOUNT AND WITHDRAW FRAUDULENT LSU BONDS PLACED THERE AS COLLATERAL. THIS CONSTITUTES THE BASIS FOR THE EMBEZZLEMENT WARRANT. STATE AUDITORS PRESENTLY CHECKING FURTHER INTO ACCOUNTS LSU TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OTHER IRREGULARITIES OMITTED BY SMITH.

GUERRE EXPECTS TO ISSUE A BULLETIN GIVING PHOTOGRAPH AND DESCRIPTION OF SMITH SOME TIME TODAY WHICH HE WILL SEND ALL OVER UNITED STATES. HE HAS NOT LOCATED ANY FINGERPRINTS OF SMITH. SUGGEST BUREAU EXAMINE CIVILIAN FINGERPRINT FILES FOR POSSIBILITY OF FINGERPRINT RECORD OF SMITH. NONE OF THE PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE OUR BUREAU IS IN ANY WAY INTERESTED IN THIS SITUATION.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: LOUISIANA POLITICAL SITUATION

DOCTOR JAMES MONROE SMITH

I called SAC Sackett in New Orleans and informed him that the International News Service here has the story that Doctor Smith has been located by the FBI and that they are about to begin questioning him. Mr. Sackett said he had not heard anything of this. I told him also that we have checked in the fingerprint bureau on Smith and there is nothing there on him.

According to Mr. Sackett, some additional information on Mr. and Mrs. Smith is as follows:

MRS. SMITH

Mrs. Smith's maiden name was Thelma Ford. She is 42 years of age, is 5 feet 4 inches in height, weighs 135 pounds, and has dark grayish hair.

DOCTOR JAMES MONROE SMITH

Doctor James Monroe Smith was born in Jackson Parish, Louisiana, October 9, 1888. His height is 6 feet, weight 190 pounds, and has a ruddy complexion. His hair is black on sides and back, slightly gray, bald on top. He is a neat dresser and carries his right shoulder lower than his left.

SAC Sackett informed me that the Smith family was very uncooperative.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Not Political Situation in Louisiana
Dr. James Monroe Smith

I telephonically contacted SAC Bugas at Detroit and suggested to him that he advise the Canadian Mounted Police of the information that Dr. Smith and his wife had entered the Dominion of Canada, and also the information concerning the automobile they have in their possession.

SAC Bugas advised that Captain Diamond of the Michigan State Police, as well as the Detroit Police Department, had requested the Canadian authorities to close the ports of exit in an effort to apprehend the Smiths. He suggested that he could contact Commissioner Ward of the Canadian Mounted Police in a discreet manner in order that the Bureau would be advised of any developments in the location of Smith. I instructed him to contact Commissioner Ward.

J. P. Sears
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA

SAC Sackett called from New Orleans in connection with your telephonic instructions to him last night to the effect that Dr. James Monroe Smith, ex-President of Louisiana State University, be looked for and that in the event United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca should ask Mr. Sackett for any kind of assistance, Sackett should immediately contact you through the Bureau.

Mr. Viosca came to the New Orleans Office at 10:00 a.m. this morning. Viosca had received a telephone call from Attorney General Murphy last night in which Viosca was instructed to go into the entire setup in Louisiana, to contact all Federal Agencies and secure any information indicating any kind of a Federal violation, to look into all evidence of any kind respecting graft, corruption, et cetera, in the State Government, and to ask for any assistance he needed.

According to Mr. Sackett, Viosca is not exactly clear on what is desired by the Attorney General and Sackett thinks he will have to be led along. Viosca is not confident of the accuracy or thoroughness of the WPA investigation that has been made into the alleged irregularities at Louisiana State University as charged in the Washington Kerry-go-Round. He has not to date been able to get any information from the WPA Investigators; however, the Agent in Charge of the WPA Office in New Orleans is returning from Washington tomorrow at which time Viosca will confer with him. The United States Attorney will not decide on whether he will ask the FBI to investigate these irregularities until he has had a chance to get the details of the WPA investigation.

In accordance with the directions of the Attorney General, Mr. Viosca has requested that the FBI immediately institute a general and broad inquiry over the State of Louisiana to determine any evidence of irregularities. It is Viosca's idea that he should talk to such persons as A. L. Russell, presently State Treasurer and who in the past few days bitterly denounced the administration and indicated he had
considerable information against the administration. Also Alice Lee Trojean, who was Huey Long's secretary and who occupied a state office until about five months ago at which time she was ousted by Leche; and Jimmy Nau, as well as others.

With respect to Dr. James Monroe Smith, Attorney General Murphy is stated to have told Viosca that he would have the Internal Revenue Bureau which had been working on an income tax case against Smith for some time send all the information to Viosca for his consideration and possibly the filing of an income tax complaint against Smith. In the event the U. S. Attorney issues such a complaint, he will ask the FBI to look for Smith, otherwise he has no intention at the present time of issuing a subpoena for Smith which would be a basis upon which the Bureau would look for Smith.

U. S. Attorney Viosca, according to Mr. Sackett, is very interested in the kick back racket in Louisiana. Mr. Sackett stated that Bureau file 86-1045 concerning C. B. Martin gives information concerning this racket, the investigation having been made by the Bureau in October, 1938. This relates to the practice of the State employees paying five percent of their salaries into a state fund to be used for political purposes. Viosca maintains that the Federal Government made outright grants to the State of Louisiana which money was intermingled with the State funds so that when the state employees made the five percent contributions they were violating a federal law. According to the file the Department considered this matter and ruled it was not a violation of a federal Law. It is Viosca's desire to reopen this case.

Mr. Sackett stated he would take no action concerning Viosca's request without advice from the Bureau. However, he is proceeding with the other angles that you requested him to look into.

12:25 p.m.

I called Mr. Sackett and informed him you had instructed that he go ahead on Viosca requests respecting the interviews outlined above and on the kick back case. I further informed him you had requested that the matter be handled with some discretion; that is, to avoid making any comment or going anything that would indicate we are conducting an investigation. Sackett also was advised that you do not wish him
to make any move on any other requests of Viosca without your specific authorization. Sackett also was advised not to give progress reports to the U. S. Attorney; that you desire everything obtained transmitted to you first and that then from time to time Sackett will be authorized specifically to furnish the U. S. Attorney information.

I requested Mr. Sackett to send a teletype to the Bureau at least once a day and more frequently if it appears desirable summarising the nature of the information obtained.

At this time Mr. Sackett furnished the following further developments:

Attorney General Ellison has J. Emery Adams, the nephew of Mrs. Smith who drove the Smiths to Memphis, under his wing and will not even permit General Gere of the State Police to talk to him. All the Smith family in Baton Rouge, including the daughter and twenty-one year old son, have declined to talk to the State Police and the State Police has developed absolutely nothing with respect to Smith's background.

Mr. Sackett suggested that a check be made at the Department of State in Washington to see whether a passport has been issued Smith. The information that Smith took a train for Chicago has been partially verified by the Memphis Office.

It was further suggested that the War and Navy Departments be contacted for possible fingerprints. Sackett stated that Smith is approximately fifty-one years of age.

J. Emery Adams is presently before a Grand Jury in Baton Rouge after which Mr. Sackett will endeavor to have him brought to the New Orleans Office for interview.

With respect to newspaper publicity, I instructed Mr. Sackett that when inquiries are received he is neither to confirm nor deny that the Bureau is making any investigation into this matter.

Respectfully,

E. A. Talk
MEMORANDUM

Re: POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA

At 12:25 P.M., I telephonically communicated with SAC Sackett and requested him to ascertain all information as to the activities of Dr. Smith, particularly to develop if Dr. Smith has ever taken vacations in the Canadian woods or in the North woods. Mr. Sackett advised he was preparing a teletype on later developments in this case, and which information is set forth in his teletype of this date.

Mr. Sackett likewise advised that Miss Alice Lee Grossjean, former secretary to Huey Long, is now married to W. A. Tharpe, who is presently visiting E. L. Cord, automobile and aeroplane magnate, 811 Hillcrest Drive, Beverly Hills, California. I advised Mr. Sackett I would request the Los Angeles Office to conduct the necessary investigation.

At 3:25 P.M., SAC Hood was requested to conduct the necessary investigation with Mrs. Tharpe concerning her knowledge of the activities of the present administration of the State of Louisiana. Mr. Hood was likewise advised that the Bureau was making a discreet inquiry to locate Dr. Smith and the investigation should be handled accordingly.

J. W. Sears

Spence
SAC Sackett called from New Orleans and stated the United States Attorney would like for the Bureau to get transcripts of the records for 1937, 1938 and 1939 of a lumber company believed to be the Independence Lumber Company of Covington, Louisiana.

The U. S. Attorney has talked to Paul Hanson, who is in charge of the FIA Investigators in New Orleans, and questioned him about what information he might have concerning irregularities and particularly about any evidence against ex-Governor Leche. It appears that Hanson interviewed Leche concerning FIA labor and materials alleged to have been used on his private home in Covington, Leche having built a $75,000.00 home and made certain grounds into a park. Leche claims he paid George Caldwell, Superintendent of Construction at Louisiana State University, for the labor on his home and that he used his own money in paying for the materials. The lumber is supposed to have been purchased from the Independence Lumber Company of Covington, Louisiana, and Leche states he paid this company for the lumber.

Paul Hanson has not gone to the Independence Lumber Company to verify Leche's statement and the U. S. Attorney is not satisfied with Hanson's investigation. The U. S. Attorney would like for the FBI to obtain transcripts of records from this company pertaining to purchases, payments, etc., but does not wish Hanson to know we are taking such action. After this information is obtained, Mr. Sackett stated that the U. S. Attorney probably will desire further investigation conducted in this respect by the FBI.

The FIA Investigators are not sure about the name of the lumber company, that is, the Independence Lumber Company; however, they are endeavoring to definitely establish the name of this company.

Mr. Hanson has six men working on the investigation and has...
told the V. J. Attorney he will be able to furnish a picture of the situation in about three or four days. It is the opinion of the V. J. Attorney that information will be developed upon which approximately ten cases against officials in connection with WPA labor and materials may be made.

Mr. Sackett requested that the Director be informed of the request for the FBI to obtain the records at the Lumber Company.

Mr. Sackett referred to his teletype to the Bureau today concerning an account that was closed out by three checks totaling $2,000.00. Fenner and Beane gave those three checks and they were placed through the bank account of and made payable to J. W. Brown, a broker, in the Louisiana Savings Bank. These checks have been obtained and Mr. Sackett was the first to view them. They were placed through Brown's account so there is no indication of Smith's endorsement on the checks.

Mr. Sackett stated there is no doubt that Smith received part of the money and that since he was so closely associated with Brown, it is logical to assume Brown has knowledge of Smith's whereabouts. Mr. Sackett inquired as to whether the Director would want him to question Brown. Should Brown be questioned, Mr. Sackett stated he probably would be accompanied by his attorney in a law partner of Carl Long, C. E. Roberts. Mr. Sackett also would like to be informed as to whether the Director would desire a transcript of Brown's bank account at the Louisiana Savings Bank.

I asked Mr. Sackett if he had obtained any information regarding Smith's habits and was informed efforts were being made to do so but that very little information had been secured.

A newspaper contact notified Mr. Sackett that the Detroit Police is supposed to have positively identified Smith's wife as having purchased an automobile from a dealer in Detroit Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Smith used the name of J. L. Smith and introduced the man with her, who was identified from pictures as Smith, as J. L. Smith. They are supposed to have loaded six or seven pieces of baggage in the car and left the dealer's place after paying for the car in cash. Mr. Sackett has the Detroit office checking this at the present time.

Respectfully,

A. K. Hill
RE POLITICAL SITUATION. THE STATE POLITICAL DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION HAS CONTROLLED STATE POLITICAL OFFICES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PERIOD WHEN LONG WAS FIGHTING NEW ORLEANS CITY ADMINISTRATION. PARTY CANDIDATES ARE CHOSEN AT CAUCUS OF PARTY. NEXT CAUCUS TO BE HELD LATE OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER NEXT TO CHOOSE CANDIDATE FOR STATE OFFICES INCLUDING GOVERNOR. LECHE HAS BEEN GOVERNOR SINCE MAY TWELFTH NINETEEN THIRTY SIX.

VARIOUS POLITICIANS FOR PAST YEAR HAVE TALKED ABOUT CANDIDACY. HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING THREE ARE MOST PROMINENT CANDIDATES FOR 1939 GOVERNOR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR EK LONG, BROTHER OF HUEY, ALLEGEDLY HAS INSIDE TRACK, HAS HINTED, AND RECENTLY OPENLY STATED HE HAD BEEN PROMISED THE GOVERNORSHIP BY THE PARTY LEADERS FOUR YEARS AGO AND THAT MAYOR MAESTRI WOULD SUPPORT HIM.

JAMES ALBERT NOE STATE SENATOR FROM MONROE, CLOSE FRIEND OF HUEY WHO BROKE WITH LECHE ADMINISTRATION, LATTER PART OF NINETEEN THIRTY SIX IS LONGS PRINCIPAL OPPONENT FOR GOVERNORSHIP. NOE VERY BITTERLY ANTI ADMINISTRATION. BACKGROUND REGARDING NOE TELEPHONICALLY FURNISHED BUREAU NINETEEN THIRTY SIX.
WAGE O. MARTIN PRESENTLY CHAIRMAN STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
IS THE THIRD PROMINENT CANDIDATE BUT HAS NOT BEEN MAKING A VERY
VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN AND IS NOT CONSIDERED TO HAVE MUCH OF A CHANCE FOR
ELECTION.

ON THE TWENTY SECOND INSTANT A. P. TUGWELL PRESENTLY STATE TREASURER
ANNOUNCED CANDIDACY, SAME BEING DAY FOLLOWING GOVERNOR LECHE
ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO RESIGN. DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS HE HAS BEEN
VIOLENTLY ANTI ADMINISTRATION AND ANTI EARL K LONG. ALSO RUMORED
THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL DAVID M. ELLISON WAS BEING GROOMED BY LECHE FOR
GOVERNORSHIP NEXT YEAR HOWEVER THIS NOT SUBSTANTIATED.

MAYOR ROBERT S. MAESTRI OF NEW ORLEANS CONCEDED TO BE THE DOMINATE
POLITICAL FIGURE. VOTING STRENGTH OF NEW ORLEANS IS SUCH THAT
SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY IN CITY WOULD OVERCOME MAJORITY REST OF STATE.

MAESTRI IS ACCEPTED POLITICAL LEADER IN NEW ORLEANS HENCE ALL CANDIDATES
CURRY HIS FAVOR AND SUPPORT.

THE NEWSPAPER CAMPAIGNS OF THESE CANDIDATES PROGRESSED NORMALLY
UNTIL NINTH INSTANT WHEN NEW ORLEANS STATES AN ANTI ADMINISTRATION
PAPER PUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING A TRUCK, PROPERTY OF LOUISIANA
STATE UNIVERSITY, DELIVERING BUILDING MATERIALS TO PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ON PROPERTY OF AN INTIMATE FRIEND OF GOVERNOR LECHE. THE STATES AND
PAGE THREE

ITS MORNING PAPER THE NEW ORLEANS TIMES PICAYUNE CONDUCTED VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN EXPOSING THESE CONDITIONS EVER SINCE THEN. ON THE NINTH INSTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ELLISON ORDERED PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING THESE ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES TO BE HELD FIFTEENTH INSTANT ON JUNE THIRTEENTH HOWEVER LECHE ANNOUNCED THAT PUBLIC HEARING WAS INDEFINITELY POSTPONED, STATING A BROADER INVESTIGATION WAS UNDERWAY. RECORDS OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY MILL WORK WERE NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO NEWSPAPER REPORTERS OR OUTSIDERS.

ON JUNE FOURTEENTH, FIFTEENTH, SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH DR JAMES MONROE SMITH, PRESIDENT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, COULD NOT BE FOUND BY REPORTERS FOR QUESTIONING.

THE JUNE SEVENTEENTH ISSUE OF THE SHREVEPORT LOUISIANA JOURNAL QUOTED WASHINGTON MERRY GO ROUND COLUMN WHICH INCLUDED AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "WPA CORRUPTION IN LOUISIANA" QUOTING ONE FULL AFFIDAVIT SIGNED BY SIX MEN ALLEGING VARIOUS IRREGULARITIES. THIS ENTIRE ARTICLE READ INTO CONGRESSIONAL RECORD IN US SENATE A FEW DAYS LATER AND BUREAU FURNISHED WITH COMPLETE CLIPPINGS THIS REGARD.

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIONS WPA AT NEW ORLEANS HAS BEEN CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION OF WPA MATTERS AT BATON ROUGE SINCE THAT TIME. I RECEIVED CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SIXTEEN AFFIDAVITS ALLEGING WPA
IRREGULARITIES WERE SENT TO CHICAGO TRIBUNE NEWSPAPER AND APPARENTLY THEREAFTER CAME INTO POSSESSION OF PEARSON AND ALLEN WHICH WAS BASIS FOR THE ARTICLE APPEARING IN THEIR WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND.

USA RENE A VIOLSCA NEW ORLEANS TODAY ANNOUNCED HE WOULD HAVE FEDERAL GRAND JURY NEW ORLEANS COMMENCING THIRTIETH INSTANT INVESTIGATE THESE CHARGES OF WPA GRAT AND CORRUPTION, WAS SUBPOENAEING INVESTIGATORS AND OTHER WITNESSES TO TESTIFY.

ON JUNE NINETEENTH DR JAMES MONROE SMITH STATED SALE TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OF WORK DONE AT UNIVERSITY WAS AGAINST UNIVERSITY POLICY. PREVIOUSLY GOVERNOR LECHÉ HAD STATED THERE WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT SELLING WORK TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

ON EVENING JUNE TWENTY FIRST GOVERNOR RICHARD LECHÉ ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN AS GOVERNOR TODAY GIVING AS REASONS ILL HEALTH, CLAIMING DOCTORS TOLD HIM HE WOULD HAVE TO RESIGN AT ONCE IF HE EXPECTED TO RECOVER. APPARENTLY ELLISON, EARL LONG, MAYOR MAESTRI AND SEYMOUR WEISS WERE IN CONFERENCE WITH LECHÉ IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING ANNOUNCEMENT.

FOLLOWING DAY MAYOR MAESTRI TACITLY EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT OF EARL LONG AS GOVERNOR, SEYMOUR WEISS ALSO PROCLAIMING HIS FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT OF LONG.
PAGE FIVE

ON MORNING JUNE TWENTY SECOND LECHE APPARENTLY FELT A GREAT DEAL BETTER PHYSICALLY SINCE HE WAS VERY GAY AND WAS NOT CONFINED TO BED ENTIRELY. THIS FACT COMMENTED UPON RATHER SARCASTICALLY BY NEWSPAPERS. LECHE ALSO STATED LATER ONE OF HIS PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR RESIGNING WAS HIS DESIRE TO TRAVEL INTENDING TO VISIT WEST COAST AND HONOLULU.

SEVERAL BELIEFS ARE PREVALENT CONCERNING REASON FOR LECHES RESIGNATION. ONE IS THAT LECHE HOPED TO SECURE POSITION OF US M JUDGE ABOUT THIS TIME AND RESIGN SO THAT LONG COULD TAKE OFFICE AS GOVERNOR AND WIN THE CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF PEOPLE FOR PARTY NOMINATION THIS FALL AND THAT HAVING GIVEN UP HOPE OF OBTAINING JUDGESHIP LECHE HAD TO RESIGN AT THIS TIME ANYWAY IN ORDER FOR LONG TO TAKE OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANS. THE OTHER BELIEF IS THAT LECHE RESIGNED SO THAT LONG COULD BE PUT IN OFFICE NOW IN ORDER THAT HE COULD MAKE A FOOL OF HIMSELF BETWEEN NOW AND PRIMARY ELECTION SO THAT PARTY LEADERS WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN BREAKING THEIR PROMISE BY WITHDRAWING THEIR SUPPORT OF LONG. INDICATIONS ARE THAT PARTY LEADERS FEAR LONG, DO NOT WANT HIM IN OFFICE, AS LONG ALLEGEDLY VINDICTIVE AND VIOLENT AND CAN NOT BE CONTROLLED.
PAGE SIX

LECHE AFTER CONFERENCE WITH MAESTRI, LONG AND OTHERS ANNONCED
INTENTION TO RESIGN AT ELEVEN AM TODAY, LONG TO BE SWORN AS
GOVERNOR IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. AT TEN TWENTY FIVE PM LAST
NIGHT LECHE/HANDED NEWSPAPER MEN WRITTEN STATEMENT INDICATING DR
JAMES MONROE SMITH PRESIDENT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY APPARENTLY
GUilty MISAPPROPRIATION OF UNIVERSITY FUNDS AMOUNTING TO "SEVERAL
HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS" AND SMITH HAD DISAPPEARED FROM BATON
ROUGE. IN VIEW OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS LECHE ANNOUNCED HE WOULD
NOT RESIGN TODAY AS SCHEDULED.

HAVE ALREADY ADVISED YOU CONCERNING SITUATION INVOLVING JAMES
MONROE SMITH. AT FOUR TEN THIS AFTERNOON A STATEMENT WAS ISSUED
BY LONG THAT LECHE WOULD NOT RESIGN "FOR SEVERAL DAYS YET"
HOWEVER AT SIX THIRTY TONIGHT LECHE ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION AND
WITHIN THE HOUR LONG WAS SWORN IN AS GOVERNOR AT BATON ROUGE.
I ADVISED YOU OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS AT THE TIME OF OCCURRENCE.
IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT LECHE GAVE SMITH SEVERAL HOURS HEAD
START TO LEAVE BATON ROUGE BEFORE MAKING KNOWLEDGE OF RESIGNATION
AND IRREGULARITIES PUBLIC. APPARENTLY SMITH HANDED RESIGNATION TO
LECHE PERSONALLY AT FOUR PM YESTERDAY HOWEVER NO SEARCH APPARENTLY
STARTED FOR SMITH UNTIL EIGHT PM.
BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY THIS AFTERNOON ELECTED E S RICHARDSON AS PRESIDENT OF LSU, LECHE PARTICIPATING AS EXOFFICIO MEMBER. LECHE RESIGNED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF BOARD MEETING.

GENERAL OPINION APPARENTLY IN NEW ORLEANS TONIGHT IS THAT BLOWUP WITH RESPECT TO SMITH IS JUST BEGINNING OF GENERAL BLOWUP THROUGHOUT WHOLE STATE ADMINISTRATION, THAT OTHER MORE STARTLING DISCLOSURES OF GRAFT AND CORRUPTION ETC WILL COME TO LIGHT. NOTHING SPECIFIC IN THIS REGARD HOWEVER. IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE GENERAL BELief SO FAR AS I CAN DETERMINE THAT SMITH IS TAKING BLAME FOR OTHERS. GENERAL OPINION HOWEVER IS THAT ALL STATE OFFICIALS IMPLICATED IN VARIOUS IRREGULARITIES NOT NECESSARILY IMPLICATED WITH SMITH IN THIS ONE. IT IS BELIEVED THAT LECHE IS VERY ANXIOUS TO LEAVE LOUISIANA AND WILL PROBABLY SUDDENLY BECOME WELL ENOUGH TO TRAVEL AND WILL LEAVE WITH HIS FAMILY ON EXTENSIVE VACATION. ENTIRE STATE IN TURMOIL OVER DEVELOPMENTS TODAY ALMOST AS BAD AS DAY HUEY LONG WAS SHOT.

I AM TONIGHT MAILING YOU COMMUNICATIONS GIVING DETAILS OF SITUATIONS MENTIONED HEREIN AND WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED CONCERNING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. COMPLETE NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS HAVE BEEN SENT BUREAU AMASD.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC FS
LIFE - TIME.

Your Huey Long picture and story in recent issue of - LIFE

Last paragraph of - mystery -.

A Mississippi river pilot in South Channel of delta told me that part of the story in January, 1938. He went on to say that the body was buried in or under a huge block of concrete on the State House Square and that one of Mr. Long's bodyguards was in a sanitarium.

If - mystery - there be, a J. Edgar Hoover operative ought to be able to learn from the undertaker whether the fatal shots were fired from behind instead of in front or on the side when the young man approached Mr. Long, who recognized him, and called to his bodyguard: "Let him have it!"

I was a passenger on a train that.

Chicago - Illinois.
Saturday, July 1, 1939.
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
New Orleans, Louisiana

Mr. JAMES W. SMITH
Mississippi State University, P.O. Box 294

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter, dated June 29, 1929, transmitting therewith a photograph of James Young Smith, together with a photograph of Mrs. Thelma Ford Smith, with the request that twenty copies of each of these photographs be made and the Chicago, Kansas, Detroit, Buffalo, Boston and New York offices be furnished with two copies thereof.

Inasmuch as there is no need for the dissemination of these photographs at the present time, the originals are being returned herewith.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures

No copies of enclosures retained by file
June 27, 1939

Hotel Heidelberg

Baton Rouge, La.

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

Re: James Monroe Smith
Miscellaneous -
Embezzlement of funds
of Louisiana State
University.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are a photograph of James Monroe Smith and a photograph of Mrs. Thelma Ford Smith, his wife. Please furnish this office twenty copies of each of these photographs by airmail and furnish two copies each to the Chicago, Memphis, Detroit, Buffalo, Boston and New York Offices.

Very truly yours,

B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge.
(Per CEW)
To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.
62-325-09-116

Transmit the following message to:

MR. LEE FRANKLIN
JENNINGS, LOUISIANA

SUGGEST YOU CONTACT LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS NO FEDERAL VIOLATION INDICATED BY YOU.

JUNE 26, 1963

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

COPIES DESTROYED
170 SEP 17 1964

SENT VIA

4 15
Per A
WHO S 39 COLLECT

JENNINGS LA JUN 25 125P

EDGAR J. HOOVER

CHIEF BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHDC

THERE IS A POLITICAL PLOT AGAINST MY LIFE AND OF MINE AND
MY FAMILY PROPERTY BY LOUISIANA POLITICAL MACHINE
AND THEIR HENCHMEN AND KNOW PERSONAL ENEMIES
OFFERS FAILED TO PROTECT
INZ. RUSH SECRET OPERATIVES TO JENNINGS AT ONCE.

LEE FRANKLIN.

319P
FBI NEW ORLEANS 6-26-39 9 6-35 PM WH
DIRECTOR
GOVERNOR RICHARD W. LECHTE OF LOUISIANA DID NOT RESIGN TONIGHT AS EXPECTED. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR LONG ISSUED STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT LECHTE WOULD NOT RESIGN FOR "SEVERAL DAYS" YET. STATE POLICE AS YET UNABLE TO DETERMINE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF DR. JAMES MONROE SMITH.
SACKETT
END

OK FBI WASH DC JAR

RECORDED & INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 30 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ORIGINAL FILED IN 4Y-4-1785/12
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

With reference to the memorandum addressed to me under date of June 17, 1939, concerning the obtaining of background data concerning former Lieutenant-Governor of Louisiana, Mr. Moee, this information has been obtained and the telephonic report thereupon has been turned over to Mr. Tracy. When the complete data in letter form is received from New Orleans it will be transmitted to Mr. Tracy. I misunderstood the situation with reference to this information and made available copy of Mr. Sackett's memorandum to the Attorney General, who scanned it briefly.

Respectfully,

EDWARD A. TAFT

Jams:

Since part of it has now been given to A. G. the original plan (maybe disregarded). Tracy will no longer handle. It you can give further development to.

RECORDED & INDEXED
June 22, 1939
9:20 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

I called SAC Sackett at New Orleans and told him that the Washington papers this morning indicated that the FBI Office at New Orleans is investigating a M.P.A. irregularity or scandal in connection with the resignation of Commissioner Leche. I asked Mr. Sackett if he knew of any kind of investigation that W. P. A. agents were conducting, and he said Mr. Paul Hanson, Agent in Charge of the Division of Investigation was conducting an inquiry into the W. P. A. set-up there.

I told SAC Sackett if he received any press inquiries concerning this to decline to comment.
Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

New ORLEANS CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sirs,

There are enclosed hereewith two photostatic copies each of the following described communications, which were referred to the Bureau by the Department:


Copy of letter dated June 3, 1939, to Mr. Rush.

Letter dated June 27, 1939, to the Attorney General from Mr. Rush.

The Bureau has not acknowledged Mr. Rush's letters.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

In enclosure
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ AUG 11 1939 ★
F.P.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Honorable Frank Murphy,
Attorney General,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

I knew things would break in time, and now I believe things are shaping up so you can be of real service to a badly used citizenry of our State.

I hope you will take hold when the time arrives and put some of the offenders where they belong.

I am sure you will find that Dr. Smith was not alone in the crooked work being exposed at this time, and while the pot is boil I think you can do some cleaning that is urgently needed.

I hope the roots of the evil will be blown out before the cleaning is finished. When that is done you will find that dark lanter business is responsible for more losses than Dr. Smith's embeselment.

If we could rid this State of the gang that runs the gamb Booking, Slot machines, Pin ball machines, grab machines and pay off our little 2 X 4 politicians who allow them free right-of-way with lotteries and all kinds of gambling devices in violation of law we would be getting places. This bunch (and some of them are local people) have more money to play with than the people know about. They put a fellow like Smith to the front and operate the business high handedly with practically no opposition from our State Officials.

Kindly come to our rescue now while things are opening u

Yours truly,

[Signature]

D. L. Rush.
Honorable Frank Murphy,
Attorney General,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

After reading your remarks to the Associated Press while you were here in New Orleans yesterday, I was just beginning a letter to you expressing my appreciation of the way you handled the subject of Clean Government here in the midst of a Rack Ridden people who are hoping to be relieved from the situation by some one who has the power, and the desire to assist them, when the New Orleans States came out with an editorial that expressed my views and wishes so much more clearly than I would have been able to express them that I am sending you clipping of the Editorial herewith and hope you will read every word of it. I heartily indorse the views that are expressed in this editorial and think that at least 75% of the good citizens of Louisiana do the same.

We certainly do need a house cleaning here but the common citizens are helpless without assistance from higher up.

Will you and Mr. Hoover assist us?

Thanking you for your kindly expressions in our behalf, and hoping you saw a few things while in Louisiana that will be remembered in future dealings with us.

I beg to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

P. S. Kindly read over my letter to you dated April 25th, 1939.
In my letter to you of April 25th 1939 I mentioned to you (which you will probably remember) that you would have an opportunity to become acquainted with some of the clever handshakers in their entertainment of you at the L. S. U. when you came down to make a talk before the graduating students, and that you might have to deal with some of them in future. I think the time has nearly arrived when your Department will take a hand. I hope you give them a square deal that they deserve. I know some will escape, but you may get enough to give a lesson of what may be expected in future if similar conditions arise. D. L. R.
FRUIT JUICE EXCHANGE

Pure Fruit Juice In Cans

OUR BUSINESS IS SERVICE TO THE RETAIL DEALER

409 ST. CHARLES STREET PHONE RAYMOND 2816
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

[Signature]

OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JUN 2 - 1939
June 3, 1939

Dear Mr. Rush:

It was thoughtful of you to send me the editorials from the New Orleans States and the Times-Picayune, and I was interested, also, to read the views that you expressed. Thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely,

Mr. D. L. Rush
409 St. Charles Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
New Orleans, La.
June 21, 1938.

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. R. S. Carne,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
107 W. 5th Court House, Foley Square,
New York City, New York.

Dear Sir:

At 10:15 AM June 20, 1938, you telephonically requested me to ascertain and advise you of the situation involving the slot machine racket being operated in New Orleans at the present time, particularly the participation therein of FRANK COSTELLO and PHIL KASTEL, who are supposed to control this through the Bayou Novelty Company. You also furnished the names of the Trumint Company and the Automint Company as being in the racket, and furnished the names of CHARLES SKIGERMAN and D. CHIGERMAN as being officials of the Bayou Novelty Company.

Your information also was to the effect that PHIL KASTEL is supposed to be operating 270 slot machines in New Orleans with SEYMOUR WEISS, and that he is also associated with WILLIAM HELIS, the Greek Consul in New Orleans.

From various confidential but reliable sources of information in this city, the information which you desire has been obtained, and I am setting it out below in this communication for your ready reference.

It appears that during the early part of 1929, Senator HUXY P. BROAD was supposed to have entered into a deal in New York City with FRANK COSTELLO and PHIL KASTEL, whereby they were to have exclusive rights to place slot machines in the state of New Orleans. Prior to this time, an individual by the name of F. BRAINARD, who was from a wealthy family in Chicago, his father having been a famous Chicago lawyer, had great deal of money which he lost apparently, in the stock market, and discovered that among his other papers he had title to an invention of a slot machine.

It appears that BRAINARD also had an interest in a manufacturing com-
pany in Chicago, believed to have been JENNINGS or some similar name, and he had this company manufacture what was later known as the "Chief" slot machine.

It also appears BRAINARD made a business connection with FRANK COSTELLO and PHIL KASTEL, and the three of them were the men actually behind the Chief slot machines.

During 1935 about eight hundred of these Chief slot machines were brought into New Orleans, and were in the active charge of BRAINARD, who came to New Orleans at that time, singled in very high society here, and openly admitted that while he was not a gunman in any sense of the word, he was in charge of the Chief slot machines in New Orleans.

As a matter of fact, BRAINARD told this story to a confidential contact of mine, the managing editor of a newspaper here, who told me some in confidence today during a general conversation I had with him. BRAINARD appeared at this particular editor’s office and requested that the newspaper "lay off" the Chief slot machines. The newspaper agreed to do this if BRAINARD promised to keep the slot machines out of schools and away from other places where women and children congregated, which BRAINARD agreed to do. The newspaper thereafter did not agitate the removal of the slot machines, at that time.

The newspaper clippings on file in this office show that during the latter part of 1935, after the death of Senator Huey P. Long, there was a great deal of public opposition to the slot machines, and various ministers and other persons prominent in civic life tried to have the machines removed, without any affirmative results.

At this time it is apparent from information we have that PHIL KASTEL was in New Orleans from time to time as the "big man" behind the Chief slot machines, and that also FRANK COSTELLO was identified with these machines. It is apparent that they were operating through the Bayou Novelty Company, and as will be later shown, mail for this company is still received at 2601 Chartres Street, New Orleans.

Reliable information is also at hand which definitely indicates that MR. SEYMOUR WEISS was in with these slot machine men and actively was interested in this enterprise.

The Chief slot machines operated successfully in New Orleans until about two and a half years ago, at which time REED
BRAIDARD, the front man for the outfit as stated, died. He is alleged to have been the "gentleman" of the crowd, and when he was in control here efforts were made to keep the machines out of the schools and similar places. However, upon his death FRANK COSTELLO and his crowd paid no attention to such limitations and placed machines in various places where school children and women were, which incurred the open enmity of the New Orleans Times-Picayune and New Orleans States newspapers, and it was principally by the campaign waged by these newspapers that Mayor ROBERT J. MASON of New Orleans took action about two years ago, which effectively barred all slot machines, that is, machines having automatic payoff, from the city of New Orleans.

At that time the Chief slot machines were taken out by PHIL KASTEL and his crowd, undoubtedly being disposed of in other parts of the State, and since then the Chief slot machines have not operated in New Orleans, nor in any other automatic payoff slot machine operated.

Since then the so-called pinball machines have been in operation. Some of these are in reality slot machines which do not have an automatic payoff, but cash money is paid by the persons in charge behind the counter upon the player attaining a certain score or upon certain combinations of figures or numbers coming up on the machine.

Towards the end of the Chief slot machines a local group of individuals tried to put in pinball machines in the city, and there was a constant war between operators of the slot machines and pinball machine operators, so that when the Chief slot machine operators were ousted from the city, the local men who ran the pinball machines gained control of the situation, and have held it ever since.

At the present time these pinball machines are legal, and a slot machine, which is illegal in New Orleans, is defined as a machine or game of chance having an automatic payoff.

The information which we have developed indicates that neither PHIL KASTEL nor FRANK COSTELLO are apparently active in the operation of the pinball machines in New Orleans at the present time. An informant advised me that about a year ago PHIL KASTEL is sup-
posed to have had a violent argument with Seymour Weiss, and the
two split. Since that date Kastel has not operated at all in
New Orleans, and has been here only on very few occasions.

Contact was made with the New Orleans Retailers Credit
Bureau, New Orleans, and as to the Bayou Novelty Company, 2601
Chartres Street, New Orleans, the records show as of the year
1936 George R. Williams was manager of that company; that the in-
vestigator for the Credit Bureau learned that it was reported
locally that the Bayou Novelty Company is operated as a branch of
the Bison Novelty Company of Chicago, Illinois; that the exact
nature of the business activities of the Bayou Novelty Company was
not definitely known, and that efforts to obtain the street address
of the parent concern in Chicago have been unsuccessful.

An examination of the records of the Credit Bureau re-
ferred to reflects no credit transactions having been reported.

As to Phillip F. Kastel, the records of the New Orleans
Retailers Credit Bureau show that he is 35 years old, married,
formerly of New York City, and of London, England; that the date
of the investigation by the Credit Bureau as of December 8, 1936,
shows that Kastel had been in New Orleans for about two weeks, oc-
cupying an apartment with his wife at the Fontenot Apart-
ment Hotel, New Orleans, at which hotel he was registered from New York
City.

It was learned at the hotel by the Credit Bureau investiga-
tor that Kastel was a director of William Whiteley of Glasgow, Scot-
land, manufacturers of White Horse Whiskey, and that Kastel was also
identified in the distribution of coin operated machines, but that
that information could not be verified.

Further, the report shows that Kastel has not established
any banking connections, but from the way he was living the impres-
sion was that he had a substantial revenue from his activities.
The records of the Credit Bureau did not reflect any credit accounts
by Kastel.

As to Dudley Cigerman, the records of the said Credit
Bureau show that in 1936 he resided at 459 St. Charles Avenue, New
Orleans, was from New York City, and that in February 1939 he moved
to 1653 Phillip Street, New Orleans; that as a result of investi-
gation by the Credit Bureau it was learned that Cigerman was a sales-
man and contact man for the Bayou Novelty Company of 2601 Chartres
Street, New Orleans; that he was 25 years old in 1936, married, one
son four years old, and formerly resided in New York City; nature of business, distributor of Chief slot machines; salary reported to be $100.00 a week. The report of the Credit Bureau shows that DUDLEY GEIGERMAN has a brother named THEODORE GEIGERMAN, 35 years old, married, residing at his home in New Orleans, and from information received this brother is engaged in the same business as DUDLEY GEIGERMAN.

The records of the Credit Bureau reflect no information whatever on the Trustint Company or the Automint Company, or on FRANK COSTELLO.

Contact was made with a confidential informant at the New Orleans Public Service, Inc., New Orleans, and the records of that concern reflect that DUDLEY GEIGERMAN of 4239 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Apartment E, became a customer of the company for light and gas on September 17, 1935 and that on February 1, 1939, DUDLEY GEIGERMAN changed his residence address to 1500 Phillip Street, New Orleans, where he is now located, and that the records of the company show that he has the usual deposit of $10.00.

The records further show DUDLEY GEIGERMAN has an account at 2601 Chartres Street, New Orleans, which was started September 10, 1937, with a deposit of $25.00 for light, gas and power. The records of the Public Service reflect that there was a discontinuance of this service for a brief period; that on October 19, 1938 DUDLEY GEIGERMAN renewed the account for the purchase of such service at 2601 Chartres Street.

The records show the nature of the business as submitted by DUDLEY GEIGERMAN is as follows: "WALL OF OFFICE & WAREHOUSE". This account is still in effect and active.

The New Orleans Public Service, Inc., records do not reflect any information on the Trustint Company, the Automint Company, THEODORE GEIGERMAN and PHILLIP F. KASTEL.

Substitute carriers for 2601 Chartres Street, New Orleans, advised that mail is still being received at that address for the Bayou Novelty Company, and one carrier recalled the name of DUDLEY GEIGERMAN. He stated the occupants of the premises have Buick automobiles.

The place was observed by Special Agent J. O. PEYRONNET, who entered under pretext, and found that the entrance is guarded by a white man, and the door leading to the inner office has a small sliding aperture, within which is an office where two men are seated.
at a desk. The back room of the place observed from the street was noted to be vacant, no slot machines being in sight.

A stenographer of this office telephoned the Fontenot

Train Apartment Hotel and learned that MR. FELIX KASTEL was regist-

ered there but was out of town.

It was noted from slot machines located on St. Charles

Avenue the name of WILLIAM ORIGMORE, 303 S. Gralado Street.

In front of the residence of DUDLEY ORIGMORE, 1933

Phillip Street, was observed a 1934 Model Buick Sedan, Louisiana

license 251-006.

Another confidential informant contacted by this office

stated that he understood that FRANK COSTELLO and, or FELIX KASTEL

were New York representatives of the Chief slot machines. He did

not know if they were presently in New Orleans. He stated, however,

their local man was JAMES MORAN, an ex-convict from Atlanta, whose

true name is JAMES BROCATTO, and who is a Dago and a close associate

of Mayor ROBERT S. MASERI, New Orleans. BROCATTO is presently

in partnership with JERRY DODDS, an ex-convict and bootleg king,

and MR. LATIMO, brother-in-law of MORAN, operating the Casino Club

at 1412 Frenchmen Street, New Orleans.

He stated that in the past six months the same crowd who

had the Chief slot machines in New Orleans, have introduced at

least 250 new machines on the order of slot machines, which are

equipped for automatic payoff, but which do not pay off automatically,

arrangements being made so the payoff is made over the coun-
ter when the winning combination shows up. These are altogether

different in appearance from the old slot machines, and instead of

showing up the usual cherries, plums and other fruits, they show

up animals. These are nickel slot machines.

He said BROCATTO had been paid $100.00 a day by the old

crowd at the time the Chiefs were in here, and he understands that

they are the ones who arranged for the franchise of the new

machines. These appear mostly in barrooms in New Orleans.

Some of these machines were examined by agents of this

office, and it was noted that they are products of the Mills Novel-

ty Company, Chicago.

This informant, who was quite familiar with police activi-
ties in New Orleans, informed that so far as he knows there are no
outside connections with the gambling or vice rackets here; that the payoff to the police on these machines is through GEORGE BRENHAM, insurance man, who insures every slot machine, pinball game and claw machine in New Orleans for $5.00 a week, and the money is supposed to go to the police.

This same confidential source, associated with the bookie and policy racket in New Orleans, it was ascertained that GEORGE BRENHAM was the big man in the slot machine business when the Chief slot machines were operating in New Orleans. It is reported that one HENRY HILL, who was secretary to one of the Commissioners of the City Council, was a collector for the "Association" when these machines were operating, and that at about the time of the blow off HILL was accused by the "Association" of having stolen between two and four hundred thousand dollars. The "Association" or members of it, threatened to have HILL killed and he told them that all of the information which had come to his concerning the slot machine operations in New Orleans had been written up at his death would be exposed.

It was the opinion of the informant that this was probably a ruse by the "Association" through which they were able to hold on to the owners of the machines in Chicago and New York. He said that this same HILL is now a partner with JERRY KROWN in the gambling house run at 118-1/2 Baronne Street, New Orleans, which is the only white gambling house permitted to operate in the city limits.

He also said JIMMY MORAN, whose real name has heretofore been recorded, was the collector for pinball machines which are now operated in the city of New Orleans, and the said MORAN being a very close friend of Mayor ROBERT S. MASSEY. He also advised that JIMMY WILSON, son of the State Senator from Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, is the collector for the pinball operations in that Parish.

The informant advised that the concern with which he is connected does not operate any pinball or slot machines. He said he himself has been approached by the men in New Orleans to put in these machines who informed him that the business was forty, forty and twenty, forty percent to the operator, forty percent to the owner and twenty percent to the "Association". He said that all of the penny cigarette machines in the city of New Orleans are taxed 25¢ a month, which goes to the "Association". He also advised that the
music boxes in the city of New Orleans, which are quite numerous, are taxed the sum of $2.00 per month, which also goes to the "Association", and that JIMMY MORAN is the collector for these instruments.

The informant did not give the name of the family from which the machines come. He said that the machines were concerned with the slot machines when they first arrived in my office. He said, however, he was not a member of the firm in New Orleans at this time to his knowledge.

The informant did not divulge the names of the persons referred to as the "association" but it is believed they are the same persons referred to by this office as the New Orleans "Syndicate". The names of PHILLIP KASTEL and FRANK COSTELLO have not been heard of as being members of the "Syndicate" in New Orleans in the past few years.

With reference to your inquiry concerning the book kept in New Orleans, it is to be noted his name is WILLIAM WEISS. He is a multi-millionaire oil operator in South Louisiana, and a very close friend of Mayor MASTRY and ALFRED WEISS. It may be noted that Mayor MASTRY was formerly Conservation Commissioner of Louisiana, and there is reported to have been a great deal of graft in connection with oil operations. Nothing has been heard heretofore by this office concerning his, WEISS', direct connection with the slot machine activities or vice conditions in New Orleans.

For further general information it has been learned during these inquiries the true name of the official fixer is ULLIC BURKE, rather than EMMOND BURKE, ULLIC BURKE being an uncle of EMMOND BURKE. It is to be further stated that HENRY KASTEL is the official fixer of the Police Department.

The files further reflect that the New York City Police number for PHIL KASTEL is 8-4856. There is no record of FRANK COSTELLO or PHIL KASTEL in the Identification Division of the New Orleans Police Department. It has been stated that the records of JERRY WOODS and JIMMY MORAN have been removed from the Identification division of the New Orleans Police Department.

I trust that the above will give you a complete picture of the slot and pinball machine situation in New Orleans as it did exist and as it exists at the present time. In the event you de-
sire any further specific information along any of the lines men-
tioned above, I will be pleased to provide you with same.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

E. F. [Name]
Special Agent in Charge

[Characters: Airmail - Special Delivery
[Dotted line]
June 17, 1939

DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

You will recall that you brought to my office a Mr. Harry Joseph Costello and that I had Mr. Tracy of my office interview Mr. Costello. I am attaching hereto two memoranda, one dated June 16, 1939, and the other dated June 17, 1939, containing information furnished by Mr. Costello to the representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I am also attaching a copy of a clipping appearing in the New Orleans Times-Picayune for June 10, 1939, which has reference to this same matter.

I have taken no action upon the matters referred to in the enclosed memoranda since I thought you would want to review them first to determine what action you would want this Bureau to take.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures
In accordance with your instructions, I talked this morning with Mr. Harry Joseph Costello, newspaperman, presently residing at 2129 California Street, W. W., Washington, D. C. Mr. Costello advised me that he is in Washington until July 1, 1939, at which time he will proceed to the State of Louisiana to be publicity man for former Governor James A. leo of Louisiana, who is going to run again for the governorship, the primaries of the election being January 10, 1940. Mr. Costello stated that he is a World War veteran and has known Attorney General Frank Murphy since their army service during the World War. He was a newspaper reporter following the World War in Detroit, being on the Detroit News and Free Press until 1932. He has been in newspaper work in New Orleans for several years and was associated with Huey Long.

I was informed by Mr. Costello that he has talked with the Attorney General and left with the Attorney General a selection of affidavits prepared in the presence of Mr. Costello in Louisiana, selected to show certain conditions prevailing in that state, which in his opinion amply prove a prima facie case of federal law violation.

Robert Maestri is alleged to be the head of the present political ring in Louisiana and concerning the background of Maestri Mr. Costello advised that he is an uneducated man of Italian descent, his father having died when he was very young. Possessing a natural shrewdness, he was able with his inheritance which consisted of control of the leading houses of prostitution in New Orleans, to make a great deal of money and in turn to acquire tremendous power in the state. After becoming very wealthy and powerful, Maestri tried to leave the prostitution activities and go into broader fields. He has attempted, according to Mr. Costello, to pull away from prostitution and prevent his name being associated with this particular racket. He is supposed to be very religious, worships his mother, and has furnished her everything possible. As an indication of the man himself, Mr. Costello said that Maestri, a short while ago, practically rebuilt a large house on the}

[Note: The text is partially obscured and difficult to transcribe accurately.]
ground that it was a religious organization. Therefore, the use of city labor and materials for its work was quite all right in his opinion. Costello pointed this out in order to give a brief background of Naestri and a picture of his method of reasoning.

Naestri is alleged to be in control of the entire political ring which covers vice, gambling and innumerable shake-down and grafting activities, including the smuggling and sale of narcotics and the smuggling of aliens. As an example, Mr. Costello advised that the Hammond Progress, a newspaper at Hammond, Louisiana, one of Huey Long's old newspapers, is used in the shake-down racket. A Chinaman in New Orleans (whose name Mr. Costello can secure) was approached by a salesman from the Hammond Progress and instructed to take a definite amount of advertising. The Chinaman declined and the local officers immediately began a systematic persecution designed to prevent customers from using the Chinaman's Laundry and he was thereby run out of business.

State employees are required to take subscriptions to this newspaper, the method being that a state employee will be approached by a representative of the paper and told that he is to pay immediately for ten subscriptions and that he is to sell these subscriptions to his friends. If he refuses to pay for all ten of the subscriptions, he is dropped from the payroll.

Mr. Costello advised that Huey Long would not tolerate personal dishonesty on the part of his subordinates and that they did not dare pilfer the state owned material, etc. While Huey Long was living, that is; however, during the past four years since his death in September, 1935, the public generally in the State of Louisiana has lost all faith in all public officials. Mr. Garner-Pullins, President of the cotton exchange, according to Mr. Costello, stated that conditions are very bad politically and that it is the plan of the "ring" to steal this coming election.

No WP A worker can hold a job without contributing to the machine according to Mr. Costello. Most of the projects, he states, now have WP A funds in connection with the state funds and 5...of the entire state payroll is deducted and although Mr. Costello does not know to whom it is sent, he advises that it definitely goes somewhere and the 1937 payroll was twenty million dollars for the state of Louisiana and it has increased approximately 40 since that time due to increased WP A
activities. He estimates that in the past four years over six million dollars have been taken by the city from this one source.

He advised that all public contracts, such as paving contracts, are subject to a 5% deduction, such deductions being handled in a hub real manner for the most part. He further advised that Mr. Thomas Dewey of New York City has two men now in custody, one Frank Costello, who was a muscle man for a slot machine king named Aristotle and two, Phil Costello, head of the Alliance Distributing Corporation, handling King's Ransom, Scotch and other liquors. Costello's associate was one Sam Maceo, now under indictment at Galveston, Texas, in a federal court on a narcotics charge. Mr. Costello advises that considerable information can be secured from the above named persons if they will talk. He further stated that Mr. Maceo had been before the grand jury in New York City and that he is in possession of considerable information concerning the Louisiana situation. He was a witness for Dewey.

Four flagrant cases covered in the affidavits furnished to the Attorney General and subject to immediate federal prosecution, according to Mr. Costello, involved: (one) Governor Leche in connection with the building of his new home at Covington; (two) George Caldwell, Superintendent of Construction, Louisiana State University, (three) Superintendent of Conservation of Bayou Labre, Louisiana (between Slidell and Covington, Louisiana); (four) Dr. Clarence Lortie, State Senator, Baton Rouge. With reference to Mr. Lortie, Mr. Costello advised that he was the real cause of Huey Long's death; that he and Dr. Ladreer were two incompetent physicians who were "made" by Huey Long; that they operated upon Huey Long after he was shot and the operation was so bungled and they were so incompetent as physicians that Huey Long died not of the result of the operation but from the shooting itself.

Business Manager E. W. Jackson of Louisiana State University is also supposed to be involved in connection with the use of government owned materials.

Mr. Eddie Herbert, City Editor of the New Orleans States, a daily newspaper in New Orleans, got word of the theft of materials purchased by federal and state funds from the Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge and made arrangements to be notified by certain truckers so that when the trucks left Baton Rouge, photographs were at the home of Lt. Governor James A. Luchlan (during Governor Leche's administration) where material was actually delivered. Photographs of the trucks, the license plates, and the
materials were secured and published and Mr. Costello advised that he has with him in Washington a complete file of the newspapers covering this and will be glad to furnish them to the Department of Justice upon request. He characterized Mr. Hebert as a courageous man, a cold blooded newspaperman, who would make an excellent witness, an excellent investigator, and could stand by his guns.

A hearing was scheduled at New Orleans this morning at 10:30 A.M., and Mr. Costello intended going to see the Attorney General to have an interview with him at this hearing in connection with the theft of material from Louisiana State University. Mr. Hebert advised Mr. Costello that his testimony at this hearing would be to refuse to say a word. However, if the Attorney General of the United States desires to inquire into the Louisiana situation, he, Mr. Hebert, will speak as any representative of the Attorney General. Mr. Costello advised that during his talk with the Attorney General he neglected to ask him if he would have a representative present at the hearing.

Mr. Costello advised that Joe Eoeo, formerly with the Department of Justice, was apparently responsible for the quashing of many indictments, including one against Seymour Vetes on income tax violations following the death of Huey Long; that they actually tried one Abe Chushan, a very wealthy stalwart of Huey Long; that the trial, however, was a travesty on justice; that the jury was fixed and that everyone in New Orleans and in the State of Louisiana openly discussed the fact that the jury was fixed in this case; that the federal judge from an outside state who tried the case was helpless.

Mr. Hugh Milhouson was counsel for Seymour Vetes. Seymour Vetes is alleged to have stated that he had to pay a large sum in the form of a penalty in connection with the civil angle of his income tax case.

Huey Long, according to Mr. Costello, was very bitter against Roosevelt and as a result would not let federal funds come into the State of Louisiana except in the administration of the National Youth Movement. WPA funds did not come in up to after Long's death. Mr. Costello advised that the stealing on a broad scale from the State and the federal government started as soon as Leche became Governor in 1936. Leche and the political ring are accused of putting out the rumor that Forney is protecting them and blocking anything that the President may desire to do. Costello claims that the affidavits he presented to the Attorney General are not colored due to the fact that they were taken in his presence. He was very careful in the preparation of the affidavits to be certain that they were confined to the facts in the knowledge of the affiant. He stated that it is the
opinion of many people, including himself, that unless investigation is started before the January 13, 1940 primaries (the first primaries of any state due to a change in the primary date by Huey Long) there will be a lot of killings in Louisiana. With reference to the pay-offs he stated that many of them are made at 1109 Baronne Street, New Orleans, a gambling joint controlled by Weiss and Naestri; that the money to be paid goes in and gambles and wins the amount of the payment. He pointed out that ex-Governor Roe, who is going to run again, is an old playmate of the men who are now conducting the racket; that, however, he believes they should be prosecuted; that he realizes that no candidate has a chance in the next election unless he makes it definitely known that he is against this vice, gambling, and racket hook-up. Mr. Costello stated that he has contacted every state in the South and that with the exception of Virginia, the leading Roosevelt men are asking why has Frank Murphy, the Attorney General of the United States, not done anything in any southern state, although he has initiated investigations in Kansas City, Detroit, Michigan, New York, etc. He believes that if action is taken in Louisiana, that if dramatic action, it will probably break up cases throughout the entire South, operating on a similar basis, to the benefit of Frank Murphy.

He stated that throughout the South there is a feeling in every state that there are but two prominent national figures who are unquestionably honest and sincere, those two being John Edgar Hoover and Frank Murphy.

He further advised that they have even got rackets working in the Social Security Board offices whereby an application is made for unemployment benefits falsely; the sum received being split. He pointed out that the Yellow Cab Company in New Orleans is owned by Weiss and Naestri and they have arranged for ships docking at New Orleans to dock at places where it will be necessary for the sailors to use Yellow Cabs to get back and forth to the city at a cost of forty cents each way, the ships definitely not docking in their usual places. He points this out to show that things are so organized that they are not overlooking even minor methods of conducting a racket.

He referred to the case of Chester Martin who attempted to protest against certain matters affecting the IRA; that the IRA investigative agency claimed it did not have jurisdiction; that SAC Hood at New Orleans of the FBI claimed the FBI did not have jurisdiction. He stated that this case is covered in the affidavits furnished the Attorney General. He pointed out that Martin would be an excellent contact and would be an excellent intelligent witness that he is courageous and has been given a
position by the President of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. He is interested, after Martin had lost his job due to his efforts to prevent certain irregularities taking place in the VFA.

Mr. Costello, although professing a close personal friendship and interest in the Attorney General, impressed me quite definitely as being interested more in the election of Ree as next Governor of Louisiana than in endeavoring to start a prosecution of the present administration in Louisiana for the sole purpose of benefiting Ree and incidentally himself. He appears to be extremely anxious that something be done immediately and asked that Mr. Hoover discuss the matter with the Attorney General at the earliest possible time. He will remain available in Washington until the first of the month. He can be reached at Michigan 5157 or North 3490 and he is residing at the Brighton Hotel, 2123 California Street, N. Y.

Respectfully,

S. J. Tracy
June 17, 1939

Harry Costello, newspaperman and press representative for former Governor Ford of Louisiana, telephoned with reference to his interview with the writer a few days ago.

He advised that he had just received word from New Orleans that the public hearing he informed me was to be held was postponed indefinitely on the grounds of illness of the Governor. Mr. Costello has been informed that the "ring" is frightened and considerable excitement and consternation exists which apparently is the real reason for the postponement.

He stated that he wanted to furnish another name; that of Mr. Walter Coquille, a radio commentator of New Orleans known locally as the "Lover of Pompom," that this radio announcer has made some very strong assertions on his radio program and claims he can prove each and every assertion made. Mr. Costello suggests Mr. Coquille as a source of information in the event the Department of Justice decides to initiate an investigation.

Mr. Costello stated that he will remain available for further interview in the event further information is desired from him concerning any of the affidavits submitted to the Attorney General.

I thanked him for calling and informed him that the Attorney General was out of the city, as he probably knew, and that I did not know the approximate date of his return; that nothing, however, would be done until the Attorney General had an opportunity to express his opinion concerning the information furnished by Mr. Costello.

Respectfully,

C. J. Tracy
This Is Why the Governor Ordered the Hearing

Governor Richard W. Leche, through Attorney General David M. Ellison, has ordered an open hearing for Thursday in Baton Rouge to investigate the "charges of illegal use of public property" in connection with the use of a Louisiana State University truck to bear window sashes to property listed on the records of the Jefferson parish assessor as belonging to "Catherine McLachlan, Ward 8." Mrs. Catherine McLachlan is the wife of James McLachlan, colonel on the governor's staff. The arrow points to the house under construction on the property and the inset is the automobile license "49-011," listed with the secretary of state in Baton Rouge as having been issued to a truck belonging to Leche.
STATE TO PROBE
L. S. U. TRUCK USE
ON PRIVATE HOME

Leche to Play Prosecutor
and Counsel for Owner
at Proceedings

An open hearing Thursday for
investigation of the use of a truck
purported to be owned by Louisi-
apa State university for the de-
lay of building material for
construction of a private residence
in Metairie was ordered Friday
by Attorney General David M.
Ellison at the instance of Governor
Richard W. Leche.

At 11 a.m. Wednesday a truck
bearing license plates identified
through the office of the secretary
of state as belonging to Louisi-
apa State university delivered
window sashes and other finished
wood to property on which a
house is being erected in the Oak
Park subdivision of Jefferson
parish.

Is McLachlan Property

Building records of Jefferson
parish show that the house is be-
ing constructed on property owned
by Catherine McLachlan. Rec-
dards also show that the house is
being built by James McLachlan,
who is the husband of Catherine
McLachlan.

Governor Leche said in Baton
Rouge Friday afternoon that he
will act as special assistant to the
attorney general and as personal
counsel for his friends, Mr. and
Mrs. McLachlan, at the public
hearing, which has been called for
10:30 a.m. Thursday in the su-
preme courtroom of the state
capital at Baton Rouge.

Attorney General Ellison's for-
mal statement, handed to the
press from his office in the state
capitol late Friday afternoon, fol-
lowed:

"With reference to the story ap-
ppearing in the New Orleans Uni-
versal of this date charging illegal
use of public property, I have, at
the request of Governor Leche, cal-
ned an open hearing to investigate
the charges for 10:30 a.m. Thun-
day, June 13, in the su-
preme courtroom of the new state
capital."
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAYLOR

June 19, 1939

I called SAC Sackett at New Orleans with reference to his letter of May 22, 1939, concerning State Senator James Noe of Monroe, Louisiana.

I told Mr. Sackett the Bureau would like to have a discreet and confidential inquiry concerning the background and activities of Mr. Noe.

SAC Sackett desired to know just how extensive this inquiry should be. I told him in view of the letter he had written and also the fact that Noe had been here in Washington, I thought the inquiry should be complete, and should be sent to the Bureau under personal and confidential cover.

SAC Sackett said he would telephone the Bureau any information obtained from this inquiry.

Respectfully,

Al Rosen
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. F. E. COAT

June 17, 1939

With reference to certain inquiries which have been made concerning the conditions in Louisiana, the former Lieutenant-Governor of Louisiana, Mr. [name], was in Washington this past week and the Attorney General requested me to have a discreet and confidential inquiry made in Louisiana concerning his background and activities, and what his standing might be as to integrity et cetera. I wish that you would have Mr. Backett, our SAC at New Orleans, ascertain this information as soon as possible and then bring it to my special attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Dear Sir:

We note from the press that the Governor says he is interested in the "Federal Judgeship Job," and that he felt that the services would be worth $10,000 per year. We believe this statement to be most amusing to say the least. To us, the taxpayers of Louisiana and also to a majority of state employees, this is out of the question.

In addition to the obnoxious "shakedown of five per cent of the salaries of state employees on May 16th, all state employees had to come across with "double" their former quota usually collected for subscriptions to the "Hammond Progress," and the "deadline" for the payments in Baton Rouge State Department was set for 4:10 on May 31st. We are informed that this huge fund was paid over to the Governor, before he left for Hot Springs, Ark. We are also informed by some of the boys, whose salaries range from $150.00 to $300.00 per month, that their "orders" were to furnish 15 $50.00 subscriptions and $20.00 cash in cash, or else, and that getting $20.00 to $300.00 per month, had orders to submit 15 $20.00 subscriptions or $30.00 cash in cash.

We do not believe that there is anywhere in the United States "Rackets" that would even compare with such as the above, and operated with such brazen effrontery, by those who are the beneficiaries, and who sit "back in swivel chairs, and laugh at the law, our courts, and our grand juries.

In making a casual estimate of the amount in cash, which was turned into the "till" or treasury, on May 31st, from this last subscription racket, based upon the present state pay rolls, and the scale placed with the Department Heads, according to their salaries, we figure the amount of "pay-off" to be in excess of $800,000.00, or approximately more than a half million dollars. Of course everybody knows that this money is supposed to go to the "Hammond Progress," and we also know that our big Governor is very much interested in this newspaper.

We have heard quite a number of comments from some of the "boys," about this latest "racket," in view of this "shakedown of contributions," cutting a big "hole" in their vacation spending money, one of the most unfavorable expressions being: "Well, we employees bought that paper for nick, and no doubt he sees the hand writing on the wall," and he wants to get all he can, while getting is good.

This obnoxious racket, sponsored by its "beneficiaries," who are at present our state officials, these "shakedown" collections made and which are forced on state employees, is nothing more than the worse kind of graft, corruption, and racketeering, and should be stopped; on the eve of a State-wide campaign for the election of state officers, a corrupt machine, is stopping at nothing to enrich themselves, with all they can "grab," in order to perpetuate themselves in office and political power.

There is a feeling in our minds, that an investigation by the Department of Justice of the United States, or J. Edgar Hoover of the General Bureau of Investigation, and the Collector of Internal Revenue would disclose some very interesting details concerning these political "rackets," in view of the huge amounts of "income" collected monthly during the past four years, apparently secreted, and the income taxes due the Federal Government from this nefarious racket is being evaded. Such a fertile field, for such an investigation, and the report, would indeed be financially interesting to the government.

Very respectfully,

[Signature]
Chief J.B.S. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington D.C.
New Orleans, Louisiana
June 19, 1938

Inspector H. G. Du Pont,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

The following information has been requested in compliance with Bureau letter of June 18, 1938 to summarize the manner in which organized crime in New Orleans may be connected with members of the Shapiro-Muckenthaler mob and also to possible intercity and interstate relationships of the various gangs.

"NEW ORLEANS - FURTING CONFESSIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS."

So far as it is known, members of the Shapiro-Muckenthaler mob have no connections in New Orleans; nor is it known that they control any organizations in this city or that they have any influence here.

"NEW ORLEANS - GENERAL ORGANIZED CRIME CONDITIONS."

The City of New Orleans is rather wide open as far as prostitution and gambling are concerned. Other types of crime in New Orleans are negligible. There are no racket unions in New Orleans and racketeering conditions do not exist. During the past six years there have been no crimes of violence resulting in any extensive profit to the perpetrators thereof. All bank robbery gangs have been eliminated - burglaries are comparatively few. Auto thefts are very rare for a city of this size. The NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT is very active in connection with the more serious types of crime and have an extensive informant system so that they have knowledge of almost all activities of criminals within the city.

Prostitution is allowed to flourish with considerable tolerance and regulation. Occasionally raids are made on some of the smaller houses in New Orleans, the exact purpose of these raids not being exactly clear; no streetwalking is allowed. The houses of prostitution are quite orderly and madams of these houses have always proved cooperative with enforcement agencies when called upon to do so. An extensive general strike of investigation has been made by this office in New Orleans over a period of approximately two years without resulting in any information that there is any form of organization among the various operators of the houses of prostitution, nor was there any evidence that the operators of these houses were engaged in the interstate transportation of prostitutes. It is rumored and reported that they are required to make a payroll to certain political elements of the city, which is organized into a group sometimes referred to locally as the "Syndicate," and which is reputed to be composed of the Mayor of New Orleans, the Governor of the State of Louisiana, the Superintendent of the NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPART-
bookies are forced to close down. There has thus far been no indication that these establishments are being moved to any remote districts. The reason for this is that, of course, operated in connection with the gambling establishments at 112-114 Baronne Street. The New Orleans racetrack is operated by the ANTIGONISH JOCKEY CLUB, of which MURPHY MURPHY is President. MR. MURPHY is of a prominent local family engaged in the furniture business. He is, however, merely a front man for the interests which own the track. The track is owned by DANDORAND and the estate of JOSEPH CATTENIS. CATTENIS died during the past racing season. Both DANDORAND and CATTENIS are Canadians, DANDORAND being an expatriate, having been born in Illinois. They are reputed to own a number of the minor race tracks in the United States, including those at Aurora and Fairmont, Ill. DANDORAND is reputed to be a leading figure in the sporting fraternity in Montreal, Canada. It is said that he owns the MONTREAL JOCKEY CLUB and that he controls a racing publication in New York, probably "THE NEW YORK PRESS." He is described as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>48 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>5 feet 7 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>160 to 200 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build</td>
<td>Heavy set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face</td>
<td>Full</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hair</td>
<td>Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complexion</td>
<td>Fudgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appears to be very prosperous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It has been reported that there is a private wire from the New Orleans racetrack to a lottery operated in Newark, N. Y., and that that lottery is operated under the numbers system, that tickets will be combinations of numbers which are sold and the payoff is made on the basis of a winning ticket corresponding with certain numbers appearing in the price paid on mutual prices at the New Orleans racetrack. The local track is supposed to manipulate these numbers in accordance with the lottery operator's desires and is supposed to profit to the extent of $25,000 a week for this service. It is recalled that during the HINES trial at New York City evidence of this operation was brought out, according to newspaper reports here. It does not appear that any lottery tickets are sold from New Orleans, an investigation relative to that having been investigated by Immigration Inspectors in New Orleans who are very much interested in proving a violation against DANDORAND for the purpose of causing his deportation. It is to be noted that DANDORAND was arrested by Immigration Inspectors on an alien warrant and that immediately thereafter Mayor ROBERT S. MARSHALL approached the U. S. Attorney at New Orleans, who caused the complaint to be dismissed. This is purely hearsay from Immigration Inspectors. There has been no other indication of outside influence on the New Orleans gambling interests, except for the fact that during the life of the late Senator HUEY P. LONG and continuing for some time thereafter, the "CRIME" slot machines were given an exclusive franchise in the City of New Orleans; and almost exclusive throughout the rest of the state.
It was reported that certain New York parties representing the manufacturers and operators of the "CHIEF" slot machines had made a deal with Senator LOST so that he was given an annual $250,000 political contribution.

The liquor distributing businesses in New Orleans, as far as is known, are all entirely legitimate; there never has been received here any information that they are not.

The biggest share of the political graft in Louisiana is reported to arise out of the oil field concessions, the State of Louisiana owning numerous lands which are being exploited for oil. The details of how this is handled are not well known.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge.

CEN: abs
AIRMMAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY
Sec-Bureau
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

At the Louisiana Police Officers Association Convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana last week, I had an excellent opportunity to mingle with the State's police officers who, of course, are very influential factors in the State's political situation. ERL L. LONG, presently Lieutenant-Governor of the State, was very much in evidence and openly announced his candidacy for the governorship. I had occasion to visit with Mr. LONG at different times during the Convention. He impressed me as being about the "dumbest white man" I have ever talked to, has very little intelligence, no tact, and not very much common sense. He has an over-abundance of confidence in himself, speaks authoritatively about matters he quite evidently knows nothing about, and generally makes a very poor impression. He is quite stubborn, egotistical, and is the type of man who would not listen to reason or advice from any source.

According to the present trend of the political picture, it is almost certain that ERL LON will receive the Democratic nomination at the caucus of the party which will meet in several months to select a candidate. If he receives that support he has, of course, assured of election. The whole situation now hinges upon the actions of Mayor ROBERT E. MASTRY of New Orleans, who appears to hold the key to the situation. If MASTRY supports LONG in the caucus, LONG will undoubtedly receive the nomination. Mayor MASTRY controls the political situation in the City of New Orleans, and a large majority in the city would be sufficient to overcome any possible plurality in the rest of the State. The principal opponent of LONG for the governorship candidacy is State Senator JAMES A. NOE of Monroe, Louisiana. NOE is very popular throughout the State with the exception of the City of New Orleans, and is an anti-administration man. The only other active candidate for the State administration endorsement for Governor is EDWARD MARTIN, presently State Public Service Commission Chairman. MARTIN is conceded not to have much of a chance. MARTIN was also present at the Police Officers Association Convention; however, he did not take much of a part in the affairs, nor was he invited to make any speeches.

RECORDED  
INDEXED
It can be plainly seen from the activities of the Peace Officers Convention that Superintendent C. B. Long and the State Police are for the candidacy of Earl Long since everything in the program was so planned as to give Earl Long plenty of support and support. The general sentiment of the peace officers in attendance was not very favorable to Long personally, but most of them apparently have taken the attitude that there is nothing which they can do about keeping Earl out and therefore would just have to go along with him.

I received confidential information at the Convention that in the event Long is endorsed by the State Administration for Governor, Earl Christenberry, who is presently Director of the State's Public Relations Office in Washington, will be the running mate of Long for the office of Lieutenant-Governor. I spent quite a bit of time with Earl Christenberry who was also present at the convention, and became personally friendly with him. Christenberry is a very intelligent, tactful, diplomatic and likable individual. He was private secretary to the late Senator Nina P. Long for some time, is a very good student of politics, and is a level-headed, capable young man. Mr. Christenberry is about 35 years of age. His brother, Herbert W. Christenberry, is the first Assistant to the United States Attorney, Rene A. Viges, at New Orleans. The fact that Earl Christenberry will be Lieutenant-Governor in event Earl Long becomes Governor is not known, and this information was given to me in confidence. During my association with Earl Christenberry at the Convention and in general conversation with him, I came to the definite belief that Governor Richard W. Bell is presently in Washington for the purpose of endeavoring to secure the appointment as United States District Judge in New Orleans; that he expects to secure this appointment within the next month or six weeks, and if so will retire from office as Governor to enter upon his duties as Judge within the next two months. Upon this event taking place, Earl Long will automatically become Governor of the State and will be in position to better further his candidacy for re-election as Governor.

The name of Seymour Weiss did not enter into any of the discussions. Mr. Weiss was not present at the Convention, and I received no indication that he is personally active in politics in the State. He undoubtedly, of course, is active behind the scenes.

One of my newspaper friends, Edward Herbert, City Editor of the New Orleans Times, in a general conversation had some weeks ago, informed me of the political situation which coincided almost exactly with the situation as I found it at Baton Rouge, and as related above. Herbert told me that Earl Long is extremely and rabidly anti-Semitic and that if he were elected Governor, the Jews in Louisiana would just about have
to leave the State that for this reason, SAMUEL SAND and other prominent Jews in New Orleans and throughout the State, are bitterly against Long for the governorship and are doing everything in their power to swing the sentiment away from Long.

Sam Gurvich was very much in evidence at the Police Officers Convention. He had his entire patrol force at Great House, all dressed up in blue-grey uniforms. He did a lot of his usual back-slappeing and boasting, and tried to stick his nose into everything that went on. Although I had seen him only twice before, he tried to pretend he was very intimately friendly with me, tried to hang around the same group of people I happened to be with, and kept referring to me as "my old friend E." I more or less ignored Sam and by my actions and language let him and the others know that we were not pals, and that his presence was little short of a nuisance to me. GURVICH made no statements in my presence, nor did any information reach me that he made any statements or comments in any way detrimental or derogatory to the Bureau or any of its personnel. GURVICH, of course, seemed friendly with Long and back-slapped him as much as anyone else in attendance.

There is no question in my mind but that if ERL LONDON is elevated to the Governorship, he will unhesitatingly and without any subterfuge try to dominate the peace officers in Louisiana for his own purposes.

I thought that you should have the information relative to the whole situation as it appears to me at this time.

Very truly yours,

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Special Agent in Charge
At the Louisiana Peace Officers Association Convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana last week, I had an excellent opportunity to mingle with the State's peace officers who, of course, are very influential factors in the State's political situation. EARL K. LONG, presently Lieutenant-Governor of the State, was very much in evidence, and openly announced his candidacy for the governorship. I had occasion to visit with Mr. LONG at different times during the Convention. He impressed me as being about the "dumbest white man" I have ever talked to, has very little intelligence, no tact, and not very much common sense. He has an over-abundance of confidence in himself, speaks authoritatively about matters he quite evidently knows nothing about, and generally makes a very poor impression. He is quite stubborn, egotistical, and is the type of man who would not listen to reason or advice from any source.

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It can be plainly seen from the activities at the Peace Officers Convention that Superintendent GUERRE and the State Police are for the candidacy of EARL LONG since everything on the program was so planned as to give EARL LONG plenty of boosts and support. The general sentiment of the peace officers in attendance was not very favorable to LONG personally, but most of them apparently have taken the attitude that there is nothing which they can do about keeping LONG out and therefore would just have to go along with him.

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The name of SEYMOUR WEISS did not enter into any of the discussions. Mr. WEISS was not present at the Convention, and I received no indication that he is personally active in politics in the State. He undoubtedly, of course, is active behind the scenes.

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I thought that you should have the information relative to the whole situation as it appears to me at this time.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

I called SAC Sackett of the New Orleans Office and advised him the Director desires that he prepare immediately a very comprehensive memorandum relative to the vice, corruption, political set-up, etc. in New Orleans, including the pay-offs, the organization and things of that nature, in order that the matter can be brought to the attention of the Attorney General. He was further advised that if it is at all possible, the Director would like to have this material sent to the Dallas Office by airmail, special delivery, so that the same will be there tomorrow morning. Mr. Sackett stated he would send this to the Director in care of the Dallas Office.

E. A. TAMM
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In accordance with a telephonic conversation I had with Mr. Talma this afternoon I have prepared memoranda dealing with the vice and political corruption situations in New Orleans and in the State of Louisiana. I am enclosing the original and one copy of each of these memoranda herewith.

I am also enclosing a copy of a letter which I addressed to you at Washington but which you have not as yet seen, dated May 22, 1939, dealing with the present political situation in Louisiana, which may be of interest to you.

I might state that Governor Leche is making strenuous efforts to "take over" General Murphy upon his arrival in New Orleans and to entertain him during his entire stay in the State. Mr. James Monroe Smith, President of Louisiana State University, this afternoon telephonically communicated with me and informed that Governor Leche had asked him to give a luncheon at the University at 1:00 P.M. this Monday in honor of General Murphy and Mr. Smith invited me to attend this luncheon. He also sent a telegraphic invitation to United States Attorney Viosca today, as the latter telephonically informed me. I have told all of these gentlemen that I know absolutely nothing about the plans of General Murphy or yourself during your stay here and that I could furnish no information regarding your itinerary or whether you would be available for any luncheons or other meeting purposes. Apparently the Governor plans to meet your party personally, according to Mr. Smith, who also advised me that General Murphy had agreed to stay at the Governor's Executive Mansion in Baton Rouge during the time he was in Louisiana.

I have all the necessary arrangements made here to meet you as well as to take you any place you may desire to go at any time. Unless you advise to the contrary your party will be met by several Agents of this office and myself, without any motorcycle escort, or other State or Federal officials being in attendance.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

B. E. Sackett  
Special Agent in Charge

[Date: JUL 5 1939]
VICE CONDITIONS AND POLITICAL CORRUPTION
IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

GENERAL

Vice conditions in the 64 parishes throughout the state vary considerably. The sheriff of the parish is generally conceded to be the political leader and in control of the political situation. Sheriffs can succeed themselves in Louisiana, and a number of them have held office for many years and are considered to be outstanding political figures in the state. Among these are sheriff TOM HUGHES of Caddo Parish, Shreveport, La., FRANK CLANCY of Jefferson Parish, Gretna, La., G. V. SAUCIER of Avoyelles Parish, Marksville, La., and MILTON COVERDALE of Ouachita Parish, Monroe, La. Gambling and prostitution are prevalent in most of the parishes. At the present time practically every sheriff is a member of the state political machine and hence the organization has control of the conditions generally throughout the state. The late senator HUEY P. LONG had a law passed making it necessary for the Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police to approve deputies sheriff both as to the number of deputies a Sheriff can have and which candidates can be appointed to those positions. In this way, since the Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police is a political appointment of the Governor, the Governor can control the personnel of the sheriffs offices throughout the state to a large extent. Sheriffs in the state are making a vigorous effort to have this law repealed, and are hopeful of success during the next legislative session. There is no evidence of racketeering or of organized criminal gangs operating in any part of the state, the crimes being local in nature and committed by local individuals, and the gambling and other vice is controlled, in the large, by local interests.

PROSTITUTION

The cities of Shreveport and Monroe, La. each has a red light district where the activities of the prostitutes are rather closely supervised. Throughout the rest of the state, outside of New Orleans, prostitutes operate generally unmolested in taverns, eating places, and hotels. There have been no concerted efforts in the state generally to restrict or control prostitution.
The parishes of Jefferson and St. Bernard, which adjoin the outskirts of the city of New Orleans, each has two leading gambling establishments, which are conducted on quite an elaborate scale, those in Jefferson Parish being known as the Old Southport and the Original Southport Clubs, and those in St. Bernard Parish being known as the Jai Alai Club and the Arabi Club. It may be noted that the Jai Alai Club is reputedly operated by the same SMITH and BROWN who live at the Roosevelt Hotel and operate 1187 Baronne Street in the City of New Orleans. Some evidence of a connection with the state political machine in these establishments arose recently when the *Times-Picayune* newspaper of New Orleans photographed state Highway Department trucks and employees working at paving the parking lot for one of the Southport Clubs, resulting in a considerable amount of publicity and the operations of these clubs being suspended for two or three days by GOVERNOR LECHER. When the news value of the story died down somewhat, these places again resumed operations. The usual slot machines and pinball machines are quite prevalent throughout the state, with the exception that slot machines have not been in operation in New Orleans during the past few years.

(Convicts may be pardoned by the Governor or paroled upon recommendation of the State Parole Board, of which LT. GOVERNOR EARL K. LONG is chairman and the state Attorney General is a member. Up until a few years ago the governors were in the frequent habit of "furloughing" prisoners from the state penitentiary for long periods of time, which resulted in a great deal of adverse newspaper publicity. This practice has been discontinued to a large extent under GOVERNOR LECHER. There is no question but what there had been a large number of abuses of the parole system in the state. The Parole Board is constantly paroling long-term convicts, 'though very little publicity has been attendant thereto. It is rumored that EDMUND BURKE, Secretary of the political organization in New Orleans, is the "go-between" or contact man in negotiations to secure paroles for considerations.

The state organization is presently in control of the political situation, and all persons in office are chosen for their loyalty and support of that organization. The primary election amounts to virtually an election to any state office. The state organization selects its candidates through a caucus of the entire party, and support at that caucus is enough to insure receiving the primary nomination. At the present time LT. GOVERNOR EARL K. LONG is endeavoring to secure the party's support for the next Governorship.
of the state. He is opposed principally by two individuals, State Senator JAMES P. NOE of Monroe, who is LONG'S principal opponent, and Public Service Commissioner WADE C. MARTIN, who is conceded to have not much of a chance.

The party dominates virtually all public offices, and the office holders are kept in line quite effectively. Present Governor RICHARD W. LECHE was formerly GOVERNOR O. E. ALLEN'S secretary, prior to becoming Governor four years ago and it is reported that at the time he became Governor he had very little if any money. At the present time he is undoubtedly a millionaire, owning a large home in Covington, La. and having a great deal of oil interest. He also owns and operates a weekly newspaper called the "Louisiana Progress" which, of course, secures a great deal of advertisement from the business institutions currying favor from the administration throughout the state. It is also reported that each state employee has to buy a number of subscriptions to this weekly commensurate with the salary he or she receives from the state. This also applies to the employees of the New Orleans Police Department and probably other city employees. (I have been informed by a confidential contact of mine) that this newspaper netted the Governor about $100,000.00 a year. It was developed during an investigation by this office that the "Louisiana Progress" had assessed the city of Monroe, La. $500.00 for a small advertisement in the paper, which some citizens of Monroe stopped by securing an injunction to restrain the city from paying the money. It is presumed that like assessments were made to other cities in the state.

The New Orleans

It has been alleged and it is commonly known that there is a system of "de-ductions" whereby 5% of each state employee's salary is deducted from his salary check and no accounting is made of the use of these funds except that the money presumably goes for political purposes. A like deduction is made from the salaries of city policemen. The subscriptions to the "Louisiana Progress" are also taken out in the form of deductions from pay checks. It has been estimated by a New Orleans city policeman, related in the strictest confidence, that out of a salary of $135.00 per month approximately $20.00 goes to some form of contribution required of him by the political organization.

The late senator HUKY P. LONG passed a law which is still on the statute books making it an offense for any citizen or group of citizens to attempt to audit the books or records relating to state expenditures.

Respectfully submitted,

B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge.
GENERAL

The present Mayor, ROBERT S. MAESTRI, was an ardent supporter of the late Senator HUEY P. LONG and he is at the present time, insofar as the public knows, the dominant political factor and leader in the City of New Orleans. Persistent rumor has it, however, that in reality ALFRED DANZIGER, a very prominent attorney in New Orleans, is actually "the secret mayor." DANZIGER'S brother GEORGE occupies the position of assistant to Mayor MAESTRI and while ALFRED DANZIGER, himself, is not openly active in politics, he is believed to be the man who counsels and advises Mayor MAESTRI in his activities.

The city political organization is known as the Choctaw Club. This organization is dominated by Mayor MAESTRI, SEYMOUR WEISS, ABE SHUSHAN, a prominent business man and close friend of the late Senator LONG, and several of the City Commissioners. MR. EDMUND BURKE is the secretary of this club and has active charge of the gambling and other concessions granted by the organization. This individual is also reputed to be the go-between on State parole payoffs.

There is no question but what Superintendent GEORGE REYN, of the New Orleans Police Department, receives his orders from Mayor MAESTRI and carries out the wishes of the political organization. As will be set forth in this memorandum, the Choctaw Club grants lottery, gambling and pinball concessions throughout the city and the members of the New Orleans Police Department see to it that these concessions are protected.

The political leaders who dominate the Choctaw Club are also reported to have formed a syndicate into which all graft moneys are paid and through which they are distributed to the various officials in their proper proportions. It is reputed that the income from vice and gambling goes into this fund and is used by members of the organization to invest in businesses, as an example, the syndicate is reputed to have purchased the New Orleans Baseball Club from a Cleveland owner, namely, CHARLES SHONERS. At that time the rumor was very commonly current that a certain sum of money in this fund had been embezzled by one of the men designated to handle it. This syndicate is reported to have purchased through these funds the Maison Blanche Department Store building, the entire block of ground on which the Roosevelt Hotel is situated, the Jacobs Candy Company, the New Orleans Baseball Club and a local bakery and to have invested in other local enterprises.
Governor LECHÉ, SEYMOUR WEISS, ROBERT S. MAESTRI, ABE SHUSHAN and GEORGE REYER are reputed to be the principal members of this syndicate and to have benefitted most personally by these operations. It may be stated that SEYMOUR WEISS is Chairman of the Police Board of New Orleans, as well as President of the New Orleans Dock Board, a State organization, in addition to being President of the Roosevelt Hotel, Jacobs Candy Company and the New Orleans Baseball Club. He wields a great deal of influence through these connections and in conversation with me he just as much as said that Governor LECHÉ would do anything he asked of him at any time.

The City of New Orleans is comparatively free from racketeering and organized vicious crime. The Police Department is known for its third degree tactics in handling the persons arrested and it is not believed that Superintendent REYER or Chief of Detectives JOHN J. GROSCH would permit outside organized criminals to operate in the city. Prostitution and gambling in all forms is very prevalent in the city and is operated as hereinafter described.

MR. SAM GURVICH operates the New Orleans Private Patrol and has about three hundred men working for him. This organization is nothing more than a racket since it purports to do the work that the New Orleans Police Department actually should do. GURVICH'S men are stationed on a great majority of the docks, and patrol and protect most of the better residential districts throughout the city. It is believed that Superintendent of Police GEORGE REYER and possibly Chief of Detectives JOHN J. GROSCH are silent partners with GURVICH in this organization. It is also believed that SEYMOUR WEISS possibly has a financial interest in the organization but it is definitely known that he is very friendly with SAM GURVICH and helps him in every possible manner.

PROSTITUTION

There are about six principal houses of prostitution in the city, all having from twelve to twenty prostitutes, which have operated unmolested for a number of years and with the apparent sanction and approval of those in power. These are as follows:

- GLENN EVANS, 825 Bienville Street - 20 girls.
- BERTHA ANDERSON, 331 Royal Street - 15 girls.
- NORMA WALLACE, wife of PETER HERMAN, the ex-prizefighter, 1026 Conti Street - 15 girls.
- The Plantation, operated by PETER HERMAN and his brother, GUSHER GULOTTA, 322 Burgundy Street - 15 girls.
- DORA RUSSO, 304 Burgundy Street - 12 girls.
Besides these, there are probably fifteen or twenty other recognized houses of prostitution in the city, all of the others, however, being smaller and not as prominent as the ones mentioned. It is believed that CASPER GULOTTA, the brother of PETE HERNAN, mentioned above, is the payoff man or go-between in connection with the payoffs made by the houses of prostitution operators to the syndicate. It is believed that Captain HENRY ASSET, of the New Orleans Police Department, is the police official in charge of enforcement of the rules or desires laid down by the syndicate and is in charge of the "policing" of the prostitution situation in New Orleans.

The only restrictions on prostitution in the city, generally, are that prostitutes must be examined at least once a month, however, this rule is not enforced, and prostitutes are not permitted to solicit on the streets or in any of the hotels but are not molested if they answer a call to any hotel other than the Roosevelt, which they are not permitted to enter. This rule is rather strictly enforced by the Police Department, of course, as a protection to so-called legitimate houses of prostitution. Practically all of the houses of prostitution are in the French Quarter of the city. Investigations conducted by the New Orleans office have indicated that those prostitutes which come to New Orleans from other cities do so, because of the favorable conditions with respect to prostitution here, of their own free will and there has been no indication of any organized transportation of prostitutes to the City of New Orleans.

HORSE RACING AND BOOKMAKING

The Louisiana Jockey Club at New Orleans has an 105-day racing season running from Thanksgiving day until the end of March of each year. A syndicate of track operators owning numerous of the smaller tracks in the United States and Canada, is operated under the direction of one LEO DIANDERACOE, a citizen of Montreal, Canada. One CATHRICH formerly dominated this group but he died during the past season. A local man, ROBERT EDDY, is front man and bears the title of President. This group is closely connected with SEYMOUR WEISS, Mayor NASSISI and members of the local administration. This track is reputed to be one of the most crooked in the country and I have heard it said that at least one race a day is "fixed" and the proper officials are advised of the "fix" as part of their payoff.

During the time the track is in operation no bookmakers are allowed to operate in the City of New Orleans and the Police Department rigidly enforces this rule. When the track closes, however, bookmakers are allowed to operate freely and several hundred of them spring up into business to operate until the track reopens in the fall.
GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS.

There is only one large gambling establishment catering to all the more popular forms of gambling, such as dice and roulette, permitted to operate within the city limits of New Orleans, that being the establishment at 318½ Baronne Street, directly opposite the Roosevelt Hotel, which is run by two individuals known as BROWN and SMITH who reside at the Roosevelt Hotel. Other large gambling establishments are in immediately adjacent Parishes, however. The remainder of the gambling establishments in New Orleans constitute a set of "21" tables, Klondike games and, in a few places, roulette tables are permitted. Most of these are run in conjunction with a bookmaking establishment.

The Choctaw Club, through its secretary, EDMUND BURKE, is supposed to grant these gambling concessions, probably both on a political as well as payoff basis, and the Police Department through Captain ASSET and his Division see to it that only the approved gambling establishments operate.

SLOT MACHINES AND PINBALL MACHINES.

For a number of years slot machines operated openly in New Orleans, there apparently being an exclusive franchise given the makers of the "Chief" slot machines. Due to a great public demand for their removal they were removed and immediately thereafter the practice of putting out Klondike games was adopted by the Choctaw Club. These, likewise, met with a great deal of adverse publicity and were removed from most business establishments, only a few being presently operating in strictly gambling establishments. Pinball machines were next made the subject of attack by the local citizens group and at present only pinball machines not having an automatic payoff are permitted to operate. However, there are at present a great many pinball machines on which the award must be made in cash by the proprietor of the establishment in which they are situated. In effect, therefore, these are actually slot machines. These pinball machines are put out by about a dozen companies or groups, all of them being properly connected with those in power. The Police Department sees to it that only the authorized outfits have machines in operation. There is also unquestionably a large payoff from these pinball machine operators to the syndicate.

LOTTERIES.

At the present time in New Orleans there are about a dozen groups operating lotteries in the city, the activities of which are controlled by the Choctaw Club by concession or franchise with an appropriate payoff to those in power. These lotteries are of varied descriptions. The most popular one is played by the negro and poor white element and has a daily
drawing. One may bet from .05 to $5.00 in the lotteries. Every indication is that these lotteries are locally run and no interstate features have come to the attention of the New Orleans office.

**POLITICAL SITUATION**

The political machine here is an exceptionally strong one. The persons appointed to city offices invariably are loyal supporters of the organization and effectively carry out its orders and objectives in the administration of their respective city departments. A portion of all city employees' salaries goes to their ward boss, as well as other proportions being taken for the benefit of the State political machine. Since the New Orleans Baseball Club has come under the ownership of Seymour Weiss and his associates Mayor Maestri has decreed a half-holiday for all city employees on the first day of the baseball season and practically instructed all city employees to purchase tickets.

The old Tammany Hall methods are used in controlling the votes in the city. The voting strength of the State is such that if a candidate for State office has a large plurality in the City of New Orleans he is virtually assured of election even though losing the balance of the State. The City of New Orleans, therefore, has dominated the State administration, except during the regime of the late Senator Huey P. Long.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge.
62-32509

Section 6
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA

I talked telephonically with SAC Sackett of New Orleans with reference to the last paragraph of the attached memorandum dated July 8, 1939, in which Mr. Sackett requested authority from the Bureau to obtain some information from a safe company relative to a safe which allegedly was constructed in ex-Governor Leche's home. I told Mr. Sackett he was authorized to get this information and give it to United States Attorney Viosca.

Mr. Sackett stated that the WPA Investigators yesterday picked up one Eugene Parksdale, acting Construction Superintendent at Louisiana State University, charging him with diversion of WPA materials. One James Marshall was picked up the day before this, making three persons altogether that have been charged in a Commissioners complaint with WPA violations.

Mr. Sackett said that Agent Weeks was on his way to Washington for retraining and he has something to discuss with me which Mr. Sackett did not care to mention on the telephone.

It is Mr. Sackett's opinion that Alice Grosjean, formerly Huey Long's secretary, should be interviewed thoroughly by someone who has a background of the case, as she was asked by the Agent who interviewed her what information she had and she said if she was asked specifically questions on the different angles of the matter, she would answer the questions, otherwise she would not. The newspaper column, "Washington Kerry-Go-Round," states that she has kept photostatic evidence of the irregularities which have been performed.

Respectfully,

[Signature]
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAW

Re: POLITICAL SITUATION
IN LOUISIANA

SAC Sackett called from New Orleans in connection with the above matter and advised that according to the newspapers this morning State Attorney General Dave Ellison sent a telegram to Attorney General Murphy requesting General Murphy to permit U. S. Attorney Viosca to make available to Ellison all of the information in the possession of his office, presumably that which was presented to the Federal Grand Jury is also included, which relates to any State violations. SAC Sackett stated Ellison has taken the attitude that he is willing to cooperate with the Federal Government in every way and in turn wants the Federal Government to cooperate with him by furnishing all evidence or information to him which has to do with State violations or irregularities.

According to Mr. Sackett it appears that Ellison called Mr. Viosca yesterday requesting a conference for the purpose of exchanging information and at that time Mr. Viosca told him that he was prohibited by the rules of the Department of Justice from furnishing any information except under the expressed authority of the Attorney General. Apparently, in view of this, Ellison sent the above mentioned telegram to the Attorney General.

Mr. Sackett stated he had just received, through an Assistant U. S. Attorney, a message from Mr. Viosca, who is presently at his Summer home in St. Louis, for the day, requesting him to send information to the Attorney General to the effect that he does not want to furnish any information to Ellison for the reason that Ellison is an appointee of ex-Governor Leake and there is every indication that Ellison himself is involved in this matter. Mr. Sackett requested that this information be furnished to the Director.
MEMO FOR MR. TAMM

Mr. Sackett stated that in a teletype Thursday he transmitted a request from the U. S. Attorney asking him to obtain some information from a safe company relative to a safe which allegedly was constructed in ex-Governor Leche's home. Mr. Sackett stated he has received no authority from the Bureau as yet to conduct this investigation and as the U. S. Attorney is anxious about this matter he requested advice as to whether he should proceed with the requested investigation.

Respectfully,

L. R. PENNINGTON

see that all such requests are promptly acted upon.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. FARMER

RE: THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA

DR. JAMES R. SMITH

June 29, 1939

Time: 4:15 p.m.

SAC Bugas called from Detroit to advise me he had just learned that Smith and his wife bought a Ford car from an agency in Dearborn, Michigan, on Tuesday, June 27, for which they paid about $300.00 in cash. The lady gave the name of Smith at the time of the purchase.

A license plate was obtained for the car and a check by the Detroit Police Department and other authorities in Detroit has reflected that the car went into Windsor, Canada, from Detroit between 4:00 p.m. and midnight, probably shortly after 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, June 27.

The license number is 40798, 1939 Michigan plates. Mr. Bugas did not have the motor number but he is to obtain that information.

Dr. Smith and his wife purchased their permit No. P-89348.

In answer to my inquiry, Mr. Bugas stated that Doctor and Mrs. Smith have been definitely identified from the descriptions that appeared in a telegraph.

According to Bugas, the Detroit Police and the Michigan State Police have been vigorously investigating this case since Monday. I instructed him to keep his investigation very discreet and that if there is anything the Bureau wants he would be advised.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Recorded & Indexed

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

[Date]

[Page]
In accordance with the past procedure of this office, there is being transmitted herewith information obtained from an anonymous informant who calls himself "TOM" also copies of two letters which were addressed to the Attorney General.

The informant who calls himself "TOM" and has called this office on previous occasions and furnished information, the substance of which has been furnished you, again telephonically contacted this office on July 17, 1939. He advised that the Times Picayune dated July 16, 1939, carried some information relative to State Senator JAMES A. MOE exposing irregularities relative to the permission of the operation of hand books in New Orleans. He advised that all the persons operating hand books are protected by New Orleans Criminal District Attorney CHARLES BYRNE, and that he believes BYRNE has not paid any income tax on the money he receives.

He advised that all State employees of Louisiana, and employees of the City of New Orleans, are required to contribute 5% of their salaries; that the persons who collected this were very careful not to collect 5% contributions from employees who were receiving compensation from the Federal Government. He advised that the Ward leaders in the City of New Orleans also collected an additional 1% and that the only Ward leader he knew who spent this money for entertaining the persons in his Ward was a Mr. McCONNELL, the leader of the 17th Ward.

He advised that TIMOTHY MORRISON, who was defeated in a Congressional election about a year ago, had a good deal of information in connection with irregularities at Charity Hospital, New Orleans.
This informant advised that he considered LOHIO, a doctor in Baton Rouge, as the principal figure in Louisiana irregularities, and that the former Governor R. W. LECHE merely carried out Dr. LOHIO'S orders.

This individual, in another telephone conversation advised that A. J. FARRACHER, 101 S. Rampart Street, New Orleans, whom he had previously mentioned, and who was in the boot-Neck racket, was related to CHARLES A. BYRNE. He advised that FRANK MAROTTO of New Orleans, who had a criminal record, was the go-between for CHARLES BYRNE, the Chief of Police and the Mayor; that FRANK MAROTTO is the right hand man for the Mayor.

He advised that EDDIE BURKE, New Orleans attorney, acted as a messenger between the former Governor R. W. LECHE and attorneys relating to pardon matters and that this man was paid off as was R. W. LECHE whenever a pardon was issued, but that BURKE did not participate in the graft to the extent that LECHE did. This informant further advised that he understood R. W. LECHE received material from the Charity Hospital in New Orleans which he used on his Covington estate.

The two letters previously mentioned as received by the Attorney General are quoted as follows:

Mansura, La. July 1st, 1939

Att'y General Frank Murphy,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The letter of Rev. Ira Day Lang rector of St. George's Episcopal church, I am for it. Whenever an investigation is made of fraud in voting in this state, please conduct one in Avoyelles Parish - I will be only too glad to testify in an election held Sept. 1938.

Yours truly

/s/ Ouy J. Provot

Baskin, La.
July 8, 1939.
U. S. Attorney General F. Murphy
Washington, D. C.

Hon. Mr. Murphy:

I am writing you in connection with recent investigations in La. It has been rumored that an investigation would be made into the 'Kick In' collected from all State employees.

I wish to say that I have worked for the state for three years, or up until Oct. 31st 1939. At that date I quit working for them. Every check we received we had to kick in 5%. I was getting $2.00 with the exception of about three months that I received $3.00 per day. During this period I paid in or kicked in about $140.00. The kick in was made at the district office or a man would call out to the work to kick this 'kick in' up. They would not give you a receipt or let you pay by check. Failure to 'kick in' automatically removed you from the payroll. As this is a very unfair practice I would like to see it investigated.

I didn't know just who to write but decided to write you. They are so closely associated at Baton Rouge until it would be useless to ask for an investigation from our State Attorney General.

Would it be necessary for me to make an affidavit out to begin a clean up or just what? No present employee of the State can do this as he would be fired outright.

I will be expecting a reply from you.

Thank you

Very Truly

James W. Reagan

Very truly yours,

B. E. Sackett, Special Agent in Charge.
FBI NEW ORLEANS 6-27-39 3-25 PM WH

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA POLITICAL SITUATION. I RECEIVED CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INDICATING JAMES MONROE SMITH SECURED THE ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS CASE LOAN THROUGH HIBERNIA NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ORLEANS JUNE FIFTEENTH AND ALSO RECEIVED THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE NEW ORLEANS AND ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM CITY NATIONAL BANK AT BATON ROUGE. THESE LAST TWO AMOUNTS BEING OBTAINED RECENTLY, DATE NOT KNOWN, BY PUTTING UP FRAUDULENT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY BONDS AS COLLATERAL. THE ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS SECURED FROM THE HIBERNIA NATIONAL BANK JUNE FIFTEENTH EVIDENTLY USED TO PAY BROKERAGE ACCOUNT FENNER AND BEANE. FURTHER THAN FENNER AND BEANE, BROKERAGE CONCERN, ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS PURSUANT TO SMITH'S ORDERS, MADE CHECKS PAYABLE TO VARIOUS HIGH OFFICIALS OF STATE ADMINISTRATION REPRESENTING PROCEEDS IN SMITH'S BROKERAGE ACCOUNT. THE NAMES OF THESE OFFICIALS HAVE NOT BEEN LEARNED AS YET. SMITH NOT YET LOCATED AND SHERIFF NEUMAN

H DEBREMATION OF EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH TODAY OFFERED PERSONAL REWARD OF TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS, NOT PAYABLE TO POLICE OFFICERS, FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO SMITH'S ARREST. INFORMATION JUST RECEIVED THAT SPECIAL SESSION OF EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH GRAND JURY WILL CONVENE BATON ROUGE TOMORROW MORNING TO HEAR TESTIMONY REGARDING SMITH'S IRRIGULARITIES. FEDERAL GRAND JURY AT NEW ORLEANS VOLUNTARILY
REQUESTED OF USA OPPORTUNITY TO INVESTIGATE WPA IRREGULARITIES
AT BATON ROUGE. WPA INVESTIGATORS HAVE INDICATED TO USA HERE
THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE AFFIDAVITS CHARGING WPA IRREGULARITIES
DECLINED TO MAKE WRITTEN STATEMENTS. USA TODAY HAS HAD GRAND JURY
SUBPOENAS ISSUED TO VARIOUS WPA EMPLOYEES TO TESTIFY BEFORE GRAND
JURY COMENCING THIS FRIDAY. USA EXPECTS TESTIMONY TO BE GIVEN BEFORE
FEDERAL GRAND JURY OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL WEEKS. ALLEGATIONS OF
IRREGULARITY INCLUDE INFORMATION THAT CERTAIN BUILDINGS WERE
FABRICATED IN THE COLISEUM OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY BY WPA
WORKERS WITH WPA FUNDS AND THEN TAKEN TO PRIVATE RESIDENCE OF EX
GOVERNOR LECHÉ AT COVINGTON LOUISIANA AND THEN SET UP AS HOUSES.
INDICATIONS ALSO ARE THAT SUPERINTENDENT OF CONSTRUCTION AT LOUISIANA
STATE UNIVERSITY IS UNDER INVESTIGATION IN THIS REGARD. EVIDENTLY
WPA INVESTIGATORS HAVE NOT YET SUBMITTED A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE
USA HERE. STAFF MEN OF NEW YORK TIMES AND NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE
NEWSPAPERS PRESENTLY IN NEW ORLEANS COLLABORATING WITH NEW ORLEANS
TIM TRIBUNE STAFF. THE NEW YORK TIMES REPRESENTATIVE TOLD MY
INFORMANT HE HEARD DEFINITE RUMORS THAT YOU WERE COMING TO NEW
ORLEANS PERSONALLY TO INVESTIGATE THE LOUISIANA SITUATION. FROM
ANOTHER SOURCE I LEARNED THAT SOMEONE ALLEGEDLY FRIENDLY WITH EARL
LONG IS TELLING A STORY TO THE EFFECT THAT HE SAW A TELEGRAM LAST
NIGHT IN LONGS POSSESSION FROM YOU, TO EARL LONG SAYING YOU WERE
COMING TO LOUISIANA TO INSTITUTE AN INVESTIGATION. A STAFF
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE NEWSPAPER IS HERE COLLABORATING.
WITH THE STAFF OF THE NEW ORLEANS STATES AND TIMES PICAYUNE.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE ARTICLES IN THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE WILL PROBABLY BE MORE VIOLENT AND ANTI STATE ADMINISTRATION THAN THOSE WHICH WILL APPEAR IN THE TWO NEW YORK PAPERS MENTIONED. I AM LONG TEMPTED TO ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT EXPRESSING INTENTION TO HEAR THE THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO ALL BRANCHES OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT, BUT THINK SOME OF HIS FRIENDS MIGHT FEEL THE EFFECTS THEREOF. LEECHE LEFT FOR HIS HOME AT COVINGTON LAST NIGHT IMMEDIATELY AFTER RESIGNING AND IS BELIEVED TO BE THERE TODAY. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER PICTURES AND COMMENTS HIS HEALTH APPEARS VERY MUCH IMPROVED. INFORMATION THAT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE WILL TODAY START INVESTIGATION HERE OF WPA ADMINISTRATION IS ERRONEOUS. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE HOWEVER IS EXPECTED TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION HERE UPON RECEIVING ADDITIONAL FUNDS. REPRESENTATIVE CLIFTON W. WOODRUM OF VIRGINIA WAS CHAIRMAN OF THIS SUB COMMITTEE. DR. E. S. RICHARDSON, WHO LAST NIGHT WAS NAMED PRESIDENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY TODAY ANNOUNCED HE DECLINED TO ACCEPT APPOINTMENT, THEREUPON GOVERNOR LONG IMMEDIATELY NAMED PAUL M. HEBERT, DEAN OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, AS ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.

SACKETT

ENC

OF FBI WASHINGTON DC RLA
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 18, 1939

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

Dear Sir:

RE: MONTE E. HART - MAIL FRAUD
LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

I am transmitting herewith a copy of the indictment which was returned by the Federal grand jury yesterday against MONTE E. HART, JAMES MONROE SMITH, J. EMORY ADAMS, SETYMOUR WEISS and LOUIS C. LESAGE in connection with the Mail Fraud offense.

There are also attached here to copies of the following statements which were turned over to this office by Assistant United States Attorney Leon Hubert:

(1) Statement made in the office of the Intelligence Unit, Room 343, Post Office Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, at 9:30 A.M. July 17, 1939, by SETYMOUR WEISS.

(2) Statement made in the office of the Intelligence Unit, Room 323, Post Office Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, July 12, 1939, by LOUIS C. LESAGE.

(3) Statement made in the office of the Intelligence Unit, Room 323, Post Office Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, July 14, 1939, by LEON C. WEISS.

A transcript of the evidence of MONTE HART given before the grand jury on July 6, July 12 and July 14, 1939, will be summarized and transmitted to the Bureau by air mail, special delivery, tomorrow.

Insofar as this office has been able to ascertain, the evidence transmitted herewith and that previously transmitted to the Bureau is all of the evidence which has been obtained to support the indictment which was returned yesterday. It is not believed that the United States Attorney or the agency investigating this case has any evidence additional to that which has been furnished the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Enclosures

FILED ON
[Date]
by said oven to the direction shown by the map of the establishment of the United States of New Orleans, Louisiana, a certain letter enclosed in a postpaid envelope addressed to the Director, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, New Orleans, Louisiana, which said letter was and is of the non-
returnable, to-wallet

From the US
24-25 New Orleans Branch 24-25

That at the time of mailing it was delivered by said officer of the division

thereon the said letter, as aforesaid, the said defendant, MARK B. RACE,

being described by his name being neither the Bank nor their and there will hereinafter be any agreement for the purposes of obtaining the said plans and specifications and the said plans or specifications the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State of Louisiana, and the successors of the State of New Jersey, to the former of the statutes in each case made and provided and applied the power and dignity of the United States,

(Signed) A. JOHN PERRY
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES

(Signed) HERBERT B. CUMBERBUT
ASSISTANT U. S. ATTORNEY

(Signed) ALFRED HARRIS
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO
THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
be sold completely, subject and other encumbrances of the Mobile Rebel
property to be acquired by The Louisiana State University and Agricultural
and Mechanical College in consideration of the said payment of $75,000 and
that all of said encumbrances will cease that the said National Equipment
Company, Inc., could convey no title or right to said property.

And the said Second Parties, having been informed that each and
every one of the partners, copartners, participants and owners of said

In the State of New York, on the (original), between

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A. M. COLLEGE

Baton Rouge, La., Oct. 20, 1869.

Pay to the
Order of
National Equipment Co., Inc. -- $75,000.00

$75,000.00

Louisiana State University and A. M. College

This voucher, when properly endorsed, becomes
payment in full for items listed. Alterations and
changes render null and void return if not correct.
by National Equipment Company, Inc., of machinery and equipment of the said
DeWitt Hewitt for the sum of $90,000, and that the defendant, HAWTHORNE HILL
approved for payment the said sum for said Hewitt and presented the check of the
Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to the order
of the National Equipment Company, Inc., in the sum of $90,000 to forgiving
that the defendant, HAWTHORNE HILL, obtained possession of said check for
$90,000, that the said HAWTHORNE HILL then proceeded the undersigned of said

In further consideration of the said sum of $90,000 for the machinery and equipment of the
said DeWitt Hewitt, I hereby

on the 30th day of October, 1964, executed the promissory note of $90,000 in favor of the National
Equipment Company, Inc., of the City Bank of the City Bank of
the City of New York, dated the 30th day of October, 1964, to the order of the said
National Equipment Company, Inc., in the sum of $90,000, for the machinery and equipment of
the said DeWitt Hewitt, and further agreed that the defendant, HAWTHORNE HILL, shall receive the
balance of the said sum of $90,000 as his own property and for his own use and benefit; that the defendant, HAWTHORNE HILL, received from the National
Equipment Company, Inc., the sum of $90,000 in consideration of said check for
$90,000, and that the said HAWTHORNE HILL then

And your Grand Jury further present and charge: That in pursuance
of said scheme and for the purpose of carrying out said scheme, the defendant,
HAWTHORNE HILL, on his own behalf and on behalf of the other defendants herein,
Pursuant to the terms of the above-quoted agreement, the property described therein was conveyed to the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College by the sale of the old Broussard Mount, with all the equipment and apparatus to the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College for the sum of $100,000, on or before September 15, 1962, as a result of said negotiations and under this Court's supervision, the property was conveyed together with the equipment, fixtures and other contents to the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College. It was agreed that the new building was to be used by the defendants, then in possession, for the equipment of the new building of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College. The building was constructed of brick and had an area of approximately 40,000 square feet. The building was located on the campus of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the building, fixtures and other contents of the Broussard Mount, and all of the equipment conveyed herein were conveyed to the defendants in connection with the sale of the old Broussard Mount.

The defendants, in the course of the negotiations, made various representations to the plaintiff and the defendants, NEAR L. MILL and the defendant, EUGENE WINT, prepared and caused to be prepared an invoice addressed to the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which invoice purported to cover the sale to Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.
In the District Court of the United States, for the
Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans Diviison, the U.S. v.

The Grand Jury of the United States, in an indictment, found

and charged that on or about September 30, 1938, MOORE and

representations and claims from the Louisiana State University and Agricultural

and Mechanical College, the School of Journalism and the Department of the State

of Louisiana and others whose names are to your Grand Jurors unknown, which

with certain instructions and articles of specific was to be affected by the use and misuse

the post office establishment of the United States, and in furtherance of

for the purpose of committing said scheme and article did deposit and

debtors in an unauthorized depositary for mail matter to be

and delivered by the post office establishment of the United States,

and did come to be delivered by mail according to the direction thereof air

and money letters and checks, being said scheme and articles to defraud was

substance as follows:

That the defendants, MOORE and BANKLEY WEISS were officers

of a certain corporation known as the Lee Circle Hotel Company, Inc., which

corporation owned a certain building known as the Bienville Hotel and the

land upon which it is situated in the City of New Orleans, together with all

the equipment, fixtures and other contents located in the said building; that

on or about September 30, 1938, the exact date being unknown to your Grand
Pursuant to the Corporate Sales Agreement, Inc., settling through the agency, the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, with Richard B., E. Kent, Secretary of Louisiana, and with the appointed Farm Bureau Co., for the sale of the said Bienville Hall, with all its equipment and contents to the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College for the sum of fifty-three thousand five hundred dollars ($53,500) on or before September 25, 1921, in accordance with negotiations the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and all other necessary documents that would constitute the sale of the said Bienville Hall, together with its equipment, fixtures, and other contents to the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College were in progress of negotiations, the defendants, HENRY R. MANN, SAMUEL MASON, and F. HENRY BOUTON, incorporated with the defendant, E. KENT, and the defendant, E. W. STEWART, in negotiations with the defendant, E. KENT, as principal, respectively, and principals, under said contract and agreement with the defendant, E. KENT, were duly authorized to enter into said agreement and contract with the defendant, E. KENT, and all of the defendants jointly agreed among themselves that they would lend their personal aid and assistance in effecting the said pretended sale and in making a proper and full distribution of the said sum of $53,500, proceeds thereof, that the defendant, HENRY R. MANN, and the defendant, E. W. STEWART, prepared and caused to be prepared an invoice on a billhead of the National Equipment Company, Inc., addressed to Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which invoice purported to cover the sale to Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.
In favor of [REDACTED] Company, [Name], of [REDACTED] and equipment of the [REDACTED] Corporation, for a sum of $50,000, that the defendant, [Name], hereinabove herein approved for payment, the said sum for $50,000 and caused the check of the [REDACTED] State University and Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges in the name of the National Equipment Company, Inc., in the sum of $50,000 to be issued that the defendant, [Name], hereinabove, obtained possession of said check for $50,000. That the said [Name], hereinabove, issued the instrument of said check, to the order of the [REDACTED] State University and Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges, in the name of the National Equipment Company, Inc., in the sum of $50,000 for his own use and benefit that the said defendant, [Name], hereinabove, on the 17th day of November, 19__, delivered the check for the sum of $50,000 in said to the [REDACTED] State University and Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges, in the name of the National Equipment Company, Inc., in the sum of $50,000. That the said [Name], hereinabove, on the 11th day of November, 19__, at the [REDACTED] State University and Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges, in the name of the National Equipment Company, Inc., in the sum of $50,000. That the said defendant, [Name], hereinabove, on the 11th day of November, 19__, at the [REDACTED] State University and Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges, in the name of the National Equipment Company, Inc., in the sum of $50,000. That the said defendant, [Name], hereinabove, on the 11th day of November, 19__, at the [REDACTED] State University and Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges, in the name of the National Equipment Company, Inc., in the sum of $50,000. That the said defendant, [Name], hereinabove, on the 11th day of November, 19__, at the [REDACTED] State University and Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges, in the name of the National Equipment Company, Inc., in the sum of $50,000. That the said defendant, [Name], hereinabove, on his own behalf and on behalf of the other defendants herein,
Presented the promissory note of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College drawn to the order of National Equipment Company, dated the 1st day of October, 1918, for the sum of $75,000 to the City Bank of the United States to be paid, the proceeds of which being placed in the account of the note shall be held upon the City National Bank of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and that it would be necessary in order to enforce collection that the said note be presented to the City National Bank of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

And on the 1st day of October, 1918, the City Branch of the United Bank of New Orleans, Louisiana, were paid and satisfied in this, to-wit: that the defendants, and each of them, was holding in trust for said defendants, State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the proceeds of said promissory note, including all and every article of personal property and fixture, raw materials, implements of worship, and other articles of said National Equipment Company, used, or intended to be used, in the operation of said National Equipment Company, to wit: that the defendants, and each of them, was holding in trust for said defendants, State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the proceeds of said National Equipment Company, used, or intended to be used, in the operation of said National Equipment Company.
By post according to the directions given by the post office establishment of the United States at New Orleans, Louisiana, a certain letter addressed in a postpaid envelope addressed to New Orleans Branch, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, New Orleans, Louisiana, which said letter was not at the time following, to wit:

"From W. H. W.  
14-43  NEW ORLEANS BRANCH  
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK  
ATLANTA, GA.  
24-43  
15000  
NEW ORLEANS, LA."

We have enclosed your letter dated June 3, 1949 together with our check for $1,000.00. We respectfully request you to extend the time for payment.

In further support of the above, I enclose herewith:

[Signature]

JAMES R. D. C. CLIFTON
(Oct. 30, 1949)

INSTRUCT AND EXPLAIN THE ABOVE FORM AS YOUR LETTER OF ADVICE.

That at the time of writing to be delivered by mail according to the directions therein the said letter, as aforesaid, the said defendants, JOHN E. HARRIS,

JAMES E. HARRIS, Jr., SEAN JAMES, CHARLES BROWN and LOUIS R. LEAGUE therein and there will know that the said letter was for the purpose of causing such

and the purpose of arresting the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State of Louisiana, and the Taxpayer of the State of Louisiana contrary to the terms of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the United States.

[Signature]

JAMES D. VITTO
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES

[Signature]

ARNOUD BARNES
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL and SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

[Signature]

HERBERT H. C. CHRISTENSEN
ASSISTANT U. S. ATTORNEY

[Signature]

LEON D. HARRIS, Jr.
ASSOCIATE U. S. ATTORNEY
Mr. Weiss, we are conducting an investigation of the income tax liability of Dr. James Monroe Smith, the National Equipment Company, Mr. E. A. Hart and Mr. Louis O. LeSage and perhaps others for the year 1936. We have information which indicates you might have some information bearing on those matters and we are asking this morning that you give us such information as you have to get into the record that we are making. You have no objection to furnishing us with such information, have you?

No sir.

We will ask that you be sworn, please. Do you solemnly swear that the answers you will give to the questions about to be asked will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

I do.

Q 1. Your name is?
A 1. Mr. Seymour Weiss.

Q 2. And you are connected with the New Orleans Roosevelt Corporation?
A 2. Yes sir.

Q 3. You are president of that corporation?
A 3. Yes sir.

Q 4. That corporation owns the Lee Circle Hotel Company?
A 4. Yes sir.

Q 5. In 1936 our information is that the Lee Circle Hotel Company sold to the Louisiana State University, an agricultural and mechanical college, the building known as the Bienville Hotel. Did you handle that transaction on behalf of the Lee Circle Hotel Company?
A 6. I authorized it and assisted in the sale, but actually did not make the sale, but it was handled by the vice-president, Mr. Hart.

Q 6. Did you negotiate with any person concerning the sale of the Bienville Hotel?

A 6. Well, I did all I could to sell it. I did not, actually, handle the sale of it. I will be glad to give you what I did in this connection.

Q 7. Yes, do please.

A 7. I would like to put in facts leading up to it. The Bienville and Roosevelt were one corporation at one time, and when I took over the two hotels the Bienville was in bad shape and owed a lot of money and later, in 1935 or 1936, I started negotiations with the Federal Government, I believe with the Federal Land Bank, or one of those Federal Dividens for the sale of the Bienville. The agent in the case was Mr. Casamento, who is a local real estate agent. The Government sent down a great number of men to see if it would meet requirements. They made many estimates and examinations. I thought it was a long deal, but that it would go through. Sen. Harris and Governor Long had disputes over it, and the deal fell through, after it had just gotten to the point where we thought it was going through. After Huey's death the Charity Hospital project was approved and Mr. Hart came and said to me he had made up an estimate, which he considered thorough, and consisted of some 100 pages, and he found the building would make an excellent temporary home for the nurses while the Charity Hospital was being built. He thought the State should buy this structure; that the contemplated home for the nurses would be a wooden structure and was not fireproof, etc. and in due time these negotiations were started.

Q 8. May I interrupt? Did Mr. Hart have any contact with Dr. Smith in your presence?

A 8. No sir, does the above answer your question? Furthermore, after the hospital was completed, rather than demolish this $600,000.00 structure they would still have the structure, which they could move into - that is they could move some departments of the state that were paying rent, and the upper floors could be used as a dormitory for the medical students. So on that basis the negotiations were started; it sounded like a sound, economical proposition.

Q 9. May I ask now, all of this benefit, or proposed benefits to the state - was that your selling idea to the University, or was that the idea of the University - whose idea was it?

A 9. Mr. Hart started the whole thing. I think he thought he would build the Charity Hospital. He put in a bid for the building
of that structure. My negotiations with the Federal Government had gone so far I had asked for permission to operate a cafeteria for the employees they might have in the building.

Q 10. After that Mr. Hart started negotiations for the sale of the hotel through the Louisiana State University? The sale.

A 10. Do you know whether or not there was any formal written contract of sale of the hotel? Mr. John, I must admit my ignorance. I knew nothing about it if there was. I never authorized and approved that it be sold, and later did everything I could to sell it.

Q 11. Can you state now whether you contacted any person other than the Governor in connection with the sale of the Bienville Hotel? I had of course previously spoken to Huey Long and Senator Allen. Never any:one but the Governor.

A 11. Do you recall what the sale price of the hotel was to be to Louisiana State University? The price was $375,000.00, which was probably, I think, $50,000 less than I had offered it to the Federal Government.

A 12. Did that price include also the equipment of the hotel? No sir, I never intended at any time to have it include anything but the building.

Q 12. Do you know whether or not the act of sale shows that the equipment was sold along with the hotel? No sir, again I must admit my ignorance.

A 13. You did not execute it on behalf of the Lee Circle Hotel Company? No sir, not that I recall. As a matter of fact, when these negotiations were started it looked like they were going to buy, the question arose as to how quickly the equipment could be gotten out of the building and the equipment from the nurses home moved in. The equipment in the hotel was not appropriate for a nurses home, double beds had to be taken out and single beds put in. It was contemplated to move all of the equipment out of the hotel and then move the furniture from the nurses home into the hotel building.

Q 14. From whom did you get this information? Mr. Hart told me this. All of the equipment from the nurses home was to be moved intact. There was much confusion at that time. For instance, I had a nun or of guest - permanent guests
and in order to keep peace and still get them out in a month's time, I had to let some of them stay in the hotel a month free. The hotel had to be empty by the time the nurses were paid. So I tore them down.

Q 18. Did Mr. Hart know that it was your intention that the sale of the equipment was to go along with that of the buildings? He should have known it.

A 18. You discussed it with him?

Q 19. Yes, I never intended it should be so, at that price to the University.

A 19. Can you state what Mr. Hart did in connection with the sale of the hotel?

Q 20. As I said, he spent a great deal of his time with Mr. Smith and the hospital authorities. He handled the entire negotiation. I was busy getting people satisfied, moving them to the Roosevelt and Pontchartrain Apartments.

A 20. Do you know what commissions were paid in connection with the sale?

Q 21. I learned later.

A 21. Did you know at that time?

Q 22. No sir.

A 22. You knew that no commissions were paid?

Q 23. Yes, I knew that I had gotten a commission for the sale of the hotel.

A 23. Was that commission $37,800.00?

Q 24. No sir, it was $37,800.00, about 9.

A 24. And was that the only commission that you knew about at that time?

Q 25. I will say this, Mr. John, whether you call it a commission or whatever name you want to call it - after the sale was completed, and during its negotiations - you see the nurses actually occupied the hotel 30 days before we were paid, Mr. Hart was working on it. I was interested in a given amount of money. My reason was because of obligations which I had. I owed so much money on first and second mortgages on the Bienville and Roosevelt - one to the other. I was interested in getting enough money to wipe out the obligation. Hart was helping to get the deal through, and he said that he would for me to turn over to him the furniture and fixtures, linens, silverware, china, etc., which I readily agreed to do.
Q 33. Was this turning over the fixtures and furnishings, etc., to Mr. Hart in the nature of a gift?
A 33. It was for his services, for his extraordinary services.
Q 34. Was it given to him personally in the nature of services rendered, you all.
Q 35. Are you in any way connected with the National Equipment Company?
A 35. No sir. As a matter of fact I had never heard of it.
Q 36. Then you would not know how the National Equipment Company came into possession of the fixtures and furnishings of the Biscarville Hotel?
A 36. No sir. I do know, however, that Mr. Hart and others whom I cannot name, because I do not know their names, spent several days making an inventory of all of the furniture, china, silverware, artpieces, linens, etc., that were in the hotel.
Q 37. Did you obtain that information from Mr. Hart?
A 37. I did not see them make it, but he told me they were making it. Some of the hospital officials were with them.
Q 38. You used the word "they." Who else do you have reference to?
A 38. He is the only one.
Q 39. The act of sale for the Biscarville Hotel indicates that the 1954 taxes were to be prorated between the Louisiana State University and the Lee Circle Hotel Company. Do you know whether the taxes were prorated or that Louisiana State University paid all the taxes or if the Lee Circle Hotel Company paid all the taxes? I do not know. I have to admit my ignorance. I do not know sir.
Q 40. Do you recall ever having made contact with or had conversation with Mr. Hart concerning that matter?
A 40. I do not recall such a conversation.
Q 41. If the act of sale provides that the furniture and equipment of the hotel is included in the purchase price of $675,000.00, can you account for its having been sold by Mr. Hart and/or the National Equipment Company to Louisiana State University?
A 41. If the act of sale calls for the hotel, furniture and equipment I do not see how it could be sold twice. If the act of sale had included the fixtures and furnishings I certainly would not have accepted the property and then turned around and given them something which I had already sold. I say again, I did not see
the set of sale.

Q 36. Can you give any explanation of why the equipment and furniture and fixtures of the hotel would have been included in the set of sale if it had not been the intention of the Universal Hotel Company to sell this equipment along with the hotel?
A 36. I can give you no reason why it should have been done. It was never my intention to sell the hotel on that basis - it never was. The furniture and equipment were never included. At no time did I contemplate such a thing.

Q 37. When you speak of equipment?
A 37. I speak of its physical fixtures, linens, carpets, silverware, china, spoons and all of that. We refer to that as fixtures and furniture and equipment.

Concerning the tax liability of Mrs. Louis G. LeSage, you are of course, acquainted with him.

A 37. He lived at the hotel with me for many years, that is, he would come to town for three or four days, and would always be my guest.

Q 38. Please state whether or not you had any financial transactions with Mrs. LeSage in the year 1935.
A 38. Mr. John, I will have to explain to you, sir, that Mr. LeSage is one of my most intimate friends. As far back as '29, LeSage, who in my opinion is a fairly well-to-do fellow, has spent a great deal of time with me. I have loaned him money innumerable times way back when we started our friendship. You ask me if I had any financial transactions with him. Scarcely, he may have said, give me $300.00, or I may have said, let me have $500.00 and if either of us had it it was given to the other. You are going to ask me about this other thing - I know.

Q 39. Please state whether or not there was a transaction between you and Mr. LeSage in the amount of $14,000.00 odd dollars.
A 39. Yes sir.

Q 40. Do you recall just exactly the date of that transaction?
A 40. No, but it was late in 1937 as I recall it.

Q 41. Would you have any way to establish the date of that transaction?
A 41. No sir, I would not.

Q 42. Please state just exactly what the transaction was, how it arose, etc.

Q 42. Mr. LeSage, as I said, was a frequent visitor of mine, and has for many years come up to my office at midnight and sat with me.
while I would dictate mail by dictaphone, sign checks, and attend to business generally. We would talk to me, and on this one time, I was inspecting the fact that I was buying and needed some money. He said he would lend me some. I told him I needed that money — that I needed $10,000.00 or $15,000.00. He said he would be glad to let me have it, which he did.

Q 69. Do you recall in what form we gave you the $15,000.00?
A 69. It was in cash. In large denominations, I think it was in cash.

Q 66. Do you have any knowledge as to how Mr. Le Sage might have acquired this money?
A 66. He had told me previously about having this money, and then I paid the money, he offered it to me, which I did not understand. I would have done the same for him. He has done this for many years.

Q 65. Did you execute a note as evidence of the loan?
A 65. Mr. Le Sage, I did not actually execute a note, what it was actually an acknowledgment of an individual loan. In case I should fail, he would have some security for what I had borrowed from him. It was not a maturity note, not to be paid in 30 or 60 or 90 days. Louis knew I would not borrow from him unless I could pay it back. As a matter of fact he insisted that I give him no note, but I insisted that I should. It wasn't a question of indebtedness, just that he should have some security of the fact that I had borrowed the money from him.

Q 64. Did it provide for the payment of any interest?
A 64. I do not think so, sir. I know I had never charged him any interest and I don't think that he would have collected any from me.

Q 67. Have you seen the note recently?
A 67. No, I was in New York City, and LeSage called me, asking me where it was. I recalled giving it to him. I remember at the time he did not want me to, but I gave it to him.

Q 68. (LeSage, until otherwise indicated) Mr. Neary: can you relate to us how the Lee Circle Hotel Company was formed, that is from a financial standpoint?
A 68. Yes, I think so. I think it was in 1931 that I went to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and they asked if I as an individual wanted to acquire the mortgage which they presently held on the Roosevelt and the Bicent. I asked them to permit me to do so. Both of these mortgages were at that time signed by the
Vaccaro Bros., who were very anxious to get out of the hotel business. The mortgage was signed by them. I asked them to let me assume the mortgage. Then I put up the two institutions as separate — separate sets of books — one the Roosevelt and the other the Lee Circle Hotel Company, because of the indebtedness of each one. One of the reasons for the separation of the two companies, in the New Orleans I used Mr. Paul Sanders and Mr. Samuel Zemurray a mortgage of $250,000.00 and then there was an obligation to the Metropolitan for, I think $100,000.00 plus a great number of years of interest which had accrued. Does that answer your question?

Q 49.
In forming the Lee Circle Hotel Company all that was done was to transfer the assets and liabilities from the new to the old corporation?

A 49.
Yes, I think so — I am not a bookkeeper, I think that is correct.

Q 50.
In connection with the furniture and fixtures and equipment — they were given to Mr. Hart for services rendered. Were they given to Mr. Hart personally, or to the National Equipment Company?

A 50.
To Mr. Hart, I did not know about the National Equipment Company.

Q 51.
Was this given to him after the sale was made to Louisiana State University?

A 51.
No, this was all part of the negotiations. He said, if the hotel is sold, I want the equipment.

Q 52.
Did Mr. Hart say to you why he wanted the equipment?

A 52.
No, except that I had already told him that I needed so much money and that I could not pay any other commissions on the sale, and I assumed that he was to go out and sell it, by auction or otherwise.

Q 53.
About the commission of $27,500.00 that was paid to you. Was that all you got? You kept it all?

A 53.
I got it all, reported it and invested it almost immediately.

Q 54.
You mentioned previously that you had no intention of selling the furniture, fixtures and equipment. What use would you put this equipment to in the event you sold the hotel without the equipment?
A 54. I could have used it. I knew it had value, and naturally, I was interested in having it completely furnished as a hotel.

Q. 55. Did you have in mind what would eventually be done with this equipment had it not been given to Mr. Hart?

A 55. I would have used some of it. Some hotel might have wanted to buy it. Silverware and chintzware are valuable. All of the things could have been used by us, or a hotel in Vicksburg, as far as that is concerned. They are the sort of things that can be used. They do not necessarily have to be put to immediate use, as they are valuable and their value does not decrease.

Q. 56. What was the approximate value of this equipment that was given to Mr. Hart?

A 56. It would be very difficult to tell you that, or what the value would be. About all I can say is that it would be worth what you could get for it. To figure to furnish a room in a hotel costs $1,000.00 a room. The rugs, draperies, fans, furniture, pictures, etc. are all included. $1,000.00 furnished. Some hotels furnish a room for less, but they use cheaper things. As a matter of fact, I wish I were in New York City, because I have a big deal on now and I estimate that it would cost more than a $1,000.00 or more, and that would show the value of the furniture and fixtures. In estimating the cost of a room in a hotel we include chairs, silverware and all of that. We figure things of that nature on a room basis.

Q. 57. The equipment which you had in use at the Bienville Hotel was naturally in use. Could you give me an estimate on an open used basis?

A 57. That is one of those intangible things. It depends on who would want it - if sold piece-meal, not so much - if sold at auction, not so much, but if someone really wants it, a good price could be got for it. It depends on who the purchaser would be. It might be kept for months. Right now I am trying to get another hotel in New Orleans. Had I had available that furniture and fixtures, it would save me almost $1,000.00 a room. But I have not that furniture and fixtures now. It is impossible to establish the value that way.

Q. 58. In connection with the note that you gave Mr. Lesage, is it more or less in the form of an I.O.U. rather than in the form of a note?

A 58. I call it an acknowledgment for want of a better word. It showed I borrowed and owed the money. I would have been up against it had he asked me for the money within a certain date. He asked for no date, or maturity note.
Q 59.  
A 59.  
**Put the note dictated or typed out?**
I will have to guess. I have noted forms in my book. I have hand written and written forms to Lusin and the note. I was going to give him a note, and whether is not I wrote it in longhand, I cannot remember. I tried to read the note, and remember it with Lusin since we have been. It was several my intention to give a security note on it, I just gave him to the money. If anything happened, he had my acknowledgment of the money having been borrowed, and if he could not take care of it, my brothers could. I went to say, however, at the time he insisted strenuously I not give him the note. He said I have never taken one from you and I don't want one from you. He said this is a loan of money, but I insisted that at least take an acknowledgment of the loan. Actually, it was an acknowledgment. LeSage is completely familiar with everything I have. He knew my potentiality, and he knew all about them. I have a number of things that could make me a very rich man. He told me yesterday I could get $300,000.00 for a lease. It may be a big factor. LeSage knows that. He knows that I would not borrow unless I could or would pay.

Q 60.  
A 60.  
**He does not own any equitable interest in your holdings?**
No sir. Not at all. I don't know, Mr. John, that you have ever had a friend like this. I doubt that you have. To begin with he came from within 25 miles of my home. We were children together. He has gone through desperate times together, by his side. A person just could not have a more intimate friend. He is my closest friend.

Q 61.  
A 61.  
**Have you made any payments on this obligation to Mr. LeSage?**
No sir.

Q 62.  
A 62.  
You mentioned previously that you were in desperate need of funds when you borrowed this money. Could you tell us at this time what use you put this money to?
I don't recall at this time. It may have been to meet a note, to pay up some bills. In all probability to take care of some obligation.

Q 63.  
A 63.  
We talked to Mr. LeSage about the $1,400.00 note as we thought it was unusual to give a note that size note or money, rather, and not take a note.
Mr. John, I have three brothers, and LeSage is like my fourth brother. I love them all, and would do anything within my power for any of them. There is nothing I would not do for Louis, and there is nothing he would not do for me. He could not ask me
for anything that I would not give him. It is a friendship of a lifetime. I have gone through many hardships with him, and have been able to give him my heart and confidence.

You can appreciate why the Bureau of Internal Revenue might question such transactions.

I am rather fast, certainly, if your bank's is so good as your father's - if I had been Lathrop would have to worry with this questioning. I would have insisted in a note. He has been worrying since 1932. He has always been very kind, and kind at the time when I had my back up against the wall - during Huey P. Long's lifetime and things were so stormy.

(John) In connection with the sale of the Bienville Hotel - for the sum of $600,000.00, were any commissions paid to any one else?

No sir. When we had gotten all our money - it was resolved in three payments - I had looked over the whole picture. There was less that $60,000.00 to $10,000.00 we could carry as a profit on the transaction.

That was after your commission had been paid.

That was after my commission had been paid. There was no commission other than nine of ½ - it is what I would have paid to Mr. Hart or any other real estate man.

(Lambert) Why was it necessary to pay a commission of ½ when the furniture and fixtures were given to Mr. Hart in selling the hotel.

I felt I had done my share. Certainly the University without the Governor's approval could have done it - without the Governor going to Washington to get the approval of friends for the hospital. I was entitled to something. For your information, I drew a very small salary. I do that deliberately, because I am interested in increasing my equity with Metropolitan. Saynor Field does not own building. When I don't pay the Metropolitan, I don't own any hotel. However, they have been very nice. They have said that if they make foreclosure, they want me to operate the hotel for them. The hotel had paid no interest or taxes in four or five years when I got there. I am now current with the Metropolitan. I have put my excess back into the building. If I have had $800,000.00 I have put it into amortization purchases. I have worked with the hotel on the theory that it was an old hotel, and had to be made more popular. Instead of increasing my equity I have built new fountain rooms. Now I am in a position, if the whole world doesn't go to pot to increase my equity. For that reason I have drawn a small salary. So this commission logical commission to which I thought I was entitled to. As a
matter of fact, if the sale had not been made the hotel would still be standing. It was one of those unfortunate hotels, could not be run as a commercial hotel, because it was too far out and not having kitchens, would not be used as an apartment hotel. It was just one of those old-fashioned hotels, which made it impossible. Mr. Statler could not have made a go of it. Then I would have an overflow at the Roosevelt and would send them to the Riceville; they would stay there just long enough to get located back downtown. People who went on apartments did not want to stay there because there were no kitchens.

Here all of your contacts with the Governor concerning the sale of the Riceville Hotel personal?

Yes.

Q 69. As you recall, Dr. Smith was never present?

I never discussed it with Dr. Smith, in my life. But we had a solid, sane proposition. The hospital had a house of wood, fire-hazard, that would not remain over two years, and which would shortly be demolished and they would be out $300,000.00. They would have had to put in other facilities. Instead of having a loss of $300,000.00 they would have a solid brick structure, fireproof, at the end of which time they still have a good building that can be used as a dormitory, and the downstairs rooms could be used as rental offices to offices of the various state departments now paying rent today in the city. From that angle I sold the Governor on the idea that it was a good thing to do. Mr. Grunsvold built it at a cost much in excess of $300,000.00. They actually got a cheap buy. I only got this from rumors - there are people today trying to buy it, for more than the University paid for it. The man the knows that I knew about it would not buy it - always fighting to break even.

Q 70. (Leah) So far as you know, there were no commissions of any kind paid to either Dr. Smith or former Governor Locke in connection with this Riceville Hotel deal?

No sir. As a matter of fact, Mr. Leah, the $27,500.00 commission which I got, as I told you, I made an immediate investment in the Jacobs Candy Company - $10,000.00 and the rest later. But actually I only drew the money to put into a new enterprise. The money was never transferred from one account to another - put into another enterprise which I wish I had never gotten into.

Q 71. Can you think of anything else in connection with this matter
that you would like to include in the record? Is there any other fact of circumstance that you would like to disclose to us at this time?

A 73. I don't know. I think I could justify the sale of the Bloomingdale Hotel to anyone in the world at this time. There was not a single word of criticism of the plan the sale was held. The nurses could not be thrown out into the streets. The Bloomingdale Hotel today is a good piece of property. I could like to own it myself for re-sale. There is no appetite to sales and I don't see how anyone could criticize the buying of that hotel. The University could not build a conservatory for medical students for near the purchase price of the Bloomingdale Hotel. And another thing, originally, this sale was to be in bonds. Then Mr. Hart came to me and said he was going to take bonds. I asked him what kind of bonds. Then I found out that the University would settle at $100,000.00 a year and the balance would come out of earnings of the hotel. I told him that that was not satisfactory because I could not take that kind of bond and that Hart got each - another reason why he was entitled to something for his efforts - that something being the furnishings and equipment.

Q 73. (Lambert) You said previously you had gotten Gov. Long and Allen interested in the buying of the building.

A 73. I tried to sell them on the idea of buying the hotel, taking out some of the partitions and establishing in it the license bureaus, and other departments of the state which are now paying rent. The supervisor of Public Accounts would also have had his office there. I believe that if Gov. Long had lived I would possibly have sold it on that basis. I don't think we would ever have had a Charity Hospital had Long lived.

Q 74. (Loehn) But you discussed the sale of the hotel with Governor Long?

A 74. Yes sir, only one I ever spoke to about it in my life.

Q 75. (Loehn) If, during the course of our income tax investigation we desire additional information may we call on that from you, Mr. Weiss?

A 75. I would ask you one question - I have a very important engagement, I have friends and others waiting on me in New York. I can come home in eight hours. I would like to go. I was intending to stay until the 26th. If it is possible and if I can - I don't want to go without your permission. That is what I was doing when the gentlemen in New York asked about me. If
they sent me, I said, I am going home. I had read the Louisiana papers daily. When Mr. Wilson called me in New York I decided I had better come home. I didn't want the papers headlining that Seymour House was subpoenaed in New York, so I came home, but I do have business that should be completed in New York—there are representatives from Oklahoma and other states waiting to see me.

(John) As far as this office is concerned you are at liberty to go anywhere in the world you want. I only mean that if additional information would come to hand, at your convenience, we would possibly like to question you again.

I have carefully read the foregoing statement consisting of 14 pages and have noted some minor corrections and state that the answers made to the questions proposed to me are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, so help me God.

Seymour House

Sworn to and subscribed before me this ______ day of July, 1939.

ACTING SPECIAL AGENT In CH. ROE
Mr. LeSage, we are making an examination of the records of the National Equipment Company for the years 1926, 1927, and 1928 in connection with its income tax liability. In this connection, we find records indicating that you had transactions with that corporation. We would like to get information from you in this connection. At this time it is my duty to remind you of your constitutional rights; that is, that you do not have to answer any questions to which you feel would incriminate you. Do you understand that?

Mr. LeSage: Yes, sir.

Do you now solemnly swear that the answers you will give to the questions about to be propounded to you will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. LeSage: I do, sir.

Q 1. For the record, please state your full name, your occupation, and your business and residence addresses.
A 1. My name is Louis G. LeSage. I work for the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana as special assistant to the president. I live at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans.

Q 2. How long have you been employed by the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana?
A 2. Since 1918.

Q 3. How long have you been residing at the Roosevelt?
A 3. Permanently? I would say about seven or eight years.

Q 4. How long have you held the position of Special Assistant to the President?
A 4. I think since last year.

Q 5. Prior to that time, what was your capacity?
A 5. When I came to New Orleans - transferred down here - I was connected with
the Foreign Department - the Marine Department of my company - and when I came here I was next to the Associated with the Sales Department and I was present at the meetings of the Foreign Sales Department.

Q 6. The record of the National Equipment Co. shows that it paid this check, No. 6, dated November 17, 1938, in the amount of $25,000.00. The original check bore your signature. I now show you and have you identify it and your handwriting thereon.

A 6. Yes, sir, that's my signature.

Q 7. Will you please relate for the record the circumstances under which you received this $25,000.00?

A 7. Well, Mr. Hart came to me and - that's all part of my testimony before the Grand Jury. Mr. Hart came to me and asked me to help him out with the sale of the equipment of the Pleasant Hotel to the State University and, he says, 'When it is sold, I will pay you in on the profits.' And I said, 'What could I do,' and he said, 'That's alright, just use your influence' and I said that I didn't see what I could do but he insisted and then I never had any further contacts with Mr. Hart until he came and gave me this check and at the time he gave it to me, I was more or less flabbergasted and he said I had earned it and I took the check and cashed it and made my return that year to the Government. That is practically the sum and substance of my dealings with Mr. Hart.

Q 8. Did you contact anyone in connection with the sale of the equipment?

A 8. Not a soul. No one.

Q 9. Did you perform any services whatsoever in connection with the sale of the equipment to the Louisiana State University?

A 9. None that I can think of.

Q 10. Do you recall where this check of $25,000.00 was delivered to you and by whom?

A 10. It was delivered to me by Mr. Hart, I believe, in the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel. I am not positive about that but that is my recollection.

Q 11. Did I understand you to say that you cashed the check?

A 11. That's right. I went to the Whitney Bank - I think the check was drawn on the Whitney Bank. The only man I knew at the Whitney was Nels Whitney. He told me to go over to a branch of the bank and he went over with me and I cashed it; a bank over on Carondelet Street, I believe. I am not positive but I think that's where it was.

Q 12. What denominations did you get?

A 12. $100 bills.

Q 13. What disposition did you make of the money?
A 13. I took it to the hotel and put it in my box. It remained in the box for nearly a year. That is, not all of it. I took certain sums out of it to pay my income tax when it became due and I may have taken some out for other purposes - I am sure I did. About a year later, I loaned out about $16,500.00 of that money.

Q 14. To whom did you make the loan of $16,500.00?

Q 15. Under what circumstances?
A 15. Well, Mr. Weiss and I are very close personal friends and he needed some money at that time and I volunteered to let him have what I could.

Q 16. Do you know for what purpose he needed the money?
A 16. No, sir. I know he has needed some since that time.

Q 17. Did he give you collateral?
A 17. He signed a note which I thought I had, but I searched everywhere and can't find it and I thought he had it but he said no, he thought that he gave me the note.

Q 18. Did you receive any payments on that note since that time?
A 18. No, sir.

Q 19. Did you receive any interest on the note?
A 19. No, sir. Mr. Weiss and I have had different transactions and he never charges me any interest and I never charge him. He is the closest personal friend I have in the world. He's been like a brother to me.

Q 20. Did you lend Mr. Weiss this money in currency?
A 20. Yes, sir.

Q 21. And you do not know what disposition was made of it?
A 21. No, sir.

Q 22. Was there any agreement between you and Mr. Weiss - or understanding - that you would receive this money to pass on to someone else?
A 22. No, no sir, positively.

Q 23. The money was yours to do with as you saw fit?
A 23. Yes, sir.

Q 24. Did you say you performed no services for this $16,500.00?
A 24. None that I can realize.
Q 25. Do you have any part of this money left at this time, Mr. LeSage?
A 25. I don't think so.

Q 26. What disposition was made of the money besides the旅 to Mr. Weiss and the payment of your income tax?
A 26. Well, I think it may have gone partly into some stock transactions which I made - which didn't turn out so good. I can't say exactly where the rest - for instance, I have spent this month. I would say, close to one thousand dollars and if you would ask me six months from now what I did with it, I couldn't say. I have made a trip to Chicago and a few little trips across the street to a gambling place and I do that quite frequently and very seldom walk out with any of their money. I have done that ever since I have been in New Orleans.

Q 27. What is the nature of the stock transactions you referred to in your previous answer?
A 27. With Y. A. Pierce - I have an account there with them and I bought some stock and had to put up additional margin. I don't think the additional margin was required until within the last year. I have been buying stock from them since - well, a friend of mine and I started buying two hundred shares of Paramount Picture stock and he came to me and told me that half of it was miss and the stock went up to around eighteen hundred a share - or maybe it was twelve - and then it started going down and it's gone down since that time as low as four dollars a share. And I have bought - no that wasn't Paramount, that was Warner Brothers. Since that time, the young man in a stock brokerage office there advised me to even up with Paramount, so I bought some Paramount. I bought four hundred shares of General Electric at $2.00 and something a share and on this transaction I used up quite a bit of the money and I even borrowed an additional $1,000.00 at the Canal Bank.

Q 28. Are you certain that the margin money or purchase money paid to Y. A. Pierce came from the balance of the $25,000.00?
A 28. No, not all of it but I am sure that some of it did.

Q 29. Have you made any attempt to collect the note of $15,000.00 which you say you received from Mr. Weiss?
A 29. None whatever.

Q 30. At the time that it was made, did you ever have any intention of collecting the debt?
A 30. Why certainly. But I didn't bother about it any; he's needed money since but the amount I had was insufficient to help him then. I'd
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do that now - every cent that I have he would have. It would not make any difference to me whether he paid me back or not. In other words, when I was down and out here in New Orleans, he is the only man who befriended me. I don't know if it is necessary for me to divulge all of these private matters. I think that the Grand Jury has gone into all those phases and I thought that the only thing you were interested in was whether I got the cash and paid income tax on it. I was just wondering if my telling all my private affairs or side issues if it was of interest in this case.

Q 51. Do you recall at this time when Mr. Hart first approached you in connection with the sale of the equipment to L. S. U.
A 51. It was not a great while before he gave me this check. I couldn't say now just when it was but it appears to me now that there was a very short time between the time he first approached me and the time he gave me the check. It was only a very few months.

Q 52. Did he call on you at any time in between?
A 52. No, sir; nor since.

Q 53. Was the payment made to you as commissions on the sale of the equipment or the sale of the hotel?
A 53. The equipment, as I understand it.

Q 54. Did you understand it at that time or has that recently come up?
A 54. No, sir, at that time. The time he talked to me - the only time he talked to me.

Q 55. How long have you maintained a safety deposit box at the Roosevelt Hotel?
A 55. This present one that I have has not been so long. I broke the key or the boy broke the key of the first one I had - but, practically since I have been there, I guess. The exact date - to answer that, I wouldn't know.

Q 56. Do you have any bank boxes?
A 56. I had a box at the Bank of Baton Rouge before I came down here. I never did have one at any of the local banks. I had some money when the bank crash came and then after that a friend of mine, Mr. A. K. Gordon, in discussing the money situation with me, said, "LeSage, I think it would be a good idea for you to get as many silver certificates as you can. If I were you I would try to get as many silver certificates as possible"; so that was his advice to me a good many years ago and since that time I keep a lot of cash. I think I have pretty good sum of money in my box now and I keep that cash money in the box all the time.
q 37. Did you have any cash in your box at the time you put the proceeds of the $25,000.00 check there - a substantial sum?
A 37. 0, no sir. That is by far the largest item I have ever had in my box. I am not a wealthy man - I do not make a great deal of money, in the way of salary.

Q 38. There was no agreement between you and Mr. Weiss with regards to passing this money on to another party?
A 38. No, sir.

Q 39. Have you had any financial dealings with Dr. James Monroe Smith?
A 39. Never have said five words to the man in my life. I was introduced to him when he first went to L. S. U. - introduced to him going out the gate after a football game. Mr. Louis Gottlieb was the man who introduced me to Dr. and Mrs. Smith just a few months after they arrived at L. S. U.

Q 40. Have you had any financial dealings with any other prominent state official in the last several years?
A 40. No, sir. None.

Q 41. And you filed a personal income tax return for the year 1936 and reported this sum - this $25,000.00 commission?
A 41. Yes, sir.

Q 42. You made payments on the installment basis?
A 42. Yes, sir.

Q 43. Where did the money for the installments come from?
A 43. It came out of my box. I am pretty sure that is where it came from because I don't think that my bank balance during that year - it may have been - no, I don't think so; I didn't have any such amount. In the year 1937 I had - no, 38 probably, I had a good size bank balance. I took the money out of this box, deposited it, and wrote a check, as I remember it.

Q 45. You didn't get it from Mr. Weiss?
A 45. 0, no sir.

Q 46. Or anybody else?
A 46. No, sir.

Q 47. (Mr. Lohn) As I understand it, Mr. LeSage is working for the Standard Oil Company?
A 47. All my life - ever since I got out of college.

Q 48. And you live at the Ro-sevelt Hotel?
A 48. Ever since I have been here, except for a short period when I went down
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in the French Quarter. My expenses were rather high and I left the hotel because of my expenses running too high. I am not a very high salaried man - and Mr. Weiss was not at the hotel when I left. I waited purposely until he left, because I didn't want to hurt his feelings and while he was away, I just packed my things and moved down there. And then, Senator Huey Long came to town - he and I were not very intimate, but I knew him, of course - and he asked around where I was and he sent out his men and found me. I was then a salesman. These men said the Senator wanted to see me and I went up to his home there to see him - he had Senator Bennett Clark of Missouri was there in his bedroom with him. So he told me, "Louis, Seymour is going to be mad and I told him that I would straighten that out with Seymour when he came back to town; so, he wouldn't hear to it and we argued around for a time and then I left. When Mr. Weiss came back to town he came down to see me and took a long ride with me and saw this musty place I was living in and he said whatever this place is costing you, I will make a rate at the hotel. And then I moved back to the Roosevelt. It was not long that I was away - I don't think I was down there hardly a month. Since that time I have lived at the Roosevelt Hotel. Prior to that, I was stopping at the Roosevelt on an average of two or three times a week for eight or ten years - before Mr. Weiss was connected with the hotel at all.

Q 49. When you came back to the hotel the last time to remain there permanently, what was the rate that they made you?
A 49. $50.00 a month.

Q 50. And you paid that out of your personal funds?
A 50. Yes, sir.

Q 51. The Standard Oil Company has never paid your hotel bills?
A 51. They did before that time, but when they transferred me down here and I lived at the hotel, I paid the bill.

Q 52. Since you are permanently located here, you pay your hotel bills yourself?
A 52. Up until last year. Last year, the new president came in, Mr. Rathbone, and he asked me that when he came to town to use his quarters. And he asked me to get more commodious rooms. I moved out of the rooms I had - No. 1157 - and I moved then to suite 960 and I have lived there since.

Q 53. Since you have been in suite 960, the company has paid your hotel bills?
A 53. Yes.
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Q 54. They also pay for your meals?
A 54. No. The way they do it, the hotel sends out an invoice for the room
rent and on the first or the seventh they give me this invoice which
I approve and send to the president of the Standard Oil Company at
Baton Rouge and the company remits direct to the hotel.

Q 55. Just exactly what services did you render in connection with this
$25,000.00 commission? As I understand the situation, you actually
rendered no services.
A 55. That is the way I view it.

Q 56. You did not talk to the Governor?
A 56. No, sir.

Q 57. You did not talk to Dr. Smith?
A 57. No, sir.

Q 58. Do you know what the equipment sold for?
A 58. No, sir.

Q 59. You were not told by anyone?
A 59. No, sir.

Q 60. What did Mr. Hart say the commission was for?
A 60. He told me for my influence. I asked him and he said, "That's alright,
you performed the services and you are entitled to the money."

Q 61. What services did he say you had rendered?
A 61. He didn't say.

Q 62. And you don't know of any services?
A 62. No, sir, I do not.

Q 63. Did you accept this check without protest?
A 63. Well, I did. I told him I didn't think I had earned it and he said, "It's
yours; I promised to put you in on it and it's your check."

Q 64. Did he say who he had promised?
A 64. No. He promised me.

Q 65. (Mr. Lohn) As I understand the situation, Mr. LeSage, Mr. Hart came to you
about the sale of the hotel equipment, it is your understanding that the
hotel had then been sold?
A 65. That is what I gathered from him, yes, sir. At the time he and I talked.
He wanted to sell all the fixtures and everything that was in there. I
never went there to see it.

Q 66. (Mr. Lohn) Do I understand from your statement to Mr. Lambert here this morning that you leaned a part of this to Mr. Weis last week?
A 66. Yes, approximately $14,000.00.

Q 67. (Mr. Lohn) And that you accepted his note for that?
A 67. That's right.

Q 68. Was that a demand note?
A 68. I can't say; I would not know what was in the note.

Q 69. (Mr. Lohn) Have you disclosed to Mr. Lambert where the note is at this time?
A 69. It was my impression that I had it in my bank at the time I testified here; these gentlemen asked me to see if I could locate it but I could not so then I phoned Mr. Weis in New York and told him that either he had it or I had it. I thought I had left it with him.

Q 70. In his possession?
A 70. Fact of the business is I never asked for or wanted anything like that, in all my transactions with Mr. Weis. I did not want him to do it - it was his idea and he insisted on making it out. He says positively that he gave me the note.

Q 71. Did Mr. Weis give you any reasons why, since you were so very close?
A 71. He said on account of the large sum of money, in case something would happen to me, he would want evidence of his indebtedness to me. I haven't anybody except a married daughter. I have no family except two little orphans I am raising - taking care of them as best I can.

Q 72. Did the question of income tax ever come up between you and Mr. Weis and Mr. Hart or all three of you?
A 72. No, sir.

Q 73. At the time of the loan and the signing of the note which you say was signed and delivered to you, did the question of income tax come up at that time?
A 73. No, sir. The income tax had already been paid out at that time - the returns on it.

Q 74. You are certain that the loan was made a year after this transaction?
A 74. About that. Somewhere in the neighborhood of a year.

Q 75. Did you see the income tax returns filed by the National Equipment Company for the year 1936?
A 75. No, sir.

Q 76. Were you advised as to what the deductions claimed on that return were?
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Q. Did anyone tell you or discuss with you that deductions were claimed in that return?

A. No, sir. In this day.

Q. (Mr. LeSage) I understand from what you said a while ago to Mr. Lazard that when you filed your 1936 return, you made only the first payment.

A. That's right; yes, sir.

Q. You did not pay it all at once?

A. No, sir.

Q. Was there any reason for paying it quarterly?

A. No, sir. I do the same thing now. I did not think I ever paid all of my income tax all at once in my life. I had to pay a dollar or so for running over a few days. No special reason for it. I am doing the same thing today.

Q. In 1936 you had the money right there in a bank?

A. Yes. I have got relatively the same amount of money - as far as the amount of money is involved, I could pay it right now.

Q. Did you maintain banking connections during the years 1936, 1937, and 1938?

A. Yes, at the National Bank of Commerce.

Q. Did you have a safety deposit box?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you have brokerage accounts other than at R. A. Pierce?

A. In the last several years, yes, sir. Before that I dealt with Penner and Bean. The reason I dealt with R. A. Pierce was this friend of mine took me there - he had no market connections at all and then he got me into this Warner Bros. stock. He had a tip on the market and let me in on it. He had that account with a firm here called Lazard or something like that - it has since liquidated. It was a brokerage house with which Jules Lazard was connected. He was the one that this boy bought the stock through, because they were very close friends. And then when we got to fooling around, I got a tip on General Box stock, so I got him in on it. And then when they liquidated, this boy asked me to let him bring the account over with him and he transferred to R. A. Pierce and since then my account has been with them.

Q. This friend you speak of, you have never identified him. Would you mind naming him?

A. His name is Johnny Weiss, brother of Seymour Weiss. He is employed at
Inceheux'stee, Hammond of the electrical department.

Q 89. Yes, sir. Do you know, if there are any photographs that are
show of interest here or could there be any photographs that you
wish to show at this time.

A 89. It is a thing that is not a right or thing. We

Q 84. If it develops that we need some more information, we will tell you
again.

A 84. Yes, sir. At any time. Day or night. I would be glad to answer anything
at any time that it is wish. You have been very kind to me. In fact,
I never was treated so nicely. This in a little gentleman got under
my skin; I couldn't stand it.

I have read my answers to the above eighty-six questions and certify that
my answers there to are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and
belief.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this _ _ day of July, 1939.

[Signature]
Special Agent.

[Signature]
Special Agent.
STATE: LA made in the office of the Intelligence Unit, Room 363 Post Office Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, at 10:00 A. M., Friday, July 14, 1939.

Persons representing the Government:
Acting Special Agent in Charge Frank W. Lohn
Special Agent James E. Cooner
Stenographer Marion E. Pitts

Person interviewed: MR. LEON C. WEISS

(Until further indication, questions were propounded by Acting Special Agent Lohn)

Mr. Weiss, we want additional detailed information concerning the payment of an inspection fee to you in 1937, in connection with the Bienvillle Hotel. You have no objection to furnishing us with such information as is within your knowledge, do you?

I would prefer to give it to the Grand Jury in Baton Rouge. I have additional information that they requested me to get.

The Grand Jury is of course secret and we do not have access to that. We want this information to be considered in connection with income tax matters, being investigated by the Intelligence Unit under the direction of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. I should advise you, however, in the event the Grand Jury saw fit to call for a record of the testimony concerning this matter it would be our duty to present it to the Grand Jury. I should also explain, I think, that any statement that you make herewith will be used against you in the event you have violated any of the provisions of the Internal Revenue laws.

Yes.

Will you be sworn, please. Do you solemnly swear that the answers you will give to the questions about to be asked of you will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

I do.

Q 1. In connection with the payment to you of an inspection fee, Mr. Weiss, in 1937 will you explain please somewhat in detail the services you rendered in earning this fee of $5,750.00?

A 1. I made a complete inspection and a report to the President of Louisiana State University of the property known as the Bienvillle Hotel, which property the University was to purchase.
It was the desire of the University to ascertain through me the physical condition of the building and my appraisal as to the fairness of the price. I made such a report to him on behalf of the University and for this service charged $5,750.00 which was paid to me by a check of the University.

Q. 2. Whether any written contract between you and the University authorizing the inspection or the payment of your fee for the inspection?
A. 2. There was not. There were no written contracts except where we asked for those contracts for specification purposes in connection with P. U. A. loans where specific contracts were required for their records. We were serving the University as architects practically continually since 1911 or 1912 with one single notable interruption and thereafter again.

Q. 3. With whom did you enter into the verbal agreement or arrangement for the inspection of the Bismarck Hotel?
A. 3. Upon the request of Dr. Smith, President of the University.

Q. 4. Do you recall the time and place of this agreement with Dr. Smith?
A. 4. I do not.

Q. 5. Do you recall the approximate time you devoted to making this inspection?
A. 5. The time involved in making the inspection was not related to the charge we would make for such an inspection. The charge is based upon the value of the service and not on its time cost to the professional man whose estimate would be valuable because of the fact that he made it.

Q. 6. But do you recall just about how long you were employed in this particular inspection?
A. 6. I do not, because part of the time was in the field, that is at the property, and part of the time was spent in my own office. We do not keep time records on things of that sort and I did not and do not consider that of importance.

Q. 7. Do you have a copy of your inspection report that might be made available to us?
A. 7. I am not certain that there was any written report. I am inclined to believe my report was made verbally to Dr. Smith.

Q. 8. Did anyone assist you in making the inspection?
A. 8. No.

Q. 9. Did you make any drawings or record of the dimensions, type of construction, etc.?
I did not. The information necessary in the premises was pro-
vided me in a tracing which constitutes a survey of sq. 128,
1st Dist., which shows the various parcels of land and the dimen-
sions which tracing I found in my files yesterday afternoon,
and caused blue prints thereof to be made so that I could
make use of the same in connection with any questions asked me.
I likewise found a drawing showing the location of the building
on that irregular site, location of sheds, outbuildings and
garages, and the boiler house which faced Galileo Street. I
likewise made available for my use photostatic copies of a
small scale, which served to give me in detail the arrangement
of the building, floor by floor, with the exception of the top-
most floor or roof garden and other structures built on the
roof. One photostat was evidently made from a drawing pre-
pared for the original building, the Bienville Apartments, and
constructed by the Hotel Grunewald Company, by their architect-
ese Toledano, Hogan and Bernard, showing the first floor plan,
three small-scale prints, one showing the second and third floor
plans, one showing the fourth floor plan and one showing the
fifth, sixth and seventh floor plans. These prints I found in
my files last afternoon.

Q 9. Were these the same plans and drawings considered by you in the
course of your inspection of the hotel?
A 9. They are.

Q 10. Do you recall from whom you received these drawings and prints?
A 10. No, I presume either by Mr. Smith or by the owners of the
property.

Q 11. Is the Lee Circle a hotel corporation?
A 11. I do not know.

Q 12. Do you recall whether Mr. Hart gave you these?
A 12. I do not recall, but I am inclined to believe he did not. As a
matter of fact, it is probable that some employer of our office,
if these plans were furnished by the hotel company, were sent
to keep them, after we ascertained they were available.

Q 13. (Coomer, for remainder of interview) At the time that you in-
spected this building did you also make an inspection of the
furnishings and the equipment?
A 13. In order that I may answer that question, Mr. Coomer, it would
be necessary to define the terms you used - and that is not a
question asked in a frivolous sense or to embarrass you. I
will explain that it is an open question as to what one man
would call equipment and another furnishings. In our prac-
tice we normally consider equipment to consist of those things
or part of a building in the way of mechanical devices such.
as boilers, pumps, fans, motors, pipe work, plumbing fixtures, steam heating appliances, ventilating apparatus, registers, grills and any other mechanical devices or apparatus that are necessary to the functioning of the building. In connection with the hotel I would include kitchen equipment such as ranges, stoves, refrigerators, ice boxes, grills, and kitchen and dining room dishwashing fixtures. I would not include in this category of equipment beds, rugs, draperies, furnaces and chimneys, windows, doors and those things that would come under the classification of furniture and furnishings in the particular sense. Now, if you will ask your question with this in mind, I think we will understand the differences that I have set forth the general differences between equipment and furnishings are evident.
Q 16. No, I don't, unless I had some way of determining that from the records.

Q 17. For your information I will state that the records of the Board of Supervisors of the University show that the purchase of this building was approved in September of 1926, to which the act of sale was made at a later date in the fall of 1926. Does this information help you at all to determine the time that you made this appraisal?

A 17. I am afraid it does not.

Q 18. At the time that you made this appraisal were you aware there was no amount of the contemplated purchase or the amount of the purchase price was known to me, I think that I know this, I am not absolutely certain, but that the exact amount of the purchase price was, at that time, known to me. I would not be surprised, however, that the contemplated purchase price was known to me at that time.

Q 19. Did your discussion with Mr. Smith, as you understand it, definite value of this building for use of the University?

A 19. I am sure I should say, I was aware of the contemplated use of the building at the time I made the appraisal, and viewed the prospective purchase from the angle of the usefulness of the building to the University in lieu of the cost of the building, as I have done on similar occasions in this city. My recollection is that Dr. Smith, in discussing this matter with me, stated that it was his intention to use certain upper floors as dormitories for housing students of the medical school in New Orleans. Portions of other floors were to be used for the re-establishment of the extension Department or Division of Louisiana State University, which had been operating under the direction of Dr. Smith, I believe, and which was very popular, and which, when dissolved, because of the objections which some other local colleges or institutions caused numbers of requests to be made upon Dr. Smith to re-establish it. The remainder of the building Dr. Smith stated that he thought he could rent to some state departments in the city of New Orleans which were occupying quarters rented from individuals, and possibly the first floor might return revenue from commercial enterprises such as stores. The cost of provisions to take care of this contemplated program would have been many times the cost of the purchase price of this property. I did not approach the matter of establishing the value of this property to the University on the same basis, I would have approached the sale of this property to some other prospect to operate as a hotel or to an investor who had no specific pre-arranged use of the building in mind, nor to any private individual where the question of taxation would have to be taken into consideration in connection with the net income.
Q 20. My interpretation is that you consider the usefulness of the building by the University, or the uses to which you understood it was to be used, rather than determining the actual sale value of the building as important? Is that correct? That is not entirely correct because I did take into consideration the cost of replacing the building as the first figure to be determined and I obtained information that the cost of the building with its fittings and equipment was exceeded. In my opinion, the approximate dollarized purchase price.

Q 21. Then you must have known that the estimated purchase price was:

A 21. I must have known that. I believe that I was asked to ascertain whether that particular price was a fair price for the property. I think that is correct.

Q 22. Was it your understanding that this purchase price did or was not to include the room furnishings, fixtures, kitchenware, etc.?

A 22. Yes, I am quite sure at no time was I asked to include the items that you mentioned in establishing the correctness of the purchase price.

Q 23. Mr. Sales, do you recall the date that you billed the University for your services in connection with this matter?

A 23. We do not send bills. We, from time to time, ask owners for money, and if the owner is willing to pay them and it is available, we receive this money and send the owner a certificate or receipt. We do not carry on our books accounts payable by clients, though we have some of checking the outstanding amounts with reference to records in our office in various reports supplemented by re-collection of services rendered. The only time we send a bill or certificate to an owner — we sometimes send bills or certificates to owners in the form of a "due" where an owner has failed to make payment. There are some cases like that.

Q 24. This particular bill for $5,700.00, to whom did you send this bill or certificate?

A 24. I believe that the bill was rendered to the University, when Dr. Smith, at my request, announced that he was ready to pay it. That is usually the way these things are done.

Q 25. Did you personally send this bill?

A 25. I do not know. I may have personally rendered the bill, I think that is correct.

Q 26. Was the bill prepared in your office?

A 26. I do not know. It would not make much difference to me at least.
Q 27. From my point of view, it makes a material difference.
A 27. I cannot answer that because I do not remember.

Q 28. The reason it makes a material difference is that I have the fact that this item was not regular on your books and not on your firm's records.
A 28. I have explained that as an oversight on our part that occurred as soon as the matter reached my attention I made a correction in the privilege of paying the invoice and had it sent for the books come true.

Q 29. Do you know whether or not that you personally delivered the bill to Dr. Smith?
A 29. No, I presume that I did because it was an individual bill and transaction, I think that is correct.

Q 30. Do you recall whether or not that the $2,700.00 check that was issued to you in payment of the bill on or about May 10, 1939, was delivered to you by Dr. Smith on or about that date?
A 30. No, but I cannot say how it could have been otherwise.

Q 31. Since refreshing your memory on this matter, do you now recall seeing this check in Baton Rouge?
A 31. No, I cannot remember that.

Q 32. Can you now swear that you paid no part of the proceeds of this check to Dr. Smith?
A 32. I do not recall giving any part of the proceeds of this check to Dr. Smith.

Q 33. Do you recall paying any part of the proceeds of this check to any as a commission, rebate or lease?
A 33. I do not.

Q 34. Mr. Vailes, the records of Louisiana State University disclose that on March 16, 1938 the institution issued check No. 6190 for the sum of $20,000.00 payable to the order of Vailes, Drew, and Hayforth and endorsed by you in the name of the firm. You have previously testified that you endorsed this check back to the University in payment of $20,000.00 par value of bonds in that institution. What certificates were used to support the payment of this check?
A 34. From information that I now have this payment was supported by two certificates that had been made by our firm and signed by our firm for payment on stadium-expendary projects which had been previously paid. It was not within the compass of my knowledge or information at the time the payment was made. I can explain that. I think I should. In our numerous dealings - in the course of our long contract with the University there were times when the University's finances apparently were not -
Mr. Volea, what service did you or your firm render in connection with the planning or building of the residence of Mr. E. N. Jackson?

Our office designed the residence for Mr. E. N. Jackson and furnished him plans for the construction of this residence. Thereafter we had no interest in or connection with the construction of the residence. I personally did not have upon the property or within the residence in charge of the building its construction at any time. The only time that I was ever in Mr. Jackson's residence was on Monday, May 30, which I have ascertained to be the date of the last Louisiana State University Commencement, on which occasion, accompanied by Mr. Smith, I called upon Mr. Jackson and his family to have afternoon tea and I drank tea. We remained in Mr. Jackson's residence on that day not over half an hour and that was the first and the only time that I was ever in the house. I gave no supervision during construction. I believe our office served Mr. Jackson in the correction and the checking of small details. This check would be for the conformity of prints or mill drawings with the original drawings. Does that answer your question?

What payment did your firm receive for this service?

I never received one cent for these services because Mr. Jackson said that he was crowded for money and that some time he would pay us for these services.

What was the agreed price for these services?

There was no agreed price for these services. The normal price which we charge for residence work included preliminary soundings, working drawings and specifications, checking of details
and almost daily supervision in the city of New Orleans is 10%. Of this fee approximately 6%, or three-fifths of the whole, would be chargeable to the cost of plans and specifications up to the time of the award of the contract.

Q 57. That is the approximate fee paid for services rendered Mr. Jackson for the particular improvements for which I do not think we charged them, because as I said before we send no bills, as requested payment from persons either by telephone or in person, and if they are ready to pay we hand them a certificate and they send us a check. Our residential work and in fact most of our professional contracts are rather informal as compared with the procedure in normal commercial or merchandising transactions.

A 57. Do you mean to state that an agreement has been made as to the amount of this fee to date?

Q 26. The matter has not been discussed thus far, except that Mr. Jackson himself stated that he expected to and would pay a fee.

I have read the foregoing statement, consisting of thirty-eight questions and answers, and the answers to questions propounded to me are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SEYMOUR WEISS

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS THE DAY OF JULY, A.D., 1929

SPECIAL AGENT
FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-12-39 3-45 PM ALS

DIRECTOR C

RE LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. JAMES MONROE SMITH

SMITH APPEARED BEFORE BATON ROUGE PARISH GRAND JURY FOR TWENTY MINUTES THIS MORNING APPARENTLY UNDER PROTEST SINCE BOTH DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND REPORTER STAYED OUT OF JURY ROOM. SUBPOENAS HAVE BEEN SERVED UPON EX-GOVERNOR LECHÉ, GENERAL GUERRÉ, SUPERINTENDENT LOUISIANA STATE POLICE, SUPERVISOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS FRANK X. SHATTUCK, AND OTHER OFFICIALS TO APPEAR BEFORE BATON ROUGE GRAND JURY TOMORROW MORNING.

USA VIOSCA BELIEVES HE WILL HAVE EXCELLENT MAIL FRAUD CASE IN CONNECTION WITH PAYMENT OF SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS OF UNIVERSITY FUNDS IN PURCHASE OF BIENVILLE HOTEL. THIS MONEY WAS ALLEGEDLY PAID FOR FURNISHINGS IN BUILDING IN ADDITION TO PURCHASE PRICE ALTHOUGH PURCHASE PRICE SUPPOSED TO HAVE INCLUDED ALL EQUIPMENT AND FURNISHINGS. VIOSCA EXPECTS TO BE READY TO HAVE GRAND JURY RETURN MAIL FRAUD INDICTMENT THIS FRIDAY HOWEVER HE WILL TELEPHONE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR ADVICE BEFORE HAVING GRAND JURY MAKE ITS RETURN. HE EXPECTS TO INDICT EX-GOVERNOR LECHÉ, JAMES MONROE SMITH, SEYMOUR WEISS, MONTE HART, J. EMORY ADAMS, LOUIS MÉSAGE AND POSSIBLY E. N. JACKSON, IN THIS MAIL FRAUD CONSPIRACY. 170-REG. 190-INDEXED

USA VIOSCA BELIEVES THIS MAIL FRAUD CASE IS MUCH BIGGER THAN INCOME TAX EVASION CASE SHOWN TO A.G. 7/1/39
PAGE TWO

DEFRAUD WILL BE PAYMENT OF THE SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, WHICH DEFRAUCED THE UNIVERSITY, TO THOSE MENTIONED IN INDICTMENT.

PROOF OF USE OF MAILS WILL BE FACT THAT SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR CHECK WAS CASHED IN NEW ORLEANS BANK KNOWING SAME WOULD HAVE TO BE SENT THROUGH MAILS TO BATON ROUGE FOR PAYMENT.

LOS ANGELES DIVISION HAS INFORMED THAT MRS. W. A. THARPE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW AT LOS ANGELES THIS FRIDAY MORNING HENCE I AM SENDING AGENT C. W. DUNKER TO LOS ANGELES VIA AIR TO CONDUCT THIS INTERVIEW. THE AGENT WILL LEAVE HERE TOMORROW MORNING.

USA HAS NOT MADE ANY FURTHER REQUESTS OF THIS OFFICE FOR INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE

SACKETT

END

OY V P

OK FBI WASH DC SRN
Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: Louisiana State Officials Information Concerning

Dear Sirs:

I am transmitting herewith copies of a letter addressed to the Attorney General under date of July 2, 1939, from Guy J. Prevost, Mansura, Louisiana, for reference to the United States Attorney at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure
Dear Sir -

There is a man in New York - name Norman Silver/Grayman. Working under the name of Consulting Engineer - who is an ex-convict - said to be train robber - mix up in a loo,ooo Louisiana steal and many other things - maybe you have his record - this was gathered from conversation I heard may not be of interest to you yet it might -

I am only trying to be of service to you

No ax to grind never knew him but feel that such a man should be known by your office
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington D.C.
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
JULY 14, 1939  

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear Sir:  

Re: SPECIAL AGENT C. W. DUNKER  

This is to advise that the above-named Agent arrived in Los Angeles at 12:29 A.M. this date from New Orleans, in connection with the case of Louisiana State Officials, Information Concerning.  

While in Los Angeles, Agent DUNKER'S address is Rosalyn Hotel, telephone Michigan 3311.  

Very truly yours,  

R. B. HOOD  
Special Agent in Charge  

REB:AB  
AIR MAIL  
CC: NEW ORLEANS
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 16, 1939

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

Re: MONTE E. HART, et al.
MAIL FRAUD.

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

This will confirm the telephonic conversation with Inspector AL ROSEN of the Bureau today.

Inspector ROSEN was informed that Special Agent R. L. SHIVERS of this office had just conferred with Mr. O. JOHN ROGGE, Assistant Attorney General, who came to New Orleans from Chicago by plane last night. Mr. ROGGE has been in conference with the U. S. Attorney and his staff here today on the mail fraud angle of the general investigation. He stated it was his purpose to have an indictment returned when court convenes Monday, July 17, 1939, against MONTE E. HART, JAMES MONROE SMITH, J. MORT ADAMS, SEYMOUR WEISS and LOUIS LEGAGE for using the mails to defraud. Mr. ROGGE supplied copy of the first count of the indictment, which I am transmitting herewith. The indictment is in two counts, but the second count has not been transcribed as yet. However, it is substantially the same as the second count of the indictment which was transmitted to the Bureau with my letter of July 14, 1939.

Mr. ROGGE was asked if he intended to communicate with the Attorney General before this indictment was returned and he indicated he would, saying he expected to call the Attorney General the first thing tomorrow morning. Mr. ROGGE indicated that he did not think the evidence against SEYMOUR WEISS was any too strong.

Mr. ROGGE also stated that he was not satisfied with the investigation which the W. P. A. has conducted, and in fact he emphasized his dissatisfaction with this investigation, although he did not particularize the reasons therefor, stating that he had been devoting most of the day to reviewing the facts and evidence in the mail fraud angle of the general investigation. Mr. ROGGE stated that he wanted this office to conduct a discreet, confidential investigation of HILARY J. GAUDIN, Assistant U. S. Attorney, as from the information he has obtained, Mr. GAUDIN seems to be "carrying water on both shoulders" and associates too closely with SEYMOUR WEISS and MONTE HART. He said

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170 JEP 17 1939
he knew that his request would have to be referred to you, and I informed him that this question would be taken up with you immediately.

It was not possible to obtain the second count of the indictment, inasmuch as it had not been written up. However, as previously stated, it is substantially the same as the proposed draft which was submitted with my letter of July 14th.

For the evidence on which this indictment will be predicated, your attention is invited to a summary report rendered under the mail fraud caption by Special Agent C. E. WILKES, NEW ORLEANS, dated July 14, 1939.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

B. E. SACKR, R M.
Special Agent in Charge.

RLS: ahs

Encl.

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY.
negotiations with Richard E. Hart, Governor of Louisiana, for the sale of the said Broussard Hotel, with all the equipment and contents to the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College for the sum of $75,000, by writ on or about September 20, 1925, as a result of said negotiations the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College adopted resolutions authorizing the purchase of the said Broussard Hotel for the sum of $75,000.

Another resolution adopted by said board was approved and the resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College was signed by the defendants, RICHARD E. HART, GENEVIEVE BEHN and J. HUDON ADAMS, negotiators with the defendants, JAMES BROWN SMITH, for the purpose of the sale of the Hotel by the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to the National Equipment Company, Inc., a corporation of which the defendant, RICHARD E. HART, was principal stockholder and president, with the intention of fraudulent protest and representation that the said National Equipment Company, Inc., would sell and deliver to the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College the Hotel, together with all the furniture and equipment, fixtures and other contents of the Hotel; and all of the written instrument above annexed to evidence that they would keep the written instrument and effecting the said intended sale and in making a fraudulent distribution of the said sum of $75,000, proceeds thereof; that the defendants, RICHARD E. HART, and the defendant, GENEVIEVE BEHN, prepared and caused to be prepared an invoice on a billhead of the National Equipment Company, Inc., addressed to Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which invoice purported to cover the sale to Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College by National Equipment Company, Inc., of furnishings and equipment of the said Broussard Hotel for the sum of $75,000; that the defendant, JAMES BROWN SMITH, approved for payment the said invoice for $75,000 and caused the check of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to the order
In order to enable collecting said the said above to proceed to the City National Bank of Baton Rouge, Louisiana,

And at the 9th day of October, 1909, the City Branch of the City National Bank as agent for the defendants herein in accordance with the usual custom through the said bank through the Federal Reserve Bank at New Orleans, Louisiana, which is agent of said the City Branch of the Whitney National Bank at the hands of the defendants herein, hereinafter referred to as the defendants and the

defendants will have that the said Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College held and did hold property in return for said payment of $79,000 and one thousand dollars or any other sum of money hereinafter hereinafter that oil of the defendants herein and others and those said the oil of the defendant,

fixtures and other parcels of real property held, very the subject of the sale of the Barryville Hotel with all of its equipment and that included in the said price of $79,000 for said hotel with all equipment thereof belonging to the defendant, equipment, and all equipment therein located, heating and lighting equipment, and the said real estate including fixtures and without the possibility as is not found in the real estate, and without being public, in the hotel with all equipment mentioned, and to the knowledge that all of said defendants were thus will have that said National Equipment Company, Inc., had no title or right to said equipment, fixtures and other parcels of real property held, pretended to be conveyed to the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College in consideration of the said payment of $79,000 and that all of said defendants will have that the said National Equipment Company, Inc., could convey no title or right to said property.

And the said Grand Jurors says, present and find that each and every one of the premises, representations and claims made and intended to be made
By the most expeditious mode practicable and convenient, to be paid and tendered to the City National Bank, New Orleans, for the payment of the following sum, due to the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College and the State of Louisiana:

$75,000.00

Payable to the order of National Dishonesty Co., Inc., New Orleans, Louisiana.

This weather-stamp can properly endorsed, become null in case the order is not paid. Alterations and corrections will render this check void; return if not correct.

Vice-President

NATIONAL DISHONESTY COMPANY, INC.

Pay to the order of any bank, banker, or trust company, or order.

New Orleans, Louisiana

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW ORLEONS

14-23 New Orleans, La.
New Orleans, La., July

Dear Sir:

I want to thank you and congratulate you on investigating all the incomes and wrongdoings of Louisiana's politicians. We want you to go down to the very end and punish every one and guilty. They have disgraced our fair state, and the name of our fair state is [illegible] over this land. Please do help us in this our hour of need. Our taxes are sky-high everything. We need relief and we need relief quick, and we look forward to you and your organization to investigate everything wrong these politicians done, that is taken under improper circumstances and make them turn it back into the state treasury and keep them in jail for a long time, in this way you would be a great duty to our fair state.

In thanking you for your efforts to correct our unfortunate position with our unreliable politicians, we remain,

NEW ORLEANS HONEST CITIZENS AND ALSO HONEST CITIZENS OF GOOD OLD LOUISIANA, whose name the politicians have put under their feet, after they looted her treasuries.
July 19, 1939

Mr. James W. Peagam
Baskin, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Peagam:

Your letter of July 8, 1939, addressed to United States Attorney General Frank Murphy, has been referred to this bureau for investigative attention.

Your letter will be referred to the United States Attorney at New Orleans, Louisiana, for appropriate attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc New Orleans
July 14, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: Louisiana State Officials
Information Concerning

Dear Sirs:

I am transmitting herewith copies of a letter addressed to the Attorney General under date of July 6, 1939, from James W. Reagan, Baskin, Louisiana, for reference to the United States Attorney at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

CC to Department together with original inclosure.
Baskin, La.  
July 8, 1939

U. S. Attorney General F. Murphy  
Washington, D. C.

Hon. Mr. Murphy:

I am writing you in connection with recent investigations in La. It has been rumored that an investigation would be made into the 5% "Kick In" collected from all State employees.

I wish to say that I have worked for the state for three years, or up until Oct. 21st 1938. At that date I quit working for them. Every check we recd. we had to kick in 5%. I was getting $2.50 with the exception of about 3 months that I recd. $3.00 per day. During this period I payed in or kicked in about $140.00. The kick in was made at the district office or a man would call out on the work to take this "kick in" up. They would not give you a receipt or let you pay by check. Failure to "kick in" automatically removed you from the payrolls. As this is a very unfair practice I would like to see it investigated.

I didn't know just who to write but decided to write you. They are so closely associated at Baton Rouge until it would be useless to ask for an investigation from our State Attorney General.

Would it be necessary for me to make an affidavit out to begin a clean up or just what? No present employee of the State can do this as he would be fired outright.

I will be expecting a reply from you.

Thank you  
Very Truly  
James W. Reagan
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**MEMORANDUM**
July 7, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

For your information, I am attaching hereto a copy of a teletype from the New Orleans Office of the FBI, dated July 6, 1939, referring to the developments in the State of Louisiana upon the general situation there.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

Mr. Tobin
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Toman
Mr. Cressey
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Edgar
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Grier
Mr. Hurle
Mr. Kent
Mr. McTernon
Mr. Nichols
Mr. O. Tomm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Goody
3 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 6, 1939

Honorable Rene A. Viosca,
United States Attorney,
Post Office Building,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto are the following investigative
reports prepared by this office and which are for your use:

Report of Special Agent in Charge B. E. Sackett,
dated July 3, 1939 at New Orleans, Louisiana on JAMES MONTGOMERY SMITH,
with aliases; BANK ROBBERY.

Report of Special Agent T. F. Wilson, dated July 3,
1939 at New Orleans, Louisiana on W.P.A. IRREGULARITIES; INFORMATION
CONCERNING.

Report of Special Agent O. V. Dunker, dated July 9,
1939 at New Orleans, Louisiana on LOUISIANA STATE OF I.D.: INFORMATION
CONCERNING.

Yours very truly,

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

cc Bureau
62-975
62-977
62-987
Mon. John Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Louisiana Political Situation.

In accordance with your request, I am summarizing briefly the recent developments in the Louisiana political situation.

The State political Democratic organization has been active for several months, with the exception of the period when the late Senator Huey P. Long was fighting the City of New Orleans administration, dominated the political picture in Louisiana. A caucus of the Party meets several months before a State election and chooses candidates for the Governorship and other State offices, which candidates, by reason of having the support of the Machine, are virtually assured of being elected. The caucus of the State Democratic political party is expected to be held during the latter part of October or in November 1939, at which time candidates for State offices, including that of Governor, will be chosen. The election is scheduled to take place during January. Governor Richard W. Leche has been in office since May 12, 1936.

For the past year, various politicians in the State have announced, some seriously and others just talking, their intention of seeking the Party's support to run for the Governorship this year, since it was known that Leche would not run again. Most of these men have dropped from the limelight and are now unheard of in this regard. However, the following individuals have been, and are, very active in the gubernatorial race, and constitute, in my judgment, the principal candidates:

Lieutenant-Governor Earl K. Long, a brother of the late Senator Long, is the man who is supposed to have the "inside track" at the present time. Long had, for the past several months, hinted in press interviews that he had been promised the State Political Party's support for the Governorship in 1939, and as a matter of fact, at the Louisiana Peace Officers Convention at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on May
June 26, 1939.

16, 1939, I heard LONG, in his talk before the Convention, definitely make the statement that four years ago when he went in as Lieutenant-Governor, those in control of the Party had promised to support him, LONG, for the Governorship in the 1939 election. He also stated that Mayor ROBERT S. MAESTRI of New Orleans, is personally favoring his candidacy for the Governorship. These statements caused Mayor MAESTRI to state that he would support the candidate chosen by the Party's caucus in the Fall, and he did not at that time come out and definitely endorse EARL LONG.

JAMES ALBERT NOE, who is a State Senator from Monroe, La., is conceded to be LONG'S principal opponent for the Governorship. NOE announced his candidacy about eight months ago, and has been a very bitter critic of the LECHE administration since about the latter part of 1936, when he broke with LECHE and the administration. NOE is in the natural gas and oil business in Monroe, was very closely associated with and was a friend of Senator LONG, and acted as LONG'S "stooge", at the time of the radio investigation in 1934 of the City Administration of New Orleans.

NOE is well liked in Northern Louisiana, particularly, principally because of his loyal friendship to HUEY P. LONG, who is still worshipped up in that country almost as a god.

I received information from a confidential source that NOE was in Washington several weeks ago where he saw Attorney General Murphy, and is supposed to have given the Attorney General quite a bit of data regarding the corrupt operations of the present State Administration.

I furnished the Bureau with NOE'S background telephonically on June 19, 1939.

MR. WADE O. MARTIN, presently Chairman of the State Public Service Commission, is another announced candidate for the Governorship. MR. MARTIN has been rather inactive in his campaign, and has not been a very violent critic of the State Administration. No one seems to regard his candidacy as being serious, and he is not considered to have a chance of being elected to the office.

On June 22, 1939, MR. A. P. TUGWELL, who presently occupies the office of State Treasurer, announced his candidacy. This was the day following the evening when Governor LECHE announced his intention to
submit his resignation. TUGWELL had not theretofore been considered as a candidate, however, during the past few days he has made some public statements denouncing the Administration and EARL K. LONG. He is not considered by political observers as far as I know, to have much of a chance at this time to secure the Party's support.

During the past few days it was also intimated that Attorney-General DAVID M. ELLISON, was being considered by LECHE, for the Governorship, however, this is still in the nature of a rumor, and has not been confirmed either by LECHE, ELLISON or others in authority.

It is generally conceded that Mayor ROBERT S. MAESTRI of New Orleans is the dominant political figure, publically, in the State at this time. The voting strength of the City of New Orleans is such that a substantial majority in the city would be sufficient to overcome any minority throughout the rest of the State. MAESTRI is the accepted leader of the City of New Orleans politically, hence, all of the candidates are trying to curry his favor and support.

This was the political picture throughout the State, generally, so far as the Governorship was concerned, until June 9, 1939, when the New Orleans States, an anti-administration newspaper in New Orleans, published photographs showing a truck, the property of the Louisiana State University, delivering newly made window sashes of the type used in private residences, and other building material, to the private property of MRS. JAMES McLACHLAN at Metairie, a suburb of New Orleans. MR. McLACHLAN is allegedly a very intimate friend of Governor LECHE, and is a Colonel on his Staff.

The building material was apparently used in connection with a building being erected on this property. Thereafter, the New Orleans States, and its morning paper, the Times-Picayune, conducted a rather vigorous campaign, fully illustrating its points by pictures and trying to secure explanations for these occurrences. I have been confidentially advised by the City Editor of the New Orleans States that the paper had a great deal of other information, apparently reliable, tending to show that the building material furnished by Louisiana State University was used in private construction at the homes of intimates of Governor LECHE. However, the attorney for the newspaper would not permit them to publish this information.

On June 9, 1939, also, Attorney General DAVID M. ELLISON, at the direction of Governor LECHE, upon the publicity appearing in the States as aforesaid, ordered an open hearing to be held June 15, 1939,
to inquire into the use of public property for private purposes.

The campaign of the New Orleans States and Times-Picayune continued unabated during the following few days, in every possible way criticizing the handling of these matters at Louisiana State University, securing and publishing conflicting statements from various individuals in the State Administration.

On June 13, 1939, Governor Leche announced that the public hearing was indefinitely postponed, and stated that a broader investigation was underway. The following day the Superintendent of Construction of Louisiana State University stated that the records of the University relative to mill work done for private persons, were not available.

On June 14, 15, 16 and 17, 1939, Dr. James Monroe Smith, President of Louisiana State University, could not be found at his office by reporters for questioning.

The June 17, 1939, issue of the Shreveport, Louisiana Journal newspaper quoted the Washington Merry-Go-Round by Drew/Pearson and Albert S. Allen, charging "W. P. A. corruption in Louisiana". The article quoted one full affidavit signed by six men alleging various irregularities. This entire article, as it appeared in the Washington Merry-Go-Round, was a few days later read into the Congressional record in the U. S. Senate, according to newspaper reports.

(I furnished the Bureau with complete newspaper clippings in this regard)

The W. P. A. administrator for the State, James H. Crutcher, asked for an investigation, and it appears that the Division of Investigations, W. P. A., had, a day or two previous thereto, started an investigation into these matters, which investigation is presently still in process of being conducted.

From your information I learned in a general conversation with my contact at the New Orleans States, F. Edward Herbert, City Editor, that several months ago he, Herbert, had seen sixteen affidavits submitted by various employees of the W. P. A., in, or in the vicinity, of Baton Rouge, alleging irregularities, including the use of W. P. A. labor and material on private projects. Herbert confidentially informed me that these sixteen affidavits were sent to the Chicago Tribune newspaper and that they apparently thereafter found their way into the hands of Pearson and Allen, which was the basis for the article appearing in their Washington Merry-Go-Round.
It is my belief that the W. P. A. investigators have been, and are, checking into the substance of these affidavits by questioning various individuals in Baton Rouge and vicinity. I do not know, of course, the extent or scope of their investigation or progress they are making. However, I do not believe that they have, up until possibly the last day or two, gone into the records of Louisiana State University to any extent in their investigations.

(For your further information) U. S. Attorney RENÉ A. VIOSCA of New Orleans, today announced that he would have the Federal Grand Jury commencing June 30, 1939, investigate these specific charges of W. P. A. corruption and graft, and was subpoenaing the W. P. A. investigators and other witnesses to testify before the Grand Jury in this regard.

On June 19, 1939, DR. JAMES M. SMITH, President of Louisiana State University, was reached by reporters for statement purposes, and advised that the sale of private individuals of mill work done at the University was against the University’s policy. The records of the University were denied the reporters the following day upon the theory that the W. P. A. investigators were using same.

On the evening of June 21, 1939, Governor RICHARD W. LECHÉ announced his intention to resign as Governor, giving as reasons his ill health. It is claimed that he has suffered two arthritis attacks since last January, and in announcing his intention to resign he stated that he was very ill and that his doctors told him he would have to resign at once if he ever expected to recover. The account showed that he gave the statement while in bed, and that apparently Attorney General DAVID M. ELLISON, Lieutenant-Governor LONG, Mayor ROBERT S. MAESTRI and SEYMOUR WEISS were in a conference with him immediately preceding the announcement of his intended resignation.

The following day Mayor MAESTRI, in a press interview, indicated his support of Lieutenant-Governor EARL K. LONG for the Party’s candidate for the Governorship, by stating he felt sure the Party caucus would nominate LONG. This was interpreted by observers as an endorsement of LONG by MAESTRI.

SEYMOUR WEISS also publicly proclaimed his friendship for LONG and his support of him as Governor.

With the announcement of LECHÉ’S resignation, a political
storm arose in the State. Persons in office, who had not been friendly to EARL LONG, immediately voiced their beliefs that LONG would "clean house" upon his taking office. All kinds of rumors were prevalent concerning the resignation of various officials, however, none resigned. It was rumored that Attorney General ELLISON would resign after LONG took office, since ELLISON is supposed to be considering running for the Governorship in the Fall. LONG made the statement that he did not contemplate any changes in the State office positions "for some time"; that he would follow out the policies of LECHÉ as Governor.

There is much speculation, of course, as to the real reasons for LECHÉ'S resignation at this time. It is to be noted that while he gave the bad state of his health as his reason, and was apparently very ill on the evening he gave out the statement of his intended resignation, the following morning, June 22, 1939, he apparently was out of bed, chatted very gaily with various callers, and appeared to have suddenly recovered physically to a great extent over night. This fact was commented upon rather sarcastically by the New Orleans States and Times-Picayune the following day.

The Governor also later stated that one of his principal reasons for resigning was that he wanted to travel, and he intended to see the West coast and visit Honolulu with his family, and would be gone for a number of months.

(From what I have been able to gather, and in view of the at least tacit support of LONG by Mayor MAESTRI, I have formed the opinion that LONG'S claims to the effect that the Party leaders have made a deal with him to support him for the Governorship in 1939 are probably true.)

In my letter to you of May 22, 1939, wherein I advised you of the Louisiana political situation, and of the fact that EARL CHRISTENBERRY will probably be Lieutenant-Governor in the event LONG is elected Governor, I stated as follows:

"During my association with EARL CHRISTENBERRY at the Convention and my general conversation with him, I came to the definite belief that Governor RICHARD W. LECHÉ is presently in Washington for the purpose of endeavoring to secure the appointment as United States District Judge in New Orleans; that he expects to secure this appointment within the next month or six weeks, and if so will retire from office as Governor to enter upon his duties as judge within the next two months.
Upon this event taking place, EARL LONG will automatically become Governor of the State and will be in position to better further his candidacy for his reelection as Governor."

(The developments within the past week might indicate that this was to have been the plan. I have heard it generally spoken by some men I know here in New Orleans that they believe LECHÉ resigned at this time in order to carry out the plan of putting EARL LONG in the Governor's chair at this time, thus giving him prestige and a chance to be reelected; that LECHÉ had to resign even though he did not secure the judgeship, which would have given him a more graceful exit. On the other hand, I have heard the belief expressed within the past few days that the reason behind LECHÉ'S resignation at this time was to put EARL LONG in office so that in the interim between now and the caucus of the Party, LONG could "make a damn fool out of himself" to such an extent that the Party leaders would be justified in breaking their promise or withdraw their support of LONG as their candidate for the Governorship.)

A lot of people believe that the Party leaders, including MAESTRI, WEISS and others, do not like LONG and do not personally want to see him in the Governor's chair, however, they have given their promise to him and will have to go through with it.

It is also said that LONG is so vindictive, vicious and independent in thought and action that he will not be able to be controlled in any way by the State political machine once he assumes office, and that this is the reason why those in authority are primarily against him.

At 10:25 P. M., Sunday, June 25, 1939, Governor LECHÉ, after a conference with Attorney General KLEISON, EARL LONG, General LOUIS F. GUERRE, Superintendent of the State Police, handed press representatives at Baton Rouge a written statement indicating that DR. JAMES MONROE SMITH, President of Louisiana State University had apparently been guilty of misappropriation of University funds, amounting to probably "several hundred thousand dollars" and had disappeared from Baton Rouge after attempts had been made to locate him for questioning. The Governor announced, in view of these developments, he would not resign at 11:00 A. M., June 26, 1939, as he had previously announced he would on June 23, 1939.

(I am addressing a separate communication to you tonight re-
garding the entire situation involving Dr. James M. Smith and his disappearance, and the irregularities as I know them. Therefore, I will not go into this matter in this communication.)

(As will be seen from my letter to you regarding Dr. Smith it is not conceivable that at least Karl Long would not have known a long time ago of the irregularities on the part of Smith, since Long's law partner apparently was interested in the stock market manipulations with Smith wherein the latter used the embezzled funds. Smith, as president of Louisiana State University, made $18,000 a year, and it was apparently well known in New Orleans by people in financial circles that Smith was speculating in the grain market for some time.

Today's newspapers confirmed the information I telephoned to the Bureau about a week before General Murphy and yourself visited New Orleans, to the effect that the income tax returns of Dr. James M. Smith were under investigation by the Internal Revenue Department. Up to the writing of this communication tonight Smith has not been located. There are numerous rumors that he has been shot, and he has been located in various parts of the country, however, none of these have any foundation.

The general opinion or belief in New Orleans is that the blowup, with respect to Smith, is just the beginning of a general blowup throughout the whole State administration, and that other and more startling disclosures of graft, corruption and misuse of State funds will come to light. It is apparently believed generally, as far as I can determine here, that Governor Leche gave Smith "several hours head start" so that he would get safely out of Baton Rouge before his resignation was made public. This thought is apparently substantiated by the fact that, according to information received, Smith handed Leche his resignation personally at 4:00 P.M., yesterday, which allegedly came as a "complete surprise" to the Governor, and apparently no effort was made to look for Smith until at least 8:00 P.M. that evening, when General Guerre was notified, searched Smith's house, and found some of the bonds.

I have heard no rumors or opinions indicating that Leche or any other State administration officers actually participated with Smith in the irregularities, although there is little question in my mind but what Leche knew about them. It is not the consensus of opinion so far as I can determine to night, that Smith is taking the blame for others. The general thought seems to be that all of these State officials have their own "sources of gravy" and that apparently Smith's troubles caught up with him now, while the others have not caught up with them yet.)
It is generally agreed, as far as I know, that LECHER was "very fortunate" in not having his resignation take effect prior to the time that SMITH skipped out, which would have put LECHER in a much worse light than he is now. It was believed that LECHER would resign within the next day or two irrespective of these developments with regard to SMITH.

A statement was issued at 4:10 P. M. today by EARL LONG to the effect that LECHER would not resign for "several days yet". However, at 6:30 P. M., tonight LECHER announced his resignation, and within an hour thereafter LONG was sworn in as Governor of Louisiana at Baton Rouge.

It is believed (by several contacts of mine) that LECHER is very anxious to leave office and in fact, leave the State, in order to avoid as much as possible answering "embarrassing questions". For these reasons, it is entirely probable that LECHER will suddenly become well enough to travel, and will very shortly leave this part of the country with his family on an extensive "vacation".

The developments in the political situation today and this evening have caused a turmoil throughout the State, second in intensity only to the day that HUEY LONG was shot. Several of my best contacts and sources of confidential information are in Baton Rouge today covering the situation, and I have not been able to properly contact them for information. I will, however, obtain the benefit of their views and observations within the next day or two, as soon as they return to New Orleans, and will give you the benefit of those views immediately.

Since the developments of this political situation as I have outlined in this communication began on June 9, 1939, I have furnished the Bureau with complete daily newspaper clippings from the New Orleans press, and will continue to do so and will continue to advise you of the pertinent developments with respect to the entire matter.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge.

AIRMAIL-SPECIAL DELIVERY
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
July 3, 1939

PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am submitting to you herewith three copies of a memorandum, in accordance with your desire, summarizing the information developed at this office in connection with the present Louisiana political situation, also indicating the possible Federal violations involved.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge

BES:AIS
Enclosures.

RECORDED 62-32697-133
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 11 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER:

July 5, 1939.

In accordance with your desires, I am setting out below a resume of the most recent developments in the Louisiana State Administration irregularities, the actions on the part of the U. S. Attorney, and the possible Federal violations apparent from the information at hand as at this date. For your convenience, this information is being set out under the following described headings:

1. GENERAL.
2. JAMES MONROE SMITH, IRREGULARITIES.
3. F. P. A. IRREGULARITIES.
4. FIVE PERCENT SALARY CONTRIBUTIONS BY STATE
   EMPLOYEES.
5. FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY FUND IRREGULARITIES.
6. INCOME TAX EVASION.
7. POSSIBLE FEDERAL VIOLATIONS.
   (a) Bank Robbery (Entering Bank with intent
   to commit a felony).
   (b) Use of WPA labor and materials.
   (c) Section 276-2, Title 40, U. S. C. A.
   (5% Deductions of State Employees' Salaries).
   (d) Fraud against Government (Social Security Fund).
   (e) Income Tax Evasion.

8. CONCLUSION.

1. GENERAL

The present public investigations by the State officials
began on the evening of June 25, 1939, when DR. JAMES MONROE SMITH, Pre-
sident of Louisiana State University, handed his resignation to Governor
LEGHE personally and disappeared from Baton Rouge. At that time, irregu-
larities on the part of SMITH were made public, and since then the politi-
cal situation in the State has been in a turmoil. Not only the majority of
the newspapers in the State have been condemning the situation, but
it appears that the press throughout the rest of the country has reacted
to the situation in the same manner.

There is very little doubt but what Ex-Governor LEGHE per-
mitted SMITH to have a few hours start before making his knowledge of
SMITH'S irregularities public and ordering a search instituted for him.
Ex-Governor LEGHE resigned from office at 7:00 PM, June 26, 1939, and

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Lieutenant-Governor EARL K. LONG was immediately sworn in as Governor. Since that time Governor LONG has taken the public attitude at least of instituting a crusading and reform type of administration. LONG has publicly stated that he desires a thorough investigation made, not only into the Louisiana State University situation, but also in other branches of the State Government, wherein irregularities are suspected, and that he will let the "chips fall where they may" even though it involves his best friends.

The matter of LONG'S sincerity in these statements are, of course, decidedly questionable, since he has been a part of the recent State Administration and undoubtedly received personal benefits therefrom.

LONG apparently at this time has the entire backing of Mayor ROBERT S. MAESTRI of New Orleans, who is the most prominent political figure at this time in the State. MAESTRI himself has not made any public statements to the press of any nature relative to the irregularities of SMITH or of LECHE'S administration generally.

The principal enemy of the Administration is State Senator JAMES A. NOE of Monroe, La. NOE has for a number of months been collecting a great deal of data regarding various irregularities in the State Government, principally for his own use in connection with his campaign for the governorship next January.

NOE was interviewed by agents of this office in accordance with the desire of the U. S. Attorney at New Orleans, and upon your authority, and this attitude on NOE'S part is plainly apparent. NOE stated he did not know how much information to furnish, since he questioned the motives of the Administration at Washington in making a thorough and continued investigation of the Louisiana situation. He frankly stated that he promised to give all information he obtained as a result of his investigations to the Chicago Tribune newspaper and to the authors of the Washington Merry-Go-Round column. He did not furnish any definite information of value to a general investigation by our Bureau.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Grand Jury started an investigation of the alleged irregularities in Louisiana State University funds on June 28, 1939 and on June 30, 1939, returned an indictment against JAMES MONROE SMITH alleging $100,000 embezzlement and also indicted J. M. BROWN, SMITH'S broker-in-New Orleans, MRS. JAMES MONROE SMITH, OWEN W. WARE, SMITH'S son-in-law and J. ELORY ADAMS, SMITH'S nephew. This was in the nature of a preliminary report of the Grand Jury, and that
body indicated that it was inquiring further into other situations. It is due to reconvene Wednesday, July 5, 1939, to hear other witnesses.

JAMES MONROE SMITH and his wife surrendered to local authorities at Brockville, Ontario, Canada, on the evening of July 1, 1939, and representatives of the District Attorney's office, Baton Rouge, and Louisiana State Police, are today en route to Canada to return SMITH to Baton Rouge.

U. S. Attorney RENE A. VIOSCA of New Orleans, upon receipt of instructions from Attorney General MURPHY personally to inquire into the entire situation for the purpose of determining whether any Federal violations have occurred, began to call witnesses before the Federal Grand Jury at New Orleans on June 30, 1939. From my several conferences with U. S. Attorney VIOSCA since he received his instructions from the Attorney General, it is quite apparent to me that MR. VIOSCA has no definite organized plan of action, and that he personally would desire the FBI to "go into the whole situation". He has made a few specific requests of this office such as interviewing MR. ANDREW P. TUGWELL, the State Treasurer, JAMES A. NOE, and MRS. ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, formerly secretary to HUEY LONG, and the head of two departments of the State Government under Governor LECHE. These interviews have been conducted without developing any general information of interest.

MR. VIOSCA also has made the request that our Bureau investigate the 5% deductions made from the salaries of State employees to determine whether the Federal laws have been violated. Appropriate inquiries have been made in this regard and a summary of this situation will be found out below.

MR. VIOSCA has also requested that the situation involving the three loans totaling $500,000 made by SMITH be developed for possible Federal angles and this has been done by this office, with results shown hereinafter.

MR. VIOSCA has expressed to me a lack of confidence in the investigation into the WPA irregularities being conducted by the Division of Investigations of the Works Progress Administration under the supervision of its New Orleans agent in charge, MR. PAUL HANSEN. He has asked this office to investigate one specific angle of the situation involving Ex-Governor LECHE, which has been done, and a report is today being submitted relative thereto. These are the only specific requests which MR. VIOSCA has made of this office to date.
The WPA investigators have not submitted any written reports to MR. VIOOSCA, although I strongly suggested and urged him to insist upon written reports from them.

On Saturday, July 1, 1939, he received a report from the Intelligence Unit, Internal Revenue Bureau, relative to income tax evasions by SMITH, which will be commented upon hereinafter, and on the same date started presenting evidence to the Federal Grand Jury relative to such violation by having the Internal Revenue agent testify.

In presenting evidence to the Federal Grand Jury MR. VIOOSCA has no apparent organization or definite objectives, since he has no Federal violations worked up completely, and is merely subpoenaing all persons who may have some evidence bearing on the entire situation. This is true of persons who have written MR. VIOOSCA letters claiming to know details surrounding WPA irregularities, as well as other irregularities.

At the present time the Federal Grand Jury investigation apparently is in the nature of a general Grand Jury inquiry, and with the possible exception of the income tax evasion case against SMITH, it does not appear that any definite and complete cases of Federal violations of any description has been worked up sufficiently for proper and full presentation to the Grand Jury. Even the income tax case apparently needs additional investigation before all possible evidence is ascertained.

MR. VIOOSCA expects to continue presenting witnesses before the Grand Jury for at least several weeks, and apparently hopes to obtain leads from the testimony of these people before that body which would enable further investigations into the different matters. As at the time of dictating this memorandum all requests made by the U. S. Attorney of this office, and which have been approved by yourself, have been fully complied with, and reports on everything handled by this office in connection with the entire matter are today going forward to the Bureau. The one exception to this statement is the investigation relative to the loans totaling $500,000 obtained by SMITH concerning which further investigation will have to be conducted at the banks on Wednesday.
James Monroe Smith — Irregularities

On about December 1, 1936 at New Orleans, Louisiana, James Monroe Smith, then President of the Louisiana State University, met J. M. Brown of Equities Inc., a firm dealing in commodities, (coffee, sugar, real estate, etc.,) through George Ashton also of Equities Inc. Smith subscribed to and purchased shares of stock in Equities Inc. in the amount of $5,000.00 which was increased within thirty days to $12,000.00. In January 1937 Smith was made Vice-President of this concern and received at first $75.00 per month and later $100.00 per month.

In December 1936 Smith told J. M. Brown that he wanted to trade in the stock market.

On December 10, 1936 J. M. Brown, the intermediate broker who maintained his office in the Union Building in New Orleans, Louisiana, filed with Fenner and Beane, brokers of New Orleans, Louisiana a power of attorney signed by James Monroe Smith. This power of attorney authorized Brown to buy and sell securities and commodities for Smith's account and vested in Brown all authority to deal for Smith.

On December 17, 1936 Brown submitted to Fenner and Beane a letter signed by Smith in which it was stated that it was the desire of Smith to use the account name of "J. M. Monroe". This signature was duly acknowledged by Smith in the presence of a representative of Fenner and Beane. Brown filed a customers contract card and loan agreement card signed by Smith giving as an address the address of Brown's office. Smith represented that he was dealing for a group of wealthy individuals in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

From time to time Brown placed with Fenner and Beane cash and bonds, among these being a number of Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College Bonds and also $50,000.00 Orleans Levee District Refunding Bonds.

In December 1938 Brown deposited with Fenner and Beane for the accounts of Smith, as additional collateral, $375,000.00 Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College Bonds. In April, 1939 Fenner and Beane asked for a legal opinion on the bonds.

On May 2, 1939 Smith negotiated a loan for the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at the National Bank of Commerce New Orleans, Louisiana for $300,000.00, tendering a resolution dated March 8, 1939 by the Board of Supervisors authorizing the loan. Smith was issued a cashier's check payable to Fenner and Beane for $300,000.00 the same date. This check was tendered to Fenner and Beane by J. M. Brown and was deposited to the account of Fenner and Beane in the National Bank of Commerce in New Orleans, Louisiana. The bonds were withdrawn from Fenner and Beane when the check was tendered.

On May 20, 1939 Brown delivered to Fenner and Beane, $375,000.00 Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College bonds for safekeeping, with a statement that instructions would
follow as to the accounts in which they were to be placed. These bonds were not needed as collateral. A few days later Fenner and Beane asked for a legal opinion which they advised would be forthcoming and on May 31 Fenner received instructions as to the accounts to which the bonds should be placed. A legal opinion was obtained from Benjamin Campbell, to the effect that the bonds were legal, but the approval of the State Bond and Tax Board was not promptly forthcoming so Brown was requested to take up the bonds by Fenner and Beane, which was done. On June 15, 1939 Brown deposited at the Louisiana Savings Bank and Trust Company, $375,000.00 worth Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College bonds which are presently in the bank.

On June 9, 1939 Smith negotiated a $100,000.00 loan for the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College at the City National Bank of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, tendering a resolution dated May 29, 1939 of the Board of Supervisors authorizing the loan. Smith was issued a New Orleans Exchange on the Hibernia National Bank the same date for $100,000.00 which bears the endorsement of the Louisiana Savings Bank and Trust Company, New Orleans. Smith took this check to Brown who in turn gave Fenner and Beane his own check for $100,000.00 drawn on the Louisiana State Bank and Trust Company of New Orleans.

On June 14, 1939 Smith negotiated a loan for $100,000.00 at the Hibernia National Bank, New Orleans, tendering a resolution dated May 29, 1939 of the Board of Supervisors authorizing the loan. Smith was issued a cashier's check the same date payable to the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College which check bears the endorsement of the National Bank of Commerce, New Orleans. Smith deposited this check in the account of the Louisiana State University maintained at the National Bank of Commerce and on June 15, 1939 he was issued a cashier's check drawn on the account of the Louisiana State University payable to Fenner and Beane in the amount of $100,000.00. The bank claimed they issued the checks on Smith's instruction as Smith had the power to draw checks on the account.

On June 15, 1939 Brown delivered to Fenner and Beane the check for $100,000 drawn on the National Bank of Commerce and stated that it was his intention to close the account. The balance of the commitments were closed by Brown and on June 15, 1939 Fenner and Beane delivered to Brown $14,000.00 Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College Bonds.

The following checks were also delivered to Brown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 15, 1939</td>
<td>$200,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15, 1939</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 20, 1939</td>
<td>16,960.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brown claimed the bonds amounting to $14,000.00 had been held by Fenner and Beane as collateral for about a year and that the checks received from Fenner and Beane in closing out the account were not given to Smith, but were retained to cover commitments of Smith; that he thought the bonds submitted by Smith were legitimate.

Mr. Charles Fenner of Fenner and Beane claimed that on June 7, 1939 two Smith accounts of which there were several carried three and one half million
bushels of wheat; that the market dropped from 74 to 68 thereby making it necessary
to sell out the Smith accounts. Fenner further advised that there were deposited
to the Smith account at one time $50,000.00 Orleans Levee Board Bonds believed to
be the property of Monte Hart (a member of the Hart Electrical Enterprise Co.
and a member of Caldwell Brothers and Hart Construction Company, New Orleans
which later company is alleged to have obtained a major portion of the construction
work at the Louisiana State University in the $13,500,000.00 building program).
Fenner also advised that checks of Leon C. Weiss went into the Smith account
(Weiss is an an architect of the firm of Weiss, Dreyfous and Seiferth, New
Orleans and designed many structures in the State of Louisiana including the
State Capitol).

With the exception of the one $100,000.00 item, obtained from Baton
Rouge, previously mentioned, the procedure usually followed by Smith in depositing
money or collateral in his account with Fenner and Beane was for Smith to take
the money or collateral to J. M. Brown who would have delivered to Fenner
and Beane which Smith waited in Brown's office for his receipt from Fenner and
Beane.

It appears that Smith did not want his identity generally known, but
it was of course known to Brown and Fenner and Beane.

Investigation is being conducted to determine the names of the persons
who were payees in connection with checks issued by Fenner and Beane in handling
Smith's account and is being set out in an investigative report. Arrangements
have been made to check the records of J. M. Brown with reference to his dealings
with Smith and also his dealings with Fenner and Beane for Smith.

Between June 23 and June 28, 1939 while Smith was staying at the
New Orleans Hotel in New Orleans Smith called the residence of G. O. Heidelberg,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Mrs. Heidelberg being his secretary, E. M. Jackson
Business Manager of the Louisiana State University and the then Governor R. W.
Leche, Covington, Louisiana using the name of Brown. At about 4:30 p.m. June
25, 1939 Smith handed in his resignation as President of the Louisiana State
University to Governor Leche at Baton Rouge, Louisiana and at about 7:00 p.m.
he and his wife Mrs. Thelma Ford Smith were taken from Baton Rouge to Memphis,
Tenn. by Owen Ware, his son-in-law, and J. Emory Adams, his nephew. From Memphis
the Smith's went through Chicago to Detroit, Michigan where they purchased a car
and went into Canada and on July 1, 1939 are reported to have been taken into
custody by the Police at Brockville, Ontario Canada.

On June 30, 1939 an East Baton Rouge Parish Grand Jury, Baton
Rouge, Louisiana indicted James Monroe Smith, Thelma Todd Smith, Owen Ware and
J. Emory Adams and J. M. Brown in connection with Smith's alleged irregularities in
Louisiana State University funds.

On July 1, 1939 Assistant U. S. Attorney Robert Weinstein swore to
a secret complaint at New Orleans, Louisiana before U. S. Commissioner Reginald
H. Carter, Jr., charging that on or about May 2, 1939 James Monroe Smith at New
Orleans, Louisiana in violation of Section 588 b, title 18, U. S. C. A. did
unlawfully, willfully and feloniously enter the National Bank of Commerce and the
building used by the said with intent to commit in such bank and building a felony,
to wit, embezzlement of $300,000.00 from the Louisiana State University and
James Monroe Smith was born in Jackson Parish, Louisiana on October 8, 1888 and was one of nine children, three of which are still living. He moved with his family to Ward 8, West Monroe, Louisiana when about 16 years of age. Both his parents are dead but he has a step-mother, Mrs. J. H. Smith living at West Monroe, Louisiana. Smith is reported to have worked his way through school and thereafter became a teacher in the Public Schools of DeQuincy, Louisiana where his wife also taught. He was Dean in the College of Education at the Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette, Louisiana from 1920 to 1930. On November 17, 1930 he became President of the Louisiana State University and resigned June 25, 1939. Smith received a degree from Valparaiso University in 1913; an B. A. from the Louisiana State University in 1921; took graduate work at the University of Chicago in the summer of 1922; received an M. A. degree from Teachers College of Columbia University in 1925 and received a Ph. D. degree from Columbia University in 1927. Smith was married to Thelma Todd on June 3, 1914 and they have two children.
5. WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION IRREGULARITIES

The investigation of the alleged misuse of material and labor of the Works Progress Administration was started under the supervision of PAUL HANSEN, Field Agent in Charge, Division of Investigation, Works Progress Administration, at New Orleans, on June 18, 1939, after an article appeared in the Washington Merry-Go-Round column the previous day. At the present time Mr. HANSEN has seven investigators working on this case and expects that three more will be assigned to the matter on July 5, 1939. Mr. HANSEN was interviewed concerning the scope of his investigation and the evidence he has, by an agent of this office today, with the following information being obtained. A separate report showing this interview and all detailed information obtained is being submitted today to the Bureau.

Of the thirty-two WPA projects on the Louisiana State University Campus, all with the exception of five have been completed. $1,835,962.00 of Federal funds were approved for all of the projects; of this amount $1,457,966.00 were for labor and $377,966.00 were for materials and miscellaneous expenses. The Louisiana State University pledged funds totaling $2,077,053.00, of which $402,042.00 were for labor and $1,675,011.00 were for materials and other expenses. As of May 31, 1939 a total of $1,353,086.81 of Federal funds had been expended, the break-down being $1,026,938.64 for labor and $326,150.17 for materials; that as of that date the Louisiana State University expended, according to WPA records, $2,275,949.18, the break-down being $1,465,701.53 for labor and $1,810,247.65 for material and other expenses.

It appears that most of the WPA money was spent for relief labor and supervision, and that the L.S.U. money was spent mostly for materials. In this regard, the WPA purchased materials in the sum of $326,150.17 as compared with the sum of $1,810,245.65 spent by L.S.U. with its funds for materials. According to this ratio, for every dollar's worth of material bought by the Government with WPA funds, the Louisiana State University bought six dollars worth of material. It appears, therefore, that one of the principal problems in this investigation is to trace the source of the material used on outside private projects, since it would necessarily have to be proven that materials purchased with WPA funds, and not State funds, were used in order for a Federal violation to have occurred.
According to Mr. HANSEN, most of the irregularities apparently were diversion of WPA materials which were alleged to have occurred from the early part of 1936 up until a very recent date; GEORGE CALDWELL, Superintendent of Construction at Louisiana State University, apparently supervised the entire construction and apparently directed the diversion of both WPA labor and material, as well as Louisiana State University labor and material.

Mr. HANSEN's investigation apparently indicates that two tenant houses were fabricated on L.S.U. grounds during a period of from six to eight weeks by L.S.U. carpenters and ten to fifteen WPA laborers. These houses were taken to the private residence of former Governor RICHARD LECHÉ, being loaded on L.S.U. trucks by WPA laborers, and erected on LECHÉ's property. HANSEN is now trying to trace the lumber and materials used in the construction of these houses to determine whether such material was actually WPA property or State property. HANSEN says there is no indication to date that LECHÉ knew that the WPA employees services were diverted or used in the construction of these houses, although unquestionably CALDWELL had knowledge thereof since he apparently supervised the construction. In addition thereto, Mr. HANSEN's office is working presently on information that about four or five hundred flagstones, about twelve or eighteen inches in size, were made on the L.S.U. Campus with the services of WPA laborers and were taken to former Governor LECHÉ's estate at Covington and placed on a walk between the house and an artificial lake.

To date, according to Mr. HANSEN, it appears that the following-named individuals have built homes with the assistance of WPA materials and/or services of WPA laborers:

D. M. TELLISON, Attorney General of the State of Louisiana;
JAMES MONROE SMITH, former President of Louisiana State University;
OWEN W. WARE, son-in-law of Dr. JAMES MONROE SMITH;
HARRY GADEN, in Charge of Animal Husbandry, L.S.U.;
E. N. JACKSON, Business Manager, Louisiana State University;
GEORGE C. CALDWELL, Superintendent of Construction, Louisiana State University;
EUGENE BARKSDALE, Assistant to GEORGE C. CALDWELL, L.S.U.;
ROY SPANN, Paymaster, Louisiana State University;
MRS. HUZY P. LONG, widow of the late Senator HUZY P. LONG;
M. L. MONFET, Project Superintendent, WPA;
JIMMY MARSHALL, Project Foreman, W.P.A.;
JIMMY HaLL, Project Foreman, W.P.A.

It appears that Mr. HANSEN has a little evidence involving all of the above-named individuals; however, he is now trying to determine the value of the WPA materials and cost of WPA labor used in
the construction of these private residences. He is also trying to
determine whether the materials used were actually WPA materials or
materials purchased with State funds. This appears to be rather dif-
cult, since the materials purchased by WPA and the State were inter-
mingled and apparently until about a year ago there was no effort
made to keep track of what specific WPA materials were used on
specific projects or parts thereof. This angle will apparently
require a great deal of detailed and thorough investigation.

It appears that HANSEN has already presented evidence to the
Federal Grand Jury implicating LECHÉ, CAILLELL, E. M. JACKSON and a
few others; that his agents have inspected the work done on LECHÉ'S
estate at Covington and have questioned LECHÉ, who furnished HANSEN
with cancelled checks which LECHÉ claimed were payments for materials
which went into the two tenant houses.

It can be seen from the above information that investigation
by the Division of Investigation agents is still in the first stages
of development, and so far has been apparently restricted, with the
exception of the Governor, to a few of the officials connected with
the Louisiana State University. To date, neither Mr. HANSEN nor any
of his investigators have prepared any written reports, but HANSEN
expects to submit a report regarding the developments of the entire
investigation within the next several days. It does not appear that
to date the WPA investigation has been completed with respect to any
of the individuals mentioned by HANSEN, nor does it appear that any
employees or officials of the WPA have been or are being investigated
for possible malfeasance in connection with the conversion of WPA ma-
terials and labor.

It would appear the WPA Investigators are merely checking
the allegations contained in the affidavits secured by JAMES A. NOE'S
representatives, and which formed the basis for the Washington Merry-
Go-Round column comments.

Common rumor has it that practically every State official
of any importance, close to administration circles, has during the
past three years received some personal and direct benefits from the
WPA operations in the State of Louisiana. It would appear that the
present scope of the WPA investigation merely scratches the surface
of the entire matter, and its presently indicated scope is not by
any means wide enough to cover the entire situation, according to
rumors which are prevalent.
FIVE PERCENT SALARY CONTRIBUTIONS
BY STATE EMPLOYEES.

Five percent contributions from State employees of the State of Louisiana started on a temporary basis allegedly to defray campaign expenses during the period when the late Senator Huey P. Long was dominating State politics, in his own administration and during the administration of Governor O. K. Allen. When James A. Noe was Governor in 1936 for a period of approximately four months he discontinued this practice but it was again instituted and put on a permanent basis when Richard W. Leche became Governor. The five percent contribution from State employees applies to all State employees with few exceptions. The State Highway Department, the Department of Public Welfare and the Labor Department are reported to receive Federal aid, the Highway Department principally benefitting from Federal aid under the Federal Aid Highway Law of 1916.

Federal aid funds are given to the State Highway Department to reimburse the State for certain contractual expenditures and also for engineering services on approved Federal projects. All disbursements are made out of the State fund, which is reimbursed by Federal aid funds, the Federal funds being contigent with the State funds although a detailed accounting is allegedly made. On the usual Highway aid project contractors are paid monthly by the State for the extent of the State's obligation to the contractors for that month, whereupon the Federal Government, after being furnished a voucher for the expenditures on what is known as a progress voucher, reimbursed the State to the extent of fifty percent of the eligible items approved under the Highway Act. Engineering expenses are reimbursed to the same extent only after completion of a project in the event the engineering expense does not exceed a certain percent of the total expenditure. The only State employees whose salary is thus reimbursed are engineers assigned to the project and they are reported not to be permitted to contribute five percent of their salaries to the campaign contribution. Contractors and their employees are not State employees and are reported not to make contributions. In case of grade crossing elimination projects under the Emergency Act the setup is identical except that the Federal Government reimburses the State one hundred percent for eligible items.

Reference is made to the case of Chester Martin which was submitted to the Bureau by letter dated May 26, 1938, involving a violation of Section 2765, Title 40, United States Code, Bureau file 88-1045, in which instance Chester Martin, an employee of the State Highway Department, alleged that he was discharged for failure to pay the five percent contribution. United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised the Department had declined prosecution in the Martin case. It appeared that the Department had ruled that Martin was a State employee at the time of the alleged deductions and was being paid by the State, even though he was engaged in projects towards which the Federal Government had made financial contributions.
MARTIN is the only person reported to have been discharged for failure to pay the five percent contribution.

Before a detailed investigation is conducted it is requested that this matter be referred to the Department for a ruling to determine whether or not the foregoing information might constitute a Federal violation.

5. FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY FUND IRREGULARITIES.

JAMES CAMERON NELSON, formerly an employee of the State Employment Bureau of Louisiana for a period of sixteen months until March 5, 1939, claimed that B. W. CASON, Commissioner of Labor of the State of Louisiana, embezzled social security funds paid out under unemployment compensation by causing duplicate pay orders to be issued to fictitious persons, this being accomplished by the State Employment Bureau communicating with the Regional Office advising that a certain pay order could not be located, which bore a given number and a social security number; that the Regional Office would issue a duplicate order, leaving out the claimant's name; that when the duplicate order reached the State Employment Bureau office it would be given a different social security number and a fictitious name would be inserted; that a check would be made payable to this person, countersigned by the State Treasurer, then returned to the Employment Bureau where the check would be cashed. It is claimed that when the check was returned to the Treasurer the duplicate order, as well as the check, would be destroyed.

This is the best information received to date on this angle and no further investigation was conducted in the absence of instructions to do so and it is, therefore, not known if the allegations are true and what Federal funds, if any, went into the fund from which unemployment compensation was paid.
6. INCOME TAX EVASION.

The Intelligence Unit of the Internal Revenue Bureau has been investigating JAMES MONROE SMITH's income tax returns for 1936, 1937 and 1938 for a period of several months. The first and only written report submitted to the U. S. Attorney at New Orleans was submitted on the morning of July 1, 1939 to U. S. Attorney VIOSCA, who has not yet apparently had the opportunity of digesting the contents thereof. From a general discussion MR. VIOSCA has had with the representatives of the Intelligence Unit, it would appear that SMITH, in connection particularly with his stock market manipulations, had failed to pay a tax to the Government amounting to a total of approximately $15,000, in connection with his returns for 1936, 1937 and 1938.

MR. VIOSCA is not familiar with the detailed evidence proving such evasions as yet, however, he indicated to me that apparently there is still some investigation to be conducted pertaining to the matter before all of the evidence is known.

According to MR. VIOSCA the Internal Revenue Service has also developed some evidence tending to show that LEON C. WEISS, architect who built the Louisiana State Capitol and most other public buildings, E. N. JACKSON, business manager of Louisiana State University, and GEORGE CALDWELL, Construction Superintendent of Louisiana State University, are guilty of tax evasions. The investigations relative to these individuals, however, appear not to be complete by any means, and apparently the Internal Revenue Service is still trying to obtain conclusive evidence with regard to those persons.

MR. VIOSCA indicated to me today that this constitutes all of the evidence or information he has before him at the present time in connection with any income tax evasion violations involving any individuals in the State Administration. From my conversation with MR. VIOSCA I secured the impression that he knows very little about the investigations made by the Intelligence Unit of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and that such organization did not submit any written reports to him, relative to any persons other than JAMES MONROE SMITH and his wife. It is not known, apparently, whether the Internal Revenue agents scrutinized the tax returns of all State Administration officials or just what the entire scope of their investigation is or has been.
7. POSSIBLE FEDERAL VIOLATIONS.

After carefully considering all of the information on hand, I believe that the following constitutes all possible Federal violations which may be involved. Some of these possibilities will, of course, have to be investigated further before it can be determined whether they actually are Federal violations.

(a) Bank Robbery. (Entering bank with intent to commit a felony).

The theory of this violation is that JAMES MONROE SMITH personally negotiated three loans, totaling $500,000.00, from three different national banks, namely, loan of $300,000.00 from the National Bank of Commerce, New Orleans, Louisiana, on May 2, 1939; loan of $100,000.00 from the City National Bank of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on June 9, 1939; and loan of $100,000.00 from the Hibernia National Bank of New Orleans on June 14, 1939. He unlawfully gave notes for these sums as President of LSU and presented Board of Supervisor resolutions authorizing such loans which he signed as Secretary of the Board. The theory of the United States Attorney is that when SMITH obtained these loans personally in these banks, he knew that he was going to use them for his brokerage account and own personal use and, therefore, he committed a felony either by, in the first place, defrauding the banks, if he did not obtain the loans legally, or, in the second place, defrauding the University by converting the funds to his own use, if he did legally obtain the loans as President of the University.

A Federal Commissioner's complaint was filed at New Orleans, Louisiana, by the United States Attorney on July 1, 1939, and warrant issued charging SMITH with having violated Section 583B, Title 12, U.S.C.A., in connection with the May 2nd loan. The fact as to this complaint has been kept secret. There is a distinct question as to whether these actions were in violation of the statute mentioned since the same is in the identical situation as cashing a forged check in a bank and concerning which there has been no decision or test case.

Before MR. VIOSCA proceeds with an indictment or further prosecution of SMITH on these charges he intends to secure the advice and authority from the Criminal Division of the Department.

(b) Misuses of WPA Labor and Materials.

The investigation presently being conducted by the Division of Investigation, Works Progress Administration, is very narrow in scope and only involves a comparatively few individuals. Some of the evidence
has been presented to the Federal Grand Jury; however, no complete cases have as yet been worked up. There is ev-

eidence that Ex-

Governor LECHE, Superintendent of Construction CALDWELL of LSU, and a number of other State officials and persons closely associated with the State administration, received direct and personal benefits by having WPA labor and materials furnished them on personal and private projects. In order to go into the entire situation and actually make cases against all persons who may be guilty in any way, including conspiracy, it will be necessary that a thorough, detailed, intense investigation be instituted by a large number of men and that such investigation be conducted in such a manner that the public will have complete confidence in its investigators so that all possible information will be volunteered by WPA workers and other persons having knowledge and pertinent information.

(c) Section 276B, Title 40, USC, (Five percent Salary Contributions by State Employees).

Up to the present time the information obtained indicates only one individual, namely, CHESTER MARTIN, who alleges he was discharged for failure to pay the five percent contribution. MARTIN has been assisting JAMES A. NOE in the latter's attempt to besmirch the State administration. There is a distinct and definite question as to whether, even in the event a thorough investigation would result in locating individuals who were coerced into contributing five percent, the Federal statutes have been violated due to the commingling of State and Federal funds and the method of paying the State Highway employees. The Department has apparently considered this matter in May of 1938 and ruled that it was not a violation.

Before any further investigation is conducted on this angle it is respectfully suggested that the Department rule as to the possi-

ibility of a Federal violation in order to save a great deal of investiga-

tive time and expense.

(d) Fraud Against the Government, (Social Security Funds).

Information relative to this matter was received at this office from one individual, as set out previously in this memorandum, and this person will presumably testify to such information before the Grand Jury. No investigation has as yet been instituted to determine whether Federal social security funds are involved and whether the statements made by the informant are true. A thorough investigation of these angles would have to be instituted before it could be deter-
minal whether Federal violations have occurred in this regard.
(e) Income Tax Evasions.

Evidence is being presented to the Federal Grand Jury by the Intelligence Unit agents of the Internal Revenue Bureau indicating that JAMES MONROE SMITH defrauded the Government of the sum of approximately $15,000.00 in connection with the submission of his 1936, 1937 and 1938 returns. There is some indication that E. M. JACKSON and GEORGE CALDWELL, of the University, and possibly LEON C. WEISS, the architect, may be guilty of this offense; however, the investigations have not apparently been completed regarding them.

The full scope of the Internal Revenue Bureau's income tax evasion investigations is not known but it is apparently definite that such organization has not worked up any cases against any other individuals in the State administration or closely friendly to the State administration.
8. CONCLUSIONS

I am submitting my personal opinions and conclusions regarding the possible Federal angles to this entire matter purely for whatever value they might be, as I see it from all of the evidence and information on hand here.

I do not believe that a general income tax investigation of all prominent persons connected with the State Administration would be productive in showing a large number of violations. It is my belief that all of these men have profited by the mistakes of Capone and others, particularly after a number of income tax evasion indictments were returned against a number of prominent Louisiana politicians and officials several years ago. I am of the belief that they have and are paying taxes on all of their income, even though some of it is illegitimate, and may be shown as "political fees."

The situation involving the five per cent contribution of salaries by State employees is, in the first place, a very questionable violation, and secondly, does not present itself to me as being the kind of situation wherein it would be possible to involve a large number of State officials and others in the State administration.

The complaint about the possibility of fraud in connection with the Social Security funds contributed to the State has not, of course, been substantiated and it is not known whether there is a violation.

To my mind the best possible angle from a Federal standpoint, according to the information we now have, is a thorough, detailed, complete investigation of the WPA irregularities in the State. From the evidence and information at hand, it appears that a large number of State officials and persons close to the administration received direct benefits, and it would also appear that diligent and thorough investigation should be able to secure proof so that a large number of cases involving numerous individuals could be made.

It does not appear to me from my viewing the situation here in New Orleans that the public generally has complete confidence in the thoroughness and impartiality of an investigation into the situation being made by the WPA Division of Investigation. I, personally, know that the New Orleans States and Times-Picayune newspapers, particularly the States, has for a number of months collected a great deal
of specific data, including names, dates, places, etc. of WPA irregularities, but has not disclosed such information to the WPA investigators because the officials of these newspapers feel convinced that the matter will be "whitewashed." I know that this newspaper would turn all of this information over to me if I could assure them that our Bureau would make a thorough investigation of it, since the officials highly respect the integrity of the FBI and of Attorney General Murphy. I am also of the belief that if it were publicly announced that the FBI was making an investigation of WPA irregularities, the public, including WPA workers and laborers themselves, would have enough confidence in our Bureau that they would come forward and volunteer a great deal of information.

To me, in this present situation at New Orleans, the WPA irregularities angle of this entire matter presents the same possibilities for breaking up the situation generally, as did the election fraud situation in Kansas City.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

| Mr. Tolson | (x) |
| Mr. Nathan |     |
| Mr. E. A. Tamm |   |
| Mr. Clegg |     |
| Mr. Coffey |     |
| Mr. Croll |     |
| Mr. Egan |     |
| Mr. Glavin |    |
| Mr. Harbo |     |
| Mr. Lawler |    |
| Mr. Lester |    |
| Mr. McIntire |  |
| Mr. Nichole |   |
| Mr. Rosen |      |
| Mr. Sears |     |
| Mr. Quinn Tamm |  |
| Mr. Tracy |      |
| Secretary |      |

See Me: 
Prepare Reply: 
For Your Information: 
Note and Return: 
File: 
Remarks:
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUM

Re: Dr. James Monroe White

SAC Sackett called from New Orleans and furnished the following information in connection with the above entitle case:

Mrs. Fisco, U. S. Attorney, informed Mr. Sackett that this morning he and his staff talked to Mr. J. K. Rush, who is the individual who has been collecting the 5% contributions of the State employees for a number of years. Rush said that during the lifetime of Huey Long he turned the money over to Long; that after that Governor O. K. Allen received the money and since then he has turned the money over to ex-Governor Leche and to Dr. Joseph A. O'Hara. O'Hara is president of the Louisiana Democratic Association which is the State political group. He is also president of the Board of Health and the father of Judge William J. O'Hara, who we are now investigating for the Federal Judgeship in New Orleans. Dr. Joseph A. O'Hara will be called before the Grand Jury and he will testify relative to the disposition of these funds. Dr. O'Hara claims to have kept a complete set of books and records of the funds which he has agreed to turn over to the investigators of the Intelligence Division of the Internal Revenue Department. According to Mr. Sackett what Dr. Fisco now plans to do is to trace the funds as paid out to various individuals and see whether these funds have been accounted for in the various income tax returns. Dr. O'Hara has maintained that the 5% was not collected from any persons who were paid with Federal money and only State employees paid with State funds contributed the 5%.

According to Mr. Fisco, the income tax investigations are progressing better than usual and it is his opinion that they now have a good case against Monte Hart, who is connected with the construction out of which did most of the work at Louisiana State University.

July 10, 1930

1700 E. 3rd St.

Dr. James Monroe White

Bank Board
Memosandum for the Director  10-66

Mr. Sackett stated that according to the press dispatches in New Orleans the Petroleum Conservation Division of the Department of the Interior is conducting an investigation into the "hot" oil practice in the State of Louisiana. This concerns the bootlegging of oil and it is alleged there was much State graft in connection with the leasing and operating of State oil lands.

Mr. Viscos also advised Mr. Sackett that the P.P.A. investigation is progressing better and the investigators have been able to make both George Marshall and Eugene Hartly of the P.P.A. foremen, talk and they are apparently securing much valuable information which will greatly increase the scope of this investigation. However, Mr. Viscos has still to receive a written report from the P.P.A. investigators.

Mr. Sackett stated there has been received at the New Orleans Office during the last few days numerous anonymous letters and telephone calls giving information relating to P.P.A. irregularities. Mr. Sackett inquired as to what disposition he should make of these letters. I told him he would be informed as to what disposition he should make of them.

Mr. Sackett stated a report has just been submitted relative to the investigation of a safe company regarding a safe allegedly installed in the home of ex-Governor Adcock. Mr. Sackett stated all of the information in this report is negative and requested permission to furnish the U. S. Attorney with a copy of this report. I told Mr. Sackett he would be advised whether this would be satisfactory.

I informed Mr. Sackett of the information which was furnished by SAC Keene of Pittsburgh in two teletype messages dated July 10th and July 9th relative to James Marshall and Brown. This information was furnished in view of Mr. Sackett's teletype dated July 7th. Mr. Sackett stated the information which I gave him would be sufficient and requested a copy of the two teletypes mentioned above. I told him these copies would be forwarded to him.

Respectfully,

J. F. SEARS
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: DR. JAMES NOBLE SHERMAN
POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA

SAC Sackett called from New Orleans and advised that
Seymour Weiss is presently at the Hotel New Yorker
in New York City and will not return to New Orleans
until a week from tomorrow.

In view of the fact that Weiss will probably be indicted
tomorrow in connection with the mail fraud case, it has
occurred to Mr. Sackett that it would be advisable to
interview Weiss generally in New York since after he is
indicted he may not wish to talk. The Bureau has made
no investigation of the mail fraud angle but Mr. Sackett
thinks now would be the psychological time for him to
be interviewed.

Mr. Sackett suggested that inasmuch as he is to be in
Washington for the SAC Conference, that he leave a
little early and conduct the interview in New York
since he knows Weiss pretty well. I told Mr. Sackett
I would talk to you about this and then let him know
of your wishes.

Respectfully,

E. A. TALM

RECORDED
INDEXED

F. B. I.

115
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI LOS ANGELES 7-11-39
SAC NEW ORLEANS

POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA. RE TELEPHONE CALL. ATTORNEY

NICHOLS ADVISES THAT PARTY REFERRED TO WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR
INTERVIEW FRIDAY MORNING. AT LEAST FIRST INTERVIEW WILL HAVE
TO BE MADE THROUGH ATTORNEY NICHOLS.

ROOD

JFR:AB
62-1721
CC BUREAU

Approved: ____________________________
Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per ______

62-32509.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Jul. 17 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA

Time: 9:25 P. M.

Special Agent DiLillo telephoned from Pittsburgh at the suggestion of Special Agent McKee with reference to James Anthony Murphy.

He reported that Murphy was arrested in Pittsburgh, Pa., April 8, 1931, by Inspector James N. Hoey and charged with being a suspicious person. This was later changed and he was charged with passing worthless checks. There is no disposition as to what was done with him at the number 4 police station in Oakland where he was taken.

James Anthony Murphy was publishing a small weekly paper at the time of his arrest in Oakland, called the Oaklander and it was in connection with this publication that he passed some bad checks. When the publisher died, Murphy married his daughter being under the impression at the time that she had some money. This information was furnished by Alderman Wicks (phonetic) who knew Murphy very well and who identified his photograph as being that of James Anthony Murphy.

SA DiLillo stated that he had been unable to contact Inspector Hoey who also knew Murphy very well and who should be able to furnish more definite information as to his background. He said he would do this in the morning.

I advised DiLillo to be cautious in his inquiries and to keep the Bureau informed as to developments.

Respectfully,

J. F. Sears
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The Director
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Tracy

Files Section
Personnel Files
Identification Division
Technical Laboratory
Mechanical Section
Chief Clerk's Office
Crime Statistics

SUPERVISORS

Mr. Balch
Mr. Bellino
Mr. Bickley
Mr. Brennan
Mr. Carson
Mr. Chambers

Mr. Harbo
Mr. Laffey
Mr. Guerin
Mr. Hayden
Mr. Hogan
Mr. Kimball
Mr. Sears

Mr. Lawler
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Kramer
Mr. Zimmer

Miss Gandy
Mr. West
Mrs. Morton
Miss Coe
Mr. Albaugh
Mr. Halter
Miss Conlon
Mr. Gauthier

Typists - 5724
Stenographers - 5716
See Me

E. A. TAMM - 5734.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Re: JAMES JOHNSON SMITH -
LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS -
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

July 5
7 P.M.

I advised SAC Sackett that he could attend
the opening of the Police School at Meridian, Mississippi.

Mr. Sackett requested authority to present the
various reports in the above entitled case to United States
Attorney Viosca. He was advised when the authority was
granted he would be informed.

July 6

Special Agent Weeks advised that he had received
a request from Paul Hanson, investigator for the WPA, for
records of the Independence Lumber Company, information
concerning which is set out in the Report of Special Agent
T. F. Wilson, New Orleans, dated July 3, 1939, in the case
entitled WPA irregularities. Mr. Weeks advised that pertinent
records were in the possession of the New Orleans office, and
that photostatic copies had been made. Mr. Weeks suggested
that the original record be transmitted to Mr. Viosca for
transmission to Mr. Hanson. He was advised that this procedure
would be permissible.

Mr. Weeks was advised to transmit copies of the
following reports to Mr. Viosca:
RECORDED & INDEXED
report of Special Agent C. W.
New Orleans, dated July 2, 1939,
entitled LOUISIANA
STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Report of Special Agent T. F. Wilson, New Orleans, dated July 3, 1939, in the case entitled WPA IRREGULARITIES, INFORMATION CONCERNING.


J. F. Sears.
Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of July 10, 1939, requesting authority to submit a copy of the report of Special Agent C. W. Dunker, dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 10, 1939, to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans, Louisiana.

You were previously authorized to furnish this report to Mr. Viosca by Inspector J. F. Sears on July 11, 1939.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
July 10, 1939

AIR MAIL -
SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

There is being transmitted herewith report of Special Agent C. W. DUNKER of this office, of even date, in the above-entitled case, covering some investigation which was conducted in accordance with request of United States Attorney RENÉ A. VIOSCA, New Orleans, Louisiana.

It is requested that the Bureau authorize this office to submit a copy of Agent DUNKER’S report to Mr. VIOSCA.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge

CWD: ALS
Enclosures.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Costs Safe & Lock Co., New Orleans, has no report of selling safe or vault to R. W. LANCHE, Covington, La., but sold numerous vault doors to GEORGE OALD, N.H., but it is not known where they were used.

DETAILS: AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

United States Attorney RENE A. VIOSCA, New Orleans, at 10:00 a.m. on July 6, 1939, advised that R. W. LANCHE was anonymously reported to have had a vault made in his home at Covington, Louisiana, by the Costs Safe & Lock Company, 527 Carondelet Street, New Orleans. This vault was reported to have cost $20,000 and is anonymously reported to have been equipped with tear gas. He advised this vault was supposed to have contained a lot of cash, and it was rumored that the 5% contributions from the State employees' salaries are in this vault.

Mr. VIOSCA requested that the Bureau determine if the Costs Safe & Lock Company did build a vault in there, so he can go ahead with the investigation to determine if the vault did contain the 5% contributions or any taxable income. Mr. VIOSCA was advised that this matter would be taken up with the Bureau for authorization to conduct the investigation requested.

A teletype was sent to the Bureau advising of the request of U. S. Attorney VIOSCA, and on July 9, 1939 Assistant Director E. A. TANN

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED, B. C. HENRY,
SPECIAL AGENT,
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT
5 Bureau (AIR MAIL-special delivery)
5 New Orleans

COPIES DESTROYED
170 SEP 17 1939

JUL 12 1939
telephonically authorized Special Agent in Charge R. E. SACKETT to have the investigation conducted as requested by Mr. VOSCA.

The writer interviewed MRS. GEORGETTE TUMAN, Bookkeeper, Coats Safe & Lock Company, 527 Carondelet Street, who advised that the Coats Safe & Lock Company had been in business for three years, having assumed the business of the former Coats Safe & Lock Company, a branch of the Deibold Safe & Lock Company, Canton, Ohio. She advised that the company had not built a safe or vault for R. W. LECHE within the past three years. She advised, however, that the company had sold numerous vault doors to GEORGE CALDWELL. (GEORGE CALDWELL was construction superintendent at Louisiana State University, and also a member of the contracting firm of Caldwell Bros.) She advised that she did not know where these vault doors were taken—that it was common practice among contractors to get vault doors and take them away without indicating where they would be used, so that it was entirely possible that CALDWELL did get the vault door or safe for R. W. LECHE.

PENDING
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT


REPORT MADE AT
NEW ORLEANS
DUE DATE WHEN MADE
7-10-39
PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE
7-4, 7-13-39
S. W. KINKE

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS

INFORMATION CONCERNING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

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APPROVED AND
FORWARDED:

Special Agent
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

5 Bureau (AIR MAIL—special delivery)
5 New Orleans
July 1, 1939

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. B. F. Sackett
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
1309 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Sackett:

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a memorandum dated June 15, 1939 at Washington, D. C., covering an interview with Harry Joseph Costello, a newspaper man from Louisiana, presently residing temporarily in Washington, D. C.

This memorandum is for your confidential information only in connection with recent developments in the State of Louisiana.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

RECORDED & INDEXED

COMMUNICATIONS SECION
MAILED

JULY 1, 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Mr. H. Sherman Baker
32504-150X1
224
University, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Baker:

Your letter of July 1, 1939, addressed to Honorable Frank Murphy, Attorney General, has been referred to this Bureau for investigative attention.

Your letter will be referred to the United States Attorney at New Orleans, Louisiana, for appropriate attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc New Orleans
July 19, 1939

62-34509-130X1

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Rt: Louisiana State Official
Information Concerning

Dear Sirs,

I am transmitting herewith copies of a letter
addressed to the Attorney General under date of July 7, 1939,
from Mrs. H. Sherman Baker, Box 224, University, Louisiana,
for reference to the United States Attorney at New Orleans,
Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ JUL 19 1939 ★

[Handwritten note: signed]
The Honorable Mr. Frank Murphy, Attorney General

Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Murphy,

As a voter living in the state of Louisiana and as a citizen of the United States, I wish to add my plea to the others, asking that you make a thorough investigation into all things in the state of Louisiana that you feel need attention.

I have only voted in Kansas City, Missouri but I, as well as the rest of the country, are grateful to you for what you and your workers did for that city.

Thank you for your attention.

Very respectfully yours,

Frances H. Baker
(Mrs. H. Sherman)
The Honorable Mr. Frank Murphy, Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Murphy,

As a voter living in the state of Louisiana, and as a citizen of the United States, I wish to add my plea, along with others, to have a thorough investigation made into all things in the state of Louisiana that you feel need attention.

I have only visited in Kansas City, Missouri, but I feel as well as the rest of the country, are grateful to you for what you and your workers did for that city.

Thank you for your attention.

Very respectfully yours

/s/ Frances H. Baker
(Mrs. H. Sherman)
MEMORANDUM FOR THE JULY 3, 1939

Rev. Doctor James Monroe Smith
Political Situation in Louisiana

I called Sackeit at New Orleans and advised
that I was talking with the Director he had committed concerning
United States Attorney Picco's (sic) view with regard to the United States Attorney's Office; that
he believes Picco should insist on the submission of a report
of the part of the FPA investigation of everything they have.
Sackett advised he had just finished talking with Picco and
had just suggested that.

With reference to the developments in this situation,
Sackeit advised as follows:

A complaint was filed just now before the United
States Commissioner charging James Monroe Smith with having
violated section 588-5 of Title 18, United States Code, which
is the entering of a banking premises with intent to commit
a felony. The charges specifically are that on May 2, 1939 he
entered the National Bank of Commerce at New Orleans with
intent to commit a felony, to wit, embezzlement of $3,000,000
from the Louisiana State University and the Mechanical College.
The warrant has been returned not found and Sackeit has three
copies in his possession.

This morning one of the Internal Revenue Investigators
is appearing before the Grand Jury on the income tax case
against Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Sackeit talked with Picco
about this and he just received a written report from the
Intelligence Unit and has not had a chance to digest it as
yet, but after talking with the Intelligence Unit man there
appears to be a good possibility of a conspiracy case on
income tax against Leon C. Teles, the architect, in addition
to the Smiths. Sackeit does not know the details as yet but
has arranged to obtain a copy of the Intelligence Unit report
for his own information.

RECORDED & INDEXED

James E. Brown, the Broker, has been released on
$20,000 bond this morning; and in line with previous conversations
Sackeit is going to try to have him interviewed this afternoon.
Memorandum for the File

July 1, 1930

Mr. Tomow, Sackett advised you thought it would be a good idea to try to get into source records in this if considered advisable. I informed him about my views.

Sackett advised he thought it would be a good idea to try to get into source records in this if considered advisable. I informed him about my views. He also advised he believed it would be a good idea to try to get into source records in this if considered advisable. I informed him about my views.

Sackett advised he would have a complete report in the Bureau by Wednesday morning.

X. A. Jones
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Re: POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA

Mrs. W. A. THARPE was communicated with by telephone (Bradshaw 21667) by Special Agent J. F. HYNES on June 30, 1939, in the purpose of arranging an interview, at which time she stated that her immediate plans were indefinite, as she was staying at the house of a friend, but that she would telephone on the following day and advise as to the best place at which it would be most convenient for her to hold an interview.

On June 30, 1939, Attorney CHARLES L. NICHOLS of the law firm of NICHOLS & MATTOON, 650 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, telephoned and informed Agent HYNES that Mr. and Mrs. THARPE had advised him of the request to interview them; that he was going out of town for the week end, but that he could arrange to hold an immediate interview in his office. As it appeared that there was no other way in which to interview Mrs. THARPE, but in the presence of her attorney, the interview was made by Agent HYNES at the office of Attorney NICHOLS.

Present at the interview, in addition to the above-named Agent, were Mr. NICHOLS, Mr. MATTOON, and Mr. and Mrs. THARPE. It was explained to those present, at the outset, that it was desired that the interview be kept confidential, and those present agreed that it would be so kept.

It was suggested that Mr. and Mrs. THARPE might have some information bearing on the present situation in Louisiana, which they might care to disclose at this time; however, both Mr. and Mrs. THARPE professed to have no knowledge of anything regarding that situation. Mrs. THARPE stated that she was appointed Secretary of State by Huey Long in the year 1929, and that she held this position until 1932; that she was then given the position of Supervisor of Public Accounts; that in 1936, the title of this position was changed to Collector of Internal Revenue, and that she held this position until February, 1939, when she was let go by Governor Leche. She ex-
plained that the position was appontive by the Governor, and that, of course, he could remove anyone from the position, as well as appoint them. Mr. THARPE, however, chose to state that his wife and himself had been "fired." He stated that he did not know the reason why they were fired.

He advised that he had held the position of Secretary of the Louisiana Tax Commission for approximately five and one-half years, having been appointed during the C. K. ALLEN administration; that in February of this year, F. WARREN RAGIO, Chairman of the Tax Commission, asked for his resignation, that he refused to resign, and that then the Commission wrote him a nice letter, telling him he was dismissed.

Both Mr. and Mrs. THARPE reiterated that they had no information of value to offer concerning anything in Louisiana. Their attorney, Mr. NICHOLS, advised that he might state their position to be that of not having anything of a voluntary nature to offer. But that if there were any specific matter upon which information was desired, they would tell what they knew about it. Mr. and Mrs. THARPE concurred in this statement.

Mr. THARPE stated, with reference to JAMES MONROE SMITH, missing President of the Louisiana State College, that SMITH'S alleged shortage was a complete surprise to him; that about five years or so ago, shortly after he married Mrs. THARPE, they had dinner at Mr. SMITH'S home, but that that occasion was the last social contact that they had with him. Mr. THARPE stated that he would never have suspected Mr. SMITH of ever doing anything wrong.

Mr. THARPE was asked if he was acquainted with SEYMOUR WISE, and he stated he was; that WISE was a suave individual who was the manager, and reputed to be the owner, of the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans; that he understood from newspaper accounts that the Government had been after WISE for a number of years, but that he knew nothing concerning WISE, or as to how WISE made his money. Mr. THARPE advised that the only reason he knew which would cause Governor LEGIE to resign was that of ill health.
ATTORNEY NICHOLLS advised that he was at one time a Special Assistant to the Attorney General and prosecuted several Mail Fraud cases here in Los Angeles a number of years ago, and that he would give the Bureau every cooperation; that as far as he had been able to learn from Mr. and Mrs. THARPE, they had no information of any irregularities, et cetera. He stated that if the Bureau had any specific matters to question them about, he and they would be glad to cooperate.

ATTORNEY NICHOLLS informed that he was going to spend the holidays at the Bel Air Club, which is located on Roosevelt Highway north of Santa Monica, California, that the telephone number is Santa Monica 29981; that he intends to have Mr. and Mrs. THARPE spend part of their time there, and that if it were desired to get in touch with them, if he were contacted through the above number, he would be able to reach them.

In view of the fact that Mr. and Mrs. THARPE profess not to know anything of interest concerning the situation in Louisians, and because there is not sufficient information concerning the background of this case available, on which to question them further, no other questions were asked.

It is noted that Mr. and Mrs. THARPE have expressed their willingness to be interviewed in the future on any specific matter.

Very truly yours,

R. E. HOOD
Special Agent in Charge

JPH:AB
62-1721

ANASD

CC NEW ORLEANS (2)
62-32509

Section 7
RESOLVATION FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Enclosed herewith is a teletype message of July 15, 1936, from the New Orleans Field Division of the FBI concerning the Louisiana State investigations.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure
FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-15-39 4:15 PM PST

DIRECT

MISSISSIPPI STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ARRESTED YESTERDAY IN STARK COUNTY MENTIONED IN TELETYPING LAST NIGHT MADE TODAY WITH EXCEPTION OF JAMES F. ROSS WHO WAS STILL DETAINED IN BATON ROUGE

LATER I A.M., ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGUE IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE HER AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING AND TO CONFERENCE WITH USA VIOSCA AT PRECISE TIME TOMORROW MORNING. I AM LEAVING HER AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING FOR WASHINGTON. HOWEVER AGENT C.W. HALLER IS PROBABLY FAMILIAR WITH ENTIRE MATTER AND WILL FOLLOW ALL DEVELOPMENTS, KEEPING US IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH USA VIOSCA AND WILL SEND YOU DAILY TELETYPING SUMMARIES OF DEVELOPMENTS.

SACKETT

[Stamp: FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION JUL 21 1939]
MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I am transmitting herewith a teletype message dated July 14, 1939, from the New Orleans Field Division of the FBI, concerning the Louisiana Investigation.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure
DIRECTOR,

RE LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING MONTE E. HART ET AL, MAIL FRAUD. I HAVE JUST BEEN FURNISHED A SUMMARY REPORT PREPARED BY OUR OFFICE HERE SETTING OUT AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE FROM THE MISCELLANEOUS AND VARIOUS INFORMATION WE WERE ABLE TO GET, THE DETAILS OF THE MAIL FRAUD SCHEME INVOLVING SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS OBTAINED IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASE OF BIENVILLE HOTEL.

THE SUMMARY ALSO SHOWS WHAT WITNESSES ARE APPARENTLY AVAILABLE AND TO WHAT EXTENT THEY CAN APPARENTLY TESTIFY. THIS IS ONLY REPORT OF ANY KIND SUBMITTED BY ANYONE REPORTING TO CIRCUMSTANCE ANY VIOLATION AND STATEMENT OF MISBEHAVE MADE. I HAVE HERE A COPY AND SMALL PRACTICE IN THIS CASE.

SACKITT

IN

OH F.B.I. WASH DC

COPY

(2-3) 25-1-11
To Hon. Frank H. Murphy, Attorney General,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

We the undersigned, being a thorough believer in justice for all, regardless of political conditions or personal feelings, do hereby declare that we are involved with the present set up in the state of Maine, it will be impossible to reach the ring leaders involved with the present federal government. The attorney general has uncovered evidence to indicate that the leaders involved are the same as those under the leadership of Attorney General.
would have been broken.

We beg that you stand by Louis argue. The entire country will so doing prevent the undermining of democratic government.

Respectfully yours,

Marguerite T. Richardson
Catherine P. Deane
1736 St. Charles Ave.

Jeanne Labouerie Richardson
1736 St. Charles Ave.

Cecele Eichman
706 St. Peter St.

Mrs. Labouerie Richardson
1736 St. Charles Avenue
FEI NEW ORLEANS 7-25-39 5:05 PM WH

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING  L P

ABERNATHY, FORMER CHAIRMAN LOUISIANA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

AND A KILPATRICK, WITH WHOM ABERNATHY IS CONNECTED IN

STANDARD OFFICE AND SUPPLY COMPANY, INDICTED STATE GRAND JURY

BATON ROUGE YESTERDAY IN CONNECTION WITH SUPPLY COMPANY SELLING

FIXTURES TO STATE. USA VIOLCA ADVISED THAT W A BANKIN, FORMER

LOUISIANA CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER, ADMITTED HE GOT LARGE

SUM OF MONEY FROM DR JAMES ASHMAN, HEAD OF THE MINERALS DIVISION

OF THE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT, AND W BURTON, WEALTHY OIL

MAN, EVIDENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH UPA OIL VIOLATIONS. ADDITIONAL

FEDERAL INDICTMENTS EXPECTED TOMORROW OF MINOR OFFICIALS IN

CONNECTION WITH UPA VIOLATIONS.

CACKETT

END
Hon. Frank P. Murphy, Attorney General,
U.S. Attorney General's Office
Washington, D.C.

IMPORTANT
Personal
Mem. Frank P. Murphy, Attorney General, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

I have just come in from the office of Royal H. Meaford of New Orleans and am writing about how they claim that all "hot oil" investigations are being killed by you and the President and that the late President Roosevelt had a hand in killing the case.

I have just received a letter from Mayor and the big oil men here in New Orleans. They have been loading oil in the night at Laurelville in the parishes. It say states they claim William Holles, a millionaire Greek, has made a fortune in Laurelville, is in partnership with Maestratti. Over a disagreement they agreed to split up and Maestratti asked $7,000,000 for his share of the lands and holdings. Both agreed, but left New Orleans to attend a convention of Greeks or Ohio in New York. They claim Elliott Roosevelt and Jim Farley both addressed this convention and after some a check was sent to Maestratti for $7,000,000 and it was signed by Elliott or maybe Farley. They claim Maestratti took a photocopy of the check and as now held it over your heads and thus secured a squash on the whole federal investigation here. The people of the City and State are sore and some have written to John Hamilton, head of the Republican County, and to Fish, Vandenburg and others in the Republican Party. What they are saying about President Roosevelt is plenty all over the State.

Another rumor gotten out is that present Governor Earl Long phoned Roosevelt at his Summer White House and called his plans.

Governor Earl Long made a speech yesterday before 5,000 people at a large National Guard Maneuver, Sunday the 23rd Inst., and told the N.R.A. was crooked in every state in America and this State didn't come anywhere near being as crooked as those other States. He also stated in a speech a few months ago that he never supported Roosevelt and never would.

Please don't let the people of this graft ridden State down. They have pinned their hopes on you and Pres. Roosevelt and they will never forget the Party if they sell them short.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

HELIS IS A HEAVY CONTRIBUTOR
TO DEM. CAMPAIGN

RECORDED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 25, 1935

[Stamp]

10
Fuel was added to the already brightly burning configur-
ation of the Louisiana graft scandal today by Gerald L. K. Smith, National Chairman of the Committee of 1,000,000 and close associate of the late Huey P. Long, who charged, in a prepared statement, that the recently indicted individuals in Louisiana were part and parcel, bone and tissue of the Roosevelt New Deal machine.

"Inasmuch as I was with Huey Long when he was killed, spoke the last words over his grave in the presence of his weeping family and two hundred thousand mourners, I consider it in place to break my three year silence concerning certain matters involving the good people of Louisiana and their assassinated leader.

"Contrary to certain impressions that we have received, the thieves, embezzlers, and crooks that are being exposed in Louisiana today are bone and muscle, blood and tissue part of the Roosevelt New Deal machine. All corruption that will be revealed as the investigation of these personalities and these scandals develops will prove to have taken place after the Louisiana organization was corrupted, bought, and taken over bodily by Mr. Roosevelt.

"Early in the year of 1936 I was one of about five leaders who led a campaign, following the assassination of Huey Long, to elect anti-Roosevelt, anti-New Deal candidates to office. We won this election by about three to one, and the people of Louisiana repudiated the whole New Deal outfit. Then certain of these men, including Governor Leche, Seymour Weiss, and others..."
sold out to Mr. Roosevelt and the New Deal and agreed to deliver that state to the Roosevelt candidacy at Philadelphia. When this took place, I made a statement to the people of Louisiana and to the millions of people who had mourned the assassination of Huey Long to the effect that the corruption that was being developed by this organization in cooperation with certain New Deal politicians would, when revealed, make the Teapot Dome scandal look like a cold cup of coffee.

"I wonder if Mr. Murphy, the Attorney General of the United States, would dare complete this investigation as it ties into Louisiana, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Washington, D. C., and the White House.

"It is interesting to note that although two or three of us insisted upon an investigation of these affairs for the past three years, that the United States Government took practically no interest in this program of thievery and WPA scandal and New Deal corruption. The thing broke wide open in their face like a wild firecracker.

"What has been revealed thus far is peanuts. The one question that the American people must have answered is why, when Huey Long, the most potent and effective enemy of the Roosevelt New Deal, was at the very zenith of his power in the Senate, in the South, and in America—why, when he was assassinated, was there no investigation on the part of the United States Government as to the conspiracy behind that assassination?

"Mr. Montefeltro, now under indictment, said to me, "Gerald, we don't dare press the investigation in the state legislature or we will lose the Roosevelt political patronage."

"When I toured the State of Louisiana in 1936, some of us gathered eleven thousand signed affidavits by poor people who, in the presence of a notary public, said, "We were told that unless we voted the pro-Roosevelt, anti-Long ticket we would be put off relief and WPA." I advised them to wear the New Deal badges, stay
on relief and vote the anti-New Deal ticket.

These facts were made known to the representatives of the United States Government. At that time, former Governor James Hoes even presented a bound volume of eleven thousand signed affidavits, but no action was taken. I even, when I spoke in the New York City Hippodrome, in October, 1935, displayed one whole volume of these affidavits, and no action was taken.

"Mr. Frank Murphy may send fifty men to prison for embezzlement, forgery, misappropriation of funds in this combination Louisiana-New Deal program of corruption, but he will never satisfy the people of Louisiana and the millions of people in the South until he has laid before the people of the United States the report of a complete, thorough investigation into the conspiracy behind the assassination of the New Deal's worst enemy, Huey P. Long.

"Whether Attorney General Murphy has the courage to investigate the assassination of Huey P. Long or not may answer the question, Is he a statesman or a politician, is he a judicial mentality or a New Deal puppet?

"I prophesy that nothing will be brought out reflecting on the way Huey P. Long handled money; nothing will be brought out revealing corruption prior to the deal between these indicted personalities and President Roosevelt; and, when this mess is cleaned up it will be cleaned up by representatives of the people who were loyal to Huey Long when he lived, when he was killed, and since his death. This loyalty was based largely upon his courage to sacrifice patronage, prestige, and political power in order to oppose the bureaucratic, socialistic, corrupt dictatorship of Mr. Roosevelt's alphabetical New Deal.

"In the fall of 1936 I addressed seventy-two thousand people in an open park in New Orleans, at which time I foretold this whole program of corruption.

"I am afraid that if Attorney General Murphy presses the investigation into the Hot Oil program in Louisiana, he will come painfully close to the sensitive nerve system of 'honest' Harold Ickes."
July 7, 1939

REMEMBER FOR MY NOTE

Mr. James C. Brown U.S. Department Of Justice

Political Situation

B. C. Coggins called from New Orleans and furnished the following developments concerning the above-entitled matter:

George Coldwell, the Superintendent of Construction at Louisiana State University, who resigned a few days ago, was arrested on a Federal Commissioner's complaint in New Orleans this morning and has been released on $10,000.00 bond. The complaint charges Coldwell with having used WPA labor and materials for unauthorized purposes. It appears that the U. S. Attorney subpoenaed Coldwell before the Grand Jury and upon his refusal to sign a waiver and testify, the U. S. Attorney had the U. S. investigators swear to a complaint.

One J. Fair Gordan, who up until about three months ago was Assistant U. S. Attorney at Shreveport and who is a vigorous prosecutor, together with another individual, has been appointed a Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the State by Governor Long. Early this afternoon, Gordan telegraphed the U. S. Attorney Vesco that he, Gordan, has a great deal of information which definitely indicates a violation of the mail fraud statute on the part of Mr. Smith in connection with Smith's having sent forged bonds through the mails. Based on this information, Mr. Vesco has telephonically requested the Post Office Inspectors at Fort Worth to have a Post Office Inspector conduct the necessary investigation in Baton Rouge, which will be done tomorrow apparently.

Mr. Cockett's telegraph last night showed the result of the interview with James B. Brown. This individual furnished FBI Agents considerable information that he has given any other agency, State or Federal and admitted his correct name to be James Murphy. He also stated he was born at Pittston, Pennsylvania, on June 4, 1923. He is quite fearful of physical violence and it became known that he is James Murphy. Something occurred in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which is causing him considerable concern. He was arrested by the Pittsburgh Police Department in 1929 allegedly on a fictitious charge of failing to pay an employee, which is stated to be the result of his crusading as a newspaper man against crooked politics in Pittsburgh. Brown's
Fingerprints were taken by the FBI at the office of Solicitor Cram on the day of his arrest in the State of West Virginia. The fingerprints have been compared to those of James Edward Brown, formerly known as the suspect of the murder of James Murphy. Verification of his fingerprints brought about an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Borchert requested the fingerprint records of James Murphy before we learned that John C. Murphy, with the idea in mind of using the fingerprint records of obtaining further information from agents, I instructed Mr. Borchert to furnish the Bureau further descriptive data in order to effect a positive identification. Mr. Feeney stated he desired a check made on James Murphy at Pittsburgh today and I told him that would be taken care of.

Mr. Borchert conferred with Mr. Borchert Feeney today in an effort to determine the status of the entire setup in England as of the present time. According to Mr. Feeney, Special Assistant to the Attorney General Arnold Rum in New Orleans, has heckled the witnesses before the Grand Jury to such an extent that the Grand Jury has asked Feeney not to permit Rum to appear before the Grand Jury. It is Rum's desire to have all the witnesses appearing giving false testimony in his opinion indicted for perjury.

From the information in Feeney's report at the present time, the income tax case against H. S. Smith is the very strong. The evidence consists of several items during the 1938, 1939 and 1940 income tax returns on which Smith failed to pay the tax. Mr. Feeney expects to have several tax evasion indictments returned as he makes each new return and refer the FPA investigation before the Grand Jury. He does not expect any indictments to be returned until all his witnesses have been submitted. It is contemplated to have the entire conspiracy indictment. The FPA investigators have not as yet submitted any written reports to the F. D. Attorney but he has been promised copies of all evidence obtained.

Actually,

J. F. GIBBS
1308 Masonic Temple Building, 
New Orleans, Louisiana

July 23, 1939

Dear Sir:

In accordance with past promises of this office, further information relative to alleged WPA irregularities is being transmitted.

An anonymous telephone call was received from an individual who advised that in the construction of a garage at the Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, Louisiana, the Army Ordnance Hospital had been used; that two car loads of new bricks which were supposed to have been used in the construction of this garage had been hauled away from the Jackson Barracks in State trucks. He advised that other WPA material had been hauled from the Jackson Barracks in State trucks but he did not know the disposition of these materials.

The same informant advised that WPA labor and materials were used on private projects at Laplace, Louisiana; that OSCAR RAYAUD, president of the bank at Laplace, and JEMURIA MARTIN, an attorney and plantation owner at Laplace, benefited by WPA labor and materials.

There is also transmitted herewith a copy of a letter addressed to the Attorney General, postmarked at University, Louisiana, July 1, 1939.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

R. E. SACKETT, Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure

CWD: sh

cc Bureau

#62-977 (WPA IRREGULARITIES - Information Concerning)
#62-978 (LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS - Information Concerning)
Dear Frank,

While you have them on the job in Louisiana, I have your men to question Mrs. Franzi Justusinski, who I believe is still working in the City Hall in N.O. or was in 38. Also the woman who had charge of the City owned apt. house where Mr. Justusinski lived in 37. You can get a lot of info on that.

The federal money went and how. Bob Mastin and Dick got it also. You can get the low down on the auto license money, and salary placed redacted from city and state employees.

Best of luck to you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

P.S. Michigan is sure gone to hell since you left.
These slickers will make a fool of you, unless you get real pressure on them, as Jerry would be.

With out Voting Machines, your votes are not even counted by this gang.

Very Truly,

J. C. Wigginton
W. O. Resident

OFFICE OF THE
RECEIVED
ATTY GENERAL
JUL 2, 1939

RECORDED & INDEXED
On July 24, 1939, RENE A. VIOSCA, United States Attorney, New Orleans, made a formal request for a Bureau accountant familiar with hot oil investigations. He advised that CLIFFORD G. ROWLAND and DONALD BURNETT of the Division of Petroleum Conservation, Department of Interior, had submitted a report covering an investigation of the Lincoln Oil Company in 1937 which was not acted upon. That J. A. HELLIS, Creek Consul, is President of the Lincoln Oil Company and ROBERT S. VASSTRI, Mayor of New Orleans, is a stockholder.

VIOSCA advised that the investigators of the Division of Petroleum Conservation had submitted some preliminary reports and were continuing their investigation, but complete investigation would necessitate checking the books of several big oil companies to see if there was an effort on the part of these companies to falsify their records.

MR. VIOSCA suggested that in the event a Bureau accountant was assigned to investigate this case, the accountant would work with the investigators of the Division of Petroleum Conservation who are familiar with hot oil investigations. He advised the investigation would entail a good deal of work and would probably take at least a month.

If the Bureau considers accepting the investigation requested by MR. VIOSCA under the same conditions as the mail fraud investigations are accepted, it is suggested that the Bureau authorize this office to request the reports of the Division of Petroleum Conservation so that it might determine the exact extent of the accounting investigation necessary.

Very truly yours,

S. S. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge,
U.S. Department of Justice.
Fuel was added to the already brightly burning conflagration of the Louisiana graft scandal today by Gerald L. K. Smith, National Chairman of the Committee of 1,000,000 and close associate of the late Huey P. Long, who charged, in a prepared statement, that the recently indicted individuals in Louisiana were part and parcel, bone and tissue of the Roosevelt New Deal machine.

Smith, who repudiated the existing New Deal-Louisiana organization in 1936 because of their deal with Franklin Roosevelt when interviewed today concerning the current scandals of the Pelican State, said:

"Inasmuch as I was with Huey Long when he was killed, spoke the last words over his grave in the presence of his weeping family and two hundred thousand mourners, I consider it in place to break my three year silence concerning certain matters involving the good people of Louisiana and their assassinated leader.

"Contrary to certain impressions that we have received, the thieves, embezzlers, and crooks that are being exposed in Louisiana today are bone and muscle, blood and tissue part of the Roosevelt New Deal machine. All corruption that will be revealed as the investigation of these personalities and these scandals develops will prove to have taken place after the Louisiana organization was corrupted, bought, and taken over bodily by Mr. Roosevelt.

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Legal, What Is a Bank?

Ambiguity Found in the Quin Saturday Closing Act.

*To the Editor of The Sun—Sir:*

Despite its far-reaching effect upon millions of New Yorkers, the recently enacted amendment to the General Conservation Law, which provides that “banks or trust company duly chartered, incorporated, organized and/or doing business within the State of New York may remain closed on each Saturday during the months of July and August upon the adoption of a resolution to such effect by a majority vote of the board of directors thereof,” evidencing bad faith or mismanagement or the need of the State

“NEUTRALITY” EXAMINED

A New Jersey Analysis of United States Thought on Alien Politics.

*To the Editor of The Sun—Sir:*

Why bother with all this unnecessary talk about “neutrality”? This nation was not “neutral” in the true sense of the word, even before entering the last big European conflict. In spite of it being “stuck” for many billions of dollars, it has not changed. Our trade is good, and so are our countries. Italians and Japanese, we shall always be involved when, and the British is in danger.

Whether or not we should always “aid” Great Britain to keep her power.

A River Changed Its Bed

Nature’s Conspiracy Against the Eighteenth Amendment.

*To the Editor of The Sun—Sir:*

Change of prohibition laws recall to mind an incident involving what seemed to me an example nature in her most grankosme. A river changed its course, an ex-corporate puncher took advantage of it with selfish profit and the law officers, two countries largely perched over in homes for precedent to justify actions to enforce the law.

On a northern bank of the Grande on the Texas-Mexico border Calabash, the city of El Paso, W.
Base Hospitals in U.S. 

The Sun.-Sir: We received a letter from a patient at the Base Hospital, in which he expresses satisfaction with the care given there. The hospital is well staffed with experienced medical personnel.

Be Controlled? 

The Sun.-Sir: In recent months, there has been a growing concern about the control of the bicycle. Some have advocated a ban on bicycles to prevent accidents and congestion. However, I believe that responsible regulations can be implemented to ensure safety and order.

A distinguished physician on the perils of the "regular life." 

"Y. T." in the New Histories and Station, London.

I wonder that he does not think when, on speech-day of a girl's school last Saturday, she heard Sir E. Parquhar Burnard advising her pupils: 'Whatever you do in life, don't lead what you're doing. It's a terrible thing for a doctor to say.' He went on to these innocent, audacious, re-merely bad people.

A Card Index Replaces the Fan Doctor. 

From Health News 

Monseigneur Francis, Minister of Pub. Health for France, has taken cognizance of the disappearance of the fee doctor. Now that people are treated by specialists who know nothing about patients' history, it has been found that the citizens of France should carry with them a medical history which can be consulted whenever the patient consults a new doctor. A "health card" has been invented, and its presence is guaranteed by the use of a number in the name of the holder, number being registered so that if a card is lost, it can be identified.

The report of the Honorable Mr. St. 

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The Sun.-Sir: Who are for P.D.? 

It is a matter of interest how many people in New York are for P.D. at the present time. I would like to know if there are any plans to introduce this measure into the legislative body. 

The Latest Epstein Mystery. 

From the Hartford Courant.

Students in Boston are debating Jacob Epstein's controversial figure of Adam on display in Leicester Galleries. There are representations of the three-ton conception of Jacob Epstein by Jacob Epstein.

Survey of Clerks in New York Hotels and Clubs. 

To the Editor of The Sun.-Sir: In the report on the average salary for the desk clerk, $23.56 a week, some of the hotels are outstanding, some of them ultra-exclusive. One of the hotels has 1,000 rooms, the average wage of $23.56 a week, while others were smaller, some of them lower.

The clerk must possess a pleasing personal, tactful manners, be well groomed, spotlessly attired, of medium build, not too heavy, of clear-cut IQ, and have a worldwide range of to-the-minute information.

The hours are long and exacting. Until people work, the clerk must work seven full days—a day off a week. Take it or leave it. At the time when it is known by established facts, that only one clerk out of every thousand becomes the clerk of a hotel, the percentage is to the 10 per cent. This figure makes it necessary that the more lucrative positions is practically void. Hotels have the greatest employee turnover of any form of business. The remedy would be to give those holding such important jobs as the clerks a wage consistent with their intelligence.
Legislative Futility in New Jersey.

After nearly seven months of debate, discussion, and argument the New Jersey Legislature has failed to solve the State's most urgent problem, the raising of money for relief. It is true that in the last couple of weeks the Assembly and Senate have shown some energy and perseverance, succeeded in passing two bills devised to obtain some money for the aid of townships and boroughs requiring aid in assistance of their poor. One of these bills, however, though it became a law, is now open to question before the courts because it calls for diversion of $2,000,000 from the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund. Governor Moore has just vetoed the other relief measure passed by the Legislature, a bill to divert $500,000 from the State treasury fund.

Public sentiment in New Jersey has been partially organized to oppose a bond issue that will increase the State's obligations. But dissension in the Legislature has been a major cause of the months of bickering over a problem which still seems far from solution. Perhaps the most salutary lesson to be drawn from the situation is that the people want more effective State government. They must make their voices heard in the Legislature. Apathy is expensive.

Russia's Population.

The Soviet government has issued an analysis of the census taken on January 17 of the whole country except the far northern sections, where the count is now beginning. The number of inhabitants as of the census day is put at 170,467,186, of whom 81,664,981 were males and 88,802,205 were females. The last previous count was made in 1926, and according to the figures the population increased in the ten years to 59,372,275 or 15.9 per cent, the average annual increase in the period being 1.23 per cent. The increase in the population of continental United States recorded by the census of 1930 was equivalent to 15.7 for ten years, being 16.1 per cent for the period between census day 1920 and census day 1930, the date of the enumeration having been set back in the interval. With the exception of the decade 1890-1900, in which the date was also changed, this was the lowest percentage of increase ever recorded in the United States, the rate for the period having been 15.4.

Relief for Trade and Whence It Must Come.

A man from Missouri who is in the House of Representatives said recently that if President Roosevelt insists on passage of the spending-lending bill Congress "undoubtedly will be here until September 30." But it was days ago that the Congressmen made this observation, and now it seems likely that pressure to pass the $2,000,000,000 will be strong enough to force it through before an August adjournment. How can it help business while the general feeling persists that the effect will be not to revive better times, but to cause in 1949 a false spurt like that of 1937? Originally the program in the bill was defined as self-financing, but the change of name to "works financing act" now reveals plainly the kind of criticism Congress has heard or such pretense.

A notion persists in Congress, moreover, that business is now more seriously in want, loans than of anything else. Measures have been proposed to increase RFC insurance of loans to small business, as though that were the essential and immediate need. If borrowing alone could revive small business, the borrowers Congress may be sure, would have squawked more loudly for aid by now.
Thursday

General Murphy

July 24, 1939

Dear Sir,

Here is a note of Abo Shushan from their Orleans House, some estate with whom he was to spend in Charity Hospital from some one who is well posted as well as with others. Sincerely,

J. S. Meyer
Honorable Dave A. Vosca
United States Attorney
Post Office Building
New Orleans, Louisiana

July 20, 1939

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS - INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the past procedure in this office, information received which may have a bearing upon the present situation is being forwarded to your office herewith.

J. W. Kelley, Point-O-Ink Company, 817 Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that he had a brother named W. F. Kelley who was foreman of the municipal repair plant in New Orleans and his brother had known for two years that trucks had been taking WPA materials to the home of the former Governor R. W. Leche, Covington, Louisiana.

Kelley also advised that Hellis, Robert Maestri and R. W. Leche were supposed to be partners in an oil company in Louisiana; that this oil company was known as the Lincoln Oil Company; and that Hellis was the front man for this company, Hellis being a naturalized Greek who is now in Greece. Kelley advised that the Greek Consulate says 4,000,000 barrels a year from the United States; that a great deal of this oil is purchased through the Lincoln Oil Company; that the oil is shipped on the Lykes Brothers Steamship Company ships and that the oil shipped is reported to be "hot oil". Kelley advised that he understood 16,000,000 barrels of "hot oil" went out in the last four years; that at one time when he was in the offices of the Lincoln Oil Company the bookkeeper there complained about the big figures he had to place in small spaces, indicating that the company was sending a great deal of oil out of the United States. He advised that the Lykes Brothers Steamship Company and the Lincoln Oil Company were on the same floor of the Whitney Bank Building in New Orleans.

The informant known as Tom again telephonically called this office on July 18, 1939. He advised that he understood Dr. Lorio took orders from R. W. Leche; that Dr. Lorio pocketed everything he obtained. Tom advised that there were no salary deductions of WPA workers in New Orleans as far as he knew; and that the only possibility of this was in connection with the

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170 SEP 17 1964
on Tulane Avenue. He advised that he understood Hampton Reynolds got a take-off from companies who furnished materials in connection with EPA projects. Tom further advised that the United States Conservation Commission was supposed to have given to Louisiana State University the sum of $575,000.00 to be used by the University for the construction of some sort of conservation building. He advised that although the Conservation Commission books show that $575,000.00 had left the Conservation Commission, the University books indicate that the University received $57,500.00 less than the Conservation Commission showed they received; that there was evidently a leakage along the line; that he did not know if Rankin or some other State officials received the money. Tom further advised that he understood Seymour Weiss was half-owner of a gambling house at 118 Baronne Street and was connected there with Bob Bascio and Joe Brown. Tom also advised that he understood that Weiss, Dreyfirth and Selfert did a lot of work for the State of Louisiana; that at one time Weiss and Dreyfirth tried to give Huey Long $50,000.00 which Long threw out the door and would not accept. Tom advised that Seymour Weiss was reported to have been born at Bunkie, Louisiana, but from there he went to Alexandria, Louisiana, where he became a pimp and was supposed to have been made by Huey P. Long.

The enclosed anonymous letters are also included with this letter for your information.

Very truly yours,

B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge.

CWD
PMR
62-978
cc: Bureau
Encs. (2)
Gentlemen:

If you would like to have some real evidence handed to you on a platter, you might investigate the following: About two years ago, it is alleged that Jim Hill had charge of the deducts fund. When it had reached the three hundred thousand mark he said to the ring, "I propose to take over this money for myself. This will probably make you angry and you may wish to start something, but you had better not. I have filed away in my deposit box at the bank a twenty page typewritten statement giving a statement of your individual records. If I turn up missing, or am injured in any way those records become public property. Knowing me as well as you do, you will admit that no one can tell your story as well as I." It is stated that these funds were used in the investment in a New Orleans race track. I wonder whether his income tax report covers this gain.

(Postmarked New Orleans, La., July 18, 1939.)
The man behind the insurance racket is Thom Hill, the boss Feudegast of N. O. He operates a refrigerator business, with Joe Skelly, the Commissioner, at the corner of St. Charles & Calliope St. Woe betide you if you don't buy their goods. Their name do not appear in this firm but they are the owners allright.

Hill also operates with Joe Brown that jip joint at 1185 Baronne St. It is a 50-50 proposition. Hill maintains a fine home with a retinue of servants, riding stable, yacht Alto at Claremont Harbor in Mississippi.

How does he do it? How much income tax does he pay?

This is strictly confidential. My motive is not revenge but only for the purpose of helping the Federal Government to catch all the crooks operating in La.

(Postmarked New Orleans, La., July 18, 1939)
August 11, 1937

RE: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sirs,

There are enclosed herewith two photostatic copies of a letter dated at Goose Creek, Texas, July 19, 1937, received by the Bureau from Mr. W. L. Atwood. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rens & Fiegen, New Orleans.

Mr. Atwood's letter has not been acknowledged.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 11 1937
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
PO Box 55,
Goose Creek, Texas,
July 19, 1939.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

While this is an unsolicited report, and the statements made here are ones that have come to me through members of my mother's relatives who are closely associated with the present state administration in Louisiana, I believe them to be true and might be of some value in conducting your investigation in Louisiana. I should prefer that my name not be disclosed, but a little check can verify a part of these statements.

The late State Senator from Alexandria, George M. Lee, was a brother to my mother. From statements made by him I believe that Huey Long was not killed by Dr. Wiess as alleged. Interrogate the coroner that removed the bullet, and the nurse that was present at the time, and I believe that you will find the calibre of the bullet removed was 45, the type fired by an Italian bodyguard. The calibre of the gun alleged to have been used by Dr. Wiess was smaller.

The next item is rebates, or commissions paid to individuals closely connected to the administration, for supplies furnished the State and WPA projects. I understand that my uncle received a rebate of 10 cents per cubic yard on all gravel or sand delivered on jobs in a certain part of central Louisiana. This same policy was apparently followed in other parts of the State.

RECORDED & INDEXED

My uncle was also associated with Earl Long. I have heard that the present governor has knowingly filched the state out of funds. In one case a cow belonging to him had been killed on the roadside. He had the cow skinned and sold the carcass to one of the State institutions at Alexandria, either the home for Feeble Minded, or the Insane Asylum, for twenty-two cents, or $10.00. The carcass was unfit for human consumption and was dumped. If your representative will interview Mrs. Ola Harron, in Pineville, I believe she will verify this statement.

Earl Long also carries deadheads on the payroll and I have severa relatives so carried. There is my uncle's widow, Mrs. Alice Lee, of Pineville whom I understand is carried on the payroll at a salary of $200.00 per month. Also her son who is a school boy is carried as a junior game warden at a salary of $50.00. There are other relatives that are being deadheaded on the state payroll. I understand another uncle receives a commission on all cooking oil sold to state institutions.

COPIES DESTROYED
I get along fine with my relatives, but cannot condone their political actions. For this reason I would prefer that this information be treated confidential. At the same time it will be a lead others that I am sure are being on the graft-end of state and federal funds.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

W. Latwood
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Louisiana State Officials
Information Concerning

I understand from Agent Shivers that he suggested that you should stay at the Jung Hotel in New Orleans in the event you go there, since of course you would not want to stay at the Hotel Roosevelt.

I do not believe you will desire to stay at the Jung Hotel for the reason that Superintendent of Police George Reyer, Chief of Detectives Grosh, and a number of detectives are continuously hanging around this hotel, and your movements would be known to them, even if they didn't make arrangements to hear your telephone conversations at the hotel.

It is my understanding that the St. Charles Hotel, which is located only about a block and a half from our office in New Orleans, has two floors of air-conditioned rooms, and I have instructed Agent Shivers to contact the manager discreetly for the purpose of determining whether suitable air-conditioned rooms in such hotel can be available for you and your party.

I also assume that Attorney General Murphy and yourself will want to use our Field Division office as your headquarters during your stay in New Orleans. These offices are not air-conditioned and the weather in New Orleans has been unusually humid and hot. I left instructions before leaving that the office should attempt to borrow or rent some individual unit air-cooling equipment so that we might at least be able to air cool one or two of these offices.

May I also suggest that in the event you go to New Orleans, it will be desirable to have some sound recording equipment shipped there immediately together with a qualified sound man. Your arrival in the city will mean a tremendous volume of telephone calls, and Attorney General Murphy will undoubtedly be making a number of telephone calls we will want to have recorded. The telephone arrangement in the New Orleans
office is such that it is not possible to listen in over any other extension and I believe that the sound recording could be used to good advantage both on the telephone lines and to record conversations in conference rooms over microphones already installed in the office.

May I also respectfully suggest that if you have time to see me for a few minutes before you leave, I might advantageously discuss the situation with you in person.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

E. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge
July 15, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I am attaching hereto, for your information, a copy of a teletype message dated July 14, 1939, from the New Orleans Division of the FBI, setting forth the progress in the investigation in that State.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

Mr. Denson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Carse
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crewl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Gilchrist
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Mcintyre
Mr. Nichols
Mr. O. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Cooper
MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

MR. MATTHEW P. BRADY

July 14, 1939

With reference to your memorandum of July 11, 1939, transmitting a letter addressed to the Attorney General under date of July 1, 1939, from Guy J. Prevot, Kemper, Louisiana, I am forwarding copies of this letter to my Special Agent in Charge at New Orleans in order that copies thereof may be transmitted to the United States Attorney for such action as is deemed appropriate by him.

I am returning herewith the communication above referred to.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure:

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUL 14 1939

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Attached find letter from Mr. Guy J. Prevot, advising that he will be glad to testify relative to the election held in September, 1938, in Louisiana.

This communication is being referred to you for whatever consideration you may deem it merits.

Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General
Dear Sir:

The letter of Rev. Ira DeShong rector of St. George's Episcopal church, I am for it. When ever an investigation is made of fraud in voting in this state, please conduct one in Avoyelles Parish - I will be only to glad to testify in an election held Sept. 1938.

Yours Truly

/s/ Guy J. Prevot
July 19, 1939.

Mrs. Smith of the Attorney General's office telephoned to ask if by any chance there had come to the Bureau files a copy of the memorandum the Attorney General had sent to Mr. Earley transmitting copies of certain letters which had been sent to the Chamber of Commerce at New Orleans and also at Shreveport concerning the Louisiana situation.

She said they had been sent to the Division of Records and could not now be found.

Mrs. Smith was assured a search would be made, and Mr. Tamm was asked about this.

11:25 I called Mrs. Smith and told her we had not been able to locate anything of the description given by her.

Mr. Tamm advised that the memorandum to Mr. Earley apparently had not been sent to the Bureau.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 15, 1939

I am attaching hereto, for your information, a copy of a teletype message from the Los Angeles Office of the FBI, outlining the results of the interviews with Alice Lee Crosjean and W. A. Thorpe by Agents of the FBI. These two parties have been mentioned prominently in connection with the Louisiana Investigation.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SAC Sackett called from New Orleans and gave the following information concerning James Albert Noe to Mr. Rosen.

James Albert Noe was born at West Point, Kentucky on December 21, 1893. Here he received a very limited education in the country schools. When he was about 20 years of age he moved to Louisville, Kentucky where he became interested in the development of oil and natural gas. Thereafter he went to the Middle West where he made and lost money in the oil and gas business as it fluctuated. He enlisted in U.S. Army during the World War and served overseas. He was promoted through the grades to the position of lieutenant in the 369th Infantry. He married Anna Gray Sweeney, a school teacher, who was a member of a very old Louisiana family, on May 7, 1922. He has at the present time two children, both boys, ages 16 and 11 years. He came to Monroe, Louisiana in 1923 to make his home there and continued in the oil and natural gas business. He operated in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas and was very successful. Shortly after coming to Monroe he met the late Senator Huey P. Long and became very friendly with him as years passed. He was one of Long's most vigorous supporters.

Noe was indicted April 8, 1925 in the Federal Court at Monroe, Louisiana on eight counts for violation of Section 215, U.S. Penal Code, on charges of having used the mails to defraud in connection with the sale of spurious oil stocks, apparently. He was indicted with one I. E. Hildreth. On April 7, 1926 Hildreth pled guilty and was fined $500.00. Noe stood trial and was acquitted by a jury on April 17, 1926.

Noe first sought political office in 1932 when he was elected to the State Senate in Louisiana. Thereafter he became more closely associated with Huey Long, helping him in every way he could.
MEMO FOR THE DIRECTOR  - 2 -  6-19-39

Mr. Sackett stated that during the famous radio investigation of the New Orleans city administration in 1934 at which time Huey Long aired the difficulties in New Orleans, Noe acted as Presiding Officer and faithfully carried out Long's orders. In 1934 Noe was appointed President pro tem of the State Senate and in 1935 when Lieutenant Governor John B. Kornet was elected to the State Supreme Court Noe was advanced to the Lieutenant Governorship.

On March 22, 1932 the U. S. Internal Revenue Service filed a tax lien against Noe for $1,684.94, due to underpayment of 1928 income taxes. This lien was later dismissed.

During the latter part of 1935 Noe indicated a desire to run for the Governorship but withdrew in favor of Richard W. Leche who was nominated and, in fact, elected in the latter part of 1935. Leche was to take office on May 12, 1936. About this time Governor Oscar Kelly Allen was nominated U. S. Senator of Louisiana on January 21, 1936. Governor Allen, however, died on January 28, 1936 and Noe was sworn in as Governor the same day. He acted as Governor until Leche took office on May 12, 1936. Since this date Noe has served as Senator of Louisiana from the Ouachita-Jackson-Parrish District. He has continued to live in Monroe with his family and also engages in the oil and gas business. He is reputed to be very wealthy at the present time. At the time he was friendly with Huey Long he secured some state oil lease lands and it was from these lands that he originally obtained his money. Noe broke with Leche and Leche's administration during the second legislature after Leche was elected Governor which was in the latter part of 1936. Since this time Noe has been a very bitter foe of the Leche administration.

Noe announced his candidacy for the Governorship eight months ago and has since been trying to secure the support of the public by criticizing the Leche administration. He is alleged to have obtained a great deal of evidence against Leche and his administration.
According to Mr. Sackett, Mr. Charles Nutter, head of the Associated Press in New Orleans, has advised him that Noe is presently in Washington telling everything he knows to the Attorney General in an effort to have an investigation of Leche made. Mr. Sackett stated that you and the Attorney General had met Mr. Nutter when you were in New Orleans.

Noe at one time during Long's regime was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors at Louisiana State University. Noe is a Presbyterian by faith. Noe is very well liked in the northern part of Louisiana particularly, because in the minds of the people he has been a very loyal friend to Huey Long.

Mr. Sackett stated the above information was secured by going through newspaper morgues; from personal memory; and other sources.

Mr. Sackett stated that he has a very good friend, a Mr. Clark Salmon, who is Managing Editor of the Item-Tribune, which paper favors the present administration. Mr. Sackett said that Mr. Salmon would have a great deal of information of the "off-the-record" activities of Noe and that Salmon would be glad to furnish this information. Mr. Salmon can be trusted according to Mr. Sackett. Mr. Sackett stated you met Mr. Salmon when you were in New Orleans.

Mr. Sackett inquired as to whether it was desired for him to contact Mr. Salmon and secure additional information in regard to Noe. Mr. Rosen told Mr. Sackett that he would be notified in the event it was desired that he contact Mr. Salmon.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

F. R. TALM
MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I am attaching hereto for your information a copy of a letter dated July 14, 1939, together with a summary report from the New Orleans Division of the FBI, summarizing as best as can be done the material in the hands of the United States Attorney upon which he contemplates prosecution against various individuals in the State of Louisiana.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 21 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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For Your Information:  
Note and Return:  
File:  
Return with File:  
Please Initial:  

[Handwritten notes: Tamm made call 17]
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Agent R. L. Shivers called from New Orleans and talked to Inspector Rosen concerning the political situation in Louisiana.

Mr. Shivers had talked to Mr. Rogge and learned that it is planned to return in the morning an indictment against Monte E. Hart, James Monroe Smith, J. Emery Adams, Seymour Weiss and Louis Lesage for mail fraud. Mr. Shivers had a copy of the first count of the indictment in his possession but the second count had not been drawn. The indictment is substantially the same as the indictment sent to the Bureau Friday, July 14. The information and evidence pertaining to the mail fraud is summarized in the report of Special Agent C. E. Weeks, dated July 14, 1939, which was forwarded to the Bureau with the copy of the indictment.

Mr. Rogge has definitely stated the indictment will be returned in the morning and has indicated he will call the Attorney General before the return is made. Mr. Rogge has had an opportunity to go into only the mail fraud angle but has stated he is not satisfied with the WPA investigation.

Mr. Shivers has been requested by Mr. Rogge to have a discreet and confidential investigation made of Hilary J. Gaudin, Assistant United States Attorney in New Orleans. It is Mr. Rogge's understanding that Gaudin has been associated too much with Seymour Weiss and Monte Hart. Mr. Rogge was informed that his request would be communicated to you and if you authorized such, an investigation would be initiated immediately.

Mr. Shivers stated a copy of the first count of the indictment and possibly a copy of the second count, would be forwarded to the Bureau via air mail special delivery tonight. As it has been indicated by Mr. Rogge that the evidence against Weiss is none too strong, Mr. Shivers stated you and the Attorney General might desire to have the indictment before Rogge calls in. Mr. Rosen informed Mr. Shivers that if this should be necessary, he would call Shivers at which time the indictment would have to be given over the telephone.
MEMO FOR THE DIRECTOR

7-16-39

10:05 p.m.

I called Mr. Shivers and informed him you had stated it would be satisfactory to proceed with the discreet and confidential investigation of Assistant U. S. Attorney Gaudin. Mr. Shivers stated this would be initiated the first thing in the morning.

Respectfully,

E. A. Ryan

E. A. Ryan
Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated July 19, 1939, wherein an anonymous informant telephonically furnished information concerning the Gurvich Agency, formerly owned by Sam Gurvich and reputed to be presently owned by Abe Shushan, George Mayer, and Seymour Weiss.

The Bureau desires that this information be imparted to the Intelligence Unit of the Treasury Department at New Orleans, Louisiana, inasmuch as the informant advised that the above-named individuals failed to pay income tax on the monies derived from the Gurvich Agency.

You are further instructed to be on the alert at all times for information concerning the questionable activities of Sam Gurvich and to promptly advise the Bureau of the information you receive.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 18, 1939

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

Dear Sir:

An individual, who refused to give his name, telephoned this office July 15, 1939, and stated that he wished to furnish some information about the detective agency and patrol service operated in New Orleans by CURVICH. He said that CURVICH had operated a detective agency in New Orleans and that the business operated by CURVICH went broke about three and one-half years ago and that it was re-organized and that the present owners of the corporation are now ABEL USHAN, GEORGE RAYEY and SEYMOUR WEISS. He said that all of the business men in New Orleans are forced to use the patrol service of the CURVICH agency on a threat of having their taxes raised if they refused to subscribe to this service. He said that CURVICH has a large number of patrons on his force and that these officers have commissions as police officers and are employed by the city, state and parish to officiate at public functions where extra police duty is necessary.

He said that the CURVICH agency also has the protection of Pontchartrain Beach and that it is a matter of fact that the CURVICH agency is simply a racket which is operated in this city for the benefit of the above-named persons; namely, ABEL USHAN, GEORGE RAYEY and SEYMOUR WEISS. He said that he did not believe these individuals pay income tax on the monies derived from this corporation and that the same individuals also control the Jacobs Candy Company at New Orleans and the Yellow Cab Company, as well as the Cloverland Dairy.

This informant also stated that the business houses in New Orleans, Louisiana, were forced to subscribe for the CURVICH protection and that if they did not the City Board of Health would make an investigation of the premises and close the business.

Please advise me if the Bureau desires that this information be turned over to the local Intelligence Unit of the Treasury Department.

RECORDED

Very truly yours,

F. E. Sackert,
Special Agent in Charge

JUL 21, 1939

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

R3: sh
MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I am attaching hereto, for your information, a copy of a teletype message of July 14, 1939, from the New Orleans Field Division of the FBI, reporting upon the developments in connection with the Louisiana State Investigation.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure
MEMORANDUM FOR ML. A. ALFARD

To: Louisiana State Officials

Information Concerning

I telephoned Special Agent in Charge Sackett of New Orleans to advise him that the Attorney General had talked to United States Attorney Viooss and instructed Viooss to handle this situation vigorously.

In answer to my inquiry as to what Agent was best informed on this case, Mr. Sackett stated Agent Dunbar. I instructed him to have Agent Dunbar understand that we want to keep in very close touch with him on the details of all developments as the Attorney General and I are planning to come to New Orleans almost any day. I informed Mr. Sackett that before this trip was made, I wanted to know just how substantial some of these charges are and complete details as to what evidence Mr. Viooss has to support the incriminations he has made.

I mentioned that Viooss has not impressed me as being a very aggressive man although he is probably very sincere, but it appears that some of these investigators are pushing him around. I told Mr. Sackett that the Attorney General had suggested Viooss call a conference for all of these investigators and had also suggested that he, Viooss, keep in very close touch with the Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau's New Orleans Office so the Bureau will know what is going on. Even though we are not conducting the investigation, the Attorney General does want the Bureau to keep an eye on the investigation in order that the Director can advise him as to what should be done. Therefore, I instructed Mr. Sackett to keep in very intimate touch with this investigation.

I asked Mr. Sackett if there were any Assistant United States Attorneys in Viooss's Office who are tied in with the Louisiana political machine. Mr. Sackett advises that Herbert Christenberry, who is an Assistant United States Attorney who is presently handling the F. D. R. Investigation, is a brother to Carl Christenberry who was a very close friend and secretary of Viooss and is presently the state publicity representative in Washington. I instructed Mr. Sackett to send me by telegraph the names of any individuals who might be tied up with this machine for we cannot take any chance of a leak.
Mr. Sackett advises Viosca has expressed to him some
doubt as to Christenberry and James Stelly Wright of Fright
is a nephew of the City Commissioner in New Orleans who is
involved in this investigation. I told Mr. Sackett that Viosca
mentioned on the phone this afternoon to the Attorney General
that there was some fellow that had been recommended for ap-
pointment by Seymour Veiss. Sackett stated this person was
Gaudin (phonetic).

Mr. Sackett informs me that the Grand Jury would in-
dict anybody and Viosca is being run by his assistants and
doesn't seem to know what evidence he has or just what he is
doing. I told Mr. Sackett that the Attorney General has ordered
the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division
to proceed to New Orleans and the Attorney General will probably
come down there Monday.

Mr. Sackett then advised me that he had talked to Mr.
Tomm regarding Seymour Veiss and the possibility of interview-
ing him before he is indicted on mail fraud, which case appears
very indefinite. I mentioned that the Attorney General has in-
structed Viosca to indict no one until we can go over the evidence.
In the meantime, I suggested that Mr. Sackett see what we have
on this case. Mr. Sackett stated that the Post Office Inspectors
have not submitted reports to Viosca, but Viosca is being guided
by one J. Fair, Gaudin who was formerly an Assistant United States
Attorney in Shreveport and is now Special Assistant to the State
Attorney General.

I instructed Mr. Sackett to discuss this whole matter
with Mr. Viosca to find out if he has any written reports. Mr.
Sackett informs me that he has already talked to Viosca several
days ago and finds that he has only a few signed statements.
I stated that Viosca must get some memorandum of facts before
he gets these indictments because the Attorney General will
want to know this, and further since I have to advise the Attorney
General, it is necessary that I know just where we stand. There-
fore Viosca should demand a report of all written evidence so
we can see just what evidence has been obtained.

Mr. Sackett stated he would send a teletype relative
to this conversation and would see Mr. Viosca immediately.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
For your information I am attaching hereto a telephone report from the New Orleans Office of the FBI dated July 7, concerning Dr. James Monroe Smith and the political situation in Louisiana.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Dear Sir,

Yesterday my sister left the office after returning home. I have not received any letter from her since then. She has been unwell and has not been able to write. I have not heard from her since she returned. I am writing to ask whether you have any information about her. She is a very close friend of mine and I am very concerned about her welfare. If you have any information please let me know.

I have been trying to get in touch with her, but I have not been successful. I have tried calling her at her home and at her office, but she has not answered. I have also tried sending her a message, but she has not replied.

I would appreciate it if you could let me know if you have any information about her. She is a very important person in my life and I am very worried about her safety.

Thank you for your help.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
Dear Sirs,

Weimar Hotel has been embroiled in a financial scandal recently. It has been alleged that a large portion of the property stolen from the Weimar Hotel Trust Fund is not accounted for. It was rumored that Weimar bought into the stock of hotels controlled by Hitz shortly after Long's death and sold the stock to the General Motors hotel and cash stolen from trust for in name of purchaser.

It is understood that Max Stein of New York is the attorney in these matters, and if bonus and money stolen not as yet used is likely to be in Hotel safe or close by bank.

Illustrating the feeling shown for your good work and that of your department, I can only cite you to an incident that occurred shortly after church, voiced by a wonderful citizen of our community who said "thank God for Frank Murphy."

Long the governor who is a puppet equally guilty with the others in so far as they would let him participate consulted with Marstus who told him who to appoint to succeed Abernathy.

Place no confidence in Long or any of Marstus clique.

Caldwell, Mayor Shreveport has announced for the governorship. He is suspicioned by people here of taking W.P.A. labor and materials to build his camp at Lake Bistenka.

The whole crowd are thieves and have practically bankrup...
Mr. Maxie Savoy  
R. F. D. 2, Box 80  
Bunice, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Savoy:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 17, 1939, addressed to Honorable Frank Murphy, United States Attorney General, which letter has been referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

I wish to advise that I have carefully perused the contents of your letter, and fail to find therein any violation within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. I would suggest you may be desirous of furnishing the information in your possession relevant to the conditions of which it complains direct to the United States Attorney, Mr. Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc-New Orleans  

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
★ AUG - 1 1939 ★  

FBI  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
July 17, 1939

Honorable Frank Murphy
U.S. Attorney General

Dear Sir: We the Honorable citizens and taxpayers of Kansas are looking up to the federal
and your office, for relief from the abuses and brokenness in our
state government. We are to the point where an honest man
will not seek and an office
on account that he can not
have a fair election.

In our parish of five
districts, we have our district attorney, the judicial
officers, and elected officers who are
qualified by legislative act. Contrary to the will of the people, I
think we would need a federal
investigation in our parish. There
is need of federal money to

We have a sheriff in our parish.
that the Negroes prisoners from the jail in this parish, to do private work on his own property, have deputies from his office, to guard of them while they work. Now if it possible please advise me if it is lawful or not, I was born and raised in this parish and state, I love and cherish our liberty, but I think I see a greater menace to our liberty. I hope and pray that the blood of our forefather was not shed in vain.

I am

Yours Truly,

Matilda Savoy

Eunice, La.

R. H. & Co. By 80
Honorable Frank Murphy  
U. S. Attorney General  

Dear Sir:  

We the Honest citizen and taxpayer of Louisiana are looking up to the federal government and your office for relief from abuse & crookedness in our state government. We are to the point where an honest man will not hold an office, on account that he can not have a fair election. In our parish of St. Landry we have our district judge and district attorney, through appointment, our elected officer were disqualified by legislative and contrary to the wish of the people. I think we would need a federal investigation in our parish.  There is quite a bit of federal monies spent here.  

We have a sheriff in our parish that took negroes prisoners from the jail in the parish, to do private work on his own property, have deputies from his office, to guard of them while they work. Now if it possible please advise me of it lawful or not, I was born and raise in this parish and state, I love and cherish our liberty, but I think I see a great menace to our liberty. I hope and pray that the blood of our fore father was not shed in vain.  

I am  

Yours truly  

S/ Maxile Savoy  

Eunice, La.  
E.F.T. #: 1 x 80
New Orleans, La.
July 18, 1939

Hon. Frank Murphy,
United States Attorney General,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your attention is directed to the enclosed article that appeared in the Times-Picayune today.

This type of person ought to be removed from public office, for his activities and reputation are not in keeping with the dignity of his station.

Yours very truly,

ANONYMOUS
FORGET POLITICS and save both.

This was the high point of A. Miles Pratt's address to the Young Men's Business Club of New Orleans on Thursday evening. Pratt said that Mr. Pratt should advise anyone in his position to forget politics is beyond the reach of the young men. If there is any one subject with which Mr. Pratt is well acquainted, it is the subject of politics, intelligence and honesty, and he is well aware of the ramifications of which he has become intimately acquainted. It is politics.

All New Orleans remembers the fact that T. Samms Walsley, former mayor, in his first campaign倡导 that Mr. Pratt be placed on the ticket for the commission council. Old Regular leaders opposed Mr. Walsley's choice, but he was adamant, and Mr. Pratt went in with the ticket. The second time when Mr. Walsley ran, he again insisted that Mr. Pratt be one of his running mates.

When the then Senator Huey Long decided to make grass grow in the streets of New Orleans, when he said he would crush the false promises under his heel, Mr. Walsley, then mayor, stood up and fought him.

His fight might have been successful but for the desertion (some lowbrow persons have another name for it) of some of his allies, among whom was A. Miles Pratt. He helped to deliver the city, lock, stock and barrel, into the hands of Huey P. Long; and it is just now that the city is recovering from that reign of terror.

Later, Mr. Pratt, after the Walsley ouster, said was to have been considered by some for the mayorality job; but the administration forces decided to make him collector of customs, rather a nifty little position, or job if you choose to call it that.

Mr. Pratt is also a member of the board of supervisors of Louisiana State university. During his occupancy of that position, along with other gentlemen, Dr. James Monroe Smith, now in jail, is accused of running riot in the wheat market with Louisiana State university funds. Other funds have been squandered, in buildings which have cost far above their actual value, in numerous private homes which are said to have been built with the aid of university labor and materials—in fact, 'most everything which hasn't been nailed down has been moved about, and even this class of material is said to have been shifted, in some instances, by crowbar power.

No one accuses the board of supervisors of taking part in this orgy; but the gentlemen of the board have at least been guilty of inefficiency, negligence and a general don't-care attitude.

Those who love this great old university, who believe in its traditions, who believe in its acoustics, know that the only way to replace it on the pedestal which it once occupied is to clean out those who would drag it down. And still Mr. Pratt tells us to forget politics.
Should Be Ousted

NEW ORLEANS ALUMNI and former students of Louisiana State University last spring joined other alumni groups in the state in demanding de-politicization of the university. The locals endorsed the speech of Tom Patton of July 3 requesting a full reorganization of the board and the immediate removal of all political elements. Some alumni groups, notably the one at Clinton, have demanded the resignation of all the old board.

The members of the present board are not accused of any crimes against the university. But crimes have been committed through their laxities, through their failure to do the job of supervising their office called for. This is ground enough for the removal of the entire old board, two members of which have already resigned and one of the two is under fire from another quarter.

The university deserves a new deal, a square deal and an honest deal. There is no reason to expect that this great institution can receive it from the old board, steeped in politics as it has been shown to be. It has been more than a month since first printing in the New Orleans States of the photos showing use of the university's truck in the delivery of building material, processed in the university's carpentry shop, at the residence of Colonel James McLechan in Metairie. The board has subsequently held several meetings. It has not cleared up this instance of political use of the university. So far as information goes, it has not even taken a step in that direction. Yet the episode shocked the people of the state—the public as well as the alumni.

So far as available information indicates the board is making no effort to save the university of political manipulation. There are weak spots in its business staff area, in its faculty. One official of notorious political activity, whose ability to accumulate votes in some products was proudly acclaimed by a former governor whose own affairs are now receiving investigative attention, continues to enjoy his lucrative salary.

How would the old board attempt to explain its deficiencies in these matters? How would it attempt to explain its deficiencies in the matter of the $500,000 geological building, mysteriously financed, mysteriously equipped and furnished by sub rosa arrangement with a business concern in which a member of the board of supervisors was a substantial stockholder?

The simple proposition is that the old board cannot clean up the university of its political entanglements without piling up new evidence of its own gross negligence. For the good of this great institution, with its admirable educational record spanning more than three-quarters of a century, its greater promise for the future, all of the old supervisors should step out and permit full reorganization by a new board chosen from among the alumni.
THE PREVIOUS COLUMN CONTINUED

The treasurer of the "De-ducts" organization explained that millions of dollars had been collected and distributed proportionately "disbursed." All "De-ducts," under pressure from the large number of wage-earning taxpayers who worked for government and who were compelled to pay 5 per cent, sometimes 10 per cent, of their wages, were levied on the salaries of public employees for the purpose of raising the Louisiana Democratic Association's "campaign" funds. Among them, the "De-ducts" organized "campaign" funds. But throughout the months and years, the "De-ducts" continued, whether or not there were campaigns in progress or immediately in prospect. Millions were gathered in the fund, collected in more or less secrecy, paid out in secrecy, no records kept, cash hidden in bank boxes, the identities of the pay-off men usually unknown, no accounting to the enforced contributors or to the rank and file of the association.

Who received these millions of dollars of wage-earning taxpayers' money? For some years the association has had no need of "campaign" funds. The state machine by means of its control of the casting and the counting of ballots, its facilities for stuffing the boxes or padding the registration, and its commands over the battalions of public employees, could declare itself victor in any election by a majority it chose to set, without the expenditure of a dollar. Then who got the millions of "De-duct" dollars?

The Louisiana Democratic Association, says Dr. O'Hara, is prepared to furnish to federal authorities, if they wish it, an explanation of its disbursements. But to nobody else. The federal government is only secondarily interested—unless unforeseen income tax angles develop. But the state of Louisiana is primarily and vitally interested. First, because a large number of citizens were subjected to extortion and oppression; second, because there is reason to believe, and a large section of the public is convinced, that the prime purpose of "De-ducts" was the debauchery of government, the corruption of personnel connected with government.

Why is Dr. O'Hara willing to bare all secrets of "De-ducts" to the federal authorities but not to the people of Louisiana? The answer suggests itself. There is at present no state power able or willing to command the information, which gives security to defiance. But if the federal government wants it, the association has no choice but to comply, since defiance brings respect.

Every month the 5 per cent is levied in amounts $75,000 for this secret swag, on the basis of present pay rolls; every year more than $900,000.

If the association's "explanation of disbursements" is not forthright, the federal government, it is hoped, will require a better explanation.
Forgetting' Politics
New Orleans, July 11

Editor, New Orleans States:

"New Orleans business men must forget politics!"

According to press accounts this is the theme of the message brought to the young men's business club of A. M. Pratt, collector of customs of the port of New Orleans and a member of the city board of supervisors of Louisiana State University.

That is exactly what New Orleans business men and particularly the young men must do, although it is very easy to understand why some of our more influential citizens might ardently desire that it should be done.

Although many might, and for some reason, doubt its actuality, Louisiana is still operating at least under the framework of democracy. The essence of democracy is the government of the people, by the people. If the people are and must continue to be the final source of all authority, public officials, politicians if you will are our servants. They are employed by us and for no other purpose. They must render an accounting of their stewardship to us—a frank, honest and complete report. If they do not do so, they may be made to do so.

According to the press reports, Mr. Pratt refers to what he calls the "laziness" of citizens. The fruits of that laziness, if it is laziness, are now only too apparent. Perchance this so-called laziness was only one of the results of lack of energy or lack of courage. It takes a brave man, indeed, who is he well knows, to make a sound price of his action may be calamity and not always to himself alone.

Among certain unfortunate people there has sprung up a so-called new theory of government. It is assumed that the people know not how to govern themselves. They are incapable. They must follow the leaders, usually self-appointed, and do whatever they may dictate. Theirs not to reason why, theirs not to make reply. Theirs but to do and die.

Have we, citizens of New Orleans and Louisiana, come to that? Must we forget politics? Shall we allow politicians to forget their solemn obligations to decency, to morality and to us?

Some More Questions
New Orleans, July 11

Editor, New Orleans States:

We notice the federal authorities are going to investigate the contracts for the erection of Charity hospital.

What people of Louisiana would like to know is what was actually done to the foundations—not what was specified.

What became of the old Charity hospital?

Why are not some of New Orleans' very practical big building contractors asked the opinion about the new Charity hospital foundations?

How much did they pay the big New York sign company for making the big signs around the hospital—plenty of Louisiana sign painters on relief?

How does the state of Louisiana obtain dollar for dollar matching for $400,000 for the children's assistance, $425,000 for the children's blind and what less than total does that cover?

Up to now all the wrongdoing has been discovered and uncovered by accident. Why have any investigations at all?

Victim of 'De-Ducks'
New Orleans, July 11

Editor, New Orleans States:

The honest people of this city and state are more grateful to the States and Times-Picayune for the great work they are now doing.

A friend has been employed in this work for some years and because of her loyalty to the Times-Picayune she has been advanced from time to time in her work. I am not in Baton Rouge as far back as five years ago each month has had at least seven dollars of her salary.

Refusing to name the treasurer of the how it is spent seems ridiculous. I must be some means of making them all.

Wishing you all success in this great I remain

E. THOMPSON

Notable Quotations

Youth is the proper time for love, and age is virtue's season.

—George Granville, Corin
MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOGEY

July 25, 1939

For your information I am setting forth herein the resolution adopted by the Exchange Club of New Orleans, Louisiana, which was received in the Department on July 21, 1939, and forwarded to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

WHEREAS The Exchange Club of New Orleans is a service club comprised of leading business and professional men, and is affiliated with the National Exchange Club, and

WHEREAS The Exchange Club of New Orleans has been made aware of the misuse of Federal and State funds, the corruption of certain public officials, and the diversion of public money to private use, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that it is the opinion of the Exchange Club of New Orleans that the United States Government should vigorously and impartially continue and enlarge its present investigation of all branches of the State government wherever violations of Federal laws are involved, and that all persons responsible for such violations be speedily and vigorously prosecuted, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Exchange Club of New Orleans will lend its full cooperation and support to such investigation and prosecution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of these resolutions be sent to Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, and to Frank J. Murphy, Attorney General of the United States,

THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEW ORLEANS

July 18, 1939

Lyman C. Reed, Pres.

Walco Utley, Secty.

very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAIL 1

P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WHEREAS The Exchange Club of New Orleans is a service Club comprised of leading business and professional men, and is affiliated with the National Exchange Club, and

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July 18, 1939

THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEW ORLEANS
Per: Lyman C. Reed, Pres.

Waldo Utley, Sec'y
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7-24-1939

The Director
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Tracy

Files Section
Personnel Files
Identification Division
Technical Laboratory
Mechanical Section
Chief Clerk's Office
Crime Statistics

SUPERVISORS

Mr. Balch
Mr. Bellino
Mr. Bickley
Mr. Brennan
Mr. Carson
Mr. Chambers
Mr. Cornelius
Mr. Guerin
Mr. Hayden
Mr. Hogan
Mr. Kimball
Mr. Kramer
Mr. Lawler
Mr. McEntire
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Zimmer

* * *

Miss Gandy
Mr. West
Mrs. Morton
Miss Coe
Mr. Albaugh
Mr. Halter
Miss Conlon
Miss Friedman
Typists - 5724
Stenographers - 5716

Bring file up to date
Send File
Correct
Call me regarding this
Note and Return
Search, serialize and route
Stenographers 5724
Stenographers 5730
Stenographers 5706
Prepare tickler for

See me

Send this to Roger for approval

E. A. TAMM - 5734.

Considered
To the Hon. Frank Murphy,
Attorney General, United States
Washington, D.C.

Very Good Sir: — 

This writer is a sufferer of aortic sclerotic heart disease and also has been given over doses of the X-ray treatments while the welfare office of W.O. I know it to be a fact that the office the run around ... I have tried to obtain relief since September 1938. I have now after an - day suit been free from the disease stated ... The office of this city's welfare has been in the hands of political plunderers ... They have made allotments to the worse kind of prostitution as a lot of people said as to rent. I hope you had ever been in this city and traveled by the way of the Vieux Carré — or Caffey's — magazine — Baronne St and the upper end of city you could then realize how in part the government funds are being allotted — by its allowance it needs no punctuation marks but dashes — so I go to a good Irishman as you are for redemption. President Roosevelt once said, "no one shall stave."

I was unable to pay the rent I am begging on the street for food — I am paying my poor weak body to the city's pier at the river front for a bed. All because of gaining my body to Science and the overdose one in 1922 and X-ray treatments. I beg for you as a good government official to see that these wrongs are sighted ... I am making this fight individually ... With my acuity or treachery, yours in God the light.

I am, Robert Reid, 20 Council as I have morn
July 11, 1939

P.S. I have been put out of this address as devoted within epistle.

Mr. Robert Reed  
1063 Camp Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Reed:

We have received the necessary information for your case and have placed your application in our pending file. We cannot offer you immediate help due to allocation of funds but when more funds are available, your case will be given further consideration.

Yours truly,

Dorothy Robins  
(Mrs.) Dorothy Robins  
Interviewer

DR:rc

Frs Bell and Fisher are stationed at Charity Hospital, New Orleans.

Please answer nights away as to what you will do...
To the Hon. Frank Murphy
Attorney General United States
Washington, D. C.

Very good sir:

This writer is a sufferer of arterio sclerotic heart
disease and also has been given over dosis of the X ray treatments
which has disfigured my face. I've tried in vain to receive aid
thru the welfare office of N.O. I know it to be a fact that they
have given every intelligent person who has went to their office
the run around. I have tried to obtain relief since September
1938. I have now after an X ray picture been proved to have the
disease stated. The office of this city's welfare has been in
the hands of political plunderers. They have made allotments to
the worse kind of prostitutes so a lot of political gangsters -
seen that their friends - were compensated as to rent. If you
had ever been in this city and traveled by the way of View Carre -
of Camp Carondelet - Magazine - Bayonne Sts. on the upper side of
its city - you could then realize how in part the government funds
are being allotted - by its allowance it needs no punctuation
marks - but dashes - so I go to a good Irishman as you are for
redemption. President Roosevelt once said "no one shall starve".
He surely never now the political set up of New Orleans when he
uttered those words. As for polis - you can't give or write polis
about such chysters. I want you to get in correpondence with Dr.
Bell and Fisher and have it proved as to the words I have written
here, in the matter of my health. I am marked as an unemployable,
have been put out of my room - because I am unable to pay the rent.
I am begging on the streets for food - I am laying my poor weak body on the city's pier at the river front for a bed. All because I gave my body to science and they overdosed me in 1922 and 32 with X ray treatments. I beg for you as a good government official to see that these wrongs are righted. I am making this fight individually. With no accents or trimmings. Yours in God the light.

I am - Robert Reed,

% Genl. Del. as I have no home.
ATTORNEY GENERAL FRANK MURPHY
WASHINGiON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dear Sir:

We have a request to make of you. I know that most of the people of the State of Louisiana want a thorough house cleaning. I also know that if some method was placed in their way they would ask for it. What I would like to know is if there is some federal law under which the people themselves could have this investigation. You know and I know that the state officials will not press their own crowd to the limit; this is the reason I am appealing direct to you for advice. The time to strike is when the iron is hot as you know.

I am trusting this is not asking too much of you,

Yours very truly,

Frank Atwood

8/16/39

Federal Bureau of Investigation

JUL 21 1939

L. S. DEPARTMENT
Record of Telephone Call or Visitor.

July 17, 1939.

Time 10:55 AM

Name Mr. Shivers, tele from New Orleans.

Referred to

Details:

Stated that Mr. Rogge had come to the office this morning and had called the A.C.; that Mr. Rogge in his conversation with the A.C. had stated that he wanted to return with indictments today; that the A.C. had said not since there was a question in the mind of the A.C. that the acts constituted a mail fraud. Mr. Shivers stated that the A.C. had transferred Mr. Rogge to Mr. Hugh Fisher in the Department; that Mr. Rogge asked Mr. Fisher to let him have an opinion within an hour as to whether or not the facts constituted a mail fraud and whether the Government could make a case or not. Mr. Shivers stated that he thought that the Director would want to know about this.
History in the Making

ONE YEAR AGO TODAY the Howard Hughes globe-girdlers completed a 14,828-mile circuit after 91 hours and 14 minutes. Twenty persons perished when an Italian air liner crashed into the sea off Sardinia. Fascist university professors declared the Italian people were of Aryan origin.

FIVE YEARS AGO TODAY former Lieutenant-Commander Farnsworth was arrested in Washington charged with selling navy data to Japan. The nation's heat wave total reached 2960. Scores were injured in Bastille Day fighting on the Champs Elysees, Paris.

FIVE YEARS AGO TODAY Acting Mayor Pratt signed fiscal agency contracts with four New Orleans banks. The NFA created an industrial appeals board to "protect small businesses against monopolies."

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY Major Idzikowski was killed and Major Kubala injured as the Polish transatlantic fliers attempted to land on Graciosa Island. Demonstrations of Simon Lake's new submarine hatch for the rescue were declared successful at London, Conn. The United Textile Workers Association declared a worker's attitude.

For the benefit of the W. T. G. M. Business Club, at the request of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Pratt delivered an address outlining the state of business in New Orleans and the effect of the recent economic depression. He emphasized the necessity for cooperation between the business and labor communities and called for an end to the strife that had characterized the days of laissez-faire. Mr. Pratt argued that the state of business in New Orleans was better than it had been in recent years. He also suggested that the members of the business community cooperate in order to improve the economy and create a more favorable business climate.

It was interesting to learn that Mr. Pratt speaks as a business man solely, or under the promptings of his interests as a prominent politician — when he appears to New Orleans business men to "forget politics." Unhappily for Mr. Pratt's case, politics has so "muscled in" on business, here and throughout the state, that he has become involved with such inordinately heavy taxes, has so plagued it with favoritism and so befuddled both the local and state communities with wastes and graft, that neither the business men nor other good citizens can "forget politics."

As a business man without political entanglements — Mr. Pratt might have condemned the vicious political practices that caused the abuses now in process of exposure. But as a politician long on the public pay roll and even now holder of a lucrative political office, Mr. Pratt's desire to have politics forgotten — and his apparent inclination to condemn the exposure of evil conditions rather than the evils themselves — can be readily understood.

We do not believe business men without political sidelines will follow his advice. We do not see how any good citizen of Louisiana in any walk of life can forget the politics which has been preying on them all and has bred, they now discover, scandal so nauseating and malodorous that nobody can forget them.

Foreigners 'Out' (The expulsion of for-
serve store; any obstacles to the merchant should be considered in the light of the necessary metals.

The imports alone in 1,000, and those of nickel, copper, lead, imported metals said to be indispensable to the manufacture of steel are chromium, cobalt, tungsten, manganese, and vanadium. War abroad would threaten the intake of these supplies and naturally increase their cost. Should the United States become involved, the situation would become precarious as to several of these metals, and production costs would inevitably be increased.

The tin deposits in South Dakota, and the bureau of mines has developed an electrolysis method for the production of the metal. There are tin deposits in the same state and Alaska, and tungsten in the Black Hills. None of these areas has been worked to any extent because of the comparative cheapness of the tin from abroad.

The question is whether the United States should take a chance on paying a heavy import price in time of need, or on costly emergency, production, rather than lay up reserves of metals now at the normal rate. T. M. Girdler, steel mill executive, has suggested, the time may come when such supplies would be far more valuable than their equivalent in gold at Fort Knox.

Cooling Us Off

With three cheers, a salaam and whatever else is necessary, we salute the American Medical Association. Often that organization has stepped on our pet toe (the sore one) and frequently it has uttered long and complicated opinions concerning matters of which we know little and care less. But now that the association has come out with a formal approval of ice water, that serves, in our present opinion, commendation unqualified and as high as the thermometer stands in mid-July.

Taken in large quantities at a meal, ice water probably "slows down gastric digestion for a few minutes," notes the factual statement; but it hastens to add, "that is of little significance." Then, after its fashion, the association's Journal goes on with a discussion of tepid or warm water, a subject we shall take up next January.

The "undeclared war" in China rounded out its second year on July 7 with the casualties exceeding 2,000,000 and the economic cost so appalling that it also goes "undeclared."

From what we read of Danzig, that city must occupy in the Old World a position corresponding somewhat to that of New Orleans, or Baton Rouge, in the New. The town of Loafers' Glory, II. C., has just celebrated its 60th anniversary—with due garnir, we suppose, of the loafers for whom it presumably was named.

The expedition that landed in Italy is a vast collection of garbage in all forms, and a menace to the province five thousand miles of Germans and Austrians. German troops have established a stranglehold on the Austrian land. Their aggression is being discouraged by the Allies, but Mussolini has no apparent reason to fear attack upon or invasion of his Tyrolean province by any nation than Germany. Expulsion in peacetime of a few hundred of French, British, Swiss, Dutch and other nationals who are hard to justify, are subject, as a military necessity, to expulsion.

If the nations whose citizens are summarily expelled should fit to retaliate, Italians might be the chief sufferers. Italians residing in Switzerland are said to number more than the Swiss living in Italy. Resort to the natural and logical reprisal would set up new barbed-wire against international travel and friendly communication along the European frontier, and thus add new fuel to the flame of suspicion which already menace European peace and civilization.

Round the World

Things like the international date line often worry those of us who contemplate a trip around the world. We know, or think we do, that going in one direction is one or two days shorter than if we travel the other way, though it's rather difficult to tell in either event, and downright we shall have neither the time nor the money. Yet when somebody else does the thing, we read it and weep, or at least we wonder how we could have bettered the record. However, for the benefit of other arm-chair philosophers, it is just as well to contemplate the fact that actually the girding of the globe is old stuff and, if done too hurriedly, is likely to skip most of the scenery.

Still, there are folk who like to do it, and think what a kick they get. Norman C. Lee had comments almost as brief as what he must have seen from his airplane seats, but at least he went all the way around, some 46,694 miles, in nine hours less than three weeks. Mr. and Mrs. Albert G. Mott might have tied him on this trip by scheduled planes had they not stopped in New York instead of going on to the Pacific coast. Personally we have figured it out that you could charter a plane flying 250 miles an hour and do the thing, at the equator, in four days and four hours. That is, you could if it weren't for the date line. Or perhaps you could.
62-32509 -155 and 58-260548

Special Agent In Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sirs:

Here are enclosed herewith two photostatic copies of an anonymous communication dated at Shreveport, Louisiana, July 14, 1939, which was received by the Attorney General and referred to the Bureau. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A., Vieuxca, New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 16 1939

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Dear Sir,

The report for a transfusion of the blood was before Federal Grand Jury July 10. As a result of a certain case in the late Roosevelt's tenure parties where Mr. John H. Hammons, an elderly man, was feared the transfusion given him was injected with syphilitic matter in question.

Mr. Seymour Hines, an examiner, by his friends turned off in the train and the scenes left by Long Prison also in Mr. Hammons ordered them illegal. However, Mr. Hammons chided that his children might date it was that the yellow fever killed him.

Doctor Long, a dentist of Arkansas, knew that Mr. Hammons was51 days long. He said that Mr. Hammons never slept. He at first took the case on July 20th on the Arkansas, July 20th. The report was 8/10/39. You will find the whole case in the file.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

There is attached hereto for such consideration as is deemed appropriate an anonymous communication concerning the current situation in Louisiana.

Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General

8/16/39
S. No. 6.
A & H
Hon. Frank Murphy

Dear Sir,

Federal assistants attorneys here are closely aligned with the crooked politicians of this state.

Herbert Christenberry is a brother to Earl Christenberry who was secretary to the late Huey Long. Joseph Shelby Wright is a nephew to Joseph O. Shelby, the first New Orleans commissioner to sell out to the crooked state machine.

How can we get justice? Investigate and his committee for justice.

A New Orleans School
Hon. Frank Murphy
Personal
Washington
U.S. Attorney General's Office
W. C.
Federal Investigators Ask Dr. Smith Questions

While East Baton Rouge parish and state officials cooled their heels, United States government officials, including Herbert W. Christy (left), assistant United States attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, and Arnold Raum, assistant United States attorney-general, were closeted in jail with Dr. James Monroe Smith at Baton Rouge. Results of the interview with the former Louisiana State university president, indicted for embezzlement of $100,000, were not disclosed.
New Orleans, La.
July 13, 1939

Hon. Frank Murphy

Dear Sir:

Federal assistants attorneys here are closely aligned with the crooked politicians of this state.

Herbert Christenberry is a brother to Earl Christenberry who was Secretary to the late Huey P. Long.

Joseph Kelly Bright is a nephew to Joseph P. Kelly, the first New Orleans commissioner to sell out to the crooked state machine.

How can we get justice? Investigate and be convinced.

Yours for justice,

A New Orleans Schoolgirl.
FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-19-39  5-06 PM WH

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. AGENTS
PETROLEUM CONSERVATION UNIT, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, ESTABLISHING
HEADQUARTERS NEW ORLEANS TODAY PREPARATORY TO HUNT XXXX OIL
INVESTIGATION. J. M. BROWN BEFORE FEDERAL GRAND JURY NEW
ORLEANS RELATIVE BOND TRANSACTIONS JAMES MONROE SMITH. USA
CONTEMPLATES REQUESTING INVESTIGATION FROM POSTOFFICE INSPECTORS
RELATIVE TO ALLEGED SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR
SHORTAGE OF MONEY IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM
THE US CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
FROM MAIL FRAUD ANGLE.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASH DC CHCV
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Special Agent Shivers called from New Orleans and informed that Mr. Rogge came in to see him shortly after you had talked to Mr. Shivers. Mr. Rogge told Agent Shivers he was going to have to return the indictments sometime today. He also said he had instructions from the Attorney General not to return them until they were approved by the Attorney General. Mr. Rogge stated that he was thoroughly satisfied with this case and if necessary he would remain in New Orleans and participate in the prosecution. According to Mr. Shivers, Rogge is undoubtedly waiting on word from the Attorney General to authorize him to go ahead and have the indictments returned. Mr. Rogge said the Grand Jury was wanting to return them anyway. Agent Shivers stated that Rogge did not explain why the indictments had to be returned now, and I told him I thought the Attorney General would be interested in knowing the reason for this.

Mr. Shivers said it was his understanding that all the evidence that was had to support the indictment was contained in the summary report sent in by Agent Weeks on July 14th.

Agent Shivers stated that while Mr. Rogge was in the Bureau office, he had Rogge received a telephone call from Tony Corcoran with reference to the replacement of Charles J. Bangs as Assistant United States Attorney and during the conversation Rogge told Corcoran the indictments would have to be returned today.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

E. L. Tidwell
NEW ORLEANS 7-13-39 4-56 PM

DIRECTOR

RE LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. I HAVE
JUST HAD CONFERENCE WITH US ATTORNEY VIOSCA.

THE WPA INVESTIGATORS HAVE NOT SUBMITTED ANY DETAILED REPORTS
AND ALL WRITTEN MATTER SUBMITTED BY THEM CONSISTS OF A FEW
AFFIDAVITS WHICH THEY OBTAINED. I AM OBTAINING COPIES OF SUCH
AFFIDAVITS. PERSUANT TO MY SUGGESTION, AND IN MY PRESENCE,
VIOSCA AGAIN TELEPHONICALLY COMMUNICATED WITH PAUL HANSEN, WPA
INVESTIGATOR IN CHARGE, AND REQUESTED THAT HANSEN SUBMIT TO
HIM IMMEDIATELY COPIES OF ALL REPORTS MADE AND ALSO IN THE
FUTURE TO SUBMIT TO VIOSCA TWO COPIES OF EACH AFFIDAVIT OR
STATEMENT AS TAKEN BY THE INVESTIGATORS. VIOSCA WILL GIVE ME
COPIES.

VIOSCA HAS HAD ABOUT FIFTY PEOPLE BEFORE THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY
TO TESTIFY RELATING TO WPA IRREGULARITIES, TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY
BEING WRITTEN UP NOW, PERSUANT MY REQUEST, AND I WILL SECURE COPY
THEREOF.

FROM WHAT I CAN GATHER, NO ONE WPA IRREGULARITY CASE HAS BEEN
COMPLETED, AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN FROM VIOSCA OR ANYONE
ELSE WHAT EVIDENCE EXISTS WITH RELATION TO ANY SINGLE WPA IRREGULARITY CASE.

I DISCUSSED THE INCOME TAX EVASION CASES WITH ARNOLD RAUM SPECIAL ASSISTANT, AND THE ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY HANDLING SAME, FROM WHICH IT APPEARS THAT THE CASE AGAINST JAMES MONROE SMITH IS EXTREMELY WEEK AND QUESTIONABLE.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE AGENTS HAVE NOT SUBMITTED ANY FURTHER REPORTS SINCE THE REPORT TWO WEEKS AGO, WHICH WAS GIVEN TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND A COPY TO US ATTORNEY VIOSCA. THEY ARE STILL INVESTIGATING LECHER, MONTE HART, SMITH, AND OTHERS, BUT THE DETAILS OF THEIR INVESTIGATIONS ARE APPARENTLY UNKNOWN TO VIOSCA. PURSUANT MY SUGGESTION VIOSCA WILL ATTEMPT TO HAVE INTERNAL REVENUE AGENTS SUBMIT DETAILED REPORTS.

IN CONNECTION WITH MAIL FRAUD CASE, IT APPEARS THAT THE ENTIRE CASE SO FAR IS FOUNDED UPON ORAL INFORMATION AND SOME INVESTIGATION BY VARIOUS AGENCIES. VIOSCA SUBPOENAED J EMORY ADAMS, L C. LESAGE, F E.AMES, MONTE HART AND OTHERS BEFORE THE GRAND JURY AFTER HAVING THEM SIGN WAIVERS AND IT IS UPON THE TESTIMONY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS THAT IS HIS BASIS OF THE MAIL FRAUD CASE. HE ALSO HAD INTERNAL REVENUE AGENTS TAKE WRITTEN STATEMENTS FROM THESE WITNESSES.
PAGE THREE

WHICH APPARENTLY HAVE NOT YET BEEN WRITTEN UP OR MADE AVAILABLE TO VIOSCA. VIOSCA HAS HAD INTERNAL REVENUE AGENTS CHECK ON THE MAIL FRAUD CASE FACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR INCOME TAX INVESTIGATION BUT DOES NOT KNOW THE RESULTS OF THEIR FINDINGS. PURSUANT TO MY SUGGESTION VIOSCA REQUESTED INTERNAL REVENUE AGENTS TO IMMEDIATELY WRITE UP EVERYTHING THEY HAVE DONE IN FORM OF MEMORANDA IF THEY CANNOT WRITE REPORTS AND SUBMIT IT TO HIM. I WILL OBTAIN COPIES THEREOF WHICH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TOMORROW.

VIOSCA HAD INTERNAL REVENUE AGENTS THIS AFTERNOON QUESTION SEYMOUR WEISS IN NEW YORK REGARDING THE RECEIPT BY WEISS OF SIXTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM PART WHICH WAS A PART OF THE SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS INVOLVED IN THE MAIL FRAUD SCHEME. VIOSCA DOES NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE POST OFFICE INSPECTORS INVESTIGATIONS IN BATON ROUGE REGARDING THE MAIL FRAUD CASE AND HE YESTERDAY SENT HIS ASSISTANT HERBERT CHRISTENBERRY TO BATON ROUGE TO FIND OUT WHAT THE INSPECTORS ARE DOING AND TO COLLECT THE NECESSARY EVIDENCE IN BATON ROUGE RELATIVE TO THE MAIL FRAUD SCHEME. POST OFFICE INSPECTORS HAVE NOT SUBMITTED ANY REPORTS EITHER ORAL OR WRITTEN TO VIOSCA AND APPARENTLY ARE MAKING A GENERAL INVESTIGATION OF ALL OF SMITH'S ACTIVITIES IN THE HOPE.
PAGE FOUR
OF UNCOVERING MAIL FRAUD VIOLATIONS. THIS CONFIRMS MY
SUSPICIONS THAT THESE INSPECTORS ARE ACTUALLY WORKING FOR
THE BENEFIT OF J FAIR HARDIN.
PURSUANT TO MY REQUEST ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY HUBERT
WILL PREPARE A BRIEF SOMEWHAT SIMILAR I HOPE TO OUR
SUMMARY REPORTS, SETTING OUT IN DETAIL JUST WHAT THE SCHEME
TO DEFRAUD WAS AND THE NECESSARY WITNESSES TO PROVE SAME,
TOGETHER WITH THE TESTIMONY OF EACH, AND ALSO HOW THE MAILS WERE
USED AND THE NECESSARY WITNESSES IN THAT REGARD. HE WILL HAVE TO
OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION FROM THE VARIOUS INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES
AND THE TESTIMONY OF THE INDIVIDUALS BEFORE THE GRAND JURY, BUT
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I KNOW OF OF GETTING A CONCRETE PICTURE
OF JUST WHAT THE VIOLATION CONSISTS OF AND WHAT EVIDENCE THERE IS
TO PROVE SAME.
PURSUANT MY REQUEST THE BALANCE OF THE TESTIMONY TAKEN BEFORE THE
GRAND JURY, WHICH IS QUITE VOLUMINOUS, AND HAS NOT YET BEEN WRITTEN
UP IS BEING WRITTEN UP IMMEDIATELY AND I WILL OBTAIN A COPY OF
SUCH TRANSCRIPT. I WILL THEN HAVE OUR AGENTS DIGEST SAME AND
SUBMIT TO YOU IN SUMMARY FORM THE SUBSTANCE OF SUCH TESTIMONY. I
PAGE FIVE

WILL ALSO SEND YOU COPIES OF THE WPA AFFIDAVITS AND REPORTS AS I RECEIVE THEM FROM VIOSCA.

THERE APPARENTLY IS UTTER LACK OF ORGANIZATION IN VIOSCAS OFFICE, THE VARIOUS ASSISTANTS WORKING ON PET THEORIES OR DIFFERENT ANGLES OF THE INQUIRY WITHOUT ANY APPARENT COORDINATION.

VIOSCA IS NOT VIGOROUS OR FORCEFUL ENOUGH TO TAKE THE LEAD IN ANYTHING, BUT IS WILLING TO FOLLOW ANY SUGGESTION. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT A VIGOROUS AND FORCEFUL PERSON CAPABLE OF COORDINATING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE US ATTORNEYS OFFICE AND INSISTING UPON EXPEDITIOUS AND COMPLETE COOPERATION AND WORK OF THE FEDERAL AGENCIES INVESTIGATING THE MATTERS, IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE SITUATION AT VIOSCAS OFFICE.

SACKETT
END

OK FE I WANT DC ORG
July 17, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

For your information, there are transmitted herewith copies of a letter, dated July 3, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, by Mr. A. Pickus, President, Majestic Oil Corporation, 4455 West Third Street, Cleveland, Ohio, which was forwarded to the Bureau by the Department.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 10, 1939

It has occurred to me that you might wish to have the attached correspondence from Mr. A. Pickus, President, Majestic Oil Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio, for consideration in connection with the current investigation in Louisiana.

Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General
MAJESTIC OIL CORPORATION

2455 West Third Street
Cleveland, Ohio

BM YSNefr
36-667

Attorney General Frank Murphy
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RE: Reorganization of the Louisiana Oil Refining Corporation and Louisiana Oil Corporation

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Please have this in mind that Mr. Henry L. Dougherty and his scoundrels have located dice. They think that every person has his price. If $10,000 won't do the trick then $25,000 or more will do it. He has succeeded so well in the past that the Department of Justice, and his gang stole enough from the American people to pay all the conniving lawyers who control our weak judges to put through shady deals over for them.

Mr. Henry L. Dougherty deserves a monument to be built for him next to Washington—he is a master mind. He proved how he can get away with hundreds of millions of dollars through scheming and still be a fine gentleman. The system must be changed so a man like Dougherty is eliminated.

District Attorney Fields for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

I talked to him long distance from Cleveland, December 1938, and he made an appointment for me to see him in Shreveport, Louisiana. I made this trip to see him but when I arrived he would not see me. I was told in Shreveport that he is a 'cheap politician.'

It is about time that the ninety six District Attorneys in the United States are carefully scrutinized and investigated and the great majority of them relieved of their duties.

You will have to get new brooms in order to sweep clean. By this, I mean you will have to replace all the political stooges in the Justice Department before you can reach Mr. Henry L. Dougherty and conniving judges like Judge Hantou.

Very respectfully,

/s/ A. Pickus
Agent Shivers called from New Orleans and reported that the last edition of the "New Orleans State" contained the following headlines: "U. S. Indicts Five, Murphy, C-Man Chief Come in for Probe"; then type under that reads, "United States Attorney General, Frank Murphy and Edgar Hoover, Chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Will Arrive in New Orleans, Tuesday Morning to Personally Take Charge of Wide Spread Investigation, Now Being Conducted in Louisiana by the Government." Mr. Shivers stated that this was all the papers had related in this connection, and as yet had been unable to find the source of their information; however, he did hear from the United Press, who understood that the state had received information that reservations had been made at the St. Charles Hotel for the Attorney General and the Director, which, of course, is not true.

Agent Shivers advised that he had made inquiry of the Assistant Manager at the St. Charles Hotel, as to what he had in the way of a suite and in the way of accommodations, and I told the Assistant Manager that it might be possible in the near future, without indicating any time, that the Attorney General and Mr. Hoover might come to New Orleans. This was strictly in confidence and the Assistant Manager at the hotel says that positively he did not give out any information. The Assistant Manager related that after the story came out in the paper, the United Press and Associated Press called and wanted to know if Mr. Hoover or the Attorney General had a reservation at his hotel, and he informed them that he did not have and were not expected there so far as he knew.

Agent Shivers said he did not know that information had been given out from Washington, or what instructions Mr. Rogge had received in this regard, as he had not been able to get in touch with him. Shivers is desirous of learning the authenticity of the report, and requested that Mr. Hoover be advised of this information.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

I called Special Agent Shivers in New Orleans and told him that you had not made any plans to go to New Orleans, although there was a possibility that the Attorney General had announced that both of you were going to New Orleans. I also told Mr. Shivers if the Attorney General had made such an announcement that you had not been advised of it.

I instructed Mr. Shivers to make no comment on this matter to the press.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM
July 17, 1939

1:00 P.M.

SECRET

To Mr. C. A. Tabb
Ret Louisiana Situation

I telephoned Robert Shivers to advise him that the Attorney General had instructed Mr. Rogge that under no circumstances were any indictments to be returned until the Attorney General had approved, which was the same understanding that the Attorney General had with United States Attorney Vboro. Agent Shivers stated that they intended to have the indictments returned today.

I instructed Agent Shivers to keep in very close touch with this situation and try to find out whether they have grounds for a mail fraud case. Agent Shivers stated that from his conversation with Mr. Rogge, they do not have much more evidence than what is contained in the summary report which Agent Weeks made on July 14th. Agent Shivers and I both agreed that this did not appear to be very strong evidence. I stated that we must watch this case for to indict Seymour Viles will be a terrific fight and we must be prepared as there is no doubt that he is guilty.

Agent Shivers stated he would keep in close touch with this and advise me immediately of any new developments.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Communications Section
Mailed
JUL 17 1939

101
Record of Telephone Call or Visitor.

July 17, 1939.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Time 4:15 PM

Name Mr. Shivers

Details:

The following message was taken:
The indictments were just returned against Sevoun Weiss, Monte Hart, James Munroe Smith, Henry Adams and Louis LeSage; that the A.C. authorized Rogge and Viosca to go ahead; that it was imperative that the indictments be returned today since the Grand Jurors wanted to return the indictments and because the Judge was leaving the city until Friday and if the indictments were not returned today they would have to wait until Friday; that the conclusion had been reached that some action was necessary to prevent creating the impression that the Grand Jury was just engaged in a "white-wash".

Mrs. Shivers stated that the bond was set at $10,000 each; that the newspapers were furnished with a copy of the indictment and would be on the streets with the story immediately.

s.o.s.
PHILADELPHIA PENN JUL 8 1939

DIRECTOR FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

JAMES ANTHONY MURPHY INFORMATION CONCERNING CANNOT IDENTIFY ON AVAILABLE INFORMATION ADDITIONAL INQUIRY TO BE MADE WHEN PUBLIC RECORDS AVAILABLE MONDAY.

FLETCHER
FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-11-39 5:05 PM  AUS. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DIRECTOR

RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING. THIS AFTERNOON

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL ELLISON AND HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT, J. FAIR
HARDIN, CONFERRED WITH USA VIOSCA AT NEW ORLEANS IN AN EFFORT TO
OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM VIOSCA CONCERNING RESULTS FEDERAL INVESTI-
GATIONS. VIOSCA DID NOT GIVE THEM ANY INFORMATION. FROM INFORMATION
FURNISHED BY JM. FAIR HARDIN TO VIOSCA, IT APPEARS THERE MAY BE GOOD
MAIL FRAUD CASE IN CONNECTION WITH SALE OF BIENVILLE HOTEL TO LUXX
LSU DURING WHICH SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS WAS PAID THREE INDIVI-
DUALS ALLEGEDLY AS COMMISSIONS. THIS MAIL FRAUD POSSIBILITY IS
PRESENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION BY POST OFFICE INSPECTORS AND IF IT
DEVELOPS INTO A CASE WOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE J. EMORY ADAMS, MONTE
HART, LEWIS LESAGE, WHO IS A CONTACT MAN FOR STANDARD OIL COMPANY
AND POSSIBLY JAMES MONROE SMITH. THE POST OFFICE INSPECTORS INVE-
STIGATION HAS NOT YET REACHED A POINT WHERE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE IS
KNOWN. J. FAIR HARDIN IS ACTIVELY TAKING LEAD AS STATE PROSECUTOR
AND IS ACTIVELY HANDLING GRAND JURY AT BATON ROUGE. HE IS GETTING
READY TO RETURN ABOUT THIRTY INDICTMENTS AGAINST JAMES MONROE SMITH
MAINLY CHARGING FORGERY OF LSU BONDS. U. S. ATTORNEYS OFFICE EXPECTS
TO HAVE SOME WPA IRREGULARITY INDICTMENTS RETURNED SOME TIME NEXT WEEK.
PAGE TWO

HAVING RECEIVED PRELIMINARY REPORT IN FORM OF SIGNED STATEMENTS TAKEN
w PH
BY INVESTIGATIONS OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED. NO OTHER DEVELOPMENTS
TODAY

SACKETT

SECOND WORD SECOND LINE WPA

END

ACK PLS

OK FBI WASH DC JAR

v
62-32509

Section 8
Department of Justice
Office of the Assistant to the Attorney General
Washington

July 13, 1939

MEMORANDUM TO MR. HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Attached hereto is an anonymous letter dated June 28, 1939, which was mailed in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Please take such action as you may deem the above-mentioned communication warrants.

Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney

8/16/39
Sel. M.O.
AC11
Eden Hardy, Jr.
U.S. District Attorney
U.S. District Office
New Orleans, La.

Dear Citizens:

Congratulations on your desire to investigate some of the politics of government funds on FWA and WPA projects in Louisiana.

I trust as an old timer when the U.S. Grand Jury started something like this they generally went to the last and some one always had several Home Boys in the Penn. I hope you gentlemen will give the confidence to the American people by bringing to account some of those well though of gentlemen that have become lower than the average Highway Thief.

Right in our midst, we have some very startling facts to face, but I hope that the exposure of Dr. Smith, which is only a little part of the THEFT will not grant the U.S. Grand Jury the opportunity to SMOKE SCREEN the other larger offenses.

Take the CHARITY HOSPITAL, where the Board is selling noodles to so our to ABORTION of AMERICAN Public.

Do you know that in the plumbing and other piping parts of that building that never has a test, I mean an actual test of water in Water Pipes and steam and other thing been tested actually in those pipes.

Do you know that on NOH2O products that Dr. Bel's assistant has been accustomed to say, to a business house, "WHAT IS YOUR PRICE ?" and when told would say what is 15% of that cost, and when told would say well Mr. Blank, you go ahead, and when you give me that amount 15% in Cash, I will approve your bill.

And do you know that those ADDUCTS or DE-DUCTS are split among the whole board, take that purchasing Agent Dumaine, and half negro put him to the test, feed him " ice cream and coke", like Chief Gretna says he fed the criminals to get a confession, and I think that you can make that BIRD flap his wings.

Do you know that Dr. Bel and Dumaine are the Ach-PARTICIPANTS IN the Craft.

But, don't leave the Jews out, like Shushan and Hart and Weiss, they get theirs.

I will tell you something hot, yet, the W. FWA project in Jefferson Parish, Gretna, La, the School Board split $ 2,000.00 on the site when they offered it to a part of the FWA grant. And here is how it was done, taking up property for this project, a piece of property was bought, the owner said he wanted $ 2,000.00 they took an option for $ 2,500.00 and paid cash down of $ 500.00, and win it was taken in the deal for the School it was listed as $ 12,500.00 and many more were handled the same way. Of course they will say that they did not take FWA money but they did ENRICH the FWA in the land values as their part of the project. And Justice Archie Kins and his family was in on this.

Boys you have a large job before you, I hope that they give you Ice Water and Air Conditioning rooms to work in, because things on your table will sure heat up the atmosphere of your rooms.

Now that we have an opportunity, lets clean HOUSE.

I would give you my name and address but if I did, my life would not be worth the cost of having a linen suit cleaned.

I see Mayor Mazzioli and the new Gov. a visit with the KING of LOTTERY and GAMBLING operation in New Orleans.

(Handwritten text on the right side of the page.)
Mr. Frank Murphy, Atty. Gen., U. S.,
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

I had a conference yesterday with Mr. R. P. Parker, Crowville, Franklin Parish, La. Mr. Parker is a leading citizen, thoroughly reliable, well posted, and probably knows more of the inside workings of the "machine" than any man in his parish. He is heartily in favor of apprehending and sending to prison all of malefactors, but he has little if any confidence in the State courts doing any more that the force of public opinion forces them to do. He recounted numerous violations of the law, politicalization of the relief organizations, the purchase of votes in congressional election in 1938, the padding of the payrolls with names just before the election, and after election,dropping them etc.

I asked his permission to direct your attention to the matter. He assured me it met with his hearty approval, and that he would be very glad to furnish all the evidence in his possession to an investigation, if only one should be sent to him.

The "machine" extends its ramifications into the every parish in the state. Political "machines" are identical wherever they may exist, perpetuate themselves and rob the tax payer to the uttermost limit. If they are to be broken up, the federal government must do it. The states are not going to do it.

There is plenty that can be uncovered in every parish in the state, if a good sleuth is put on the job. It will require some time and not a little expense. If democratic government is to continue, and it is, these "machines" that plunder and steal "to the last drop" must be destroyed.

The relief organizations in Louisiana are honeycombed with fraud, and are employed also as recruiting stations for the perpetuation of present conditions, intolerable as they are.

Yours truly,

B. W. Bailey.

8/16/39 - 28

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 5, 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

I called Special Agent Dunker in New Orleans in connection with Mr. Rogge's request that the FBI investigate a certain Grand Juror. I told Mr. Dunker you had authorized this investigation and the investigation could be initiated immediately.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm
Harry Jacobs, Levee Board Engineer 1937-38, used WPA labor and Louisiana Highway trucks to haul sand to elevate his property, about 14 months work, in St. Bernard Parish. WPA fences were bought for state park in St. Tammany Parish. Material was hauled and deposited on state park grounds, subsequently Leche and Rankin appropriated enough of this fencing to fence in a large area of their property. Leche used highway tractors, trucks and WPA labor to build bridges on his property in 1938-39. Rankin used WPA labor to build his fences and planted trees dug up from Salmen Lumber Co.'s land which adjoins his property near state park.

The Hero family in Plaquemines parish have spent thousands of dollars improving and ditching their own property. This work has been going on for three years.

Leche caused to be distributed to families on the Atchafalaya River carloads of gravel in exchange for subscriptions to the Progress. Every family between Melville and Simmsport were given gravel to build roads on their private property by orders of Leche to Harmus Zeringue who lives at Melville and distributed this gravel. Leche moved from New Orleans a barber and fitted him up with a house near his place to shave he and Susan. This man wears a State Board of Health badge.

The State Board of Health has employed in New Orleans a lot of gamblers who pose as health inspectors (who are secret service men) for the administration. They have such gangs in every parish in the State where thousands of dollars of State money goes to pay these burglars. Austin Fontenot of Opelousas, Louisiana, is the instructor for men so employed. Some of these gamblers leave the State of Louisiana and follow the races up North for four to six months and continue to draw their pay as Board of Health inspectors.

Leche has received thousands of dollars to release convicts from the State penitentiary. One convict told this informant that he was released by his relatives paying $500.00 to Leche's go-betweens in the month of May, 1939.

The informant would like to know and the public at large what became of all the oil lands donated to the Charity Hospital from the estate of Wisner and Dresser. From all accounts, a good many oil wells producing on this property, wells owned by the Texas Oil Company, are not paying any royalties. If so, who has this money? The Texas Oil Company has been drilling wells on this property back of Lafitte, south to the Gulf. What has become of all of the oil lands formerly owned by the State, which were sold to whitewash organizations in the ranks of the State officials from Noe down to the present day?
The City of New Orleans is buying asphalt that is being mined in Georgia. Two of the men interested in this concern are connected with the City administration and a third by the name of Caldwell living in Atlanta or Birmingham (not related to the local Caldwells). This asphalt is being sold to Craven & Land by these individuals at a handsome profit. If Hampton Reynolds and Gratcher were investigated and these shipments traced to origin and the prices ascertained for this product at origin and the price New Orleans is paying for it, you would readily see the extent of the graft.

In 1937 Leche painted the names off eight State trucks and put his name on side of trucks to haul bricks from Charity Hospital site to his home in Covington. Suskan did the same thing with Orleans Levee Board trucks to haul bricks from Charity Hospital to his home near Covington. These bricks were demolished with WPA labor. Leche also used WPA labor to haul these bricks to his home site. Leche used WPA labor for landscaping building site.

Charity Hospital foundation should have had about 9000 piles or better. A good many of these piles, or 7000 of such piles, should have been driven sixty feet into the ground but the majority of them driven at night were driven about 30 feet and cut off, with the approval of the architects inspector who is the worst crook in the State of Louisiana. In some instances the cut-offs were long enough to be used as piling. A lot of these facts can be substantiated by getting in touch with Mr. E. A. Cotton, Walnut 1750-W, New Orleans, who was the rivet inspector on the job and refused to be bribed.

The writer hopes that you as an agent of your department will put public duty and honesty above all selfish desires and check into these various leads which are bona fide and bring the guilty to account for their deeds of crookedness and distrust.

In the informant's opinion the Federal Government is a damn sight more rotten than the state government, and we hope that this investigation will bring out some future men who are honest and not traitors to their obligations. I am three score and ten years and will later on disclose my identity when the above disclosures have been acted upon. I have based the latter remarks on the investigations made by Viscia, the Federal attorney, when he threw out Chester Martin's case against the State and (Federal) WPA when he made the remark that there was nothing to it. Viscia is one of the State's gang who could not make a living until he was given this position by the Federal Government. He is no more fit to be entrusted with these duties any more than Leche or any other local politician. The whole United States knows that this investigation and trial is taking place between a bunch of thieves where one-half is trying the other half, and the most stupid of human beings cannot guess the results unless, as I have stated above, some of you fellows who have the opportunity keep this democracy intact and stand out as our forefathers did. However, if the men who have been indicted or implicated were found guilty and punished and proper means taken at the next election to see that the votes are not substituted, then the old gang would not drift back into office. With a fair account of things their getting back into office would be an impossibility.
because these scandals have brought out an interest in State affairs to make the least interested individual want to straighten out the destinies of our State.
Novel

aged flour ran 1,000,000 lbs. that are from Frank Lee in Passaic. He operated with Mr. Samsung and Kayner ran 1,000 lbs. daily for months in Passaic, but only when the alliance was 300 lbs. This operation made fabulous amounts of money with the fees. Kansas City run out of flour, Kansas City run out of flour, Kansas City run out of flour, Kansas City run out of flour, Kansas City run out of flour, Kansas City run out of flour, Kansas City run out of flour, Kansas City run out of flour. 8/10/39, 8/10/39, 8/10/39, 8/10/39, 8/10/39, 8/10/39, 8/10/39, 8/10/39.

On Frank Murphy's atty. general

Matthew B.
FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-23-39 5:02 PM AHS

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

CHRISTENBERRY, FORMER SECRETARY TO HUEY P. LONG AND BROTHER OF ASSISTANT U. S. ATTORNEY HERBERT CHRISTENBERRY AT NEW ORLEANS, APPOINTED SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR EARL K. LONG, EFFECTIVE TOMORROW.

A. B. PATTERSON, HEAD OF NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC SERVICE, INC., OFFERED

POSITION PRESIDENT OF NEW ORLEANS DOCK BOARD, FROM WHICH POSITION SYMOND WEISS RESIGNED JULY TWENTY FIRST. DR. CLARENCE LORIO PRESENTLY UNDER INDICTMENT IN STATE COURT RESIGNED FROM POSITION PRESIDENT LOUISIANA STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY AND DR. D. B. BARBER, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT, APPOINTED PRESIDENT.

GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS IN NEW ORLEANS REPORTED CLOSING, BUT REASON FOR THIS PRESENTLY UNKNOWN. M. "M. ATOMIC, FORMER HEAD OF IDENTIFICATION BUREAU, LOUISIANA STATE POLICE, APPOINTED CHIEF OF HOSPITAL POLICE AT ALEXANDRIA LATE YESTERDAY.

Sackett

O. F. H. H. RG SRN
Mr. Frank Murphy,
U.S. Attorney General of the United States of America
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Murphy,

On May the 29th., you were in New Orleans in company with Mr. J.
Edgar Hoover, the Great Ace of Criminal Detectives.

You on that occasion spoke to the newspaper men as to the cure
for the evils of Democracy.

On May the 30th., the N.O. Daily States carried an editorial that
hit the spot of the common people of this State and the U.S.

Since that time with credit to the same paper and its editor that
associate the Times-Picayune there has been uncovered a small part of the crime
that is carried on by the HIGHER-UPS in this state that is the Politicians and
the business people and merchants as well as the people interested in GOON clear
government while they look with disgust on the manner of operation they fear the
personal results if THEY DARED TO OPEN THEIR MOUTHS ......

It would seem that now the U.S. Departments are in on this in-
vestigation, BUT...... will it be another waste of money? Some years ago the
Gov'n., while you were in Michigan as their Governor, made a minute investigation
on some of the vice and corruption in this state, BUT what did it amount to ---
one Joe Fisher went to Atlanta for a short while, a small fry..... BUT .... what...
became of those others that were more guilty?

Nelson Bros, Abe Shushan, Semour Weiss and other that were
brought to light...... You should well know for the records are in Washing-
ton under the Title: - "THE SECOND LOUISIANA PURCHASE" and who was the instigator of
this greater crime,...... Mr. Roosevelt. For their Congressmen's and Senators vote
on his New Deal Schemes he had that weakening of a Dist Atty non-press the criminal
charges but the civil charges ( change of money) was collected. You know Jesus
Christ drove the money changers out of the TEMPLE, would it not be interesting to
have this great act re-enacted.

Now, the people are now thinking and expressing the thought that
you will get ORDERS to stop petal the investigation now being carried on by the
several departments.

However you must be congratulated on your first brave act; of
refusing to hand over to the State District Attorneys your files on the charges
that you have against these criminal much worse that any Dillinger, Capone or
Karpis.

Your District Attorney is first a weakening of the first water,
and surrounding him are a crew of appointments at the behest of one BOB MAESTRI
who to-day and since this investigation have been taking such information that
they can get in their official connection and are passing it on to the HIGHER-UPS
like Maestri and his gang of WHITE COLLAR THUGS. Therefore if you ever expect to
reach a reasonable point of actually doing things with these criminals you had
better stop the leaks out of your New Orleans District Attorney's office.

Tealking about "RE-DOCTORS" Mr. Tom Hill the former collector perhaps
don't know became tired of collections and not getting his so he last year made
a raid on that Safety Deposit Box, and is reported to have taken about $ 350,000.00
and after being away for several weeks returned as told the gang, Maestri and Loche
and Weiss that he was there. What the hell were they going to do; and dared them to
fail to pay his salary check of $1,000.00 per month. Tom Hill told them then that
he had a record of everything, and that if they "BUMPED HIM OFF" that a certain
person would sell to the papers the entire facts that would not look good in PRINT.

Talk about PWA and WPA investigations, why not look into the
painting of the Maestri property on Orleans Ave and the Cave New Home and the
Fraz new home all have been guilty and by the way the Semour Weiss Dairy at
Paridis, La. all constructed on WPA material and labor.

Shushen and Weiss I hope have not bought you and the others
over they are likewise users of PWA and WPA material and workmen.
...talk about investigations, that is a real problem. In the 5th district, was the plainest still, they would not put bullet holes, and would not let anyone see the count. In fact, the man who did the voting just went down the street was made and that was all. But at that time, Dr. Roosevelt was considering the 2nd Louisiana Purchase and Leche was his advisor.

You spoke of Vice, Gambling, and Crime in the Partisan Politics... Well, did you know why... Mr. Guerre, Chief of the State Police insisted that his criminal Murphy Roden (Webster Dictionary says this work means "Rat") be the one to bring back Dr. Smith, well here is the facts... they knew that the Air-Ship only held four people, and that Dr. Smith's wife would be brought back in their Auto... and why... because Roden (Rat) intended to return with Smith and in the trip up in the Air he Rat Roden would abuse and curse Smith and it would result in Smith being thrown overboard and then claim that Dr. Smith leaped from the plane. The gang fear Smith talking, and right now Smith knows that his life is surer in Jail than on the streets of any town of Louisiana.

Roden (Rat) and Messini now the Chief of the Dock Board Police killed Ayer for the gang and they would not stop at anything where they could stop a wagging tongue.

Will this be another or 3rd. Purchase of Louisiana, you know these Underworld Characters like Maestri the Chief Contact Man of Jim Farley and Roosevelt will stop at nothing.

The results of this investigation will be the making or breaking of the National Democratic Party in 1940.

Two years ago when the FBI was on the heel of the dope ring and would have had to arrest Mayor Maestri, why was the whole FBI crew called off?

Pressure from Washington.

FBI NEW ORLEANS, LA.   JULY 22, 1939    7:10 PM TM
DIRECTOR
LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING. FEDERAL GRAND JURY
NEW ORLEANS RECESS UNTIL MONDAY WHEN THEY ARE SCHEDULED TO HEAR
TESTIMONY RELATIVE JAMES MONROE SMITH BOND TRANSACTIONS AND TESTIMONY
IN HOT OIL INVESTIGATION. O JOHN ROGGE LEFT FOR WASHINGTON TODAY
SCHEDULED RETURN NEW ORLEANS ON THE TWENTYSEVENTH. HILLERY J. GAUDIN
ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY NEW ORLEANS HAS AGREED TO RESIGN. SEYMOUR
WEISS HAS RESIGNED FROM PUBLIC OFFICES HELD.

B.G. SACKETT

END
OK FBI WASH DC JPO

RECORDED & INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUL 22, 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
July 12, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith copies of an anonymous letter addressed to the Attorney General under date of June 12, 1939, from Shreveport, Louisiana, for reference to the United States Attorney at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure
TO THE HONORABLE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON D. C.
MR. ARTHUR MURPHY ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority personally came and appeared hoy, Agnes E. Lewis & Henry C. Lewis, who after being first duly sworn deposed and said

That the Heirs of the Succession of Mr. & Mrs. John B. Lewis have been penalized, impoverished and destituted by the corrupt acts of the several officials acting as agents for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration triple AAA operating illegally and fraudulently in cooperation with the County Agent W. E. Williams et als of Iberia Parish and the Local Committees composed of personally adversely interested clerical parties Howard J. Olvier of the 2nd Ward et als and several aggressive itinerant persons of Iberia Parish who have invaded the private fields of the Private Estate of the Heirs of the Succession of the said Mr. & Mrs. John B. Lewis late bone fide registered owners in joint Community of acquits and gains of the Plantation Ave Maria commonly known as the John B. Lewis Plantation being situated in the Parish of Iberia, State of Louisiana.

Department further deposed and said that there has been repeated acts of violences and depredations committed on said farm which has been illegally and unlawfully invaded by discriminating unjustly by virtue of the triple AAA and its duly authorized agents said in which special mention is made of F. W. Spencer of lawful age and a resident of the Parish of East Baton Rouge and being designated as the Administrative Agent at the L.S.U. of the I. W. Batemen, who with one Marcel J. Voorhies of the Sugar District of Louisiana have deliberately systematically and willfully feloniously knowingly and intentionally misused the name of the Heirs of the said Estate and name of the Succession of Mr. & Mrs. John B. Lewis No. 2918 & 2625 & purported fraud estate 5687 of Miss Alberta Lewis with intent to defraud and have defrauded the "TESTATE ESTATE & SUCCESIONS No. 2918 - 2625 of which the Beneficiary Heirs and joint co-owners are the sole Creditors and that there has been maladministration of Federal Government Cane benefit Funds and a demand is made for a probe and investigation of fraud and illegal acts committed by said persons et als disguised and which has been a monopoly of trade in violation of the Antitrust Laws of the United States of America.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day of July, 1936.

TO THE HONORABLE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON D. C.
MR. ARTHUR MURPHY ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority personally came and appeared hoy, Agnes E. Lewis & Henry C. Lewis, who after being first duly sworn deposed and said

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this day of July, 1936.
L.R. Scott-Camp-N
Department of Louisiana
United Spanish-War Veterans
Baton-Rouge, La.

Miss Agnes C. Lewis
New Orleans, La.
To Gen. Delany

Department of Justice
To Mr. Frank Murphy
Attorney General
Washington, D.C.
New Orleans, La.
July 14, 1939.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Re: MONTE H. HART; et al.; MAIL FRAUD

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

For the past two days I have been trying to obtain some coherent, concise details relating to the mail fraud case which U. S. Attorney VIOSCA believes exists against the above named individuals and which he considers the most important case to have indicted and prosecuted at this time, as mentioned in my teletype.

It was almost an impossible task, since there have been no reports submitted as such, the various Assistant U. S. Attorneys have conducted inquiries relative to the matter, as have agents of the Internal Revenue Service and various persons have testified before the Grand Jury, the transcript of testimony not having been completely written up. It was not possible to get the details from anyone individual, since none of this information or evidence had been correlated and existed principally in the minds of the various officials rather than in writing.

After some insistence on my part, MR. VIOSCA had the Internal Revenue agents submit a summary of all of the work they did on this case, and also submit to MR. VIOSCA copies of the statements they had taken from those defendants and prospective witnesses in connection with this matter that they have interviewed. I secured copies of these statements and I also secured the transcripts of the testimony which was already written up concerning the testimony of some of these people before the Grand Jury, and also had Special Agent WEEKS in addition to myself, interview the various Assistant U. S. Attorneys to try to secure as many facts as possible concerning this case.

Based upon all this conglomeration of information, the last of which we did not succeed in obtaining until 6:30 tonight, we have attempted to prepare a summary report, as closely as possible to the
that which we would prepare based upon our own investigations. In an effort to give you as nearly as we can determine from these sources of information the details of the alleged scheme to defraud, the use of the mails, the substance of the indictment proposed to be returned by U. S. Attorney VIOSCA, the names of the apparently necessary witnesses, the apparent substance of their testimony, together with a summary of the information apparently furnished by the subjects at the time they were interviewed by agents of the Internal Revenue Service.

It should be noted that our Bureau did not conduct any investigation whatsoever concerning this matter. It will be seen from the summary that there are a number of instances wherein the identity and details of the testimony of necessary witnesses are not known. It is entirely possible and probable that there are other necessary and important witnesses who should be listed as witnesses, however, the identity of such persons is not known to us, and is not included in any of the written matter obtained by us or in any of the oral information furnished us.

In addition to the Bureau's copies of the summary report submitted in this matter by Agent WEEKS, I am enclosing for your information herewith the following:

1 - Copy of a report from the Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service dated July 14, 1939, to the U. S. Attorney, summarizing his investigation.

2 - Copy of a proposed rough draft form indictment which U. S. Attorney VIOSCA expects to have returned in this case by the Federal Grand Jury.

3 - Copy of a memorandum of U. S. Attorney VIOSCA dated July 13, 1939, from Acting Special Agent in Charge FRANK W. LOHN of the Internal Revenue Service.

4 - Copy of a statement obtained by Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service from M. E. HART dated April 14, 1939.

5 - Copy of a statement obtained by Internal Revenue agents from M. E. HART dated July 10, 1939.
Page 3 - Director

July 14, 1939.

[Text is partially legible, but includes:

8 - Copy of a statement obtained from JOHN MORT ADAMS by Internal Revenue agents dated July 12, 1939.

9 - Copy of a statement obtained from LEON C. WATTS by Internal Revenue agents dated July 13, 1939.

Some of the statements described above contain information and refer to income tax matters and other matters not involved in this mail fraud case, however, they are being submitted for your information to show the complete details obtained from those persons. These are the only copies of statements obtained by the Internal Revenue Agents which are in my possession.

I am not sending you the transcript of the Grand Jury testimony given by the persons who testified before that body relative to this mail fraud scheme. In the first place, only a portion of this testimony has been written up, therefore, I cannot furnish a complete testimony of all witnesses. Secondly, the testimony which has been written up has been analyzed and pertinent substance included in the summary report, also I do not believe it safe to send such testimony unless it is registered, since the Grand Jury has not returned any indictments as yet and it is too late to register it to night. If you desire this testimony I will be glad to furnish it after all transcripts have been completed and you request same.

Some of the information furnished in the summary report as set out under the names of various witnesses was obtained from a perusal of this Grand Jury testimony, since written statements allegedly made by those persons were not available to us. However, the summary report does not show in any manner that the Grand Jury testimony was available to us or that the same was summarized or included in the report in any manner.

I trust that this will give you a picture of this case and the probable witnesses available to prove the mail fraud offense. Your authority is requested for me to furnish a copy of the summary report of Agent W. N. T. to the U. S. Attorney at New Orleans for his information and assistance in connection with this matter since this summary report is, to my knowledge, the only written report of any kind or description which even attempts to summarize the whole situation and set out the witnesses necessary to prove
same and what they may testify to.

Sincerely yours,

B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge.

RES: WH
36-38
1508 Masonic Temple Building,
New Orleans, Louisiana

August 1, 1939

Honorable Rene Viosca,
United States Attorney,
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Viosca:

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS
Information Concerning

For your information and such attention as you deem appropriate, I am enclosing herewith a copy of a memorandum which is unsigned, but which was prepared by an attorney in New Orleans whose name is unknown to me, dealing with the law concerning the issuance of Orleans Levee Board bonds. This memorandum was given to me in confidence by Mr. Clark Salmon, Managing Editor of the Item-Tribune newspapers, who received same from an attorney whose name he did not disclose.

It was Mr. Salmon's thought that we might be interested in this information in connection with any investigation which may be or is being conducted concerning subject matter.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure

BES:sh
#62-978
cc Bureau - Enclosure
The Sunday edition of the Picayune carries a copy of the "offer" of Newman Harris to the Levee board to undertake the refunding work. The Levee Board "accepted" the offer, as will be noted at the bottom of the offer. If the "acceptance" of the offer constituted the "resolution" as required by law, was this "resolution" submitted to the Governor and the Attorney General for their approval, as required by law? If the amount of fees was indefinite, was not this in itself a violation of law in that the Act referred to in the attached memorandum requires that the compensation be "designated" by the Governor and the Attorney General after a full explanation of the reason for the employment of special counsel or for rendering "special services"?

The offer of Newman Harris should be carefully read and studied in relation to the attached memorandum. But note the word "employment" in that offer, the engagement to be for special services.

Act 125 of 1912 as amended by Act No. 341 of 1933 specifically provides that no special attorney or counsel shall be employed by political sub-divisions of the State, including the Orleans Levee Board with additional compensation therefrom, but said board or political sub-division may employ special attorneys or special counsel "in the event it should be necessary to protect the public's interest..... on the joint written approval of the Governor and Attorney General of the State (and said boards or political sub-divisions may) pay only such compensation as the Governor and Attorney General may designate in said written approval, the said approval to be given only on their discretion of the application of said Board,.... by resolution thereof setting forth fully the reasons for the proposed retention or employment of such special attorneys or counsel and the amount of the proposed compensation, provided the Governor and the Attorney General shall not ratify or approve any action of such Board in employing any special attorneys or counsel or paying any compensation for special services rendered, unless all formalities as provided by this Act as to resolutions, etc., have been complied with.

The Attorney General of Louisiana under date of October 19th, 1934, rendered an opinion that the Parish of Livingston (a political subdivision of this State) has no authority to employ a person who is not an attorney at law to render legal services necessary to the refunding of certain bonded indebtedness of that Parish, setting forth his reasons as follows:

"1. Act 202 of 1932 prohibits anyone who is not a natural person, duly and regularly licensed and admitted to practice law by the Supreme Court of this State, from practicing law; and the procedure necessary for renewing bonds would be practicing law within the definition of the practice of law contained in that Act."
"2. Under Sections 2 and 3 of Act 125 of 1912, the Police Jury may not employ special counsel until it is made to appear by a resolution of the Police Jury that there is a real necessity for such employment, the resolution stating fully the reasons for such action and the compensation to be paid, and to be spread upon the minutes and published in the official journal; and until the Police Jury has obtained the joint written approval of the Governor and the Attorney General, who shall fix the compensation to be paid."

This act was upheld by the Court of Appeal of the Parish of Orleans, Judge McCaleb speaking, in the case of an insurance agent who sought to adjust an insurance claim under a contract for such special services to be rendered to the beneficiary of an insurance policy. The Act is known as the Act defining the practice of law. "It specifically prohibits the solicitation of legal business either for the benefit of the solicitor or for an attorney or attorneys."

"7410. Violations of act by attorneys and members of boards—penalty.—The District attorneys who shall refuse or willfully fail to perform the duties required of them by this act or willfully fail to render faithful and efficient services in such regard shall be deemed guilty of malfeasance and gross misconduct and removal from office in the manner prescribed by law, and the members of police juries, parish school boards, and state boards or commissions aforesaid, who shall violate any of the provisions of this act, and any attorney or counsel who shall knowingly accept such prohibited employment or compensation shall be deemed guilty as principals of a misdemeanor and on conviction sentenced to pay a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars ($25.00), nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars ($250.00), and imprisoned for not less than ten (10) nor more than ninety (90) days and in addition thereto to the members of such boards or commissions shall be deemed guilty of malfeasance and removed from office in the manner prescribed by law, if elected by the people, and by the governor or other prescribed authority, if appointed. (Acts 1912, No. 125, 4)".

(While levee boards are not specifically included in this Section, unquestionably the word "aforesaid", as it appears in the Section embraces the wording "including levee boards" as the same appears specifically in Section 1, quoted in part above.)

"7411. Special services for officers by attorney general.—The governor may in his discretion require and direct the attorney general to render any police jury, parish school board, or state board any special services in any matter and when deemed necessary in the case of a state board or commission to assume full charge and control of all legal proceedings relating to such matter. (Act 1912, No. 125, 5)"
(Note, the same conclusion set forth in the foot-note on the section quoted doubtless applies to this section of the Act. From the last quoted section it may be observed readily that the Governor may direct the Attorney General to render to any of the boards named in the Act "any special services in any matter", and to go farther and "assume full charge and control of all legal proceedings relating to such matter". The attorney general in the opinion above cited specifically denoted all refunding proceedings of political subdivisions as "legal proceedings", which are prohibited from being handled by any one other than attorneys at law. The Levee Board had and has regularly paid attorneys. Where were these attorneys and what services did they perform in the refunding "to protect the public interest"?)

The following questions are pertinent to the refunding of the Orleans Levee Board, a discussion of which has appeared in the local papers:

1. Who are the regularly employed legal counsel of the Orleans Levee Board?

2. What special counsel, if any, were employed by the Orleans Levee Board?

3. Was special counsel compensated over and above the fee paid Newman-Harris and Company and in what sum?

4. If Newman-Harris agreed to pay special counsel out of their fee who were and are their counsel and how much were they paid?

5. Was a formal resolution employing Newman-Harris and/or special counsel passed by the Orleans Levee Board and approved by the Governor and Attorney General as required by law?

6. Did the State Bond and Tax Board approve the refunding?

7. Assuming that the State Bond and Tax Board did approve the refunding, was a copy of the refunding resolution submitted to the State Bond and Tax Board pursuant to their practice or requirement set up by that Board since its inception?

8. If the Levee Board submitted its refunding plan to the State Bond and Tax Board in 1936, both ex-governor Leche and Governor Long then were members of that Board and were required by law to approve or disapprove the refunding plan. How now can either of them say they "don't know anything about it"?

9. If the resolution employing "special counsel" or for the employment of anyone to render "special services" was not submitted to the Governor (Leche at the time) and the Attorney General (Porterie at the time) was not the afore-cited Act (128 of 1917) violated by ignoring its provisions and requirements?

10. If the resolution for employing special counsel or for rendering
"special services" was submitted to the Governor and the Attorney General, did those officials set the fees at $449,000,000? Under the Act (125 of 1913) they are required to "designate the amount of compensation to be paid..."
Mr. Frank Merry
Brooklyn, N.Y.

My own self are

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of the United

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Agricultural

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Corp. in

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the

name

of the

United

States

Agricultural

Control

Corp.
August 4, 1939

Miss Agnes E. Lewis
General Delivery
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Miss Lewis,

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated July 11, 1939, addressed to Honorable Frank Murphy, Attorney General, which have been referred to this Bureau for attention.

I wish to advise that the information as contained in your letters is being referred to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, at New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - New Orleans
Department of Justice For the
attorney general Office
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Will you please send an efficient
honest trustworthy investigator
at once to probe and also
investigate the cruel inhuman
unparallel fraudulent acts
of misconduct of agents acting
under the color of the

As we the heirs of the Queen of
Mr. & Mrs. John B. A.

Demand that the
misconduct of the
authorized agents.

So please send some one
to investigate these complaints
as we have suffered and are
suffering irreparable injury.

Respectfully,

Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Leary
Department of Justice
Office of the Assistant to the Attorney General
Washington

August 7, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

There is attached an anonymous letter, together with three newspaper clippings, relative to certain alleged conditions that exist in the State of Louisiana, for whatever consideration you may deem appropriate.

Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General
Mr. O. John Rogge, Asst. U.S. Attorney,
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Rogge:

I have given you plenty of real dope but here is a real one of greater importance to you than any heretofore.

There is a man on the present Federal Grand Jury named SPEED, who is connected with the Mundet Cork Co. He is giving valuable information to Seymour Weis, Maestri and the big political figures here. This man Speed has sold big orders for cork and floor coverings made by his firm, also cores, etc. to the new Charity Hospital and I am reliably informed it was a shady deal and a kickback in money. The political gang have this over him and he is telling them plenty of what goes on in the Grand Jury. His name is Speed, on the present jury. If you watch him and follow his footsteps and plug his telephone you will learn plenty. This is real true facts.

Now the matter of the bribed Shusham jury that was bought and who acquitted him of income tax frauds. The Negro doctor is named Seque, and has an office in the 2000 block on Dryades St. You people must have been working on this case because Shusham phoned the Negro doctor and told him not to do any talking to anyone until he saw him. The other man is named Jame, and he lives on Milan Street. He got a new Cadillac car and some cash. The third juror is named Roger Hutchinson, who is a Desk Sergeant on the New Orleans Police Force. He got a new home and cash at intervals. There is one more juror but I can't learn his name. This is no idle dope.

Now the barrel house politician who so severely castigated you and Attorney General Murphy last night over the radio, namely Shirley Winbarger, is a law partner of Governor Earl Long. His record is one for fraud and slick practices about town. He is another political lawyer in the partnership with Earl Long, namely, Glen Sart, both get $400 per month from the "Deducts" that they take from the pay of State employees. No wonder he raised such a howl over your investigation of Deducts. They all get their share, even Long. If you stick close to John Pugh, the man who handled the Deducts you will find out plenty. Pugh beat his income tax and owns several pieces of property and a large home at Bay St. Louis Miss.

I hope you will soon find out that the people of this State know this Winbarger and his tribe. This is the same stunts they pulled on General Ansell, etc. when they were down here investigating Huey Long and his crowd a few years ago. They blasted them on the radio and got out circulars on every lie they could think up on the Government men. This is done to try and get Murphy to call off his men. They surely insulted Atty. General Murphy and you and several others.

You will also note all the apologies by Maestri and the Lawyer of William Hollis about their oil connections. You know about a week ago they let out that nothing would come of the investigation because Elliott Roosevelt and Farley were linked with Hollis in an oil deal that was shady. This came out of Bob Maestri's office.
Please send to Attorney General Murphy from now on all the newspaper letters from the people of this State that will write and report this inquirer for this speech against you and Mr. Murphy. They will run in great numbers.

Please follow up this case of the man named Speed, now on the Grand Jury, who is telling all that goes on in the Jury Room to the politicians.

I got dope from the inside and will pass it on to you.

Mr. Murphy,

This morning my landlord came around and said, "You're noisier than the boy who took a look at me."

35
MAESTRI DETAILS CONNECTION WITH OIL STOCK WELLS

Mayor Maestri Brought to Court by Those Against Him

Mayor Maestri was brought to court by those against him. He was charged with making a profit of $3,000 from the sale of oil stock, which he had purchased as a director of the Canal Oil Company. The company was operated by Mr. Hella, who had been a close friend of the mayor.

The mayor's statement was that he had purchased the stock in the Canal Oil Company after his resignation from the city council. He had been a director of the company for several years, and had sold his shares at a profit.

There is no proof that the mayor had any direct involvement in the affairs of the company. The charges were made by those who were against the mayor, and were based on circumstantial evidence.

Mr. Hella was the founder of the company and had a large share in its affairs. He was also a director of the company, and had sold his shares to the mayor.

The company had been in operation for several years, and had made a profit for its shareholders. The mayor was a director of the company, and had sold his shares at a profit.

The case is pending in court, and the mayor will be heard later in the year.
Baton Rouge, La.
July 15th, 1939

In re: successor of
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Lewis
No 2918-2525-7276

Ms. Frank Murphy
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The enclosed affidavit is self-explanatory. Kindly investigate the complaint which is made in good faith to grant us speedy justice and relief brought about through bad faith and fraudulent acts of incapable dishonest persons acting in violation of AAA act to defraud the heirs of the above.

Yours truly,
New Orleans
Mrs. Agnes B. Lewis.
Palmer Range Co.  
July 11th, 1939

In re: succession of  
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Lewis  
No. 2918 - 23-25 tele

Mr. Frank Murphy  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The enclosed affidavit is self-explanatory. Kindly investigate the complaint which is made in good faith. I grant us speedy justice and relief brought about through bad faith and fraudulent acts of incapable dishonest persons acting in violation of our act to defraud the heirs of the above estate of $19,187. With kind regards,

[Signature]

Gen. Del., New Orleans, Miss. Agnes E. Lewis
Dublin, May 4th, 1939

July 11th, 1939

In re: Succession of

Mr. & Mrs. John B. Lewis

No. 2918 - 2525 Tel

Mr. Frank Murphy

Attorney General

Department of Justice

Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The enclosed affidavit is self-explanatory. Kindly investigate the complaint which is made in good faith. I grant us speedy justice and relief brought about through bad faith & fraudulent acts of incapable dishonest persons acting in violation of Act 2918 of 1918.

Yours truly,

Gen. Sel. New Orleans

Mrs Agnes E. Lewis
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 28 1939
TELETYPE

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-28-39 2-07 PM AMS

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING P. H. LECHER WAIVER

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND TESTIFIED FEDERAL GRAND JURY,
NEW ORLEANS, TODAY. PORTER McSEAL, NEW ORLEANS MAYOR, ALSO TESTIFIED
BEFORE IT TODAY. GRAND JURY RECESS UNTIL THIRTY FIRST NEXT. STATE
GRAND JURY, BATON ROUGE, RECESS FOR TWO WEEKS, APPARENTLY TO PERMIT
INVESTIGATORS TO RUN OUT LEADS. OLIVER CARRIERE, GRANDSON OF LATE
LAWYER CHARLES CARRIERE, APPOINTED TO LOUISIANA STATE
UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES SUPERVISORS TO REPLACE D. E. BELL,
FROM A. H. KROPP, WHO WERE APPOINTED FROM EACH PARTY AT
LAST TUESDAY, WERE CONSIDERED ILLEGALLY ON BOARD. KATHERINE P. RODRIGUEZ,
RECORDED & INDEXED

PAST GRAND JURY, HOPE II. STILL ATTEMPTING TO CONVICT

PRISON INJURY CASE. PRISON Attention, CHARGING THAT S. LAMBERT,
WASHING OFFICE INFRINGED, ПАРТНЕР APPEAL TO E. PROBST
PHOTOGRAPHER, САМ, В. INVESTIGATORY ACQUISITION, САМ FOR THE
FEDERAL BUREAU INVESTIGATION TODAY.

Mr. Lamb, Mr. M. Anderson
Mr. A. Tatum, Mr. Ponte
Mr. Cotter, Mr. Rios
Mr. Rios
Mr. Glenda, Mr. Crowe
Mr. Green, Mr. Leaen
Mr. Leaen, Mr. Fairer
Mr. Nicasa, Mr. Reses
Mr. Snear, Mr. Quesa Tema
Mr. Treaty, Miss Gradly.
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

Mr. G. W. HOLLAND, Head of the Petroleum Conservation Division, United States Department of Interior, Washington, D. C., called at the New Orleans Division office on July 25, 1939, at which time he requested that any information received by this Bureau relative to violations of the Connally Act be transmitted to CLIFFORD G. ROWLAND, who is in charge of the investigation of violations of the Connally Act in this district. Mr. HOLLAND was advised that instructions given to this office by the Bureau were to the effect that all reports of alleged violations over which this Bureau has no investigative jurisdiction in connection with this case, should be submitted to the United States Attorney at New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. HOLLAND appeared to feel that cooperation in this matter would not be wholly given unless the information received by this office relative to violations of the Connally Act were transmitted directly to Mr. ROWLAND.

Special Agent C. W. DUNKER, while communicating with Mr. TAMM of the Bureau on other matters, informed him of the request of Mr. HOLLAND; however, Mr. TAMM advised that information received by this office pertaining to alleged irregularities over which this office has no investigative jurisdiction should be referred to the United States Attorney at New Orleans, as previously directed by the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge
August 11, 1939

ACHILL
62-32503-202
66-1945-66
Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Ref: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of an anonymous letter dated at Shreveport, Louisiana, July 27, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General by an "American," and referred to the Bureau. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure
Dear Mr. Eder:

To report to him on No. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

The problem of the Eder case will be handled by Mr. Eder.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Shreveport, Louisiana

7-29-39

Dear Sir:

Marston ordered Senator Ellender to report to
him in N.O.

Marston thinking Vraso getting too friendly with your
men and not giving him the information he wants.

It seems that Christianberry is the U. S. officer
who is Marston's stool pigeon has not been reporting
enough to Marston and he wants all the facts as presented (?)
at each session or daily meeting of Grand Jury.

Up to the time Ellender arrived at N.O. Christianberry
did not or at least Marston did not think that he was
getting full reports. The opinion here is that if enough
evidence can be secured against some major acts in this
drama to indict him there will be a full confession for
immunity.

The fear of doing this is because of Marston who does not
hesitate to protect himself. An investigation in N.O.
alone should and no doubt would show a million dollar WPA
start on the Municipal Work in N.O. With padded pay rolls
etc etc etc

American

To
Hon Frank Murphy
Washington, D.C.
August 13, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

There are included herewith two photostatic copies of each of the following described communications, which were received by the Attorney General and referred to the Bureau, and it is desired that one copy of each be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Hane A. Viosca, New Orleans:

Anonymous letter dated at New Orleans, July 24, 1939, beginning, "Is there any truth to the terrible slanderous information...."


None of these communications has been acknowledged.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director

[Inclosure]

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG. 17, 1939

[Stamp]
Jul 31, 1939

Mr. Dear Mr. Fugitt:

As an attorney who desires that the national government and particularly the department of justice be held in respect and in esteem by the public, I feel it my duty to urge you to insist on an honest cleanup of this incredible mess that makes Kansas City and Chicago look commonplace.

It is sad but true that the decent people of Louisiana, like Mr. J. M. Hall and his wife, in the department of justice under Mr. C. M. Dyer, have the income tax cases against several names, including myself and the other defendants in the Johnson case. The effect political politicians in the state section.

I am most grateful for your attention to this matter. I am sure that if you bring the justice department to the people of the United States, and if it is up to them to do the same thing this time.

Sincerely,

Alexander Borstad

REEDED & INDEXED
August 12, 1939

Mr. J. W. Johnson
Post Office Box 703
Laredo, Texas

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Your letter dated July 26, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General has been referred to me.

On behalf of the Attorney General I wish to express appreciation for your spirit of cooperation and your interest in law enforcement.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc—San Antonio (with copies of incoming letter)
Dear Sir:

Have just read with much interest the articles appearing in the Asso. Press regarding your splendid work cleaning up New Orleans of all the rotten politicians there. You have the respect and best wishes from a large number of our citizens in this District and we hope that you carry the work on in New Orleans to a complete finish, the same as you did in Kansas City.

This District has suffered with the same troubles as the good citizens of New Orleans and Kansas City, had to endure, until you stepped into the fight and sent a large number of them to the Penitentiary where they belong.

We are still hoping that your Dept. will carry out the investigation promised us some time ago. Again assuring you of my hearty co-operation in this very necessary investigation at an early date.

I am as ever,

Yours for justice,

J. W. Johnson

COPIES DESTROYED
170 SEP 17 1964

RECORDED & INDEXED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION,

Transmit the following message to:

SAG
NEW ORLEANS
LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING
AUTHORITY GRANTED INVESTIGATE PAPERS JURY PANEL

Hoover

Code

RECEIVED
DIRECTOR
F.B.I.
July 27, 1939

SENT VIA

LOCILES DESTROYED

Per

51
DECODED COPY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 25 1939
TELETYPE

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-25-39 12-25 PM ALS

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING WILLIAM G.
RANKIN RESIGNED AS COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION OF LOUISIANA,
AND ERNEST S./ CLEMENTS, STATE SENATOR FROM OBERLIN, LA., APPOINTED
TO POSITION. BLEATHER E./ FRAZER WHO ASSUMED L. P./ ABERNATHYS
POSITION AS CHAIRMAN STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION LAST WEEK RESIGNED,
AND WARREN RAGGIO, FORMER CHAIRMAN LOUISIANA TAX COMMISSION,
APPOINTED. DR. JAMES A./ SHAW DISMISSED JULY EIGHTH, REINSTATED AS
DIRECTOR OF MINERAL DIVISION CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT. FOREGOING
CHANGES TOOK PLACE JULY TWENTY FOURTH. GEORGE W./ HOLLAND, DIRECTOR
OF OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, ARRIVED
NEW ORLEANS TO ASSIST IN HOT OIL INVESTIGATION. RENE VIOSCA, USA,
NEW ORLEANS, ADVISED JUDGE WAYNE G./ BORAH CONTEMPLATED REPLACING
H J. CARTER, NEW ORLEANS U.S. CLERK OF COURT, A REPUBLICAN AND AN
OLK MAN, WITH A DEMOCRAT ABOUT AUGUST FIFTEEN, THIRTY NINE. VIOSCA
REQUESTED IMMEDIATE DISCREET INVESTIGATION PRESENT PETIT JURY PANEL
EVEN THOUGH APPOINTMENT NEW U.S. CLERK OF COURT WOULD NECESSITATI
A NEW PANEL INDICATION DEPUTY CLERK PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE SOME NAMES ON PRESENT PANEL MIGHT BE USED IN TRIAL OF MAIL FRAUD CASE PRESENTLY PENDING. VIOSCA ADVISED THAT O. JOHN ROGGE TO CONFER WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL RELATIVE TO TRANSFERRING HILARY JAGAUDIN ASSISTANT U S ATTORNEY NEW ORLEANS TO CALIFORNIA OR TO OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT INSTEAD OF HAVING HIM RESIGN

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC GDH
AUGUST 12, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sirs:

There are enclosed herewith two photostatic copies of a letter dated July 27, 1939, received by the Bureau from Mr. James K. Hanson, of Morgan City, Louisiana, together with two copies of the Bureau's reply thereto. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viozca, New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 12, 1939

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
August 12, 1939

Mr. James K. Hansen
1100 Fourth Street
Morgan City, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Hansen:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 27, 1939, concerning gambling in Morgan City.

I wish to advise that I have carefully noted the contents of your letter and fail to note a violation of any Federal law within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. However, I suggest that in the event you do possess such information, you may be desirous of furnishing complete details direct to Mr. E. B. Sackett, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, 1308 Masonic Building, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The information contained in your letter has been referred to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Communications Section

MAIL

AUG 12 1939

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

Director, The Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I wish to call to your attention something of grave importance taking place in this part of the country, which there seems no possible way to remedy without calling on you for assistance.

The question of open gambling and the slot machines: They are causing untold suffering among the people, and I have personally taken the matter up with the Sheriff, and was told he had no authority to do anything concerning the matter unless he had orders from the governor of this state.

You undoubtedly have seen the crooked and unscrupulous things taking place in our government of this state.

So is there any wonder the sheriff of this county wouldn't uphold the gambling and slot machines?

I wish it was possible for me to speak to you personally concerning this matter. Then I could express myself more clearly.

There has been several slot machines taken by young boys in this town lately and they have been arrested but nothing has been done about the matter. Therefore if the machines were within the law they would have been prosecuted.

If it is possible for you to send one of your men to this town without the authorities knowing anything about it, I will be glad to
July 26, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAYLOR

Time: 11:55 P.M.

In response to a telephone call received earlier this evening, I telephoned Special Agent Dunker at New Orleans, and advised him that permission had been given to maintain a surveillance on Dr. James J. Shaw tonight. I ascertained that Mr. O. John Rogge, Assistant Attorney General, now in New Orleans, had verbally requested the surveillance of Shaw.

Special Agent Dunker advised that the Assistant Attorney General had made another request on the telephone tap of the New Orleans Mayor, the details of which would be included in his letter to the Bureau tomorrow.

I instructed Special Agent Dunker to advise the Bureau of further developments.

Respectfully,

R. A. Guérin
Night Supervisor
Agent Dunker called from New Orleans in connection with certain developments in the above situation.

Assistant Attorney General Rogge has requested that Bureau Agents place a wire tap on the home of Robert Maestri, Mayor of New Orleans. Mr. Rogge has not gone into detail concerning this request as yet with Mr. Dunker but the latter wanted the Bureau's reaction to such a request. The tap is not to be maintained in connection with a case over which the Bureau has original investigative jurisdiction but will relate to income tax and hot oil cases. Mr. Rogge, according to Agent Dunker, made the request of the Bureau as he knew the facilities for such an assignment are available.

I pointed out to Mr. Dunker that the other Agencies also are equipped for wire tapping. I instructed him to inform Mr. Rogge that a matter of this kind is something Mr. Hoover has to pass upon personally and that his request will be brought to the Director's attention in order that if necessary he may take it up with the Department.

Mr. George West Holland, Director of the Petroleum Conservation Division of the Department of Interior, has requested that all information received relative to hot oil investigations be transmitted directly to Mr. Rowland, the man in charge in New Orleans. According to Mr. Dunker, previous instructions were to submit the information to the United States Attorney. I instructed Mr. Dunker to continue to submit the information to the U. S. Attorney.
Mr. Dunker stated the surveillance was maintained on James A. Shaw last night. Nothing occurred except that a taxi drove up at 1:00 a.m. The license number was obtained but it was considered inadvisable to check with the cab company as the same is connected with the Mayor and other individuals involved in the investigation. In this connection, Mr. Rogge has informed Mr. Dunker that Shaw has made a confession before the Grand Jury admitting he received $30,000.00 on which he failed to report any income tax. Mr. Rogge has stated the surveillance may be discontinued. I told Mr. Dunker he could drop the matter of checking on the taxi-cab.

E. A. TAMM
1506 Masonic Temple Building,
New Orleans, Louisiana

July 25, 1939

Honorable Rene Vioseva,
United States Attorney,
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS
Information Concernning

Enclosed herewith are photostatic copy of envelope addressed to the Attorney General and the letter contained therein, mailed at Shreveport, Louisiana, June 30, 1939. This letter relates to the present irregularities in Louisiana.

The informant, TOM, about whom your office has previous communications, again contacted this office July 23, 1939, at which time he advised that JIMMY MORRISON was scheduled to speak over radio station WDSU July 25, 1939. This informant advised that he believed MORRISON would be able to supply a great deal of information relative to the irregularities of DR. CLARENCE LORIO and irregularities in Louisiana in general.

Very truly yours,

R. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosures
CWD: sh
#62-978

cc Bureau
August 19, 1939

69-32369 / 189 - 191 - 192 and 193

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of the following described communications, which were received by the Attorney General and referred to the Bureau, together with two copies of the Bureau's replies thereto, and it is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans:

Letter dated at Crowley, Louisiana, July 24, 1939, from Mr. Lawrence V. Pugh.


Letter dated at Camden, New Jersey, July 27, 1939, from Mr. Frank H. Spuhler.

Letter dated at Morse, Louisiana, July 24, 1939, from Mr. George A. Chiasson.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Communications Section
MAILED
* AUG 12, 1939

Inclosure

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Mr. George A. Chiasson  
Post Office Box 35  
Morse, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Chiasson:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 24, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States, concerning crime conditions in Louisiana, which letter was referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

I have perused the contents of your letter and fail to note definite information concerning a violation of any Federal law within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. However, I suggest that in the event you do possess such information, you may be desirous of furnishing the same to United States Attorney John A. Viosca, New Orleans.

I wish to advise further that the data contained in your communication are being furnished to Mr. Viosca.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
* AUG 12 1939  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(RECEIVED DIRECTOR  
DEC 12 1939  
PATROL  
**  
**
July 24, 1939,

Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am a resident of the Fifth

Hundred - Acadia Parish, Louisiana.

My home is two miles north

and east of the village of Morse, So.

I have been trying to get things

straightened out here in my way

since 1934 - I have been unable to do so. I have affidavits of

fraud before our attorney general

in Louisiana, no district attorney

has ever seemed to think this

matter is finished too far from...
didn't put it in words like that but our action in the last weeks they could have used and up to date they have been no action taken would it be possible for me to be called with all of the information I have I would be willing to testify any time you want me to I am a poor man but I think its time for poor people try and keep the crooked office holders from pulling our eyes out
And its a disgrace the way our elections are handled here I really think I could give you facts here that would make this a better place to live in providing you take actions
I was a candidate for member of the city council last General election. This is the precinct in this ward. I was represented at one time, but then at the last I had representation—when their W.P.A. workers on a race project—and this particular road that W.P.A. worked on is being gravelled—who pays for this gravel? suppose some of this gravel is stolen—what action should be taken? I have a little bit sent to me telling such has happened here August 4, 1935 upon a dock I knew of no action taken—this is small—but a small thief makes a large thief later on, same as a small pig jet to be a hog if you don't interfere with him.
could come to our home here and be in private - in other words, or ready to talk any place - and at any time you choose, all you have to do is say why and who and all be that if God says the same.

I know this little sounds like pan and hugging - but if you would be in our fix you would be too.

Here's hoping you find this you very able attention.

I am respectfully yours,

George A. [Signature]
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana

REPORT MADE AT: NEW ORLEANS
DATE WHEN MADE: 7-27-39
PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 7-17

TITLE: HILARY J. GAUDIN

CHARACTER OF CASE: INFORMATION CONCERNING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:
Assistant U. S. Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE requested investigation as to Asst. U. S. Atty. HILARY J. GAUDIN, New Orleans, as possibly favoring SEYMOUR WEISS and others in mail fraud violations. GAUDIN is an appointee in office of U. S. Atty., New Orleans, on behalf of SEYMOUR WEISS and has stated he does not believe WEISS guilty of mail fraud. It is understood GAUDIN may be transferred to office of U. S. Atty. another section of country, or to the Judge Advocate General's department of the War Department, if possible.

DETAILS:
This investigation resulted from a request made of the New Orleans Office by Assistant United States Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE, who desired information as to the possibility that Assistant United States Attorney HILARY J. GAUDIN, New Orleans, Louisiana, may be favoring certain prospective defendants in New Orleans, namely; SEYMOUR WEISS, MONTE HART, and others involved in mail fraud investigations in New Orleans and vicinity. This request was made of Special Agent R. L. SHIVERS, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Office, on July 16, 1939, and authority was received from the Bureau to make the investigation requested by Mr. ROGGE.

The writer was assigned to assist in investigation of other matters being handled by Mr. GAUDIN in order to discreetly conduct the investigation possible in this matter. During this association with Mr. GAUDIN, he volunteered the information that he and the other Assistant United States Attorneys, stating that four of them altogether were all political appointees.

COPIES OF THIS REPORT
3 Bureau
2 New Orleans

COPIES DESTROYED
170 SEP 17 1964
PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Re: HILARY J. GAUDIN;
    Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is the report of Special Agent

The latest information in this case is that Mr.
O. JOHN ROGGE of the department of Justice was to discuss
this matter with the Attorney General, relative to trans-
ferring HILARY J. GAUDIN to another part of the country or
to another government department. However, this office does
not know of the Attorney General's decision in this matter.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT

62-983
CWD:ALS
Enclosure
and were obliged to be careful in their associations in and about New Orleans at the present time because of investigations now being made of persons such as SEYMOUR WEISS, MONTE HASK and others, who are believe to wield considerable political influence. Mr. GAUDIN also volunteered the information to the writer during the course of casual conversation that he was interested only in SEYMOUR WEISS, who has been indicted for mail fraud; that he believed MONTE HASK would probably be guilty of almost anything, and he desired to see him convicted. Mr. ROGGE was given the information developed to this point, as was Special Agent R. L. SHIVERS, then Acting Special Agent in Charge.

During subsequent association with Mr. GAUDIN, he advised voluntarily that he did not believe that SEYMOUR WEISS is guilty in connection with the mail fraud indictment against him at the present time; that the way he will believe WEISS guilty is to be convinced from the evidence produced in open court. He stated he is an appointee in the office of the United States Attorney on behalf of SEYMOUR WEISS, and said fortunately he does not have to prosecute mail fraud violations, and that if he were prosecuting this type of violation he would either have to resign or be excused from participation in the case against SEYMOUR WEISS. This additional information relative to Mr. GAUDIN was furnished Mr. ROGGE by Special Agent SHIVERS and the writer in the New Orleans Bureau Office.

It was ascertained that at a conference between United States Attorney RENÉ VIOSCA, Mr. ROGGE and Mr. GAUDIN, which occurred July 22, 1939, in New Orleans, discussion was had as to the possible resignation of Mr. GAUDIN, and the matter was left pending until it was determined if it would be possible to transfer Mr. GAUDIN to the office of the United States Attorney in some other part of the country, preferably Los Angeles, California, or to the Judge Advocate General's Department of the United States Army.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

At NEW ORLEANS, will follow the developments in the office of the United States Attorney as to Assistant United States Attorney HILARY J. GAUDIN.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ASSISTANT U. S. ATTORNEY GENERAL, JOHN ROGGE, requested investigation as to Asst. U. S. Atty. HILARY J. GAUDIN, New Orleans, as possibly favoring SEYMOUR WEISS and others in mail fraud violations. GAUDIN is an appointee in office of U. S. Atty., New Orleans, in behalf of SEYMOUR WEISS and has stated he does not believe WEISS guilty of mail fraud. It is understood GAUDIN may be transferred to office of U. S. Atty., another section of country or to the Judge Advocate General's department of the War Department, if possible.

This investigation resulted from a request made of the New Orleans Office by Assistant United States Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE, who desired information as to the possibility that Assistant United States Attorney HILARY J. GAUDIN, New Orleans, Louisiana, may be favoring certain prospective defendants in New Orleans, namely; SEYMOUR WEISS, MONTE HART, and others involved in mail fraud investigations in New Orleans and vicinity. This request was made of Special Agent R. L. SHIVERSS, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Office, on July 16, 1939, and authority was received from the Bureau to make the investigation requested by Mr. ROGGE.

The writer was assigned to assist in investigations of other matters being handled by Mr. GAUDIN in order to discreetly conduct the investigation possible in this matter. During this association with Mr. GAUDIN, he volunteered the information that he and the other Assistant United States Attorneys, stating that four of them altogether were all political appointees.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: POLITICAL SITUATION IN LOUISIANA

I called Agent Dunker at New Orleans with reference to Assistant Attorney General Rogge's request that the Bureau place a telephone tap on the home of Robert Maestrini, Mayor of New Orleans, which request is mentioned in the attached memorandum. I told Mr. Dunker that this was out of the question that we do not tap telephones and if Mr. Rogge wants this done the organization handling the matter in which he is interested should be requested to do this.

With reference to the request for an accountant in connection with the hot oil investigation, I told Mr. Dunker that as they already have two accountants from the Federal Tender Board let them get another one from there; that we do not have any accountants available.

E. A. TAMM

DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUL 28 1939

COPIES DESTROYED

170 SEP 17 1964
Mr. Frank M. Spuhler  
1107 North 35th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio  

Dear Mr. Spuhler:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 27, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States, which has been referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

I wish to advise that the information contained in your letter is being referred to United States Attorney Baxa A. Tomsa at New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

(2 copies of this letter furnished to New Orleans office by letter of even date)
Mr. Attorney General, Frank Murphy
Washington, D.C.

Respected Sir:

I reported the following Louisiana affair to the Dept. of Justice during Homer Cummings time and was dissatisfied with the reply that the matter was outside his jurisdiction. Here are the facts:

I worked for the Tank Car Corp., Orland Pa. which leases tank cars to the American Trading Co., operating these cars in Louisiana. The State of La. assessed the Tank Car Corp. so much for each car ran into La. and this amount to quite a sum as over 100 cars were involved. One day a young Jewish Attorney came to the Tank Car Corp. and asked if we could arrange to settle our taxes at quite
a receipt on the payment of him of a sum of several hundred dollars. Then we figured out how much he reduced the taxes we paid him his fee, plus costs, and as soon as he got the check, he phoned up a Tax Commissioner named K. K. Kennedy in Louisiana and told him: "Let the Tank Car Corp. alone as I just made a settlement with them."

This young Jew had made a tour of the Northern States settling bills with Tank car owners for much less than the true amount and collected good fees.

I think this is nothing but part of Henry Long's gang's machinations and I know several tank car owners who will not lease their cars to any one operating in Louisiana because of this racket. If this is legal, then the best thing that can be said is that it "smells bad to an honest man."
This name, W. K. Kennedy, may have the
phrase "is called" or either the Tax Commissioner himself or
one high up in his department.

This business offended my sense of decency so that is why I would like
to put the facts before you to use or not to use as you see fit.

Yours respectfully,

Frank H. Spudder
7th April 1954
Mrs. Marie Hubert Holbrook  
417 Hilary Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mrs. Holbrook:  

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 27, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States, concerning crime conditions in Louisiana, which letter has been referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

I wish to advise that the information contained in your letter is being referred to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca at New Orleans, and I would suggest that in the event you have any definite information regarding Federal violations, you may be desirous of communicating the same direct to Mr. Viosca.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

[Stamp: 62-32509 - 120 - 2090 - 012008]  
[Stamp: AUG 12 1939]
New Orleans, Louisiana.

July 27th, 1930.

Honorable Frank Murphy
Attorney General United States
Washington, D.C.

My dear sir:

Since your office is investigating the rotteness existing in the State Administration of Louisiana, I believe this is an opportune time to remind you that the people of our State are fast losing confidence in some Louisiana Courts. They distrust the Judges and in fact anyone else connected with the Courts. These men seem to be seeking only political advancement through their eloquence and crocodile tactics. This is particularly true in Iberville Parish or in the town of Plaquemine, Louisiana, where I have lived and where I have been treated as shabbily as any woman could possibly have been. I could recite to your Agents or Representatives a number of wrongdoings by this clique in Plaquemine, Louisiana and prove to you, that great injustice has been done to me by them.

I give you the above information, because I feel certain that you will be glad to have a thorough investigation made. I am at your service, and shall be extremely glad to co-operate with you.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Marie Robert Holbrook

417 Hillary Street
New Orleans
Louisiana.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

I instructed Special Agent Shivers of the New Orleans Office to furnish a copy of the summary report of Special Agent C. E. Weeks, dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 14, 1939, in the case entitled "Monte Ewalt, et al, Mail Fraud", to Assistant Attorney General O. John Rogge; also the report of Special Agent C. W. Dunker, dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 18, 1939, in the case entitled "Louisiana State Officials, Information Concerning", which sets forth his interview with Mrs. Tharpe, former secretary to Huey Long.

Special Agent Shivers informed he received information from Special Agent Scott at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that it is rumored the State Grand Jury will return an indictment today against former Governor Leche for aiding Dr. James Monroe Smith in his bond manipulations. There is another rumor that Chief of Police Joseph Bates will be dismissed and will be replaced by E. O. Rea, Jr., head of the Traffic Division of the Police Department, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a National Police Academy Graduate.

There is another rumor that General Louis J. Guerre, head of the Louisiana State Police is expected to be released momentarily.

Mr. Shivers advised he would immediately advise the Bureau by teletype if these contemplated rumors take place.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

J. F. Sears
FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-20-39 4:34 PM
DIRECTOR

HONEZ M. HART ETAL MAIL FRAUD. LOUISIANA
INFORMATION CONCERNING. ATTORNEYS FOR J. M. SMITH FILED PETITION
IN FEDERAL COURT NEW ORLEANS TODAY TO THE
TO LEAVE LOUISIANA JUNE TWENTY FIFTH AND DID NOT FILE TO AVOID
PROSECUTION. BONDS SET IN STATE AND FEDERAL CASES WERE ACCEPTED
BUT SMITH NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE BAIL UNDER FEDERAL HABEAS CORRUPT
AD PROSEQUENDUM. THAT SMITH WAS QUESTIONED AGAINST HIS WILL BY
FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS, NAMING INVESTIGATOR INTELLIGENCE UNIT
TREASURY DEPARTMENT. THAT ACTIONS OF OFFICIALS AND INVESTIGATORS
OF US VIOLATED HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. FBI NOT MENTIONED.

REQUESTS THAT COURT ORDER THAT NO ONE CAN SEE HIM EXCEPT COUNSEL AND
THAT HE BE PERMITTED TO MAKE BAIL. NO DATE SET FOR HEARING THIS
PETITION. USA IS Contesting same. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT ADVISED THAT
SMITH LIES. ATTORNEY AND PARTNERS OF FARMER (REED) WHO IS ATTORNEY
FOR SMITH HERE, SAID WHO WAS ATTORNEY FOR SMITH IN FORMER
INCOME TAX CASE, ADVISED INFORMANT JURY WOULD BE HANDLED SAME.

COPIES DESTROYED
170 SEP 17 1964
PAGE TWO

HAVE BUSINESSES OPERATED BY MEMBERS FLOURISH. INFORMANT ADVISED HE UNDERSTOOD THREE MEN WERE ACTUALLY PAID OFF IN ABE SHUSHAN TRIAL AND WILL ATTEMPT OBTAIN AND FURNISH NAMES.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC OEC
August 11, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photo-
static copies of a copy of a letter dated at
New Orleans, Louisiana, July 27, 1939, addressed
to The Times-Picayune Publishing Co., New Orleans,
by "A Puzzled Citizen," together with two photo-
static copies of the envelope in which it was
mailed to the Attorney General, which was referred
to the Bureau by the Department. It is desired
that one copy be furnished by your office to
United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New
Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure
Now, this letter is not meant for publication nor is it meant to have my name put into print - all it is intended for, is to settle a few questions that have been running through my mind recently - in regard to the "Stink" in Louisiana Politics!

I would like to determine for my own personal satisfaction just how much you, (The Times Picayune and N.O. States) knew of this messy scandal, before you had the nerve to stand the stand of publishing the facts as you have and just what pressure, if any, was brought to bear upon you by the "enemy camp" to make you publish this news - or did you do it just for the purpose of increasing your circulation? And another question - Just how much more do you know and not disclosing?

Now your answer might be that you were collecting the evidence for months, or maybe years, for it is hardly possible to have all this evidence dumped into one's lap in one lump sum; and if you did have this information in your hands for any length of time, saying, as I expect you to - that you were collecting all of this evidence, piece by piece until you had a sufficient amount - then you, The Times-Picayune and The New Orleans States are as equally as guilty as President Smith and all others implicated in this modern crime of politics, and you might consider yourself, and you actually are, an accessory to the crime. For had you known of the very slightest discrepancy in the W.P.A. Funds or the State's funds - it was your rightful duty to your patrons, who support you and make it possible for you to exist, and also to the voters of the State of Louisiana, who should be posted at all times on the affairs of the State, to come out in the beginning and demand that an example be made of those implicated in the crime. A crime is a crime, whether it be the theft of a postage stamp or a Government Building and if you had any knowledge of it - then, it was your duty to expose the guilty parties. If you had done this in the beginning it would have meant the savings of many thousands of dollars of the public's funds and would have stopped in a great degree the general pilfering of the State's as well as the Federal Government's funds.

Now each day you list in your papers the various indictments issued by the Government, State and City, but are you able or willing to predict just how many indicted will be convicted? I'm willing to say that you and the rest of the general public, like myself don't expect to see one single conviction - because, of the fact that those "in power" will see to it that the indictments are quashed and also see to it that the public will be satisfied to the extent of believing "They won't do it again - they have learned their lesson!" Can you truthfully say that you believe they have or will ever learn their lesson?
age No. 2.

Trusting all my question will be answered to the satisfaction of all, I beg to remain

Yours very truly,

"A PUZZLED CITIZEN"

George C. McDonald,
3507 Cleveland Avenue,
New Orleans, Louisiana.
August 12, 1939

Mr. Lawrence G. Pugh
Crowley, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Pugh:

Your letter dated July 24, 1939, to the Attorney General of the United States, relative to crime conditions in Louisiana, has been referred to this Bureau for attention.

I wish to advise that the information contained in your letter is being referred to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans, and it is suggested that in the event you possess definite information concerning a Federal violation, you may be desirous of furnishing the same direct to Mr. Viosca.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

(2 copies of this letter to New Orleans by cover letter of even date.)
Crowley, Louisiana,
July 24th, 1939.

Hon. Frank Murphy,
Attorney General of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We hope that there will not be a third Louisiana purchase, and that you will continue your investigation until the entire gang of political rascals, now in office, are removed and jailed.

Louisiana is in such a terrible position that it is impossible to elect an honest man to a high office. Large amounts are spent to elect members of the legislature, judges, and even police jurors and school board members. The money comes from the State organization. Justice Fournet of the State Supreme Court was not legally elected, and takes an active part in politics and in the oil business. His conduct in office should be investigated, and the amount of his income should be determined. Judge Hugo Dore, of the Court of Appeal, is another judge who is an active politician and is said to have become rich in the past few years.

Hon. D. N. Ellison, the Attorney General of Louisiana, who is a Crowley boy, is reported to be doing everything possible to hinder your investigation, and cover up the acts of his political friends. He was secretary to Governor Leche, and was appointed to his present position a few months ago. I think, for the purpose of protecting Leche and the other political rascals.
The facts already developed by your investigation show what we have known to be true for the past eight or ten years.

I am not in politics and have no influence whatever, but wish to join the good people of Louisiana in asking you to do what you did in Kansas City - clean up the political corruption here.

This letter is not written to harm anyone, but to ask that you investigate the activities of the persons named above, and to continue your good work.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Lawrence G. Pugh.
August 10, 1939

ACH: LL

62-32509 -137 86-1045-56 94=4-1935-22

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sirs:

There are enclosed herewith two photostatic copies of an anonymous letter received by the Attorney General on July 26, 1939, together with two photostatic copies of the envelope in which it was mailed, postmarked at Saint Francisville, Louisiana, July 27, 1939. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Hale W. Vincent, New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

[Photostatic copies are visible on the page]
I'm trying to collect funds.

Meanwhile, I'm doing okay.

In America, we're still...
Mr. Murphy, U.S. Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

Mr. John Vosee, U.S. District Attorney
New Orleans, La.

Dear Sirs:

Please send one of your G Men here at once to West Feliciana Parish town of St. Francisville La. and make a thorough investigation for political corruption and graft in office here this has been reported several times but Gov. Locke no doubt squashed them.

(1) Resettlement Administration office from beginning of same under T. D. Gilmore, Mr. Miller, who had this in charge. The corruption in graft and politics was mixed up. There were grafts on the Government by charging outrageous prices to tenants for old half dead mules and horses and supplies. These poor tenant farmers were compelled to buy from the dealers of the office in charge. They could not get their checks and buy on open market. They had to buy where the big shots would get their graft. This was a regular racket. They had their committee to pass on loans which all got graft.


In order to get the truth and low down ask citizens of the parish about this graft, and whites and negro tenants. They will show how you have stuck the Government and tax payers. Mules are old age and dead & loans are closed & never will pay off. Please investigate.

S/- A Tax Payer
Mr. Murphy U. S., Attorney General  
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Rosalene V. D., District Attorney  
New Orleans, La.

Dear Sir:

Send a G-Man please check up on the P.W.A. Corruption in West Feliciana Parish. PWA roads paving from Bains, La. to Angola State Penitentiary. By T. H. Korten & ex governor R., V. Leche, who backed up the graft & politics on political hiring labor for political graft & corruption. This job was supposed to be contracted they used high grade labor and no record of same. It will cost them $1,000,000. Please investigate this matter & see if all in the Parish for graft & corruption. You can find out a lot at the bottom of the hole in our Parish. All the PWA Works Project in West Feliciana is L, Leesville, La. to Merry, La. All but two cameras witness graft & corruption in this case. Nop爱尔 from the camera to top is Indian further at expense of the taxpayers for graft, to make money. Committee on this H. H. Lester, Mr. Campbell, J. R. Matthew, Joe Rennud, Joe Rosenthal, Frank Spohn, Ed Robb, JPN. Kilbourne.

Please investigate these findings for the taxpayers who pay taxes. Also investigate the public welfare of the Parish. Ask the citizens who pay taxes.
August 3, 1939

Mr. John Delagarsa, Jr.
Ponchatoula, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Delagarsa:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 20, 1939, addressed to the Honorable Frank Murphy, Attorney General, and which letter has been referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

It is noted in your letter that you request that an investigation be made of the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare. In this connection, I would suggest that in the event you have any information concerning violation of Federal law that you may be desirous of furnishing same direct to United States Attorney Rene Viosca, at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - New Orleans
Indictment, Questioning of Louisiana Politician

Mr. Weiss Face New Charge

But Probably Isn't Much Disturbed

Mr. Weiss, a New Orleans businessman and politician, was

indicted on a federal charge in connection with the

alleged Louisiana corruption, has had an interesting immunity

up to now. He was indicted once before on income tax charges,

but a settlement was accepted after the deal was struck with

Huey Long in a

deal that has become famous, or infamous, as the Sec-

ond Louisiana Purchase.

At the time of the compromise it was announced in explana-

tion of the Federal Government's action that there had been a

change of atmosphere in Louisiana, and Homer Cummings had to

take the fall. He didn't peel.

Now, the same department, under a new and younger Attorney

General, Mr. Murphy, has indicted Mr. Weiss because certain

documents were sent through the mails in the perpetration of a

deal which is alleged to have been fraudulent.

The income tax case was much less unpleasant, but neither

one involved such a flagrant defiance of the United States as Mr.

Weiss' conduct in a previous affair, the investigation of the election

by fraud of United States Senator John W. Overton.

Boasts of Driving Senate Out

In that investigation Mr. Weiss defied a subcommittee of the

United States Senate in hearings in New Orleans and taunted

General Ansell, the Senate's counsel, to step outside the room, the

suggestion being that he would punch the general's ears. Huey

Long was present, interrupting the proceedings and leading a

racket gallery of political hoodlums, some of whom were armed,

in disorderly demonstrations around the door. Huey was riding

high at the time, and Weiss, who was his treasurer, had confidence

that Huey's resiliency would pull him through any embar-

rassment with the Senate.

Long afterward, probably to this day, it has been Mr. Weiss'

boast that he practically ran the United States Senate out of town.

although now there has been another change of atmosphere

in New Orleans he may be somewhat more demure about his de-

ference of a body which has been known to defend itself with a

terribly swift sword when challenged by less troublesome men

than Huey Long.

Overton was elected as a Long stooge by the aid of a system

of dummy candidates and fraud in the ballot boxes.

On the stand Mr. Weiss replied, "Rags of a business," yes.

I refuse to answer," and "You are ridiculous" to General Ansell as

the Senate's legal counsel attempted to obtain information as to

the source of campaign funds and their expenditure. When he

said, "You are ridiculous," Huey interrupted and said, "He might

invite you to come in." This suggestion Weiss, who sometimes

acted as Huey's physical protector in small scuffles, challenged.

"No, he has much better sense than to do that."

Weiss Contempt Overlooked

Somewhat later Senator Logan of Kentucky threatened con-

tempt proceedings against Mr. Hilda Phelps Hammond of New

Orleans, a noted Louisiana woman for insisting that Overton be

thrown out of the Senate according to the law and several prece-

dents. But Mr. Weiss' contempt was overlooked, and in the course

of time he became assistant manager of the

railroad, under the supervision of Robert C. Perkins. In 1915 he

returned to Illinois Central connection to be managing director of the

in New Orleans, and continued to reside there

until 1931, when he went to Mem-

phls. Charles C. Cameron, Vice-

President of the Illinois Central

system, left him in his new position.

John R. MacLeod, former

REEVES PROMOTED

BY I. C. RAILROAD

Robert D. Reeves, formerly of

New Orleans, has been ap-

pointed assistant traffic manager of the

Illinois Central railroad system, it

was announced yesterday, succeed-

ing the late Martin L. Costley.

His appointment as head of the

Illinois Central traffic department

in New Orleans returns Mr. Reeves

here after an absence of nearly a

year, during which time he has

been assistant traffic manager at

Memphis.

Mr. Reeves came to New Orleans

in 1912 as assistant general freight

agent and for the past two and a

half years he has charge of the

traffic work of the railroad in this

area. Under the supervision of

Robert C. Perkins. In 1915 he

returned his Illinois Central connec-
tion to be managing director of the

system in New Or-

leans, and continued to reside there

until 1931, when he went to Mem-

phls. Charles C. Cameron, Vice-

President of the Illinois Central

system, left Mr. Reeves in his new position.

John R. MacLeod, former
PONCHATOULA, LA.
20th of July
1939

Hon. Frank Murphy, Attorney General
United States of America
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Since my resignation some months ago as editor of "The Farmers' Friend", one of the largest farm papers in the state of Louisiana, I have devoted the greater part of my time to the study of the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare and its' connections with the political factions of this state.

As I have always been interested in governmental aid for the aged and the needy, I was disappointed to find that my study reveals the fact that funds that rightfully belong to unfortunate people, are being squandered by the political administration that are now in power here in Louisiana.

Owing to the fact that some of the funds required to maintain this department are furnished by the Federal Government, I call upon you to conduct an investigation of the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare at the earliest possible time. My office force will be ready at any time to assist you, if necessary, when the occasion demands it.

Trusting that you will give this matter your prompt attention, I remain

Sincerely very truly,

John Delagarza, Jr.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

While in the Attorney General's Office on July 26th, Miss Bungardner advised the Attorney General that Mr. Emil Hurja had called and advised that Richard W. Norton at the Raleigh Hotel might be in possession of information concerning the New Orleans situation which might be of interest to the Bureau. Subsequent efforts on the part of Bureau Agents to contact Mr. Norton indicated that he had checked out of the Raleigh Hotel.

EDWARD A. TAMM

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-9-1-27
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 5, 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. F. SEARS

In line with your instructions to contact Mr. Richard W. Norton at the Raleigh Hotel and to interview him concerning matters in New Orleans, I telephonically contacted the Raleigh Hotel, and was advised that Mr. R. W. Norton had checked out early that morning.

Respectfully,

A. C. Hayden

A. C. Hayden
1508 Masonic Temple Building  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
August 3, 1939  

Honorable Reza A. Vioceas  
United States Attorney  
New Orleans, Louisiana  

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS:  
Information Concerning  

Dear Sirs:  

In accordance with past procedure, there is being forwarded to you with this letter further information received by this office concerning the present irregularities in Louisiana.  

W. S. Lewis, Attorney of New Orleans, telephonically advised this office that a clerk in the Maison Blanche Department Store had told him that the Hospital Board had received some condemned X-ray equipment for the Charity Hospital and that the Charity Hospital used it just the same, after the equipment was repaired for them by an electrician from Algiers, Louisiana.  

There is enclosed herewith a letter dated July 25, 1939 from CHUTER, E. MARTIN, about whom your office has received previous communications.  

Also enclosed is an unsigned letter from Inouhte, La., dated July 28, 1939.  

Also enclosed is an anonymous communication addressed to the Grand Jury, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; copy of letter addressed to the Times-Picayune, Citizens Voluntary Committee of Louisiana, and Federal Bureau of Investigation; and copy of letter addressed to the Times-Picayune, New Orleans, Louisiana.  

Very truly yours,  

INDEXED  
B. S. SAVAGE  
Special Agent in Charge  

[Signature]  

Enclosures  
cc: Bureau  

CENSORS  
62-978
August 3, 1939

Harry F. Costello, publicity man for the late Mayor Roche and Ralph Alexis, who is engaged in private tax work in New Orleans, furnished the following information:

They advised that the chief purpose of their visit to the Attorney General was to consider some system whereby the man on the street would talk to Federal investigators. They suggested that some Government official bring to the attention of the petty violator in New Orleans that if they would give information against such men as Abe Shusman, Monty Hart, Seymour Weiss and Robert Maesteri that they would not be prosecuted in the Federal Court in the event they had violated a Federal law that to gather evidence against the political machine would be difficult as the persons who can furnish the information have undoubtedly violated some Federal law, and will not testify unless given some promise of immunity. They could furnish no specific information concerning Federal violations or persons who could furnish such information. Further they believed that it was necessary to successful Federal prosecution in New Orleans because of the strong power of the political machine headed by Maesteri and Seymour Weiss.

Mr. Costello and Mr. Alexis stated that the people in the street do not have confidence in the office of United States Attorney Nemo Mosca, as he is a known associate of Robert Maesteri, and that the following United States Attorneys are politically obligated to the Maesteri and Weiss machine:

- Hilary F. Gaulin
- Herbert Christenberry
- J. Skelly Wright

The concrete suggestion to improve the office of the United States Attorney was that the Attorney General needs a good young lawyer in New Orleans, who can furnish information concerning anyone with political connections. They recommended a Robert A. Eamesworth, who could collaborate with Mr. Rodgers. They further suggested that the Federal Grand Jury and petty juries be investigated to prevent a recurrence of acquittal in the event of trial, such as took place at the time Abe Shusman was tried for income tax violations.
Memorandum for the Attorney General

August 3, 1939

Mr. Costello advised that Huey Long, in his effort to defeat his impeachment as Governor, had to secure money from Robert Maesteri, and thus obligated himself to the political machine of Maesteri, Weiss, Hart and Shusman.

Further reference is made to my memorandum to you of June 17, 1939, forwarding information furnished by Harry Costello.

Reference is made to the articles that have appeared in the Washington Merry-Go-Round, concerning the Louisiana political situation, and statements attributed to Mrs. W. A. Thorpe, former secretary to Huey Long, that the Attorney General came down to New Orleans and made a pious speech and did not do anything about it. Mrs. Thorpe, upon interview denied making the statements, and advised she had been interviewed by H. J. Costello, who claimed he was a scout for Pearson and Allen.

It is interesting to note that papers left with the representatives of this Bureau have notations to Bob Allen and to Drew, who undoubtedly are the editors of the Washington Merry-Go-Round.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
TWO TELETYPES WILL FOLLOW

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-31-39 7:00 PM WH

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING COUNSEL FOR

SEYMOUR WEISS, J. EDERY ADAMS, LOUIS O. LESAGE, MONTE B. HART AND

JAMES MONROE SMITH TODAY FILED REQUEST FOR PLEAS OF PARTICULARS

AND DEMURRER TO THE MAIL FRAUD INDICTMENT AGAINST SUBJECTS

BEFORE THE US DISTRICT COURT NEW ORLEANS. ARGUMENTS WILL BE

HEARD THIS FRIDAY, ON WHICH DATE THE FIVE SUBJECTS ARE SCHEDULED

TO APPEAR FOR ARRRAIGNMENT.

RECONRED & INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH GRAND JURY JUST RETURNED THE FOLLOWING

INDICTMENT AS FOLLOWS, AGAINST LEON WEISS, THE ARCHITCTOR, AND ALICE M. SMITH, CHARGING WEISS WITH EMBEZZLING FIVE THOUSAND

AND FIFTY DOLLARS FROM LSU, AIDED BY SMITH. THE SECOND

INDICTMENT CHARGES DR. CHARLES LORIO, STATE SENATOR AND POLITICAL LEADER,

GEORGE H. GRIFTON, OWNER OF A DRUG STORE IN BATON ROUGE AND E. H.

ANDREWS, MANAGER OF THE DRUG STORE IN BATON ROUGE, WITH OBTAINING

NINE THOUSAND EIGHTY DOLLARS AND TWENTY CENTS BY FALSE PRETENSES.

THE OTHER INDICTMENT CHARGES THREE PERSONS WITH OBTAINING SEVEN

HUNDRED FORTY-ONE DOLLARS AND FORTY-THREE CENTS BY FALSE PRETENSES.

THE GRAND JURY IN A SPECIAL REPORT RECOMMENDED THAT EVERY MEMBER OF

THE BOARD OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF LSU WHO SERVED DURING PRESIDENCY OF

JAMES MONROE SMITH TENDER THEIR RESIGNATIONS. THE PARISH GRAND
JURY ADJOURNED WITHOUT PRESENTING ANY FURTHER REPORTS ON INDICTMENTS AND WILL CONVENE AUGUST FIFTEENTH NEXT.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGGE IS NOW HAVING A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED WITH OIL COMPANIES TESTIFY BEFORE FEDERAL GRAND JURY RELATIVE TO GRAFT PAYMENTS MADE TO STATE OFFICIALS WITH THE OBJECT OF UNCOVERING FEDERAL INCOME TAX VIOLATIONS.

HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THESE PERSONS ARE NOT BEING FRANK AND TRUTHFUL BEFORE THE GRAND JURY.

SEVERAL DAYS AGO A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS CALLING THEMSELVES THE CITIZENS VOLUNTARY COMMITTEE, OF WHICH JOSEPH A. AIREY IS CHAIRMAN, PROPOSED THAT ONE OF THREE PROMINENT LOUISIANA LAWYERS ACCEPTABLE TO THEM BE APPOINTED TO CONDUCT THE STATE'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE VARIOUS IRREGULARITIES. TODAY GOVERNOR EARL LONG IN A COMMUNICATION TO AIREY DECLINED TO APPOINT ANY OF THESE ATTORNEYS AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL J. FAIR HARDIN AND OTHERS NOW HANDLING THE INQUIRIES.

SACKETT
END
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: LOUISIANA SITUATION

In connection with the attached teletype communication from New Orleans, dated July 31, 1939, asking authority to conduct an investigation with reference to William Nellis as to whether he registered his yacht before he became a citizen of this country, I called SAC Sackett and told him to tell Mr. Rogge the Bureau feels these matters should be handled by the people who are investigating the "hot oil" investigation as it appears that William Nellis is the owner of several oil companies involved in this investigation. I also told Mr. Sackett to turn over to Mr. Rogge all the complaints of the irregularities in the WPA, which were mentioned in this same teletype.

While talking to Mr. Sackett, and with reference to the attached teletype from New Orleans, dated July 31, 1939, I informed Shirley G. Minterly, I informed Mr. Sackett that the Director wanted a very discreet investigation conducted of this man as to his background, associations, et cetera. Mr. Sackett said he had already started this investigation.

With reference to the attached teletype from New Orleans, dated July 31, 1939, relating to Montie E. Hart, Mail Fraud, I told Mr. Sackett the Director thinks this investigation as to whether B. J. Daly was retained on Dr. James B. Smith's own initiative, should be made by the Post Office Inspectors as this pertains to a Mail Fraud and in order that the Bureau shall avoid any friction with the Post Office Department. The same procedure should be carried out in connection with the suggested interview with J. Enory Adams.

In connection with the information furnished in the attached teletype from New Orleans, dated July 31, 1939, informing of the alleged tap on the United States Attorney's telephone, I told Mr. Sackett the Director had instructed him furnish this information to Mr. Rogge right away. Mr. Sackett replied that Mr. Rogge would probably want the FBI to do something about this and I told him to tell Mr. Rogge, if this occurred, that it appeared that the best thing
to do would be to contact the telephone company and ask for an immediate check of all the wires and a report on this and as far as the FBI is concerned, there should be no investigation made at this time.

Mr. Beckett said he had been trying to get the text of the radio address of Shirley G. Kimberly but as yet had not been successful. I told him that no official request should be made for this at this time and he said that in the future all such addresses that were made would be recorded if possible.

E. A. TAWK
IN LUJO. STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING. I CONFESSED WITH ASSISTANT
ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGER AND U S ATTORNEY VIOSSA TODAY. THE PRESENT MOST IMPORTANT
ANGLN BEFORE THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY INVOLVES AN OIL DEAL IN NINETEEN THIRTY SIX WHERE
GOVERNOR LECHE, ALLEGEDLY PERMITTED OIL COMPANIES TO EXCEED PRODUCTION QUOTA, RE-
CEIVING CASH CONSIDERATION OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS. OF THIS
SEYMOUR WEISS RECEIVED SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND LECHE SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND
DOLLARS. LECHE APPARENTLY PAID INCOME TAX ON THIS SUM IN HIS FEDERAL RETURN, HOWEVER,
WEISS APPARENTLY ILLEGALLY DEDUCTED THIS AMOUNT FROM HIS FEDERAL RETURN. ROGER
PRESENTLY CONSIDERING INDICSION WEISS FOR INCOME TAX EVASION THIS AMOUNT IN NINETEEN
THIRTY SIX, ALSO PRESENTLY CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF INDICTING MARSTRI. WEISS AND
LECHE IN OIL DEAL INVOLVE, HOWEVER, LEGAL QUESTION EXISTS AS TO WHETHER THIS DEAL
HAS IN VIOLATION OF FEDERAL AGREEMENT OR MERELY A STATE CRIME ON PART OF THESE THREE
PERSONS, MR ROGER NOW DOING RESEARCH ON THIS QUESTION BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO RE-
TURN THIS PARTICULAR INDICENT. EXPECTS FEDERAL GRAND JURY TO RETURN THE INCOME TAX
INDICENT AGAINST WEISS AND POSSIBLY THIS OIL INDIENT THIS FRIDAY. ASSISTANT
ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGER NOW CONCENTRATING ON THESE TWO MATTERS AND FOR THE TIME BEING
HAS DISCARDED THE WPA IRREGULARITY POSSIBILITIES AND OTHER POSSIBLE FEDERAL ANGELES,
ALTHOUGH THE INVESTIGATIONS REGARDING THOSE ARE STILL BEING CONTINUED BY THE OTHER
FEDERAL INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES.

I JUST RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM A PERSONAL CONTACT, A MUNICIPALITY EDITOR, WHO HAS
IN THE PAST FURNISHED ME EXCELLENT AND RELIABLE INFORMATION, TO THE EFFECT THAT HE
RECENTLY SPOKE THROUGH A HUSH-HUSH CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE, WHICH REVEALED TO HIM,
THAT THE TELEGRAMS IN THE U S ATTORNEYS OFFICE HAVE BEENerrals BY THE LOCAL
STATION. I REMEMBER THAT I WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN ANY PREPARED TELEGRAM INFORMATION AS
TO THE EXACT PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TAP OR THE MANNER IN WHICH THE TAP HAS BEEN INSTITUTED, HOWEVER, HE IS CONFIDENT THAT HIS INFORMATION IS NOT IDLE HUMOR AND THAT IT DOES HAVE FOUNDATION. I HAVE NOT FURNISHED THIS INFORMATION TO ROOGE OR ANYONE ELSE AND HAVE TAKEN NO ACTION WHATSOEVER, BUT WILL BE GUIDED BY YOUR INSTRUCTIONS RELATIVE THERETO.

SACKETT
END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC CLC
TELETYPE

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-51-39 AOARP AM ALS

DIRECTOR

MONTE E. HART ETAL MAIL FRAUD. O. JOHN ROGGE REQUESTED THAT JAMES
MCNROE SMITH BE INTERVIEWED TO DETERMINE IF B. V. DALY, SMITHS
ATTORNEY, WAS RETAINED ON SMITHS OWN INITIATIVE OR BY SUBJECTS
CONNECTED IN INVESTIGATION, AND SUGGEST TO SMITH POSSIBILITY OTHER
SUBJECTS MIGHT BE USING DALY TO THEIR BENEFIT AND SMITHS DETRIMENT.

ROGGE ALSO REQUESTED THAT J. EMORY ADAMS BE INTERVIEWED IN ATTEMPT
TO GET ADAMS TO TALK AND THROUGH HIM GET SMITH TO TALK. ADVISE
SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC GDH

RECORDED

62-325-07-218
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 5 1932
U.S. DISTRICT COURT

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sirs:

There are enclosed herewith the photostatic copies of each of the following listed communications received at the Department, and it is desired that one copy of each be furnished United States Attorney Rene A. Vieux:

Postal card postmarked Shreveport, Louisiana, July 12, 1939, 12:30 P. M., signed "A Citizen";

Letter dated July 13, 1939, addressed to Honorable Frank Murphy, signed L. J. Raphael, Jr., 244 S. Alexander Street, New Orleans, Louisiana;

Letter dated June 30, 1939, New Orleans, Louisiana, addressed to Mr. Edm Hardie, Jr., New Orleans, Louisiana;

Letter dated July 19, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, signed "Louisiana Democrats";

Letter dated July 19, 1939, Covington, Louisiana, addressed to the Attorney General;

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, from Mrs. Wm. A. West, Jr.;

Undated letter, addressed to the Attorney General, signed "American";

Letter dated July 16, 1939, signed "American";

Undated, anonymous letter, addressed to the Attorney General, postmarked New Orleans, Louisiana, July 11, 1939, 17:30 P. M.;

Anonymous letter dated July 10, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, together with newspaper clipping.
August 2, 1939

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, signed Frank H. Atwood;

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, signed F. C. Corbin;

Newspaper clipping from The Times-Picayune, June 23, 1939, New Orleans, Louisiana;

Letter dated July 14, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, signed "American";

Letter dated July 13, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, signed "A New Orleans Schoolgirl", together with newspaper clipping.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 1, 1939

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

Dear Sir:

RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS -
Information Concerning

Last evening, July 31, 1939, I had a general conversation with Colonel James M. Thomson, publisher of the New Orleans Item and Tribune newspapers, during which Colonel Thomson expressed himself regarding the ruling of Federal Judge Wayne G. Borah at New Orleans prohibiting newspapers from publishing the names or disclosing the identity of any of the witnesses who testified before the Federal grand jury now inquiring into the Louisiana political situation for possible Federal violations.

Colonel Thomson stated that he is personally convinced that Judge Borah is honest, and that the Judge's intentions are of the best in connection with this ruling and, therefore, Colonel Thomson, although this is the first time in his forty years of newspaper experience that he has encountered such a situation, has up to now made no attempt to fight this ruling on the part of Judge Borah or disobeyed the court's instructions in any way. Colonel Thomson takes the position that Judge Borah's ruling is entirely without precedent and, in his opinion, technically is illegal.

Colonel Thomson stated that the thing he feared most as a result of this ruling is that it would create a precedent, especially in Louisiana, which would be followed by local and state courts in future inquiries of a similar nature into the state governmental activities; that, if so, crooked judges or courts controlled by the state machine could hide behind this ruling as a precedent in establishing similar rulings of their own in an effort to thwart honest and complete investigations. Colonel Thomson pointed out that in such situations it would not be possible for the newspapers to follow the proceedings to determine whether all witnesses who have knowledge of facts were called to testify, and it would enable the local courts to "quash" cases or investigations very easily following out the dictates of those in political power.

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-2-1-211

Colonel Thomson felt that the Attorney General should be acquainted with his views regarding this situation, although he did not ask me to directly inform the Attorney General.
To the Director, 8/1/39

As a matter of background, for your information, the New Orleans Item and Tribune newspapers, of which Colonel Thomson is the publisher, have not in the recent past fought the state administration and while I am of the belief that Colonel Thomson does not personally favor the tactics and activities of the state administration, he, nevertheless, has not, as a matter of policy, fought the administration. His papers have commonly been referred to in the past as pro state administration.

I have of course been in contact with Colonel Thomson's opposition papers in New Orleans, the Times-Picayune and the States, the managing editors of which are very close personal contacts of mine. The officers of these two papers have not at any time complained about Judge Borah's ruling preventing them from publishing the names of witnesses other than to say that it makes it a little harder for them to report all the facts.

I know it to be a fact that the United States Attorney's office, particularly United States Attorney Viosca, has been inclined to be more friendly with the Times-Picayune and States group and to give reporters of those newspapers somewhat more information than he has given to the Item-Tribune. It is perfectly possible, therefore, that the feeling of Colonel Thomson in this matter is probably the result of the fact that his papers have been somewhat "out of the picture" in the recent developments so far as close contact with the United States Attorney's office is concerned.

I thought that I would pass this information on to you as it is entirely probable that the Attorney General as well as yourself may be interested in Colonel Thomson's present attitude. Unless the situation becomes aggravated in some way, I do not believe that Thomson will start a newspaper campaign to fight the ruling of Judge Borah.

I am following this matter closely and shall keep you advised of any further complaints.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge
August 9, 1933

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Dear Sirs,

There are transmitted herewith photostatic copies of an anonymous letter and envelope addressed to Assistant Attorney General O. John Rogge signed "Honest Fordman" which relates to the alleged activities of Ralph Hitz, President of the National Hotel Management Company. Mr. Rogge has transmitted this communication to the Bureau and the copy enclosed herewith is being furnished to you for such action and attention as you deem necessary and desirable.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 10 1933
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 21, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

There is transmitted herewith for such attention as may be deemed proper in connection with the pending W.P.A. investigation, an original anonymous communication, dated July 19, 1939, signed "Honest Workman", with accompanying envelope addressed to me, postmarked at New York, relating to the alleged activities of Ralph Hitz, the president of the National Hotel Management Company.

O John Rogge
C. John Rogge,
Assistant Attorney General.

Enclosure: 103013
Assistant Attorney General Rogge transmits original communication dated July 9, 1939, signed "Honest Workman" re alleged activities of Ralph Hitz, the President of the National Hotel Management Company, wherein it is suggested that the Director for his own good should keep away and not stop at Hitz owned hotels.

dls
To Joseph Weiss, dear friend,

I'm writing to you to investigate the possibility of your return to the United States. I've heard from the

National Hotel Management Co. about the Captains of the<br>plenty of high rollers in America<br>and Europe. Why did you<br>get away in the summer<br>smuggling case?

Your agents can uncover plenty if they don't work<br>like dogs and pay for a lot of time entertaining<br>Edgar Hoover finds our good<br>kept away and not to<br>stay in fancy hotels.

God bless you and your family for your<br>loving and effort to<br>get back now. In the<br>evening clothes. The<br>gangster executions.<br>Manufacturers need to checked up on the<br>but entertainments given to executives of the<br>bank as the new style of<br>Gangster executions, money, and<br>secrecy was a safe place for<br>to hide valuables in<br>his last step. He was<br>not yet upset them, as easy come<br>easy go.

Ahmed Whitman

July 14, 1939
12-32509
6x1
Mr. C. (Block letters)
Asst. General Attorney
Washington, D.C.

(Handwritten text)

H. S. Attorney General Office
COPIES DESTROYED
170. SEP 17 1964

Remedial
Mr. O. John Rogge, Asst. General Attorney.

Washington, D. C.

Investigating Seymour Weiss, better check up on his pal Ralph Hitz, Pres., National Hotel Management Co. (the Al. Capone of the gang) plenty dough hidden in vaults and Europe. Why did Hitz get away in Chaperau smuggling case? Why?

Your agents can uncover plenty if they don't work like saps, and fall for a lot of free entertaining. Edgar Hoover, for his own good should keep away and not stop at Hitz owned hotels. God bless you and Mr. Murphy for your work honesty - and effort to rid U.S. from vultures in the evening clothes. The gangster Executives, Manufactures Trust Co. should check up on the hot entertainments given to executives of the bank at the New Yorker Hotel.

Gangster Executives, Normal and Sweden was a safe place for Hitz to hide valuables on his last trip there. In the last - he was rolled of 10,000. did not upset him, as easy come easy go.

/s/ Honest Workman

July 18 - 1938.
August 12, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

There are transmitted herewith two photostatic copies of a letter dated July 24, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States by Mr. A. M. Perry, of Coushatta, Louisiana, and referred to the Bureau, together with two photostatic copies of the inclosure thereto. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans.

Mr. Perry's letter has not been acknowledged.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ AUG 12 1939 ★
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
A. Hazard Perry
Coushatta, La.

July 24, 1939.

Hon. Frank Murphy, Atty. General,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The inclosed paper with a marked article, written by me a month before Gov. Leche abdicated and refused publication by all Louisiana daily papers, might be of interest to your department.

Sincerely yours for justice,

A. H. (Ackey) Perry,
F. O. Box 226,
Coushatta, La.

JUL 27 1939
Attorney General
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana
July 19, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS — INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to report of Special Agent C. W. DUNKER, New Orleans, Louisiana, dated July 18, 1939, enclosed herewith, which covers an interview with MRS. W. A. THARP, nee ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, and her husband, W. A. THARP, which was conducted in Los Angeles, California.

The United States Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana, previously requested that ALICE LEE GROSJEAN be interviewed. It is requested that the Bureau advise this office by teletype whether or not a copy of the aforementioned report should be transmitted to the United States Attorney at New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana

NAME OF MADE
New Orleans, La.

DATE WHEN MADE
July 18, 1939

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE
July 11 & 14, 1939

REPORT MADE BY
C. W. DUNCAN

N.O. FR. NO. 62-978

TITLE
LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS

CHARACTER OF CASE
INFORMATION CONCERNING

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

MRS. W. A. THARPE, nee ALICE LEE GROUJEAN, employed by HUEY LONG as Secretary in 1924 and continued in capacity when LONG became Governor of Louisiana. In 1929 was appointed Secretary of State to fill unexpired term and when office was filled by election 1932 was appointed to position of Supervisor of Public Accounts, name of which department changed to Collector of Internal Revenue. This department divided and W. A. COOPER placed in charge auditing department by Governor R. W. LECHIE. GROUJEAN believed B. M. ELLISON and COOPER influenced LECHIE in dismissing her, but advised LECHIE gave no reason. Advised she collected five per cent contribution from employees her department which she submitted to J. M. FUSH, but no information Federal funds involved. Advised H. J. COSTELLO, scout for L.C. Washington Merry Go Round, contacted her. Denied making statements about President ROOSEVELT or Attorney General MURPHY which appeared in Merry Go Round column. Has scrapbook of newspaper clippings about Louisiana from beginning HUEY LONG regime and has photocopies of original clippings she gave to LONG'S widow after LONG'S death but denied having other documents. Denied any knowledge of Federal violations by State officials and associates, and denied being connected any irregularities.

W. A. THARPE, former Secretary Louisiana State Tax Commission, advised collected five per cent contribution employees his department, claiming he gave same to ELLISON. THARPE advised he kept complete accounting these collections but no Federal funds involved. THARPE denied information irregularities Louisiana State University. Believed LECHIE,
ELLISON, GEORGE CALDWELL and R. A. CONWAY, Secretary of State, principally involved in irregularities.
THARPE intended returning Louisiana about August 1st.

DETAILS:

On July 11, 1939, MR. SEARS, of the Bureau, telephonically contacted Special Agent in Charge R. E. SACKETT and advised that the Director had approved the suggestion of having an Agent of the New Orleans Office interview MRS. W. A. THARPE at Los Angeles and that the Agent from the New Orleans Office should fly to Los Angeles and return for this purpose.

The Los Angeles Office was telephonically contacted and requested to make arrangements whereby MRS. THARPE would be available for interview. A teletype was then received from the Los Angeles Office advising that MRS. THARPE would be available for interview on July 14, 1939.

At Los Angeles, California

Special Agent J. F. HYNES and the writer located Attorney CHARLES L. NICHOLS who was interviewed by the writer prior to the interview with MRS. W. A. THARPE, nee ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, and her husband, W. A. THARPE. NICHOLS requested information as to the purpose for the interview and was advised that the writer wished to ask the THARPEs specific questions dealing with alleged irregularities in Louisiana in connection with the recent investigation there. NICHOLS, upon request, was advised that no Federal process was presently outstanding for the THARPES. However, he was advised that he could not be assured that a Federal process would never be issued for the THARPEs in connection with this case. NICHOLS, however, advised that he wished to have MR. and MRS. THARPE interviewed and would urge them to give full details in connection with this case, as he believed that if facts did develop which implicated the THARPEs it would be better for them to give complete information at this time than to wait until a later date.

Special Agent J. F. HYNES and the writer interviewed MRS. W. A. THARPE, nee ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, and W. A. THARPE, care of E. L. CORD, 811 Hillcrest Road, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, California. They were interviewed in the presence of Attorney CHARLES L. NICHOLS, at his office at 650 South Grand Avenue.

MRS. THARPE advised that she became secretary to the former Governor HUEY P. LONG in 1924 when LONG was practicing law at Shreveport, Louisiana; that when LONG became Governor in 1928 she continued as secretary
for him until 1929 and was then appointed to the position of Secretary of State for the State of Louisiana and held this position until 1933; that she was then appointed Supervisor of Public Accounts, which position she held from 1932 to February 1939. She advised, however, that the name of the department was changed from Supervisor of Public Accounts to Collector of Internal Revenue. Mrs. Tharpe advised that as Secretary of State she handled election ballots, insurance company records, and conducted the office of Secretary of State in accordance with constitutional provisions. She advised that while she was Secretary of State she also was on the Board of Liquidation and the Insurance Commission. She advised that the work of the Board of Liquidation was to recommend loans dependent on legislative approval. She advised that she did not remember any loans to the Louisiana State University in this connection. Mrs. Tharpe advised that her duties as Supervisor of Public Accounts were to collect special taxes, such as, tobacco tax, soft drink tax, income tax, gasoline tax, and chain-store severance tax. She advised that upon collection of the tax she turned the money over to the State Treasurer. Mrs. Tharpe advised that when the office of the Supervisor of Public Accounts had its name changed to the Office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, the office was split into two parts, and a man named Washburn was placed in charge of the auditing department, but that this department was later headed by W. A. Cooper. She advised that the division of the department was Governor Leche's idea; that the original law was that the head of the Supervisor of Public Accounts could not be removed except by impeachment by the State Senate; that Leche, however, had a constitutional amendment enacted which made this position appointive. Mrs. Tharpe advised that with reference to her position as a member of the Board of Liquidation the name of this organization was changed to the Bond and Tax Board, which name it assumed in about 1932. She advised that she was Secretary of the Bond and Tax Board a short time after it was created, but did not remain in that capacity for more than several months after it was created. Mrs. Tharpe advised that the Bond and Tax Board was the State Board that had to approve all loans and bond issues of all political sub-divisions of the State, including the schools.

Mrs. Tharpe advised that she was transferred from the position of Secretary of State to Supervisor of Public Accounts because E. A. Connay was elected to the position of Secretary of State and she was, therefore, given the position of Supervisor of Public Accounts by the late Huey P. Long. Mrs. Tharpe advised that she did not know why she was dismissed from her position as Collector of Internal Revenue except that W. A. Cooper undermined her with Leche and got her out. She advised that when Cooper was put in charge of part of the office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, he actually was getting her job. That when this trouble came up with Cooper over his getting her job, she talked with D. Y. Ellison, who said he would contact Governor Leche and advised that he would call Mrs. Tharpe before he went to see Governor Leche. She advised that Ellison, however, slipped off to Covington, Louisiana, without telling her, as he had promised he would do; that she telephoned the Governor at Covington and upon getting the Governor's
residence talked to ELLISON who had already arrived there; that ELLISON told her the Governor would see her Wednesday. MRS. THARPE advised that she and her husband did go to Covington, Louisiana; and talked to Governor LECHÉ; that Governor LECHÉ told her she was working too hard and that she was getting too many gray hairs. She advised that LECHÉ appeared dopey; that she could not get anything out of him and could not get a reason from him as to why he was making these statements. She advised that this was on February 14, 1939. MRS. THARPE advised that on February 17, 1939, ELLISON said he had a letter from the Governor for her. She advised that this was a letter of dismissal; that in the letter no reason was given by the Governor for her dismissal. MRS. THARPE advised she had attempted to obtain some reason for her dismissal but had been unable to do so.

MRS. THARPE advised that the five per cent salary contribution from employees in the State of Louisiana began under the administration of HUBY P. LONG when he was a Senator; that it began as a temporary measure for political purposes but became a permanent thing the day Governor R. W. LECHÉ was elected. She advised that W. A. COOPER was the collector of the five per cent contribution in her department, but that she did not know any other collectors in other departments except her husband. She advised that this collection was turned over to J. M. FUSSE but that she did not know where it was kept and did not know about any books kept about this collection. MRS. THARPE advised that she did not know the purpose for which the fund was used and could not estimate the amount of money taken in. However, she advised that the amount of money taken in by her department amounted to between three thousand, eight hundred and four thousand dollars per month. She advised that she did not know of any instances where Federal funds went to employees who paid the five per cent contribution. She advised that some did not pay the five per cent contribution but that they were such a few in number that the head of the department would not mention it. She advised that it was also necessary to take a subscription to "Progress", a newspaper supposedly owned by Governor LECHÉ; that this newspaper was considered the Administration newspaper. MRS. THARPE advised that she did not know the political set-up of the State at the present time. She advised that she did not know what connection DR. JOSEPH O'HARA had with the five per cent salary contribution. She advised that she did not know about the sale of the Bienville Hotel to the University of Louisiana. MRS. THARPE advised that she had no information as to the property purchased by State officials while they were in office; that she had no information as to the taxable income of State employees or their associates and did not know what businesses State employees were engaged in wherein they sold products of the business to the State of Louisiana.

MRS. THARPE advised that she had no information relative to the administration of the Louisiana State University; that she did know, however, that if the University would make any loan, it would be necessary for the State Bond and Tax Commission to approve the loan. She advised that she had no information relative to the irregularities of JAMES MONROE SMITH and barely knew him.
MRS. THARPE advised that she was unfamiliar with the set-up of the Works Progress Administration in the State of Louisiana but understood that JAMES CRUTCHER was the head of the Administration. She advised that she did not know CRUTCHER personally, however. She advised that she had no inside information as to contracts let by the State on which WPA labor was used or Government funds were used for payments on the contracts. MRS. THARPE advised that she had no inside information on how certain contractors seemed to get all the construction work; that she did not know of any particular irregularities in the letting of contracts. She advised that she did not know of instances where the contractors "kicked" back money to the State or State officials on contracts received. She advised that she did not know of any connection between JAMES CRUTCHER, ROBERT MAESTRI and R. W. LEBRE. She advised that she did not know about the two per cent GEORGE CAYDLE was supposed to have received; that she had no information about where WPA materials were used on private property and no information as to roads built by WPA labor for political purposes. She had no information as to the use of WPA labor and materials on the home or property of R. W. LEBRE; that she did not know the names of any WPA workers who worked on private property while receiving compensation from the WPA. MRS. THARPE was questioned as to her knowledge of any irregularities in the Social Security payments. She advised that she knew B. W. CASON, Commissioner of Labor, but that she had no dealings with him; that she had no information as to any methods used whereby funds were tricked out of the Social Security to fictitious persons or to State officials. MRS. THARPE advised that she had no information relative to any graft on the new bridge being built at Baton Rouge. She advised that she knew J. J. LEH and A. H. FLIPPER, but had no particular association with them; that she did remember, however, that during the time NOE was Governor for a few months in 1936 the five per cent contribution from State employees was discontinued.

MRS. THARPE advised that while she was still in Louisiana a reporter from the Washington Times Co Round column called her and advised that he understood she was going to write a book. MRS. THARPE stated that she told the reporter this had been suggested to her as she had been so young at the time she had held high offices in the State of Louisiana. She advised that this reporter suggested that J. J. LEH and A. H. FLIPPER of the Washington Times Co Round act as collaborators with her in writing this book. She advised that the man who contacted her was M. J. COX, who claimed he was a scout for J. J. LEH and A. H. FLIPPER. MRS. THARPE advised that she never mentioned Attorney General MURPHY or President ROOSEVELT to anyone and never said what was quoted in the newspaper about her; that she never said "F.D.R. has not practiced in Louisiana what he preached in other places" or that F.D.R. came down here and made a pious speech but that was all. She advised that she read the statement she was supposed to have made in a Washington Times Co Round column; that she was greatly incensed over it; that she, in talking to the writer, was quoting the statement from a newspaper clipping that she wished to reiterate that she did not make any statement which in any way...
construed to the statement she read to the writer from a newspaper clipping. At this point Attorney NICHOLS suggested to MRS. THARPE that she write the Attorney General and advise him that she had never made the statement which appeared in the Washington Mercury Go Round column.

MRS. THARPE advised she had a scrapbook of newspaper clippings which she started about the time HUEY P. LONG became Governor of Louisiana and maintained these newspaper clippings until after the death of LONG, and is continuing them to date. She advised that after HUEY P. LONG died, MRS. HUEY LONG requested that she be given the newspaper clippings about her husband up until the time he died. MRS. THARPE advised she gave MRS. LONG the original clippings, but made photostats of these clippings which she had kept in her scrapbook of newspaper clippings. She advised that she does this as a hobby. MRS. THARPE advised that she did not have any photostatic copies or any original records other than the newspaper clippings. She advised that the newspaper publicity about her having important documents was false; that it was common knowledge that she had the newspaper clippings and she at one time kept them in her office when she held a State position, where they were open for public inspection. MRS. THARPE advised that E. A. CONWAY, Secretary of State, also had newspaper clippings which he kept as a hobby. She advised that when she first started her hobby she borrowed some clippings from CONWAY for her first five volumes. She advised that she now has approximately forty volumes full of newspaper clippings; that these volumes are about three feet square and six inches thick. She advised that she had these in a safe place in Louisiana but would not advise the writer where she was keeping them. She advised, however, that upon her return to Louisiana she would be glad to permit the writer to examine any or all of her volumes containing these newspaper clippings. MRS. THARPE advised that while she was Secretary of State she made five thousand dollars per year which was augmented by an additional two thousand dollars per year from the Motor Vehicle Bureau; that when she became Supervisor of Public Accounts she received a salary of five thousand dollars per year which was later raised to seventy-five hundred dollars per year. She advised that MR. THARPE as Secretary of the State Tax Commission received four thousand, eight hundred dollars per year.

During this interview with MRS. THARPE, MR. THARPE from time to time interposed and gave some information. He advised that when W. A. COOPER got the position his wife had held he called COOPER a "skunk" and told him he was going to whip him; that he did not, however, take this opportunity. THARPE advised that he was fired about the same time his wife was fired. That the reason he was fired was because he talked too much. THARPE advised that after he was fired he received a letter from T. A. BARTNESS; that this letter requested certain information about his income. THARPE advised that he replied to the letter written to him by BARTNESS, answering all of BARTNESS' questions and advising BARTNESS that BARTNESS ought to know about his income because he prepared his income tax statement for him. THARPE advised that it was evident someone in the Administration was trying to pull a "squeeze" play on him, probably for the purpose of making him afraid to talk. He advised, however, that
he would not be afraid to give any information that came into his possession. THARPE advised that while he was Collector of the five per cent salary contribution at the time he was Secretary of the Louisiana Tax Commission he did not keep any of the money himself. He advised that all of the money he collected was turned over monthly to DAVID M. ELLISON; that this amounted to approximately four hundred dollars per month. He advised that he would put the money in an envelope with the date and the amount and hand it to ELLISON who would put it in a safe in the Governor’s office. He advised that word would usually come to his department that J. W. FUSH was coming to town. THARPE advised that during the time he collected the five per cent contribution he collected personal checks and endorsed them and turned them over to ELLISON. He advised that he kept an accounting of every penny he had taken in and still had these books. He advised that they were in a safe place but that they would be open for inspection when he returned to Louisiana. THARPE advised that the payroll of the Louisiana Tax Commission amounted to about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars per year; that the most the Tax Commission could spend under ordinary circumstances would be thirty-five thousand dollars per year; therefore, the payroll was “padded” a great deal and checks were sent to persons who never came down to work; that he knew their names but had never seen any of them.

THARPE advised that the Standard Office and Supply Company, Monroe, Louisiana, furnished all the furniture for the new State offices, which was pro rated to the different offices. That there was not enough money to pay for this out of the legislative appropriation, so each department made up the difference. He advised that he did not know of any irregularities in connection with this. He advised that he understood that ABERNATHY furnished all the window blinds for the State buildings in Louisiana. THARPE advised that he had to pay twenty or thirty dollars for the election of President Roosevelt, which he gave to MR. C. J. S. CALDWELL. He advised that this, however, might have been for the “Paralysis Campaign.” He advised that it was rumored that the Louisiana Highway Department paved around the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute at Ruston, Louisiana, in return for a contract by the Office Supply Company to furnish all the furniture for the Polytechnic Institute. He advised that the Office Supply Company was reported to be owned by L. F. ABERNATHY, the Chairman of the Louisiana State Highway Commission. THARPE advised that DAVID M. ELLISON advised him several months ago that he had let a contract for six thousand dollars to GEORGE CALDWELL for CALDWELL to build a house. He advised that he knew the house cost more than six thousand dollars and that he knew there was some irregularity about this before the newspapers came out with all the publicity about the alleged irregularities in Louisiana. THARPE advised that although he understood the State Income Tax Collector was checking on his income he knew they had nothing on him. THARPE advised that it was rumored that CALDWELL BROTHERS and HART had made a statement to the effect that they paid for everything they got from the State, meaning that for the contracts they got from the State it was necessary for them to pay something to one of the State officials. THARPE advised that he believed that D. M. ELLISON and W. J. COOPER influenced R. W. LEGE in dismissing his wife. This was corroborated in by MRS. THARPE.
He advised that E. A. CONWAY, D. M. ELLISON and R. W. LECHE appeared to be the ring-leaders in Louisiana; that CONWAY was a "gossipy old woman" type of man and knew everything that went on; that CONWAY sponsored ELLISON who was close to the Governor, probably knowing more about the Governor than anyone in the State. THARPE advised that a Mr. FAZER, of Monroe, Louisiana, was the only man to whom independent oil companies could sell natural gas. THARPE advised that he had a gas well around Rosedale, Louisiana, which was closed down by the pro-ration law, that he made a big fuss about this and talked about Governor LECHE trying to cut him out, so believed this might have had something to do with his dismissal. THARPE advised that when he was discharged he requested that he be given a month's salary but found that the State would only give him two weeks. He advised that he would not take this. He advised that at this time he had collected four hundred and six dollars from the employees in his department; this went to him that T. M. FUSE wanted to see him. THARPE advised that he then made the statement that he would give the four hundred and six dollars to LECHE if LECHE would give him a receipt for it. He advised that LECHE would not give him a receipt and that no one had requested the four hundred and six dollars. THARPE advised that he still had this money and would perhaps have to pay income tax on it; that he would not, however, turn it over without receiving a receipt for it.

THARPE advised that it was rumored that HAMPTON REYNOLDS, the father-in-law of LECHE, has an asphalt company in Alabama from whom the State purchases asphalt for a price from fourteen to sixteen dollars per ton; that this asphalt can be purchased for six dollars a ton on the regular market. He advised that he understood that about forty thousand tons a month were used. THARPE advised that he understood that all the cement used by the State of Louisiana was purchased from one company but that he did not know the name of this company. He advised that when MRS. ROOSEVELT spoke at the Louisiana State University, orders came from LECHE that every State employee was to be present and that they should show unusual enthusiasm. THARPE advised that he was never around when any settlement was made in connection with any graft in the State. THARPE advised that he believed LECHE was a crook and believed that JAMES MONROE SMITH did not tell LECHE anything about his deprivations for fear that LECHE would want to get in on it. THARPE advised that he believed that if LECHE knew anything crooked was going on he would not be satisfied unless he could get a part of the graft. THARPE made the statement that he believed Judge DORE of Ville Platte, and Judge J. B. Fournet, who were on the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University, would not sell out for less than five dollars. THARPE advised that DON WELDON, who was the Editor of the Hammond Progress, the newspaper of Governor LECHE, gave orders around the State; that the orders of WELDON were the same as if they were given by LECHE, particularly in regard to subscriptions to the paper being required of State employees. THARPE was questioned as to the names of any persons he believed might be reliable to contact for information pertaining to irregularities in Louisiana. He advised that he believed A. R. JOHNSON, who was close to the Governor but a high type of man, might give some informa-
tion. He advised that he believed THEO S. LANDEY, the manager of the Louisiana State Penitentiary, was an honorable man, who showed no favoritism and who might be able to give reliable information.

THARPE advised that shortly after MR. HOOVER and MR. MURPHY were at the Louisiana State University, a picture appeared in the paper showing MR. HOOVER, MR. MURPHY and JAMES MONROE SMITH together. He advised that he jokingly remarked that it looked as though MR. HOOVER and MR. MURPHY were sizing SMITH up for a suit. During the first part of the interview THARPE claimed that he and his wife had been planning a vacation for a long time and so after they were dismissed they decided to take the vacation. THARPE later on in the interview advised that they left Louisiana to keep from being annoyed by numerous reporters and investigators in connection with this investigation. He advised, however, that they had nothing to hide; that neither he nor MRS. THARPE was in any way connected with any of the irregularities in Louisiana.

Both the THARPES were questioned at length relative to the political organization in the State of Louisiana. They advised that when HUEY LONG was in power he organized the government in such a way that he would have complete control of all departments, and placed his friends and people he could trust in charge of these departments. However, he did run the departments as he saw fit himself. That after LONG'S death his policies were not continued in the way he had started them. During the interview it was determined that MRS. THARPE was thirty-four years of age, and that the THARPES had been married a year prior to the time of HUEY LONG'S death.

Both MR. and MRS. THARPE denied any knowledge of any Federal violations in connection with irregularities in Louisiana. They denied that they had information relative to the misuse of Federal funds, violations of income tax matters, violations of the misuse of WPA materials and violations which were alleged to have been committed by JAMES MONROE SMITH. The THARPES advised that they were not connected with any of the State officials in any irregularities, and that they were not afraid of anything that might come up. During this interview they were specifically asked a great many questions concerning Louisiana State officials and WPA irregularities. MRS. THARPE was not very talkative; however, MR. THARPE volunteered information which has been set out in this report. MR. and MRS. THARPE advised that they were returning to Louisiana about August 1, 1939, and would be available in Baton Rouge for interview after that date, that they would be willing to give all the cooperation possible in this case. They advised that although they could not furnish definite or specific information, they believed that R. W. LECH, D. M. ELLISON, GEORGE CALDWELL and E. A. CONWAY, Secretary of State, were principally involved in any irregularities in Louisiana.
During the entire interview Attorney NICHOLS did not object to any questions asked the THARPES. He, instead, urged them to answer all questions asked by the writer.

Upon the completion of this investigation a teletype was sent to the New Orleans Office and to the Bureau advising of the information obtained during this interview.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana

July 18, 1939

Mrs. W. A. THARP, son of ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, employed by HUEY LONG as Secretary in 1934 and continued in capacity when LONG became Governor of Louisiana. In 1939 was appointed Secretary of State to fill unexpired term and when office was filled by election 1933 was appointed to position of Supervisor of Public Accounts, name of which Department changed to Collector of Internal Revenue. This department divided and W. A. COOPER placed in charge auditing department by Governor R. W. LEACHE. GROSJEAN believed R. M. ELLISON and COOPER influenced LEACHE in dismissing her, but advised LEACHE gave no reason. Advised she collected five per cent contribution from employees her department which she submitted to J. M. FUNZIN, but no information Federal funds involved. Advised R. J. COSTELLO, about her Washington, Mrs. Go Round, contacted her, denied making statements about President ROOSEVELT or Attorney General MURPHY which appeared in Mrs. Go Round column. Has scrapbook of newspaper clippings about Louisiana from beginning HUEY LONG regime and has photostat copies of original clippings she gave to LONG's widow after LONG's death but denied having other documents. Denied any knowledge of Federal violations by State officials and associates, and denied being connected any irregularities.

W. A. THARP, former Secretary Louisiana State Tax Commission, advised collected five per cent contribution employees his department, claiming he gave same to ELLISON. THARP advised he kept complete accounting these collections but no Federal funds involved. THARP denied information irregularities Louisiana State University. Believed LEACHE,
August 10, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of each of the following correspondence between Mr. Vincent Moseley, of Opelousas, Louisiana, and the Department, which was referred to the Bureau, and it is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Hans A. Viosca, New Orleans:

Letter dated June 1, 1939, to the Attorney General from Mr. Moseley, together with the two newspaper clippings inclosed therewith.

Copy of letter dated June 7, 1939, to Mr. Moseley from Mr. McGuire.

Letter dated July 3, 1939, to Mr. McGuire from Mr. Moseley.

Letter dated July 14, 1939, to Mr. McGuire from Mr. Moseley.

Copy of letter dated July 18, 1939, to Mr. Moseley from Mr. McGuire.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
Department of Justice
Office of the Assistant to the Attorney General
Washington

July 24, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Attached find correspondence from Vincent Moseley, Boagi Building, Opelousas, Louisiana, commenting upon the current situation in Louisiana. It was thought that you might desire to have this correspondence in your files in connection with the investigation which is now being conducted in that State.

Matthew F. McGuire,
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General
Vincent Moseley, Esquire,
Boeundi Building,
Opelousas, Louisiana.

Dear Mr. Moseley:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of June 1, addressed to the Attorney General, in which you offer your services without compensation to the Government.

The Attorney General has asked me to thank you for your generous offer but he regrets that there is no suitable opening at this time.

Very truly yours,

Matthew F. McGuire
Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General

2-JnH
VINCENT MOSELEY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
BOOGI BUILDING
EPEOUSAS, LA.

June 1939.

U.S. Attorney, Franklin Murphy,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

May I ask that my service, without compensation, to decide in any way possible, to make the state any birth a better place in which to live. Most respectfully, I call your attention to Justice Thurgood, to whom信用 directed matter in line with the enclosed editorial. To quote the Justice from the above note, "Let's create an actual personal act." I hope you will pardon the addition of closure to identify myself with their regard, how remote the scene may be from there for good. I say pardon my present situation. As it regards a proposed Federal Act, my position while practicing in Chattanooga, which he received. Unfortunately, I sought thereof to facilitate a County Judge, the City Manager as it concerns the expenses of the Court. My sacrifice was carefully made to secure passage of the bill, but the Legislature will not favor the job and unconstitutional judgment.

Please be assured of my hearty approval of what you have said but let us have action.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

62-32509 - 21X1
Vincent Haseley, Esquire  
To:  
From: Opelousas, Louisiana  

Dear Mr. Haseley:

This acknowledges the receipt of your letter of recent date. Please be assured that your comments with respect to the subject matter contained therein have been carefully noted.

Very truly yours,

Matthew P. McGuire  
Matthew P. McGuire  
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General
Mr. Mathew F. McGuire, Esq.
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McGuire:

On July 3rd, I directed to you a letter which I that day registered, returned receipt requested. Since receipt signed by you has not reached me and I have not heard from you during the past ten days I should appreciate learning if you received letter mentioned.

Yours very truly,

VINCENT MOSELEY

VM:dbh
Mr. Matthew L. McGurny,
Acting Assistant to the Atty. Gen.,
Dept. of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. McGurny:

I thanks you for your letter of June 7th. In reply to your earlier letter to Atty. Gen. Murphy, offering such funds assistance of my services or might be accepted to the end of ridding this State of corruption under the present Administration. It seems now from the press that your department is actively interested in pursuing many cases. I call your attention to the present slot machine method of governing this Parish. As you know, slot machines are forbidden in this State, however, in St. Landry Parish, they are regularly "spotted" by the Collectors of the District Attorney, two of these Collectors being Robert A. Dunn and E. W. Dillen, an ex saw miller for S. M. Blankenship Co., the funds collected profit to them fifty thousand a year. Understand that Dunn deloner his Collections to Bryant Little, a man (by appointment of D. Austin Constant, Dist. Atty.) the Parish Trustee of Opelousas, when this cash is kept in the vault. Of these funds be used for purely political purposes prior to election times, or as assumed, as stated above, that are think the vote in this Parish is purchased, you will appreciate the menace opportunity we have here for honest government. May I ask that you verify through your Department the situation as presented? I could not get in with the local police in which posture reflects that of the State, as a whole.

[Signature]

[Date]
Mr. Matthew F. McGuire  
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McGuire:

I thank you for your letter of June 7th in reply to my earlier letter to Attorney General Murphy, offering such humble assistance of my services as might be accepted to the end of ridding this state of corruption under the present administration. It seems now from the press that your department is actively interested. In passing, may I call to your attention the present slot machine method of governing this Parish. As you know, slot machines are forbidden in this State, however, in St. Landry Parish they are regularly "hi-jacked" by the collectors of the District Attorney, two of these collectors being Robert Preston Dunbar, an ex meat cutter, and E. H. Dillon, an ex saw filer for Bowell Blanks Lumber Co., the funds collected probably totaling fifty thousand a year. I understand that Dunbar delivers his collections to Bryan Littell, Receiver (by appointment of L. Austin Fontenot, District Attorney) of the Parish Trust and Savings Bank of Opelousas, where this cash is kept in their vault. If these funds be used for purely political purposes prior to and at election times and it be assumed, as stated to me, that one third of the vote in this Parish is purchaseable, you will appreciate the meagre opportunity we have here for honest government. May I not ask that you verify through your Department the situation as presented? Frankly, I am "fed-up" with the local condition which probably reflects that of the State as a whole.

My best wishes for your success,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Vincent Moseley
DIRECTOR
MONTE HART MAIL FRAUD, LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING. MONTE HART AND JAMES MONROE SMITH INDICTED FEDERAL GRAND JURY NEW ORLEANS TODAY ON FOURTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY SIX DOLLARS SEVEN CENTS MAIL FRAUD INDICTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH SALE OF BIENVILLE HOTEL, HART RELEASED ON FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR BOND TODAY. REQUESTS IN PETITION OF JAMES MONROE SMITH TO HAVE HABEAS CORPUS AD PROSEQUendum MODIFIED DENIED BY JUDGE BORAH TODAY. USA NEW ORLEANS CONTEMPLATING MAIL FRAUD INVESTIGATION IN CONNECTION WITH REISSUE OF NEW ORLEANS LEVRE BOARD BONDS, WHEREIN IT IS ALLEGED THAT CONTRACT WAS LET TO NEUMAN HARRIS COMPANY, NEW ORLEANS BROKERS, TO REISSUE BONDS WHICH CONTRACT WAS SUBLET TO PARTNERSHIP COMPOSED OF HARRIS, BEAUCHAMP, ROBERT NEUMAN AND HENRY J. MILLER, THE REISSUED BONDS SATURDAY FIVE YEARS EARLIER THAN OLD BONDS PURPORTEDLY SAVING LEVRE BOARD ON HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS. PARTNERS ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED FOUR HUNDRED FORTY ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS COMMISSION ON BOND TRANSACTIONS. VOLUNTARY COMMITTEES OF CITIZENS OF LOUISIANA REPORTED MEETING THROUGHOUT STATE AND DEMANDING IMPARTIAL PROBE BY STATE OFFICIALS OF ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN LOUISIANA. JOE BATES, CHIEF OF POLICE, BATON ROUGE, DISCHARGED TODAY.

SACKETT

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC 023

RECORDED
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FEDERAL BLDG 4th FLOOR
45
ACHILL  
August 16, 1939


Special Agent in Charge  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Res: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of the following described communications, which were received by the Attorney General and referred to the Bureau, and it is desired that one copy of each be furnished by your office to United States Attorney T. A. Wiccan, New Orleans:

Anonymous letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 13, 1939, together with its inclosure, from "A New Orleans Schoolgirl."

Letter dated at Crowley, Louisiana, July 18, 1939, from Frank M. Atwood.

Anonymous letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 10, 1939, together with newspaper editorial entitled "Darest Thou Then."

Anonymous letter on letterhead of Hotel Gardner, Shreveport, Louisiana, received in Office of the Attorney General on July 21, 1939, from "American."


Anonymous letter dated at New Orleans, June 23, 1939, beginning "Congratulations on your desire to investigate."

Anonymous letter dated at Shreveport, Louisiana, July 16, 1939, from "American."

Letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 18, 1939, from Mrs. William A. West, Jr.

Letter dated at New York City, July 18, 1939, from J. C. Corbin.

Letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 18, 1939, from L. J. Raphael, Sr., together with its inclosure.

The letters from Mr. Atwood, Mr. Bailey, Mrs. West, Mr. Corbin, and Mr. Raphael have not been acknowledged.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure
New Orleans, La., 
July 18th, 1939

Hon. Frank Murphy, 
United States Attorney General, 
Washington, D.C.

Dear Attorney General;

I am enclosing a copy of letter written you on June 12th. At that time I deemed it not advisable to sign this letter, but developments in Louisiana to-day seem to indicate that you mean business.

Now, Mr. Murphy, you as head of the Department of Justice in United States have a very difficult problem on your hand with the Louisiana Politicians.

As an American I understand that the Constitution of this Country guarantees me Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness within any state of the Union. But in Louisiana unless you are on good terms with the Politicians you are denied your Constitutional Rights.

I am the father of nine children and that is my chief reason for taking such an interest in the future of Louisiana.

Hoping that you will be guided by God's Will, I am

Yours truly,

J. J. Raphael, Sr.
124 S. Alexander st.
New Orleans, La.
New Orleans, La.,
June 12th, 1939

Hon. Frank Murphy,
United States Attorney General,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Attorney General;

The writer of this letter is very amused at the publicity given on your recent visit to Louisiana.

I have been following up your records as Governor of the State of Michigan and was very much impressed with your honesty and sincerity of purpose, that is the reason that I am taking the liberty to write you on one of the most important questions in Louisiana to-day.

We, the Honest People of Louisiana, have no voice in the selections of our Candidates, they let us have a so-called election and the man of the street to-day in Louisiana knows that our so-called election is nothing more than a fake. As the present clique of Political Thieves in Louisiana cannot afford to give up their office, because if any fair investigation in Louisiana is held it will mean the complete clique (with few exceptions) into the United States Penitentiary.

I am enclosing numerous clippings from the New Orleans States (one of our most reputable papers) some of these pertaining to you, Mr. Murphy, and in fact invites your investigation of affairs in our Fair State.

In one of your addresses in Louisiana you mentioned that the Federal Government will strike hard at gambling, vice and recasting wherever same is found.

For your information, Mr. Murphy, I will site you several well known facts as they exist in Louisiana to-day. We will take first the W.P.A. for one instance that I know of in the Parish of St. Tammany one of The Governor's Henchman a (Mr. Gelbach or Helbach) an ex-bootlegger and also suspected in one of the recent murders during the prohibition era here. I understand from very reliable sources that the Negro Laborers on the W.P.A. have to pay this man so much per week to hold the job, of course you will think this accusation terrible, but that is a small graft compared to the graft of Governor Leche and His political clique who forced State employees to pay for ten and fifteen subscriptions to their fake paper called the Progress, and also making every State employee pay them 5% to hold their position, they do not even exempt the employees of our Charity Hospital in New Orleans, they go so far as to include the Garbage Man who collects garbage cans early in the morning on their lists of forced contributions and subscriptions to their fake papers. No one can do business with the State unless they advertise in this fake paper.

At one of the so-called Federal Investigations in New Orleans Senator Connally of Texas presiding, Mr. Earl Long at one time one of our Champions for Good Government made the sworn testimony in Federal Court that he did not know how elections were conducted in Mexico or Russia, but he knew quite well the so-called elections in Louisiana.
Mr. Earl Long is a Brother to the late Senator Huey P. Long. The late Huey P. Long being responsible for all the graft and corruption that is existing in Louisiana to-day.

With the exception of his brother Earl, the entire political clique in charge of Louisiana to-day are all died in the wool Huey P. Long men they lived on graft and thrived on graft all their lives.

To give you a fair example of the wretched conditions that the people are forced to live under in this State. Some years back when Huey Long was at the zenith of his power he had men assailed within our Legislative Hall when our Legislature was in session in Baton Rouge. A Mr. Boudreaux had his skull fractured by one of Long's Henchman and State employee. Hon. Francis Williams was assailed in the Legislative Hall at Baton Rouge by one of Huey Long's Henchmans and Huey gave him (his hired man) hell because he did not do a better job of it. Earl Long knows this and was one of the chief causes of him opposing the policy of Huey Long and his clique. In further relating to the attack on Francis Williams this man was tried in the District Court of Baton Rouge for assault and found guilty as charged and steps proudly forward with a pardon signed by the late Governor Allen, this pardon being written and signed before the man was even tried. United States Post Master General Farley knows Mr. Francis Williams personally and these facts can be proven upon investigations.

As for gambling and slot machines in Louisiana they are found everywhere and are controlled by the politicians of this State, no competitors are allowed to operate. The Race Track of New Orleans is owned by this political clique not withstanding the fact that we have a Law on the Statute Books prohibiting book making on Race Horses, there are at present over one thousand of them in operation in the State to-day; but this is not so bad, I have bet on Race Horses myself, but low and behold the politicians of our City and State close these shops during the racing season in New Orleans during the three months that they operate here permitting them to operate and accept bets nine months in the year while races are conducted out of this State. The reason for this is they will not have any competition and during the three months that the small bookies are closed most of them get on our un-employment list. The politicians now own and operate the Base Ball game here, and force state and city employees to purchase tickets on the Opening Day. No fooling, they actually compel them to buy or else.

As for the Federal Court the People of Louisiana are also losing faith. At one time we all had recourse to that Honorable Court. Take for instance the Trial of Abraham Shushan, this man admitted under Cross Examination to receiving over Four Hundred and Twenty-eight thousand dollars ($428,000) graft on the excavating and foundation in the construction of the Shushan Airport. A picked or fixed Jury here found him not guilty. Upon investigating from the Hon. Judge W.H. Barrett United States Judge of Augusta Ga. he can enlighten you more through on this case. Just imagine a blow like this on a community of FREE BORN AMERICANS who expected to see Shushan behind the Bars of Justice where he rightfully belongs, now what happens. United States Attorney here being forced to drop cases pending against SED CURRIE, JULES LISSER, JIMMY NOE and other higher ups in charge of Louisiana at that time.

Now you may wonder to yourself why a citizen of United States born
in the sixth congressional district of Louisiana was shot on his way home after one of his political meetings. The writer of this letter listening on the radio a few nights after this had happen was amazed to hear the Governor of our State ridicule Mr. Morrison and in fact made the bold assertion that he shot himself and put a little tomato catsup to make it look good, not withstanding the fact that said Mr. Morrison was treated at the Touro Infirmary of New Orleans for this wound in the arm.

I could go on citing instances after instances of such assaults in Louisiana and nothing has been done. Conditions like this breeds disrespect for the Law and gives even good true blooded Americans Communistic ideas. Now, being raised a Catholic, and believing in the Teachings of my Church, I deem it my duty to write you about these facts as these politicians in Louisiana are so shrewd they have even deceived our Clergy. I would like to sign this letter, but of fear of reprisals against me and my family I will have to let this letter go to you unsigned, but in the event you will do your duty as Attorney General of the United States and have an open investigation into the affairs of this State, I will then make myself known to you, as the situation now stands the next election in this State no matter who wins THE PEOPLE LOSE.

AN AMERICAN

P.S. If the Oil situation in Louisiana is investigated it will make the Tea Pot Dike scandal look like a grain of sand on the Rocky Mountains. This industry is controlled by the Politicians too. Three years back Leche was an unknown and had no means at all, TO-DAY HE IS A MILLIONAIRE

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS ENCLOSED

July 18, 39

This letter written by L.J. Raphael.

New Orleans
August 11, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sirs,

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of a letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 27, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General by an anonymous individual who signs himself "A well wisher in the interest of justice," together with two photostatic copies of the newspaper clippings forwarded therewith, the letter and its inclosures having been referred to the bureau by the Department. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Gene A. Viosca, New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure
New Orleans, La., July 23, 1939

Honorable Frank Murphy,
Attorney General of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

All independent Democrats, interested in honest governmental institutions and the integrity of the Judiciary and the Department of Justice, were greatly encouraged by your two recent addresses, one advocating a merit system and condemning the "spoils system", and the other emphasizing the sacredness of the Judiciary and the law enforcement machinery of the Federal Government, and the necessity for maintaining its integrity and the public respect for it, if democratic institutions are to survive. I note recently, however, that in discussing the Louisiana situation, you stated that you had every confidence in Mr. Viosca, the local District Attorney. You are a busy man and it is impossible for you to keep informed with regard to local Federal officials all over the United States. In fairness to you, and in order that you may not be deceived, I am enclosing for your information various clippings with reference to the dismissal, several years ago, by the Federal Government of the indictments against various political leaders of the Long machine, who had been indicted for income tax frauds, many of whom have been indicted in connection with the present investigation.

As a matter of history, when Senator Long and his local machine were making vicious attacks on President Roosevelt, and a pro-Roosevelt Faction was organized in Louisiana to combat the local
machine, Mr. Rene Viosca was appointed by President Roosevelt as United States Attorney on the suggestion of the Anti-Long leaders (including J. Y. Sanders, his law partner), on the theory that he was opposed to what the National Administration then considered the local corruption of the Long machine, and could be relied upon to carry on the Federal investigation and prosecutions relentlessly and fearlessly. Senator Long attacked Mr. Viosca's honesty and integrity on the floor of the United States Senate, and succeeded in blocking his confirmation by the Senate. Mr. Viosca was then appointed as Acting United States Attorney by the local United States Judge, pending the filling of the vacancy by Presidential appointment. The local Federal Grand Jury returned the indictments in question during the period that Mr. Viosca was acting as United States Attorney, and while Long was living, and before the National Administration and the Long machine had arranged the now famous "peace pact." After Mr. Long's death and the defeat of the pro-Roosevelt faction in the State election, the local political leaders dined at the White House, according to Associated Press reports, with the President, Attorney General Cummings and Mr. Farley, and after a conference, a "peace pact" was announced. Shortly thereafter, the papers reported the resignation of various members of the pro-Roosevelt faction holding jobs, and these jobs were then filled by the Long machine. Mr. Viosca, evidently a party to and sympathetic with the announced "peace pact," appointed two Assistant United States Attorneys prominently connected with the Long machine, and shortly thereafter, Mr. Viosca dismissed the various cases, with the statement that the cases were "weak." Attorney
General Cummings announced that he approved of Mr. Viosca's action. These were the same indictments which were brought by a courageous Federal Grand Jury with Mr. Viosca and several Assistant United States Attorneys General sitting in during the period when the Long machine was attacking Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Seymour Weiss, whose indictment was dismissed, later headed the Louisiana delegation to the Democratic National Convention, with the announcement that it would support President Roosevelt.

Following the events I have outlined Mr. Roosevelt again designated Mr. Viosca as United States Attorney, and sent his name to the Senate, and although his appointment had been previously blocked by the Long machine, he was confirmed, this time with the unqualified endorsement of both Louisiana Senators, who were prominent members of the Long political machine.

The circumstances are such that it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the Department of Justice was prostituted by Mr. Viosca, for political expediency and in order to obtain his appointment, although his original appointment was obtained on the theory of his opposition to conditions existing in this State, and that he could be depended upon to vigorously investigate and prosecute all of the Long machine political wrong-doers.

Even before the instance I have related, Mr. Viosca had held lucrative local attorneyships in Louisiana under succeeding opposing factions, and had demonstrated a marvelous acuteness and ability to change his position at the proper and most expedient time.

You are to be congratulated, therefore, in sending some of your Special Assistants to Louisiana to assist in the pending investiga-
tion and prosecutions.

I have only briefly summarized the situation. The enclosed clippings give more elaborate details.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

in the interest of Justice.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Attorney General of the United States.

Honorable Frank Murphy.
U.S. Attorney General Murphy,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

here visiting the World Fair, was glad to read in the morning paper that the Federal Grand Jury indicted Seymour Weiss, we in Louisiana have been afraid to utter one word of protest against this Gang of scoundrels for fear of being bodily injured.

The Government should also get after Geo. Dansiger, a Negro partner of Mayor Maestri who conducts the numbers games, also the Mayor Maestri, who was never elected by the people, who owns two hundred pieces of property, fifty per cent of which are occupied by whores, and he pays no tax on this property. You will have to have some clever men stay in Louisiana sometime to get the low down on this gang.

What Louisiana needs is Voting Machines, so the decent respectable people can run for office, knowing that the votes will be counted in an honest manner.

Yours truly,

J.C. Corbin.

Dict.

9/16/39
Lt., N.C.

ACH

RECORDED & INDEXED
August 2, 1939

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

New Louisiana State Officials: Information Classified

Assistant Attorney General C. John Boggs recently submitted to our New Orleans Office an anonymous communication received by him, which, because of the information contained therein, and at the suggestion of Mr. Boggs, is quoted below:

"CHRISTENBERRY, HERBERT W.,

Assistant United States Attorney
New Orleans, La.

His father was a letter carrier, in the employ of the N. O. Postal Service; educated in public schools of N. O. (No college training) Worked as a youth for J. K. Newman and Co. New Orleans Brokers, and at one time worked for them in New York. On his return (about 1922 or 1923) he is estimated to be about 37 years of age—while working in N. O., with his brother, Karl J. Christenberry, in the public multigraphing and envelope addressing business—studied law at Loyola University, finishing his course about 1928 when he was admitted to the bar."

"Practiced with indifferent success, and his brother, Karl J. Christenberry having become Secretary to Senator Long (about 1931) he was given some small attorneyship under the State of Louisiana. No real duties to be performed, just a political sinecure.

"Took an active interest in Long's campaigns, and on the death of Long both Herbert and his brother continued with the Locht machine. In 1935 he was appointed an Assistant District Attorney under Charles A. Byrnes District of Orleans Parish—Byrnes being a political underling of Long's who was illegally appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hast. Mittie Stanley who resigned because Long's controlled Legislature took from his power to appoint his Assistants and office force. The law provided 840, 393, 1931 to be held to fill this vacancy, but the law was ignored."

[Signature]

61
Memorandum for the
Attorney General

Remained under Byrnes until a little more than a year ago (about 1936) when he was appointed an Assistant U.S. Attorney when Viosca
gave all patronage of his office to the machine for the promised support by the machine of His candidacy for the new
Federal Judgeship.

He [Christenberry] has no ability whatever, and boasts of his loyalty
to the State Machine, even having gone so far as to resign from Viosca's candidacy for the Federal Judgeship, saying, of right, one
me with my party, as I don't know what they will do. Had a bad
reputation in the State Court, as it was shown in the graftings. I
know that he visited a man and wife in the city of New Orleans and
told them that unless they gave him $100 to police proseque a case
in his Section of the Criminal District Court, he would send the
prisoner [a negro] to the penitentiary, although the charges in
another Section had been police prosequeed because of insufficient
evidence, but he, Christenberry, stated that the other trial assist-
ant had been paid off, and he would get his, too. This man and
wife, who are personally known to me, would not make a statement to
this effect in writing, although they told it to me, personally,
fearing persecution by the State machine.

I have had no contact with him since his becoming an Assistant U.S.
Att'y, but it is believed he is pursuing the same tactics there. It
is rumored in N. O. that he nightly reports the doings of the Grand
Jury, and the facts obtained in his investigations outside of the
jury room, to Maestri. The public has no confidence in him in this
investigation, one citizen stating it was like assigning the fox to
investigate the disappearance of the chickens from the hen roost,
when the fox turns up with a mouth full of feathers.

J. SKELLY WRIGHT

Assistant United States Attorney

Out of law school not more than six years [Loyola University]. About
28 years of age, and a nephew of City Commissioner Joseph Patrick
Skelly whose reputation and grafting propensities (so reputed) have
been covered in the report on gambling. He is an unknown, has no
particularly ability and was his appointment to the sell out by
Viosca to the State machine when they promised him a Federal Judge-
ship. Viosca turned out four assistants (anti State machine) when
he switched his politics, and appointed four state machine men. It is believed he daily reports his facts to Masseri and his uncle, Joseph P. Skelly. He also refused to endorse Viscosa's candidacy for Federal Judgeship, saying, like Christenberry, he would first have to find out where the Leche machine stood. His mother, who is a sister of Joseph P. Skelly, is a ward captain or leader in one of the uptown wards, and is on the payroll. All the family of the Skelly's are on the payroll.

HILARY J. GAUDIN
Assistant United States Attorney

"Out of law school about ten years. Holds a BA and LLB from Loyola University, of which college his brother, Father Gaudin, a Jesuit Priest, is President. I know nothing definite against his integrity and as far as grafting is concerned, though a local Attorney told me that since becoming an Assistant U. S. Attorney he told a prisoner, charged with a narcotic violation that if he, the prisoner, secured the services of his, Gaudin's brother (Felix J. Gaudin, Atty. in a. o.) that he would not be indicted, which the prisoner wisely did, and was not indicted. The fee paid was reported to be $750. Whether there was a split or not, I would not say. He was one of the administration's men who went in with the Viosca sell out, and later refused to endorse Viosca for the Federal Judgeship unless it was O. K. with the Administration. Prior to his appointment, he did not actively practice law here, working for the Pan Am Oil Co., and holding down a job on the dock board at $150 a month, merely receiving his check and cashing it, doing no work for it at all, as he was employed as a salesman by the oil company and it took up all of his time. It is believed he daily reports the progress of the investigation to Masseri. A witness recently summoned said he was afraid to tell any of the Assistants (or even Viosca) all he knew, as they would carry it, and the crowd in Baton Rouge might have him 'knocked off'."

Mr. Roget indicated he was perturbed by the following sentence appearing in paragraph 5: "I know that he visited a man and wife in the city of New Orleans and told them that unless they gave him $100 to mollie proseguire a case in his Section of the Criminal District
Court, he would send the prisoner (a lady) to the penitentiary, although the charges in another section had been nullly proscribed because of insufficient evidence, but he, Christenberry, stated that the other trial assistant had been paid off, and he would go_t his, too, but was undetermined as to just what action would be taken, however believing that the communication should be passed on to you.

Mr. Hogue also indicated he intended to use Assistant United States Attorney Herbert W. Christenberry in the trials in the cases in connection with this investigation.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
1308 Masonic Temple Building  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
July 29, 1939

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

Mr. C. JOHN ROGGE, head of the criminal division of  
the Department of Justice, who is presently in New Orleans,  
submitted the following anonymous communication received by  
him in New Orleans:

CHRISTENBERRY HERBERT W.  
Assistant United States Attorney  
New Orleans, La.

His father was a letter carrier, in the employ of the N. O.  
Postal service; educated in the public schools of N. O. (No  
college training)—Worked as a youth for J. K. Newman and Co.  
New Orleans brokers, and at one time worked for them in New  
York. On his return (about 1922 or 1923)—he is estimated to  
be about 37 years of age—while working in N. O. with his  
brother, Earl J. Christenberry, in the public multigraphing  
and envelope addressing business—studied law at Loyala University,  
finishing his course about 1926 when he was admitted to  
the bar.

Practiced with indifferent success, and his brother, Earl J.  
Christenberry having become Secretary to Senator Long (about  
1931) he was given some small attorneyship under the State of  
Louisiana. No real duties to be performed, just a political  
sincurve.

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of Long both Herbert and his brother continued with the Leche  
machine. In 1935 he was appointed an Assistant District Attorney under Charles A. Byrne, District of Orleans Parish—
Byrnes being a political underling of Long's who was illegally appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dist. Atty. Stanley who resigned because Long's controlled Legislature took from him power to appoint his Assistants and office force. The law provided that an election should be held to fill this vacancy, but the law was ignored.

Remained under Byrnes until a little more than a year ago (about 1938) when he was appointed an Assistant U. S. Attorney when Viosca gave all patronage of his office to the State Machine, in return for the promised support by the machine of his candidacy for the new Federal Judgeship.

He (Christenberry) has no ability whatever, and boasts of his loyalty to the State machine, even having gone so far as to refuse to endorse Viosca's candidacy for the Federal Judgeship, saying 'it might embarrass me with my party, as I don't know what they will do'. Had a bad reputation in the State Court, as it was rumored he was grafting. I know that he visited a man and wife in the city of New Orleans and told them that unless they gave him $100 to nolle prosequi a case in his Section of the Criminal District Court, he would send the prisoner (a negro) to the penitentiary, although the charges in another Section had been nolle prosequed because of insufficient evidence, but he, Christenberry, stated that the other trial assistant had been paid off, and he would get his, too. This man and wife, who are personally known to me, will not make a statement to this effect in writing, although they told it to me, personally, fearing persecution by the State machine.

I have had no contact with him since his becoming an Assistant U. S. Atty. but it is believed he is pursuing the same tactics there. It is rumored in N. O. that he nightly reports the doings of the Grand Jury, and the facts obtained in his investigations outside of the jury room, to Maestri. The public has no confidence in him in this investigation, one citizen stating it was like assigning the fox to investigate the disappearance of the chickens from the hen roost, when the fox turns up with a mouth full of feathers.

J. SKELLY WRIGHT
Assistant United States Attorney

out of law school not more than six years (Loyola University). About 26 years of age, and a nephew of City Commissioner Joseph Patrick Skelly whose reputation and grafting propensities (so
reputed) have been covered in the report on gambling. He is an unknown, has no particularly ability and owes his appointment to the sell out by Viosca to the State machine when they promised him a Federal Judgship. Viosca turned out four assistants (anti State machine) when he switched his politics, and appointed four state machine man. It is believe he daily reports his facts to Maestri and his uncle, Joseph P. Skelly. He also refused to endorse Viosca's candidacy for Federal Judgship, saying, like Christenberry, he would first have to find out where the Leche machine stood. His mother, who is a sister of Joseph P. Skelly, is a ward captain or leader in one of the uptown wards, and is on the payroll. All the family of the Skelly's are on the payroll.

HILLARY J. GAUDIN
Assistant United States Attorney

out of law school about ten years. Holds a BA and LLB from Loyola University, of which college is brother, Father Gaudin, a Jesuit Priest, is President. I know nothing definite against his integrity and as far as grafting is concerned, though a local Attorney told me that since becoming an Assistant U. S. Attorney he told a prisoner, charged with a narcotic violation that if he, the prisoner, secured the services of his, Gaudin's brother (Felix J. Gaudin, Atty. in N. O.) that he would not be indicted, which the prisoner wisely did, and was not indicted. The fee paid was reported to be $750. Whether there was a split or not, I would not say. He was one of the administration's men who went in with the Viosca sell out, and later refused to endorse Viosca for the Federal Judgship unless it was O. E. with the Administration. Prior to his appointment, he did not actively practice law here, working for the Pan Am Oil Co., and holding down a job on the dock board at $150 a month, merely receiving his check and cashing it, doing no work for it at all, as he was employed as a salesman by the oil company and it took up all of his time. It is believed he daily reports the progress of the investigation to Maestri. A witness recently summoned said he was afraid to tell any of the Assistants (or even Viosca) all he knew, as they would carry it, and the crowd in Baton Rouge might have him 'knocked off'.

Mr. ROGUE advised that with reference to Paragraph 5 of the letter, he was somewhat perturbed by the following sentence: "I know that he visited a man and wife in the city of New Orleans and told them that unless they gave him $100 to nolle proseque a case in his Section of the Criminal District Court,
he would send the prisoner (a negro) to the penitentiary, although the charges in another Section had been nolle prosequied because of insufficient evidence, but he, Christenberry, stated that the other trial assistant had been paid off, and he would get his, too.

Mr. ROGGE advised that he was undetermined as to just what he would do with reference to the sentence quoted, that he believed this anonymous communication should be passed on to the Attorney General. Mr. ROGGE advised that he intends using Assistant United States Attorney HERBERT W. CHRISTENBERRY in the trials in the cases in connection with this investigation which are presently pending in New Orleans.

It is requested that copies of the anonymous communication received by Mr. ROGGE be forwarded to the Attorney General, in accordance with Mr. ROGGE's request, if it is agreeable to the Bureau to do.

Very truly yours,

B.E. Sackett
B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

62-978
CWD:EFK
Honorable Frank Murphy  
Attorney General of the United States  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

I join the thousands of residents of Louisiana who ask that you push the investigation of corruption in the state of Louisiana.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

MRS. WILLIAM A. ST. JR.
Dear Attorney General,

Owing to your failure to offer me a position in the

record of Maltese and Chinese to which he is "in the belief of the 75,000 illegal votes cast for N. Y. in N. P. They have been used for years (illegally) in city and national elections. It is now being proposed that a large number of the 75,000 be made to a

my family and dear friend, you now receive 100,000 a month. I have taken the hands of the man in my family to be the money and banks in some trust form.

The boat has among the other things such as

of $50,000 of first mortgage bonds by default in

farmers' mortgages by Henry Long and his friends.

yearly average of the economy of the food for people in the following types of

on all land and ground sold to the state on all

state and federal land, including W. P. A.

she figured P. C. T. Davis in New York the

mill it has been thanks may be owed.

government 100,000 $1,000 and the standard supplies in which

abortion has a 10% interest furnished all the

nique, plots, lots,inside, hand, and technical supplies

of weapons from without competition.

The latter areas are certain the case from

of Maltese to Long and you alone can make your

prophets that 10,000 people are praying for you and

Yours ever.
Please, while you're about the business of washing Louisiana's face with lye concentrate, don't overlook the Sanderson-DeGeneres clique. Scrub the floors and walls of the Shreveport Charity Hospital. Find out why Sanderson is permitted to haul hundreds of dollars worth of food away from the hospital for the private use of his friends, openly, and without so much as a By your leave

Please, help clean up this end of the state as well as the southern rim.
Yours for a real clean-up
A Citizen

8/16/39
Lt. Jn. C.
A&H
62-32509

Section 10
To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to:

SAC NEW ORLEANS

RE LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING YOU ARE AUTHORIZED CONTACT WITNESS SEGUE UPON ARRIVAL AND TAKE HIM TO THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS OFFICE.

HOOVER

Coded and Sent

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

AUG 12 1939

TELETYPE

SENT VIA _________________________ M For ________________________
FBI NEW ORLEANS 8-11-39 7-45 PM EFK
DIRECTOR

RE LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. TWO MAIL FRAUD
INDICTMENTS EXPECTED TO BE RETURNED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY, NEW ORLEANS,
MONDAY AGAINST GEORGE* CALDWELL. SUPT. CONSTRUCTION LOUISIANA STATE
UNIVERSITY, INVOLVING KICKBACKS CALDWELL RECEIVED FROM CONTRACTS
BETWEEN LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND CONTRACTORS. ASSISTANT UNITED
STATES ATTORNEYS, NEW ORLEANS, PROCEEDED TO DALLAS FOR REMOVAL HEARING
ON FREMAN BURFORD, INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY HERE IN CONNECTION
WITH VIOLATION OF CONNALLY ACT, AS BURFORD IS FIGHTING REMOVAL.

RE UNKNOWN SUBJECT, ABE SHUSHAN JURY, OCTOBER 5, 1935, TAMPERING WITH
JURY. TAYLOR SEGUÉ, NEGRO, ONE OF THE JURORS, CALLED THIS OFFICE FROM
WASHINGTON DC THAT HE WAS AT 5120 WASHINGTON PLACE, CARE OF M. T.
MALVAN, TELEPHONE ATLANTIC 0012. UNITED STATES ATTORNEY HERE WIRED
SEGUÉ TO APPEAR IN NEW ORLEANS FOR SERVICE OF SUBPOENA WHICH HE REFUSED
TO DO SO. UNITED STATES MARSHAL, WASHINGTON DC, WAS REQUESTED TO SERVE
SUBPOENA ON SEGUÉ. O. JOHN ROGGE REQUESTED
SEGUÉ LEFT WASHINGTON DC, TIME HE LEFT, THE
OF HIS ARRIVAL HERE. ALSO REQUESTING THAT
ORLEANS HE BE IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED AND BROI
ATTORNEYS OFFICE. IF THE BUREAU AUTHORIZES
ING SEGUES DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON IT IS A
IMMEDIATELY HAVE THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION CONTACT THE UNITED STATES MARSHAL THERE AND CONDUCT THE INVESTIGATION REQUESTED BY ROGGE RELATIVE TO THE DEPARTURE AND THEREAFTER IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE NEW ORLEANS OFFICE OF THE RESULTS. THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THIS OFFICE IF SEQUE SHOULD BE CONTACTED UPON HIS ARRIVAL HERE AND TAKEN TO THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS OFFICE.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC OEC
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
August 11, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: SHIRLEY G. WIMBERLY;
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is a statement by SHIRLEY WIMBERLY entitled "Plot to Seize The State Government," which was distributed in New Orleans.

This statement is being forwarded to the Bureau for information purposes.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge

OWD:AIS
Enclosure
OUT OF MY WAY POOR ONE! MY FATHER IS A MEMBER OF THE CITIZENS VOLUNTARY COMMITTEE.

IT'S HIGH TIME THE TIMES-PICAYUNE REGAINS CONTROL OF LOUISIANA! HUEY LONG AIN'T AROUND TO KEEP US OUT ANY LONGER!!!!!

HURRAH! FOR MISTER STERN!!!

MISTER STALIN--WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE CITIZENS VOLUNTARY COMMITTEE OF LOUISIANA--WE WANT YOU TO GIVE US YOUR BEST IDEAS ON HOW TO TAKE A GOVERNMENT AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE.
Plot To Seize The State Government!

Lying Times-Picayune and Corporation Lawyers Itching to Regain Political Control of Louisiana Which Huey Long Snatched From Then.

A HIT DOG YELPS!

On last Monday night I talked over Radio Station WDSU about a mis-named outfit calling itself the Citizens' Voluntary Committee of Louisiana, which had itself out as an agency to save the State of Louisiana.

The next morning the newspapers carried an item that this Committee had warned Radio Station WDSU that if its owners allow me to tell the truth again over that station that dire and terrible things will happen to it, and they further ask Governor Long to repudiate me. Why? Why pick on WDSU and Governor Long? I made the speech. Not WDSU, nor Governor Long.

This Committee of blue-bloods and corporation lawyers has put a gag on the newspapers so they can't tell the truth. Now they want to shut off the radio so the people of this State can't hear the truth spoken at all. And they want the Governor of this State to throw over his best friends, who have always had his best interests at heart and will at least give him honest and sincere advice when he needs it, and take the members of that bogus committee in as a sort of kitchen cabinet to run the State for him.

Who asks for my repudiation?

Not the poor man or poor woman.

Who asks that my right of free speech be denied to me?

settled and highly publicized situation in Louisiana as a springing board back into political power and control of this State. They have never been able to stop me. The kicking Huey Long gave them many years back when he kicked them out and gave control of this State into the hands of the people of Louisiana.

Before the people started running this State did anyone ever dream of Free School Books in Louisiana?

Was anyone bold enough to believe that we would ever have such things as Homestead exemptions, where a poor man could own his little home and have the tax burden taken off his shoulders?

While these Corporation Lawyers were running this State—the same clique that's raising so much fuss in the newspapers now—did the people enjoy such things as free poll taxes? Did we have thousands of miles of paved roads? While these out-moded aristocrats who turn up their noses at poor people were running this State their way, was this a place where a poor man could get sick without becoming a bankrupt while he was trying to get well again? Did we have a magnificent hospitalization system in Louisiana then, absolutely free to any poor man, woman or child who cannot afford to pay for necessary medical care and attention?

You know as well as I do that we did not. This State was ten thousand miles behind in the march of progress before Huey Long came along.

and corporate interests and they will never in this world attack or criticize one of their own.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I understand that that period of my political life during which I was opposed to Senator Huey Long, is to be used to try to show that I am insincere in the present situation.

Now these birds might as well know right now that I am not going to be put on the defensive. That's an old political trick and it won't work with me. I am merely going to state my position regarding that question and then I do not intend to ever refer to it again.

I supported Huey P. Long in 1924 when I ran for Governor and in 1928 when he ran ago. I took the stump and made many speeches for him. I was still his friend during the dark days of his impeachment. In 1930 he came to New Orleans and made one of the few mistakes he made during his political life. He was misled into joining forces with a man whose name I shall not call, because he is not presently in politics, but who was universally despised by every decent person in New Orleans. I told the Senator I would not be a political bed-mate of that man then or at any other time and I never have. Senator Long, not at that time knowing the situation in New Orleans as well as he came to know it later, insisted on aligning himself with this man and several of his friends and I decided we couldn't go along. And we didn't. And Huey Long himself, when he finally found this man out for the crook he was and kicked him out, told me he had.
SHINETY G. WINDREY

WHERE HAVE THE MICE GONE?

In a town where the population of cats was once the dominant species, a new group of birds has taken over. Thesecourageous, determined birds have become the new rulers of the town, to the delight of their human friends. The birds have enforced a strict code of behavior among the citizens, and their presence has brought a sense of peace and order to the town.

These birds have also implemented a system of justice, with a council of elders who make decisions based on the needs of the community. The birds have also begun to communicate with the humans, teaching them about the importance of living in harmony with nature.

The citizens of the town have embraced these changes, and the once chaotic community is now a peaceful and thriving place. The birds have become the new leaders, and their presence has brought a sense of hope and prosperity to the town.

In this new era, the citizens are grateful for the change, and they look forward to a future of peace and prosperity under the leadership of their avian friends.
MEMO RANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: SHIRLEY GERARD WIMBERLY
INFORMATION CONCERNING

There is enclosed herewith for your information a copy of the report of Special Agent J. O. Peyromme, New Orleans, Louisiana, dated August 7, 1939.

There is also enclosed herewith a transcription of a talk made by Shirley Gerard Wimberly on August 7, 1939, which was recorded at the New Orleans office by means of the Ediphone dictating machine.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

Aug. 7, 1939
9:45 A.M. E.D.

[Signature]
On Monday evening, July 31, 1939, subject over broadcasting station WDSU, New Orleans, Louisiana, delivered a political speech in which he attacked the Honorable Attorney General FRANK MURPHY, his aides, and Federal investigators for their activities in the investigation of certain matters in the State of Louisiana. Investigation developed subject is individual practicing attorney at New Orleans; not outstanding lawyer; graduate of Loyola Law School; born New Orleans August 2, 1899; admitted to Louisiana Bar June 13, 1924; admitted practice United States District Court, New Orleans, December 3, 1928. Newspaper accounts mentioned subject as law associate of Governor EARL K. LONG. United States Attorney RENN VIOSCA, New Orleans, informed that Governor LONG contacted him and Mr. O. JOHN ROGGE, Assistant Attorney General, August 2, 1939, and disapproved subject's radio speech. JAMES H. MORRISON, Hammond, Louisiana, organizer for the Louisiana Farmers' Protective Union, avowed anti-Louisiana administration citizen, bitterly attacked subject for his radio speech and particularly warned subject to leave the Honorable Attorney General, FRANK MURPHY, his aides, and decent and honest citizens of Louisiana alone, or he would put him in his place. Bureau informed by teletype of these developments.
On the evening of July 31, 1939, subject, SHIRLEY GERARD WIMBERLY, delivered an address over broadcasting station WDSU, New Orleans, Louisiana, during which address he characterized Federal investigators in Louisiana, engaged in the investigation of Louisiana affairs, as "payroll boys", and criticized the Honorable Attorney General, FRANK MURPHY, for fooling around with the State's rights. WIMBERLY also criticized Mr. O. JOHN ROGGE, Assistant Attorney General, for his presence in New Orleans, in connection with investigation of Louisiana affairs, and made remarks in his speech to Mr. ROGGE that his boss, Mr. MURPHY, might want to run for President on the Democratic ticket and, if so, there might be a few of us Louisiana boys who will take the stump in other states and tell the people of the Attorney General's activities in the State of Louisiana in connection with affairs of the state.

For information, subject maintains an office in the Pere Marquette Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, Room 1012, and on the panel of the door of this room number appears the following:

"LAW and NOTARIAL OFFICES
EARL K. LONG
SHIRLEY G. WIMBERLY
Clem H. Schert
NICOLE E. SIMONEAUX
HARRY T. WILKINS"

The records of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana, show that SHIRLEY G. WIMBERLY was enrolled to practice in the United States District Court on December 3, 1928.

The confidential records of the Louisiana State Bar Association, Whitney Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, show that SHIRLEY G. WIMBERLY, born at New Orleans, Louisiana, on August 2, 1899, was admitted to the practice of law on June 13, 1924, and is a graduate of Loyola University's Law School, New Orleans; that the subject joined the said bar association on July 3, 1924, and was dropped on April 9, 1926, on account of non-payment of dues. Mr. W. W. YOUNG, Secretary of the Louisiana State Bar Association, and associated with a very prominent law firm, stated that subject is not an outstanding lawyer; that very little is known of the subject by him.

The city directory for the City of New Orleans for the year 1939 shows SHIRLEY G. WIMBERLY as a lawyer, with office at Room 1012, located at 150 Baronne Street, New Orleans, Louisiana (this is the Pere Marquette Building); resident address, 5655 Rosemary Place, New Orleans.
The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau, Incorporated, American Bank Building, New Orleans, contain a report dated February 19, 1937, in the name of SHIRLEY GERARD WIMBERLY, which report sets out information that this individual resides at 5655 Rosemary Place, New Orleans, is a native of New Orleans, about thirty-eight years old, married, and in business for himself in the practice of law at Room 1012 Pere Marquette Building; that the subject has been an attorney since 1924, is a graduate of Loyola University, 1924; that his character is well regarded, and his record of thrift is only fair, that his worth is little. As to real estate, the report shows that on September 9, 1936, the subject purchased a piece of property at Rosemary Place for $5,542.72, and paid cash of $400.00 and assumed a mortgage of $4,777.00. The said report also shows that three suits in the amounts of $300.00, $124.00 and $20.00 were filed against the subject during the years 1930 and 1935, against which judgments were rendered. This report shows that the subject seems to have succeeded in building up a fair clientele which apparently yields him a living, although no definite estimate of his income could be obtained, and that, in addition to his law practice, he also holds the position of Assistant Attorney for one of the State departments, which pays him a moderate salary.

Mr. RENE VIOSCA, United States Attorney, New Orleans, informed that during the regime of HUY P. LONG subject SHIRLEY WIMBERLY was connected or aligned with FRANCIS WILLIAMS, candidate for mayor of the city of New Orleans, and that WILLIAMS was a bitter opponent of HUY P. LONG; that the WILLIAMS faction used WIMBERLY considerably in the political fight against HUY P. LONG, and that WIMBERLY was considered erratic and vicious. Mr. VIOSCA informed that he was appointed United States Attorney in New Orleans in the year of 1933, and that at that time subject WIMBERLY was a very active candidate for appointment as Assistant United States Attorney; that the FRANCIS WILLIAMS crowd got NICOLE E. SIMONETEAUX, an attorney of New Orleans, to talk to him relative to WIMBERLY'S appointment for the position of Assistant United States Attorney, and that he, Mr. VIOSCA, told Mr. SIMONETEAUX he would not have WIMBERLY because he was not level-headed enough, and was too erratic and abusive, and that his acts in political activities did not qualify him for the position. Mr. VIOSCA informed further that WIMBERLY'S reputation is shady from hearsay information. Further, Mr. VIOSCA informed that on Tuesday, August 1, 1939, Mr. EARL CHRISTENBERRY, Secretary to Governor EARL K. LONG, from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, telephoned to his brother, Mr. HERBERT W. CHRISTENBERRY, Assistant United States Attorney, at New Orleans, that Governor LONG disapproved of WIMBERLY'S speech the night of July 31st, and that the Governor would visit the United States Attorney in person to make known his views relative to WIMBERLY's speech. Mr. VIOSCA stated that on Tuesday afternoon, at about five o'clock, Governor LONG personally appeared at his office and in the presence of Mr. C. JOHN ROGGE, Assistant Attorney General, disavowed or disapproved the WIMBERLY speech, and that on this occasion Governor LONG stated that
N. o. #62-987

WIMBERLY was never a law partner of his, but that WIMBERLY only had desk space in the same office which he, Governor LONG, had occupied in the Pere Marquette Building; that WIMBERLY only shared office expenses the same as other attorneys in that office.

On Wednesday afternoon, August 2, 1939, Mr. JAMES H. MORRISON, of Hammond, Louisiana, organizer for the Louisiana Farmers' Protective Union, and bitter toward the Louisiana State Administration, delivered a radio address over Station WBO of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and WDSU, New Orleans, Louisiana, in which he particularly criticized WIMBERLY for his radio speech of July 31st. In this speech MORRISON accused WIMBERLY of being a polliwog and worthless character, and bitterly warned him to leave the Honorable Attorney General, FRANK MURPHY, his aides, and the decent and honest citizens of the State of Louisiana alone. In plain words, Mr. MORRISON admonished WIMBERLY that if he had anybody to jump on to jump on him, as he, MORRISON, would very quickly and readily put him in his place, the same as he had done before. Mr. MORRISON in his speech spoke highly of the splendid work the Attorney General and his aides were doing in the State of Louisiana.

Mr. RENE VIOSCA informed that although he did not hear WIMBERLY'S speech and was only told of what WIMBERLY had said by some of his assistants, he would independently or any investigation conducted by this office endeavor to secure from the WDSU radio station a copy of WIMBERLY'S speech for study and for the purpose of determining whether or not WIMBERLY was in contempt of court; that is, whether his speech contained such matter as to intimidate witnesses, jurors, and so on. Mr. VIOSCA later informed that he had talked to the principals of WDSU radio station and was informed that although they had a copy of WIMBERLY'S speech nothing was contained therein to indicate a violation of any Federal law, and that usually speakers elaborate on matters which are not contained in the radio speech, as was the situation in this case.

Mr. VIOSCA informed, however, that nothing further would be done by his office in this matter in view of the information furnished him by the management of WDSU relative to WIMBERLY'S speech.

CLOSED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

On Monday evening, July 31, 1939, subject over broadcasting station WDSU, New Orleans, Louisiana, delivered a political speech in which he attacked the Honorable Attorney General FRANK MURPHY, his aides, and Federal investigators for their activities in the investigation of certain matters in the State of Louisiana. Investigation developed subject is individual practicing attorney at New Orleans; is not outstanding lawyer; graduate of Loyola Law School; born New Orleans August 2, 1899; admitted to Louisiana Bar June 15, 1924; admitted practice United States District Court, New Orleans, December 2, 1928. Newspaper accounts mentioned subject as law associate of Governor EARL K. LONG. United States Attorney RENE VIGODA, New Orleans, informed that Governor LONG contacted him and Mr. O. JOHN ROGER, Assistant Attorney General, August 2, 1939, and disapproved subject's radio speech. JAMES H. MORRISON, Hammond, Louisiana, organizer for the Louisiana Farmers' Protective Union, avowed anti-Louisiana administration citizen, bitterly attacked subject for his radio speech and particularly warned subject to leave the Honorable Attorney General, FRANK MURPHY, his aides, and decent and honest citizens of Louisiana alone, or he would put him in his place. Bureau informed by teletype of these developments.

5 Bureau
2 New Orleans
RE: WILLIAM GEORGE HELIS

Reference is made to your letter dated August 11, 1939, wherein you advised that Assistant Attorney General O. John Rogge has requested an investigation relevant to a possible perjury violation on the part of William George Helis.

The Bureau instructs that you advise Mr. Rogge that the requested perjury investigation, having arisen from a matter not within our original investigative jurisdiction, should be referred to the agency having investigative jurisdiction over the substantive complaint.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 11, 1939

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

Dear Sir:

RE: WILLIAM GEORGE HELIS

With a view of possible prosecution for perjury
and false oath by WILLIAM GEORGE HELIS in connection with the se-
curing of a passport or citizenship papers and in registering a
yacht, Assistant United States Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE
has requested this Bureau to make investigation to specifically
determine the following:

1 - Was WILLIAM GEORGE HELIS a voter in Kankakee, Illinois in 1916?

2 - When he enlisted in the National Guard in Missouri about 1918,
did he make any statement as to citizenship?

3 - Did HELIS try to register a yacht at New Orleans in 1936 which
was denied him because of his not being a citizen and did HELIS
then transfer title to his son so it could be registered?

4 - Obtain photostatic copy of A.G.O. Record of HELIS relative to his
registration in Kansas City, Missouri, June 5, 1917, and show
claimed he was not a citizen.

The file in the office of the United States Attorney
at New Orleans has been reviewed and it contains quite a bit of
 correspondence between the Director of Naturalization at New Orleans
and the Kansas City office of the Naturalization Bureau, being the
file apparently built up by the New Orleans office of the Naturalization
Bureau. By letter of June 6, 1936, the New Orleans office of the
Naturalization Bureau requested information from the Kansas City office
of the same bureau as to whether HELIS had filed declaration of intention
at Morocco, Indiana, in 1913, he having indicated that such had been the
case and that thereafter he had voted at Kankakee, Illinois, and con-
sidered himself a citizen, he claiming he was told by election officials
that one having filed declaration of intention papers was entitled to
vote. Advice was received from the Kansas City office to the effect
that up until September 1, 1921, aliens having filed declarations in
Indiana did vote. A letter dated July 21, 1938, from GEORGE J. HARRIS,
District Director, Kansas City, Missouri, to the District Director of
Immigration and Naturalization at New Orleans, advises that records of
the National Guard are kept at Jefferson City, Missouri, and that all
records on draft are at Washington, D. C., and suggests that the
Adjutant General's Office be requested to furnish photostatic copy of
HELIS'S questionnaire. A letter under date of July 26, 1938, from

COPIES DESTROYED
To the Director, 8/11/39

LEWIS M. MEANS, Adjutant General of the State of Missouri, Jefferson City, Missouri, to GEORGE J. HARRIS, Kansas City, Missouri, advises that the record of WILLIAM GEORGE HELIS shows that he was born at Tropea, Greece, and that nothing was said about his citizenship in joining the National Guard. A letter under date of July 13, 1938, from J. F. DELANEY, Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, New Orleans, to the District Director of Immigration and Naturalization at Kansas City, Missouri, advises that HELIS claims he was born October 17, 1886, at Tropea, Greece. He claims declaration of intention was filed at Morocco, Indiana, July 24, 1912, in the county court, and that he was told by election officials that he was to all intents and purposes a citizen; that he believed that he was a citizen until recent date when he tried to get a passport and learned that he was still a citizen of Greece. HELIS also claimed he enrolled in Company L, 7th Regiment, Missouri National Guard, at Kansas City, Missouri, within two months after the United States entered the war, and that he served in the National Guard more than a year; that he was furloughed by Captain JONES, Commander of his company, to leave the state soon after the armistice was signed. He also claimed he was registered for draft at Kansas City, Missouri, in 1917, and was exempted because he was the father of four children. A letter dated August 9, 1933, Adjutant General’s Office, War Department, to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, United States Department of Labor, Washington, D. C., indicates that the records of WILLIAM GEORGE HELIS, Order #129, Serial #1450, registered June 5, 1917, with Local Board #1 at Kansas City, Missouri, home address - 517 West 10th Street, Kansas City, Missouri - date and place of birth: October 15, 1886, Tropea, Greece; occupation - cook. He stated he was married and was a declarant alien, a citizen or subject of Greece. He executed a questionnaire and claimed classification in Class 4A (a man whose wife and children are mainly dependent on his labor for support). Under Series 7 - "Citizenship", of the questionnaire, he stated he was a citizen of the United States, and that he did not claim exemption because he was not a citizen. He did not fill out the remaining questions under Series 7. The local board classified him in Class 4A. The records do not show that he was inducted into or otherwise entered the Military Service of the United States during the World War.

In the file was contained a photostat of application "Master's Oath" - "License of an Enrolled Vessel" - under date of October 5, 1936, signed by WILLIAM GEORGE HELIS. A part of the oath indicated that he stated he was a citizen of the United States, born in Illinois. There was also noted in the file a copy of a bill of sale from EDWARD BUTTNER TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, 203 Broadway, Houston, Texas, selling the yacht (DOCTOR BRINKLEY) to WILLIAM GEORGE HELIS.

It was learned that a photostatic copy of the AGO Record of WILLIAM HELIS, as mentioned in this letter, had already been
To the Director, 6/11/39

requested of the Adjutant General's Office by the United States Attorney's Office.

ALFRED TETON, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, who is handling this matter, advised that the local Immigration office had apparently had so much pressure put on them to permit citizenship papers to be issued to HELIS that they would, perhaps, not make a good investigation. He did not indicate, however, that they had ever been requested to investigate this matter.

WILLIAM HELIS, according to the best information available, is presently in Greece, negotiating for some oil wells. WILLIAM HELIS owns or is connected with a number of oil companies in Louisiana and is reported to be associated with ROBERT MAESTRI, the present Mayor of New Orleans.

In view of the fact that this perjury or false oath grows out of matters not within the original investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, it is requested that this office be advised whether to proceed with the investigation. Mr. ROGGE has requested that it be expedited.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

JVB: sh

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY
August 14, 1939

ACHILL

62-2364, 249, 287, and 248
RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sirs:

There are enclosed herewith two photostatic copies of the following described communications, which were received in the Office of the Attorney General and referred to the Bureau, and it is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans:

Letter dated at Shreveport, Louisiana, August 2, 1939, from Mr. Donald Scott, together with its inclosure.


Letter dated at Shreveport, Louisiana, August 3, 1939, from United States Attorney Harvey G. Fields, Western District of Louisiana, together with its inclosure.

The letters from Mr. Scott and Mr. Fields have not been acknowledged by the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

Inclosure AUG 13 1939 *

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Shreveport, Louisiana,
August 3rd, 1939.

Honorable John O. Rogge,
Assistant Attorney General,
& U.S. Attorney's Office,
New Orleans,
Louisiana.

My dear Mr. Rogge:—

I sent you copy of letter written this morning to Vloesca.

All other matters which affect the Western District have been transmitted to Mr. Paul Hansen at Baton Rouge, in accordance with your letter of some few weeks back.

Mr. Bull, of Fort Worth, has had his engineer present in our office and taken all FWA reports.

Mr. C.C. Crawford, with the Treasury Department, who has established offices in Shreveport, had a conference with me for several hours yesterday and went over all income tax matters that had been reported to us.

The Federal Agents, representing the Department of Interior and Hot Oil Division, under Mr. Martin, of Killmore, Texas, also arranged a conference between myself and their agents at Shreveport yesterday, and we have given data, information and reports turned in up to date, but today there was added to them the Cotton-Valley operations.

I remain ready to co-operate with you and Attorney General Murphy and if you think it advisable I will come to New Orleans and confer with you any time you suggest or deem it advisable.

The public in North Louisiana are in the main and in the majority exceedingly favorable to the investigations and are openly commending the Department of Justice.

The radio talk and attack made upon
yourself and the Attorney General is very much regretted and
resented in this section of the state and the general public
is looking to our department for complete and efficient
investigations.

Remaining ready to co-operate in anyway
possible, I am,

Yours respectfully,

Harvey C. Fields, U.S.
Attorney - Western District of
Louisiana.

hcf/m.
Uphold Their Arms!

NO LOUISIANIAN ever need hang his head in shame at the record Louisiana men and women have made whenever a war began in which this state was involved. Once the shooting started, Louisianians were there. Whether the flag that waved above them was the flag of France, Spain, the United States of America or the Confederate States of America, the call to arms always found Louisiana men ready to fight. Louisiana women backing them to the utmost. Louisiana courage, endurance, stand written in the pages of history in the red of Louisiana blood.

Today the call to arms sounds for every citizen of Louisiana. It is not a thank God the call to shoulder rifles and march into the carnage of battlefields amid the thunder of guns. Though that would be easy, with bands playing, bugles blowing, flags fluttering, new uniforms, decorations and glory ahead, compared to entry into the conflict that rages through this state today.

The call that sounds to every Louisiana citizen today is a call to fight something worse than war, if anything could be worse than war. Louisiana's enemies in any war have been open and known, easy to identify by their own uniforms and flags. These peacetime enemies of Louisiana are in our midst. We must fight their betrayal of public trust, which is treason at home. We must fight men who call themselves Louisianians, but who have debauched and beamed at the home and abroad, the name of the state that is home to us all. For years they have flaunted that debauchery in the faces of decent citizens. They have stolen and bragged about it. They have laughed and "wise-cracked" with cheap witticisms at every protest honest and honor have voiced. Arrogantly they have refused to answer questions; they have denied the public the sight of public records supposed to show where public money went. They have acted as if they believed this thing would last forever. But they are not laughing now.

In the United States postoffice building in New Orleans a United States grand jury sits in session today. With it sits O. John Rogge, assistant United States attorney-general. You can reach him at the United States Postoffice Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, by letter or by personal call. He will hold in strictest confidence any information you give him. He will give you the fullest protection of the United States of America. These veteran federal investigators will seek out on the trail of the clues that you can supply. They have the authority, the ability, to command answers of those who have laughed in your faces when you have asked questions; who have told you: "The fishing is good at the mouth of the Mississippi River."
1. Proceeds from Jefferson Parish school bonds. Land purchased from school board members and politicians far in excess of value. 1939

2. $35,000 Jefferson Parish school pay roll released by Canal bank 1938.

3. 10,000 left over in Jefferson parish school funds. 1937-38.

4. Materials and contracts: Kenner gymnasium, Jefferson Parish school fuel, janitors' bathrooms and other school supplies.

5. Approximately 100,000 royalty belonging to Jefferson Lake oil collected by the state in a suit against Jefferson salt co.

6. Registration in St. Bernard and Orleans parishes.

7. 50 - 100 a day collections from gambling houses, Jefferson parishes and St Bernard parishes. Real owner of slot machines

8. Make offs from oil stations and jobs. Vic Perez of Jefferson parish collects 1/2 of a teacher's salary for his daughter. She is in college, not teaching.

The money is said to have been deposited to a personal account. 5,000 to Jefferson Parish Review. Addie alone should have paid for it

Why does the Federal Gov. not require all states to use voting machines so that politicians cannot through their spies and experts can not check upon the votes of an individual.
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Louisiana, James O'Connell, and possibly others are involved.

Richard Lecce, doctor James Shaw, Assistant Attorney General of the Continuity Act in whose St. Bernard, former Governor

Confidentially that a grand jury presently investigating violations

attorneys from office USA Rene Avossa, New Orleans, informed

drops attempts to quash charges of bribery, New Orleans District

returned federal bail New Orleans today Mathew S. Branniff, attorney

being started in western district of Louisiana. James Monroe Smith

indictment investigation of, CPA, Continuity Act and income tax violations

Louisiana in investigation into corruption in Louisiana. Newspapers

Louisiana General Murphy his assistant's, and the good people of

speech bitterly denounced, immediately in his radio address and defended

station WDSU, New Orleans, and WJO, Baton Rouge, last night in radio

farmers protective union, a monopoly, Louisiana through broadcasting

of similarly immediate. James Monroe, organizer of Louisiana

long, through newspapers, made statements destroying radio program

Louisiana state officials information concerning

FBI New Orleans 8-3-39

2000

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Letter

Aug 3-39

Communications Section

R. A. Ogden of Nashville

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Decreed copy
BRIEFLY THE FACTS ARE THAT SEYMOUR WEISS ADVISED EAST TEXAS OIL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE HE WOULD HAVE TO PAY HIM TEN CENTS PER BARREL TO RUN OIL. WEISS AND RICHARD LECHE THEN HAD ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF LOUISIANA OCONNOR COME TO CONFERENCE WHERE HE WAS REQUESTED TO RENDER LEGAL OPINION, AND WAS ADVISED BY WEISS INVESTIGATION HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE. ROBERT MAESTRI WAS IN HOT SPRINGS ARKANSAS AT THE TIME RECUPERATING FROM SICKNESS BUT HE SIGNED THE ORDER THERE BASED ON THE LEGAL OPINION OF OCONNOR. MAESTRI NOW DENIES HE KNEW WEISS WAS TO GET TEN CENTS PER BARREL AND STATES HE WOULD NOT HAVE SIGNED PT HAD HE KNOWN THIS. WEISS GOT ONE HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS, GIVING REPRESENTATIVE EAST TEXAS OIL COMPANY FOURTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS, LECHE SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND KEPT A LIKE AMOUNT. LECHE IN INCOME TAX RETURN SHOWS NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS OF THIS CAME FROM WEISS AND INCOME TAX RETURN OF WEISS SHOWS HE PAID SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO LECHE. THE FOREGOING OCCURRED IN NINETEEN THIRTY SIX. SINCE RECEIPT THIS INFORMATION O. JOHN ROGGE INFORMED THAT HE HOPES TO HAVE RETURNED ON MONDAY THREE INDICTMENTS THESE MATTERS NAMELY ONE INDICTMENT AGAINST
PAGE THREE

RICHARD LECHE AND SEYMOUR WEISS CONTAINING TWO COUNTS, ONE CHARGING CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE THE CONNALLY ACT AND THE SECOND COUNT CHARGING CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD THE UNITED STATES.

THE SECOND INDICTMENT WILL BE AGAINST SEYMOUR WEISS FOR VIOLATION OF THE INCOME TAX LAW WHICH INDICTMENT WILL BRING OUT TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS REPORTED IN THE NAME OF LOUIS LESAGE. THE THIRD INDICTMENT WILL BE AGAINST SEYMOUR WEISS AND LESAGE CHARGING CONSPIRACY TO EVADE INCOME TAX NAMELY CHARGING LESAGE WITH ASSISTING WEISS IN EVADING HIS INCOME TAX.

βΣ SACKETT

END

OK FRI WASH DC GMC
August 2, 1939.

Hon. Frank Murphy,
United States Attorney General,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The Bossier Taxpayers Association wishes to congratulate you and your associates upon the splendid work you are doing in bringing about a clean-up in Louisiana's political affairs.

Enclosed is a clipping from a Shreveport newspaper published July 25, which gives details of a suit filed here against our police jury. It is our Association's desire and request that you do not confine your investigations to New Orleans and the Baton Rouge but that you enlarge them to include Shreveport and Bossier Parish.

Our Association stands ready and willing to assist you in any possible way.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

DONALD SCOTT

RECORDED & INDEXED.

[Stamp]
Law Violations
By Jurors Cited;
Injunction Asked

Shreveport Contractors, Citing Failure of Jurors to Advertise for Bids, Allege Long List of Law Violations; Charge Sales Made by DeGeneres and Williamson Firms to Parish for Equipment

Listing numerous allegations of law violations by the Caddo parish police jury, a petition was filed in district court yesterday by the Associated General Contractors of America, Shreveport chapter; seeking an order restraining the jury from buying equipment or doing new construction work in excess of $500 without advertising for bids.

Described in the petition were: purchases by the police jury of equipment from Earl G. Williamson, Vivian, president of the jury; alleged purchases from DeGeneres brothers of which Harold DeGeneres, police juror, is a partner; construction of a fish pond on land belonging to L. J. Mathieu; thorough partial use of parish-owned equipment; alleged improvements in Jacobs subdivision in which stockholders of the Shreveport Railway company own considerable property while J. L. Worsham, railways company employee, is chairman of the police jury road committee. Several other allegations having to do with police jury expenditures were contained in the petition.

The petition asserts that the contractors, residents of Caddo parish, are entitled to compliance by the police jury with the laws of the state concerning new work so that they may bid on such construction. The injunction is asked in the name of Ashton Glassell, president of the local association of contractors.

The petition declares that the jury has never advertised for bids on new construction; has sometimes accepted bids on equipment which (Continued on Page Eleven)
were not low bids; that the jury purchase of other prices into sums of not less than $500 to evade the law, and that unless the jury be restrained the position contractors and the general public "will suffer irreparable injury."

The filing of the petition came after L. Percy Carrot, attorney representing the contractors, had twice appeared before the police jury asking that they pass a resolution to "abide by the law in the future." The jurymen refused to do this, taking the stand that they would be admitting guilt by such a resolution and stating that they had not, to their knowledge, violated any law.

Review Laws on Bids

The suit cites that part of the state law which is allegedly violated. First, as 22 of 1898 of the general assembly of the state of Louisiana as amended by act 16 of 1920 which provides:

"A police jurors shall be interested directly or indirectly in any contract the payment of which comes out of their parish; nor shall they be allowed to deal in their parish paper."

It also sets out act 73 of 1920 as amended by act 190 of 1928 and by act 30 of 1935, fourth session, which provides:

"All public work to be done exceeding the sum of five hundred dollars, by any parochial, municipal or other public corporation or political subdivision of the state, or for the purchase of materials or supplies to be paid for out of public funds shall be advertised and let by contract to the lowest responsible bidder ...." The act further provided that the procedure herein shall not be necessary in cases of extreme public emergency or for labor necessary and used in the maintenance of public works built and completed."

Excavated Private Lake

The sixth paragraph alleges that the police jury recently excavated a private lake or fish pond on land belonging to L. J. Matthey for the price of $849.91 and that your petitioner is informed and believes and, therefore, alleges that the said price is one-third the price that he should have been charged.

The pond is described as being 80 feet long, 75 feet wide at the base and from $3 to 17½ feet deep; that the levee or embankment is five feet wide, and further alleges that a drag line belonging to the parish

Street Work in Subdivision

The petition says that the police jury exhausted and blacktopped three streets in the Sunflower subdivision of Caddo parishes pursuant to an agreement between the police jury and the owner of lots that adjoin said streets, by which the owner agrees to pay for the materials used, the police jury donating the necessary labor and use of its equipment, the materials used being $1,617, which sum the owner is to pay the police jury.

Furthermore, the petition says that the police jury does not do much labor and use of its equipment amounted to $1,617 and that the police jury proposes to, and has agreed to charge and blacktop, other similar circumstances at the streets in the Sunflower subdivision.

This allegation concludes with:

This allegation concludes with the statement that the chairman of the road committee of the Caddo police jury J. L. Worsham, an employee of the Shreveport & Northern company, and that the stockholders of the Shreveport & Northern company own much property in the Sunflower subdivision.

Expenses Not Itemized

It is further alleged that G. S. Williamson and J. L. Worsham and other members of the jury make trips on official business with their expenses paid by the police jury. Their expenses, the petition states, are not itemized since the jury "takes a position that it is impractical to render itemized statements due to the fact that it is often necessary for them to entertain, and that theyrender accounts of total expenses."

Taking up the police jury convention this year at Baton Rouge, it is alleged that 12 jurors were elected to attend the convention but that expenses of 22 persons were paid, so that the sum of $80 was paid, as expenses, by the police jury to the 22 persons, and that the 22 persons included "highway policemen, the custodian of the courthouse, the superintendent of the parish farm, the secretary and treasurer of the police jury, and his entire office force, and the entire office force of the highway department of the parish of Caddo."

It is alleged, in citing trip expenses, that the sum of $1,300 was spent by the Caddo police jury in connection with the convention in Baton Rouge alone.
The petition asserts that the present administration of the Caddo parish police jury has never advertised for bids for the construction of any work or project whatsoever, that it has never received bids in connection with these, that it has never let or awarded a contract for the construction of any work or project to the lowest bidder.

Take Bids Not Lowest

It also alleges that when equipment costing more than $500 is purchased by the jury some times advertisements for and receives bids... but that “equipment is some times purchased from a bidder who is not the lowest bidder.”

In the year 1925, the petition says, the jury spent $280,957.17 for roads and bridges; and from Jan. 1 to May 31, 1928, it spent for the same purposes $116,930.51, neither of which sums included expenditures for materials and equipment. During the above-mentioned periods of time, the petition says, many purchases were made by the police jury exceeding $500; that... said purchases were made without advertisement.

Informing bids and without receipt of bids; that therefore no purchase was made from one who was the lowest bidder.

In these expenditures, it is alleged, materials were purchased for the construction of new works... and that exorbitant prices were paid by the police jury for materials and equipment.

In the illegal construction of new works by the police jury, the costs of which exceeded the sum of $500, “about twice as much is expended as would be expended if the police jury would comply with Act 73, of 1905, as amended.” (Calling for bids).

$1,250 Spent on Construction

Going further into compensation paid members of the jury for meetings and expenses of trips, the petition says that before the present administration of the police jury all such expenditures amounted to about $1,200 per year. Expenses of conventions then were paid out of jury members own funds, the petition said.

Amounts spent by the present jury are far in excess of this, it is alleged. The sum of $1,250 having been spent in connection with the Baton Rouge convention alone.

Additional new projects which allegedly have been completed which cost in excess of $500 and for which there was no advertising of bids were the Seventeenth street road, two bridges costing $3,594.41 over streams that intersected the road, Blanchard road, $14,443.38; Blanchard-Dixie road, $14,443.38; Jewella road, $3,600.04; and Midway road, $12,510.86.

The 18th paragraph alleges that no contract was awarded the lowest bidder on the Springridge road, a maintenance camp for the parish, which includes a residence for John Nash, maintenance foreman. The cost of the camp is said to have been $2,199.87.

Mr. Williamson is in Havana, Cuba, on vacation. Mr. Clawson, secretary of the jury, is in Baton Rouge attending a meeting of a State Police Jury association fact-finding committee. He was asked if he had any comment to make, and he said none.
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<td>Mr. Emmer</td>
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Miss Lahue requested me to come to the Attorney General's office at once and when I arrived there the Attorney General had in his office a Mr. "Paddy" Costello, whom he introduced to me as a man who had soldiered with him during the War. The General stated that Feldman, Costello, a Mr. Moriarty who was also in the room but who evidently was not with Costello, and the Attorney General had all been soldiers together. Briefly, it appears that Costello has resided in Louisiana for a number of years and desires to furnish in extended detail the story of the corruption of two million people in Louisiana. It appears however that the individual who has most of the detailed information is a Mr. Alexis who has accounts, books and records, etc. The Attorney General has agreed to see Alexis together with Costello at eleven o'clock tomorrow morning but before that time he desires that Alexis and Costello be interviewed and a brief memorandum sent to him. The Attorney General indicated he desired somebody in the Bureau to interview these people, he emphasizing this by saying on several occasions "some persons" and a memorandum furnished him by eleven o'clock tomorrow morning. I have arranged for Mr. Sears and Supervisor Hayden to interview these people starting at once and two Stenographers have been kept in order that a proper memorandum can be prepared concerning the results of the interview.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

COPIES DESTROYED
17 J. SEP 17 1939
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

The Attorney General called about some remarks made by a Mr. Kimberly and I told him the Bureau would get a discreet line on him and find out just what his background is.

R. A. Tans

[Signature]
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
August 9, 1939

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS -  
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto are copies of the three indictments which were returned at New Orleans, Louisiana, August 7, 1939, being described as follows:

(1) United States of America vs. RICHARD W. LECHIE, SEYMOUR WEISS, FREEMAN W. SORFORD and EAST TEXAS REFINING COMPANY.

(2) United States of America vs. SEYMOUR WEISS.

(3) United States of America vs. SEYMOUR WEISS and LOUIS C. LE SAGE.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT  
Special Agent in Charge.
August 7, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I have received the following teletype message from my Special Agent in Charge at New Orleans, Louisiana, which I wanted to transmit to you immediately:

"Re: Louisiana State Officials, Information concerning: James E. Brown, Equities, Inc., who was intermediary broker for Thomas Smiley Smith, advised he had received information from confidential source to effect that if any attack is made by a negro while attending Columbia University and that Teton was telling the negro they will get equal rights. Newspaper stories indicated Teton was formerly connected with the Civil Liberties Division of the Department. From conversations with Teton by Agent of this office prior to receipt of this information, Teton advised he had attended University of Chicago and did not mention having attended Columbia University. It is believed that should this allegation that Teton roomed with a negro be true, and should it be circulated in this section of the country it would have a detrimental effect on cases presently pending here."

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
TELETYPING

NEW ORLEANS 7-27-39 9-17 PM

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. E. E. TETON,
SPECIAL ATTORNEY, CRIMINAL DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, IS IN
NEW ORLEANS TO ASSIST O. JOHN ROGGE, HAROLD ROSENWALD, SPECIAL
ASSISTANT, AND EARL CROWDER, TAX DIVISION, BOTH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
SCHEDULED ARRIVE NEW ORLEANS SHORTLY TO ASSIST IN INCOME TAX CASES.

JAMES MONROE SMITH, GEORGE SEYMOUR WEISS, MONTY HART, J. EMBRY ADAMS
AND LOUIS LESAGE ARE CHARGED IN STATE COURT, NEW ORLEANS, WITH
EMBEZZLEMENT AND SMITH ADDITIONALLY WITH FORGERY AND OPERATING
CONFEIDENCE GAME. DR. JAMES A. CRAY, HEAD OF MINERALS DIVISION OF STATE
CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT AND WILLIAM G. FRANKIN, FORMERLY
LOUISIANA CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER, ADMITTED RECEIVING APPROXIMATELY
THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM OIL COMPANIES, SAID ADMITTING HE PAID NO
INCOME TAX ON THIS. RICHARD W. SCHRAG CALLED BEFORE FEDERAL GRAND
JURY, NEW ORLEANS, TODAY, BUT REFUSED TO WAIVE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS,
AND IS SCHEDULED TO AGAIN APPEAR TOMORROW. NO FEDERAL INDICTMENTS
RETURNED NEW ORLEANS TODAY. STATE GRAND Jury, MONROE, LA., CONVENSED
IN SPECIAL SESSION YESTERDAY TO HEAR TESTIMONY OF IRREGULARITIES IN
CONNECTION WITH LOUISIANA TEASING INSTITUTE, BOSTON, LA.,

RECORDED
INDEXED

62-32509-235

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

JUL 27 1939

39
FBI NEW ORLEANS  8-2-39  555PM  WH

DIRECTOR

RE SHIRLEY GERARD WIMBERLY, ATTORNEY. ACCORDING TO RECORDS OF LOUISIANA BAR ASSOCIATION NEW ORLEANS, WIMBERLY WAS ADMITTED TO BAR JUNE THIRTEEN NINETEEN TWENTY FOUR, JOINED THE SAID ASSOCIATION JULY THIRD NINETEEN TWENTY FOUR, AND WAS DROPPED APRIL NINTH NINETEEN TWENTY SIX ACCOUNT NONPAYING OF DUES. SECRETARY SAID ASSOCIATION STATES WIMBERLY NOT KNOWN TO HIM AND IS EVIDENTLY NOT PROMINENT ATTORNEY. RECORDS OF US DISTRICT COURT, NEW ORLEANS, SHOW WIMBERLY ENROLLED TO PRACTICE IN SAID COURT DECEMBER THIRD NINETEEN TWENTY EIGHT. RECORDS NEW ORLEANS RETAIL CREDIT BUREAU INC NEW ORLEANS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT DATED FEBRUARY NINETEEN, NINETEEN THIRTY SEVEN, SHOWS WIMBERLY THIRTY EIGHT YEARS OLD, MARRIED, INDIVIDUAL PRACTICING ATTORNEY SINCE NINETEEN TWENTY FOUR, CHARACTHER WELL REGARDED, THRIFT FAIR, RESIDENCE NEW ORLEANS. THREE SMALL SUITS FILED IN YEARS NINETEEN THIRTY AND NINETEEN THIRTY FIVE AGAINST WIMBERLY AGAINST WHICH JUDGMENTS RENDERED. SAID RECORDS SHOW WIMBERLY SEEMS TO HAVE SUCCEEDED IN BUILDING UP FAIR CLIENTELE WHICH APPARENTLY YIELDS HIM

Copy to Mr. Taylor
A LIVING. NO DEFINITE ESTIMATE OF HIS INCOME AVAILABLE. SAID RECORDS SHOW THAT HE ALSO HOLDS POSITION OF ASSISTANT ATTORNEY FOR ONE OF STATE DEPARTMENTS, WHICH PAYS HIM A MODERATE SALARY. CREDIT RATING SATISFACTORY.

USA RENE A'VIOSCA, NEW ORLEANS, STATES WIMBERLY DURING REGIME OF HUEY P. LONG WAS CONNECTED OR ALIGNED WITH FRANCIS WILLIAMS CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF NEW ORLEANS AND BITTER OPPONENT OF HUEY LONG, THAT THE WILLIAMS FACTION USED WIMBERLY CONSIDERABLY IN THE POLITICAL FIGHT AGAINST HUEY LONG AND THAT WIMBERLY WAS CONSIDERED ERATIC AND VIOLENT. MR VIOSCA INFORMED THAT WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED AS U S ATTORNEY IN NINETEEN THIRTY THREE WIMBERLY WAS A VERY ACTIVE CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT U S ATTORNEY, THAT THE FRANCIS WILLIAMS CROWD GOT ATTORNEY NICOLE E SIMONEAUX TO INTERCEDE FOR WIMBERLY'S APPOINTMENT AND THAT HE, VIOSCA, TOLD SIMONEAUX HE WOULD NOT HAVE WIMBERLY BECAUSE HE WAS NOT LEVEL HEADED ENOUGH, WAS ERATIC, ABUSIVE AND THAT HIS ACTS DID NOT QUALIFY HIM FOR THE OFFICE OF ASSISTANT US ATTORNEY, ALTHOUGH WIMBERLY IN HIS BELIEF HAS ABILITY AS A LAWYER. VIOSCA INFORMED THAT WIMBERLYS
REPUTATION IS SHADY. MR VIOSCA STATES GOVERNOR EARL K LONG APPEARED AT HIS OFFICE LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND STATED HE WANTED MR O JOHN ROGGE AND HIMSELF TO KNOW THAT HE DISAPPROVED OF WHAT WIMBERLY SAID IN HIS RADIO TALK AND THAT HE, LONG, HAD SENT A TELEGRAM TO HONORABLE ATTORNEY GENERAL FRANK MURPHY TO THAT EFFECT, THAT GOVERNOR LONG INFORMED THAT WIMBERLY WAS NEVER A LAW PARTNER OF HIS BUT THAT WIMBERLY ONLY OCCUPIED SPACE IN THE SAME OFFICE WITH HIM AND OTHER ATTORNEYS AND SHARED OFFICE EXPENSES. MR VIOSCA STATED THAT GOVERNOR EARL LONG STATED HE DID NOT FINANCE THE RADIO EXPENSES FOR WIMBERLY'S SPEECH.

MR VIOSCA OF HIS OWN ACCORD STATED THAT ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT HEAR WIMBERLY'S RADIO TALK THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED WITH HIM BY SOME OF HIS ASSISTANTS, THAT AS A RESULT HE IS UNDER THE IMPRESSION OF THE POSSIBILITIY OF THE EXISTENCE OF A CONTEMPT OF COURT VIOLATION BY WIMBERLY, BUT THAT IN ORDER TO PROPERLY PASS ON THAT MATTER HE PERSONALLY AND INDEPENDENTLY OF ANY BUREAU INVESTIGATION IN THE MATTER WAS GOING TO ENDEAVOR TO SECURE FROM W D S U RADIO STATION HERE A COPY OF WIMBERLY'S SPEECH.

SACKETT
END
FBI NEW ORLEANS 8-9-39 6-31PM AHS

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING O. JOHN ROGGE ADVISED NO VIOLATION DEVELOPED CONCERNING TRANSACTION WITH W. C. FEAZEL AND UNITED GAS COMPANY ABOUT WHICH BUREAU WAS ADVISED YESTERDAY. TODAY ROGGE CONFERRED WITH THIS OFFICE, ADVISING THAT HE WOULD BEGIN TOMORROW HAVING WITNESSES BEFORE THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY IN NEW ORLEANS IN CONNECTION WITH INVESTIGATION OF THE PETIT JURY WHO TRIED ABEL SHUSHAN IN OCTOBER NINETEEN THIRTY FIVE, ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP A JURY TAMPERING CASE.

SACKETT.

END

RECORDED & INDEXED

OK FBI WASH DC JAR
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: POLITICAL CORRUPTION IN LOUISIANA

SAC Listerman called and inquired as to whether any investigation is desired in connection with the Shushan matter in New Orleans.

The guard of the penitentiary at Atalona called Mr. Listerman and advised he has a very deaf colored boy sent up on a forgery of a government check charge who claims to have some information about the letters of 100,000 nada in the Shushan case.

I instructed Mr. Listerman to get all the information the colored boy has and send the same to SAC Sarchett via air mail special delivery.

F. A. TALM
1508 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 7, 1939

Honorable Hans A. Viesen
United States Attorney
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS:
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

There are enclosed photostatic copies of the following communications which have been received by the Department and referred to the Bureau in connection with the above-entitled case, and related matters:

Anonymous letter dated July 19, 1939, signed "American";

Anonymous letter dated July 18, 1939, enclosing newspaper clippings from the New Orleans States and the Times-Picayune;

Two letters dated July 11, 1939 from Miss Agnes E. Lewis and enclosure;

Letter dated July 11, 1939, from Miss Annie C. Lewis;

Letter signed Robert Reed and enclosure;

Letter signed George Harrison;

Letter from J. C. Wigginton, enclosing clipping from New York Sun;

Letter signed T. S. Weber.

Very truly yours,

Enclosures
CWD:ALS
cc-Bureau

INDEXED
B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge

[Handwritten note: 6-2-3257-23]
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 5, 1939

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

Dear Sir:

RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS
Information Concerning

Attached hereto is a copy of the "Farmers' Friend" issued by the Louisiana Farmers' Protective Union, Inc., Hammond, Louisiana, JAMES H. MORRISON being the President of the Louisiana Farmers' Protective Union, Inc.

It will be noted that this paper is given as Volume 2, Number 9, Hammond, Louisiana, August issue. However, this paper was originally published as the issue of July 31, 1939. There was such a great demand for these papers, it was evidently re-issued, being identical to the July 31, 1939 edition except for the indication that the paper is the August issue.

It is reported that another issue of the Farmers' Friend will be published about August 15, 1939, at which time a copy of same will be obtained and forwarded the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure
CWD: sh
#62-976

RECORDED
& ACKNOWLEDGED
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: Special Agent (A) NELSON PERRY; ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that for the past week Special Agent (A) NELSON PERRY has been engaged in investigation in connection with the case entitled "LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS; Information Concerning" and related investigations, particularly investigation of the present petit jury panel in New Orleans.

Due to the expeditious nature of the investigation mentioned, it is anticipated that Agent PERRY will be engaged for at least another 10 days, thereon.

The Bureau will be kept advised in the premises.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge

CWD:ALS
August 2, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

There are attached hereto several teletype messages emanating from New Orleans, New York and Detroit which have not been furnished to the Attorney Generals. I thought you might want to have them in the event he requests you for information upon recent developments in the several cases concerned. It will be noted in the teletype from SAC Sackett dated August 1 that Regan has requested an investigation of a Grand Juror in the belief that there is some leak on the Grand Jury. No action has been taken upon this request.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

RECORDED

[Stamp]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 7, 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FBI NEW ORLEANS 8-1-39 5-55PM VH

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING JAMES MONROE SMITH TRANSFERRED TO STATE CUSTODY BATON ROUGE TODAY BECAUSE HIS DAUGHTER MRS OWEN WARE IS REPORTED CRITICALLY ILL. HE IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO FEDERAL CUSTODY IN NEW ORLEANS THURSDAY.

ELMER IREY, CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE UNIT, BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE, WASHINGTON, ARRIVED NEW ORLEANS TODAY FOR CONFERENCE WITH HIS AGENTS, JAMES ROBERTS, COUNSEL FOR WPA HOUSE SUB COMMITTEE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE NEW ORLEANS TODAY. A B PATTERSON, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, REFUSED PRESIDENCY NEW ORLEANS DOCK BOARD, WHICH POSITION VACATED BY SEYMOUR WEISS AFTER WEISS WAS INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY.

MR ROGGE, HEAD CRIMINAL DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ADVISED REPRESENTATIVES OF OIL COMPANIES TESTIFIED BEFORE FEDERAL GRAND JURY TODAY. THIS BEING DONE IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP A CONSPIRACY OF THE CONNELLEY ACT IN AN ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE ROBERT MAESTRI AND WILLIAM FRANKIN, FORMER CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER, AND POSSIBLY OTHER OFFICIALS.
MR ROGGE REQUESTED DISCREET INVESTIGATION OF J M SPEED, PRESENT GRAND JUROR, BECAUSE OF AN ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION THAT SPEED CONNECTED WITH MUNDETH CORK COMPANY, SOLD BIG ORDERS TO NEW ORLEANS CHARITY HOSPITAL, SO IN TURN SPEED IS GIVING INFORMATION TO SEYMOUR WEISS, ROBERT MAESTRI AND POLITICIANS HERE, ROGGE BELIEVES THERE IS SOME LEAK IN THE GRAND JURY AND THAT SPEED MIGHT BE THAT LEAK.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASH DC WV
Honorably Rene A. Viosca  
United States Attorney  
New Orleans, Louisiana  

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are photostatic copies of the following-listed communications received by the office of the Attorney General:

Postal card postmarked Shreveport, Louisiana, July 12, 1939, 12:30 p.m., signed "A Citizen";

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to Honorable Frank Murphy, signed L. J. Raphael, Jr., 244 S. Alexander Street, New Orleans, Louisiana;

Letter dated June 28, 1939, New Orleans, Louisiana, addressed to Mr. Eden Hardie, Jr., New Orleans, Louisiana;

Letter dated July 19, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, signed "Louisiana Democrat";

Letter dated July 19, 1939, Covington, Louisiana, addressed to the Attorney General;

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, from Mrs. Wm. A. West, Jr.;

Undated letter, addressed to the Attorney General, signed "American";

Letter dated July 16, 1939, signed "American";

Undated, anonymous letter, addressed to the Attorney General, postmarked New Orleans, Louisiana, July 11, 1939, 7:30 P.M.;

Anonymous letter dated July 10, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, together with newspaper clipping;  

AUG. 9, 1939  

[Signature]  

[Redacted]
August 3, 1939

Letter dated July 16, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, signed Frank M. Atwood.

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, signed J. G. Corbin;

Newspaper clipping from The Times-Picayune, June 25, 1939, New Orleans, Louisiana;

Letter dated July 14, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, signed "American";

Letter dated July 15, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, signed "A New Orleans Schoolgirl", together with newspaper clipping.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosures.

cc-Bureau
August 1, 1939

Honorable Rene Victorin,
United States Attorney,
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS – Information Concerning

I have received information from a responsible individual in New Orleans to the effect that there is some apparent irregularity in connection with the issuance of one million dollar Atchafalaya Levee Board bonds. It appears that about a year or so ago this issue of bonds, which was callable at 5%, was called at 5% and was then replaced with long term 5% bonds which were immediately sold for 114. It appears that the brokers, who were White and Dunbar and Seabert and Jones of New Orleans, received as a result of such transaction about $100,000.00.

It is not known who was involved in connection with the issuance of these bonds, nor does the person who furnished me this information have any further data or information of value. He requested that his name be kept in the strictest confidence and, therefore, in accordance with my promise to him, I am not supplying his name in this communication. It may be stated, however, that he is a responsible, substantial citizen in the community, and I am convinced that he has no further information other than given above.

I am transmitting this to you for such action as you deem appropriate. This office is conducting no investigation into the matter in the absence of any jurisdiction therein.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

cc Bureau

RES:sh
62-978

Note: Mr. Clark Salmon, Managing Editor of the Item-Tribune newspapers, New Orleans, furnished me with this information on July 31, 1939.
LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. SHIRLEY C. TIMBERLY IS AN ATTORNEY IN NEW ORLEANS PRESENTLY PRACTICING LAW WITH CLYDE RESEHT. SEHT IS A NEW ORLEANS MOURDER LEADER AND WAS FORMER LAW PARTNER OF GOVERNOR EARL K. LONG. INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED BY THIS OFFICE INDICATES WIMBERLY, SEHT AND LONG STILL VERY CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH EACH OTHER IN ALL RESPECTS. WITHOUT ANY PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT, WIMBERLY TONIGHT, FROM EIGHT THIRTY TO NINE THIRTY, BROADCASTED A TALK OVER THREE RADIO STATIONS, NAMELY, ONE IN NEW ORLEANS, ONE IN BATON ROUGE AND ONE IN ALEXANDRIA, LA. WIMBERLY PAID FOR THE TIME OVER THESE THREE STATIONS. HE APPARENTLY SPOKE TO THE "COMMON PEOPLE" OF LOUISIANA, BITTERLY DENOUNCING THE NEWSPAPERS FOR THEIR CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE LOUISIANA POLITICAL MACHINE AND CALLING UPON ALL THE COMMON PEOPLE TO CARRY OUT THE POLICIES OF HUEY LONG. HE BITTERLY DENOUNCED ATTORNEY GENERAL MURPHY, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROCHE AND HIS STAFF, CHARGING THAT THEY ARE INTERFERING WITH THE RIGHT OF STATE GOVERNMENT BY INQUIRING INTO THE ACTS OF THE STATE ADMINISTRATION. HE CALLED UPON THEM TO CONFINE THEIR INQUIRIES SOLELY TO POSSIBLE FEDERAL VIOLATIONS. HE DID NOT MENTION YOURSELF OR THE FBI IN ANY MANNER. HE CHARGED THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL MURPHY AND ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROCHE AND THEIR AIDS ARE PURE POLITICIANS WHO HAVE ADVANCED TO THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS THROUGH POLITICS. HIS STATEMENTS IN THIS REGARD COULD ALMOST BE CONSIDERED LIBELOUS. HE STATED THAT IF GENERAL MURPHY SEEKS THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION IN THE FUTURE, HE WILL TELL THE WHOLE COUNTRY OF GENERAL MURPHY'S INTERFERENCE WITH STATES RIGHTS IN LOUISIANA. WIMBERLY'S TIRADE INCLUDED STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE RICH CONTROLLED THE NEWSPAPERS THAT THEY WERE LITERALLY WIPING THEIR FEET UPON THE ORDINARY COMMON PEOPLE OF THE STATE AND THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE FOOLED BY THE STATEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE RECORDLED & INDEXED 162 - 3250 1 - 230 NEWSPAPERS AND GENERAL MURPHY'S ASSISTANT, WIMBERLY PROCLAIMED HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR EARL LONG. WIMBERLY INDICATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE MORE BROADCASTS IN THE FUTURE AND THAT HE WILL ATTEMPT TO SUREUP THE TEXT OF HIS TALK AND WILL FORWARD IT TO YOU.
IN VIEW OF TIMBERLY'S APPARENT CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH SMRT AND EARL LONG, IT IS APPARENT THAT EARL LONG MUST HAVE KNOWN OF TIMBERLY'S PROPOSED BROADCAST AND PROBABLY IT WAS FINANCED BY THE STATE POLITICAL MACHINE. TIMBERLY'S TALK TONIGHT TO THE SO CALLED COMMON PEOPLE OF LOUISIANA IS EXACTLY THE SAME TYPE OF TALK THAT HUST LONG USED IN HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES HERE AND WAS DELIVERED IN THE SAME BOMASTIC, EARSPLITTING MANNER USED BY HUST.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASH DC - NV
TELETYPewriter

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-31-39 7-13 PM WH

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING ASSISTANT ATTORNEY

GENERAL ROGUE HAS JUST REQUESTED THAT IT BE DETERMINED IF WILLIAM HELIS,
OWNER OF SEVERAL OIL COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THIS INVESTIGATION, WHO BECAME
A NATURALIZED CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES IN AUGUST NINETEEN THIRTY EIGHT,
REGISTERED THE YACHT NAMED WILLIAM HELIS NUMBER TWO BEFORE HE BECAME A CITIZEN
AND THE DATE OF REGISTRY THEREOF. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER INVESTIGATION SHOULD
BE CONDUCTED.

SEVERAL COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED RELATING TO WPA AND OTHER IRREGULARITIES
IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA. ADVISE IF THESE SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO
USA, SHREVEPORT WHICH IS THE PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN SUBMITTING INFORMATION TO USA
NEW ORLEANS OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC OEO

RECORDED & INDEXED

68-325-9-22
DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. SEYMOUR WEISS
RELEASED TODAY TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR BOND, LOUIS LESAGE TEN
THOUSAND DOLLAR BOND, RICHARD W. LECHE FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR BOND.
IN PURSUANT MR. ROGGE'S REQUEST, THIS OFFICE CONCENTRATING ON
INVESTIGATION SHUSHAN JURY IN EFFORT TO COMPLETE INVESTIGATION
BY WEDNESDAY NIGHT AS MR. ROGGE INTENDS TO CALL WITNESSES BEFORE GRAND
JURY RELATIVE THIS MATTER BEGINNING THURSDAY MORNING. I HAVE EIGHT
AGENTS WORKING ON THIS MATTER.

RECORDED & INDEXED

TONIGHT BETWEEN EIGHT THIRTY AND NINE THIRTY SHIRLEY G.
WIMBERLY BROADCASTED OVER WDSU RADIO STATION WDSU, NEW ORLEANS.
HIS TALK WAS ADDRESSED TO THE "POOR PEOPLE" OF THE STATE AND IN MAIN
WAS A TIRADE AGAINST THE NEWSPAPERS, PARTICULARLY THE NEW-ORLEANS
TIMES PICAYUNE AND THE RICH PEOPLE, INCLUDING CORPORATION LAWYERS AND
ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE MEMBERS. HE CHARGED THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE
TRYING TO GET THE STATE GOVERNMENT AWAY FROM THE POOR PEOPLES OF
LOUISIANA BY LIES THROUGH THE CONTROL OF NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER PROPAGANDA.
HE CLAIMED ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGGE, IN HIS PUBLISHED STATEMENTS:
CONCERNING CRIMES, WAS INTIMATING THE REMAINDER OF THE NATION THAT HOODLUM
TERRORISM REIGNED IN LOUISIANA AND PERSONS WOULD BE TAKEN FOR A RIDE
IF THEY TALKED ABOUT CRIMES. HE DENOUNCED THESE TACTICS, URGING ROGGE
NOT TO BE MISLEAD BY THE NEWSPAPERS AND HIS VANITY FOR PERSONAL

59
PUBLICITY. HE CHARGED THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL MURPHY WAS CREATING IMPRESSION THAT CHICAGO AND KANSAS CITY TERRORISM REIGNED IN LOUISIANA FOR THE PURPOSE OF GIVING HIMSELF REPUTATION AS RACKET BUSTER SIMILAR TO DEWEY AS AID IN HIS PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRATIONS. HE CLAIMED THAT GENERAL MURPHY WAS INTERFERING WITH THE RIGHTS OF STATE GOVERNMENT BY INQUIRING INTO MATTERS OTHER THAN FEDERAL VIOLATIONS AND ADMONISHED HIM TO CONFINE HIS ACTIVITIES SOLELY TO FEDERAL VIOLATIONS.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC OEC

5
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: POLITICAL CORRUPTION IN LOUISIANA

SAC Sackett telephonically advised me that Mr. Rogge while talking to him last Friday had requested the details of the Abe Shusham jury investigation before the report is submitted. I told Sackett this would be satisfactory.

E. A. TANF

[Redacted page]
August 4, 1939

Special Agent In Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sirs:

There are enclosed photostatic copies of the following communications which have been received by the Department and referred to the Bureau. It is desired that a copy of these be furnished to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, for any consideration deemed appropriate by him.

Anonymous letter dated July 17, 1939, signed "American"

Anonymous letter dated July 18, 1939, enclosing newspaper clippings from the New Orleans States and The Times-Picayune

Letter signed Robert Reed and enclosure

Two letters dated July 11, 1939 from Miss Agnes E. Lewis and enclosure

Letter dated July 11, 1939, from Miss Annie C. Lewis

Letter signed George Harrison

Letter from J. C. Wigginton, enclosing clipping from New York Sun

Letter signed T. S. Weber

Very truly yours,

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAIL ED

John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FBI NEW ORLEANS 8-5-3 4-20 PM ALS

DIRECTOR

RE LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING JAMES M. BROWN, EQUITIES, INC., WHO WAS INTERMEDIARY BROKER FOR JAMES MONROE SMITH, ADVISED HE HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE TO EFFECT THAT IF ANY ATTACK IS MADE BY GOVERNMENT OR BY O. JOHN ROGGE ON SHIRLEY WIMBERLY AS RESULT OF WIMBERLY'S SPEECH A STORY WOULD BE CIRCULATED TO EFFECT THAT ALFRED B. TETON, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO IS NOW IN NEW ORLEANS, ROOMED WITH A NEGRO WHILE ATTENDING COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND THAT TETON WAS TELLING THE NEGRO THEY WILL GET EQUAL RIGHTS. NEWSPAPER STORIES INDICATED TETON WAS FORMERLY CONNECTED WITH THE CIVIL LIBERTIES DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT. FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH TETON BY AGENT OF THIS OFFICE PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF THIS INFORMATION, TETON ADVISED HE HAD ATTENDED UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO AND DID NOT MENTION HAVING ATTENDED COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. IT IS BELIEVED THAT SHOULD THIS ALLEGATION THAT TETON ROOMED WITH A NEGRO BE TRUE, AND SHOULD IT BE CIRCULATED IN THIS SECTION OF THE COUNTRY IT WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON CASES PRESENTLY PENDING HERE.

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC OEC
August 20, 1939

Mr. J. J. Buerkle
Special Assistant Attorney General
Nineteenth Judicial District
of Louisiana
Batteau House, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Buerkle,

With reference to your letter of August 19, 1939 advising of your desire to use Federal Bureau of Investigation Document Examiner for the purpose of examining a number of bonds of the Louisiana State University upon which the signature of former Governor O. K. Allen is supposed to have been forged, I would appreciate your furnishing me more specific information concerning the nature and volume of the documentary work to be done. I am particularly interested in knowing how soon it would be necessary to complete this examination, the contemplated date of the trial of this case, and the approximate time that the services of a Document Examiner would be utilized in testifying at the trial of the case. At the present time the volume of work being handled in the Technical Laboratory of the Bureau is such that before I can definitely determine whether it will be possible for the Bureau to conduct this examination it is necessary for me to have an estimate of the amount of time which will be required to perform the work. If you will furnish me with the additional data outlined above, I will then be pleased to give your request for laboratory assistance further consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC - New Orleans
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

You will probably recall me as Assistant U. S. Attorney for many years at Shreveport. I have recently been engaged to assist in the prosecution of Dr. James Monroe Smith and a number of other grafters at the Louisiana State University and elsewhere in the State. I have had a number of conferences with Mr. O. John Rogge and have been cooperating fully in this work.

Among the numerous crimes committed by Dr. Smith was the forgery of former Governor O. K. Allen's signature to about 118 genuine bonds of Louisiana State University. We are going to have to prove this forgery by handwriting experts. I spoke to Mr. Rogge about this and he said that he felt sure that you would be glad to let us have the facilities of the Bureau laboratory and one of your experts on this very important matter. I am writing to know if it is so that you can do this, and, if so, I will send ten specimens of Series A and Series C bonds each for examination of the questioned bonds, and five genuine bonds bearing genuine signatures.

Please let me hear from you as early as possible.

With best regards, I am

Very Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. Fair Hardin, Special Asst. Attorney General.

JFH: GH
Gentlemen:

If every business large and small, if every individual with

ACHILL

RECORDED August 16, 1939

August 12, 1939, be given an income duty

with the same rights as the letter's

and maintain their books and pay taxes, it will

be helpful to the Special Agent in Charge

at New Orleans, Louisiana

on the

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sirs:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies

of the following described communications received by the

Bureau, and it is desired that one copy of each be fur-

nished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A.

Viosca, New Orleans:

Anonymous communication postmarked at

Nashville, Tennessee, July 16, 1939.

Anonymous postal card postmarked at

Shreveport, Louisiana, July 12, 1939, from "A Citizen."

Anonymous communication postmarked at

New Orleans, Louisiana, August 3, 1939, from "Veni Vidi," together with its

inclosures.

Very truly yours,

Inclosure

John Edgar Hoover
Director
FBI
Washington D.C.

Gentlemen:

If every business large and small, if every individual with
a sizable salary in America is compelled by law to show his earning
and pay an income tax why should not those who collect the "rakeoff"
of such vast enterprises as the lottery shops in the New Orleans
area be made to show their books and pay income taxes also.

In the New Orleans area there are easily 100 lottery shops. These shops
are from a hole in the wall to large halls were Nos. are drawn. The
Rakeoff to be paid to (?) to run one of these shops cost from
2.00 a day to $10.00 according to size and neighborhood, and you must
pay or you cant operate. Now 100 lottery shops with an average pay off
of $7.00 a day to (?) that makes about $700.00 a day. A good deal
of money to be split between a few big shots. Now all the wards
leaders and other officials will tell you they dont know a thing
about lottery shops. How can they lie like that when you must go see
them and have their "OK before you can operate.

Now they are beginning to be scared by U.S. agents, if you dont catch
on time they will tell you that there never was any lottery shops in
New Orleans and Uncle Sam will have been cheated of hundreds of
thousands of dollars of good income tax money.

Truly Yours,

Veni Vidi

P.S. The bookies thats big money too.
ACHIL
August 18, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sirs,

Recently, Mr. Harry J. Costello, who resides at the St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, was interviewed by the
Bureau, along with Mr. Ralph Alexis, who was staying temporarily
at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C., and who resides at
4408 Audubon Boulevard, New Orleans. These individuals were
subsequently interviewed by the Attorney General.

The information furnished by Mr. Costello and Mr.
Alexis when interviewed at the Bureau was recorded by stenographers,
and there are being forwarded herewith two copies of the memo-
randum prepared in this connection.

Mr. Costello also furnished the following, two photostatic copies of each being inclosed herewith:

1. A list of various persons who received tax reductions
   by the State Board of Affairs, it being the contention
   of Mr. Costello and Mr. Alexis that any person who
   received a tax reduction from the State Board of
   Affairs would be prejudiced if sitting as a juror
   in any proceeding concerning the present situation in
   Louisiana.

2. A sheet of paper which sets forth information relative
   to Hutchinson serving on the jury in the Shushan income
tax trial, it being noted that he is supposed to have
   been reached by Detective Captain Henry Asset of the
   New Orleans Police.

3. A 7-page statement concerning the power of the local
   assessors of New Orleans.

4. Memorandum entitled "Notes on Some Boat Deals."

Communications Section
Mailed
Aug 18 1939
P.M.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
S. Department of Justice

170 SEP 17 1964
3. Memorandum relative to the income tax cases of Robert S. Keestri, which has a note to Drew (who evidently is Drew Pearson of the Washington Merry-Go-Round) suggesting that maybe Bob Allen could help on this matter.

6. Memorandum concerning the visit of Mr. Joseph Keenan to New Orleans on December 3, 4, and 5, 1938, and a list of those who were present at the time of this trip.

It is desired that one copy of each of the inclosures to this letter be furnished personally to Honorable O. John Rogers, Assistant Attorney General.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Pursuant to the instructions of Mr. E. A. Tamm, I interviewed Harry J. Costello, residence St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, who was temporarily residing at the Mayflower Hotel. Present during the interview was Supervisor Hayden. Mr. Costello communicated with Ralph Alexis, who was temporarily residing at the Mayflower Hotel, and who resides at 4408 Audubon Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana, and they together advised of their reasons for contacting Attorney General Murphy, with whom they had an appointment on August 3, 1939, 11:15 A. M.

The substance of their complaint was taken by two stenographers, and is included as part of this memorandum. A summary memorandum was prepared for the Attorney General over the Director's signature, and was forwarded to the Attorney General prior to the time of the appointment of Mr. Costello and Mr. Alexis on the morning of August 3, 1939.

In addition to the information submitted by Mr. Alexis and Mr. Costello, Mr. Costello presented a list of various persons who received tax reductions by the State Board of Affairs; it being the contention of Mr. Costello and Mr. Alexis that any person who received a tax reduction from the State Board of Affairs would be prejudiced if sitting as jurors in any proceedings concerning the present situation in Louisiana.

Likewise, Mr. Costello furnished a sheet of paper which sets forth information relative to Hutchinson serving on the jury in the Shushan income tax trial. He is supposed to have been reached by Detective Captain Henry Asset of the New Orleans Police. He also furnished a seven page statement concerning the power of the local assessors of New Orleans.

It is noted in these memoranda that there is "Note to Drew", who evidently is Drew-Pearson of the Washington Merry-Go-Round.

There were also furnished the following: Memorandum concerning "Notes on some Boat Deals"; Memorandum concerning the income tax cases of Robert S. Maestri, which has a note to Drew.
suggesting that maybe Bob Allen could help on this matter; Memorandum concerning the visit of Joseph Keenan to New Orleans on December 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1938, and who were present at the time of this trip.

Photostatic copies have been made of these papers, both for the Bureau files and the New Orleans Division for the information of that office.

J. P. Sears
FBI NEW ORLEANS  8-2-39  6PM  WH

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING. O JOHN ROGGE ADVISED E. V. CAMPBELL ASSISTANT TREASURER, YEAH TEXAS OIL COMPANY, STATED THAT HE LEARNED LAST DECEMBER THAT IN NINETEEN THIRTY SIX A COMMISSION OF TEN CENTS PER BARREL WAS PAID FOR PERMISSION TO RUN OIL IN EXCESS OF PRORATION THROUGH PIPE LINES AND THAT SAM MOUR WEISS GOT FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS OUT OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS COMMISSIONS PAID. ROGGE BELIEVES WEISS SPLIT WITH R. W. CECHE, THAT HE BELIEVED THAT IN ORDER TO RUN THE OIL AN AGREEMENT WAS MADE TO PAY THE TEN CENTS COMMISSION, SO BELIEVES A VIOLATION OF THE CONELLEY ACT IS APPARENT.

END

OK FBI WASH DC JAR

DECODED COPY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
AUG 2 - 1939
TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC JAR

RECORDED & INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 3 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

HUEY P. LONG

PART 6 OF 7

FILE NUMBER: 62-32509
SECTIONS: 11 THRU 12
62-32509

Section 11
August 23, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

During the afternoon of August 21st Mr. TOM MANION, 1627 Poplar, Dallas, Texas, no telephone, called at the Dallas Office. He informed me that he had a case of very grave importance to report. The Bureau will recall that TOM MANION is a former Deputy Sheriff of Dallas County, Texas, who was convicted and sent to the penitentiary in connection with the escape of HARVEY BAILEY, notorious kidnaper.

When MANION called at the office he first inquired of me as to whether I had seen FREEMAN BURFORD lately. I informed MANION that I had seen Mr. BURFORD on the sidewalk in front of the Tower Petroleum Building within an hour of the time of his MANION'S call. It may be noted that Mr. FREEMAN BURFORD was recently indicted in New Orleans, Louisiana, with Ex-Governor RICHARD LECHER and Mr. SEYMOUR WEISS for violation of the Connally Hot Oil Act. Mr. BURFORD, during the past week, was released on a writ of habeas corpus by United States District Judge T. W. DAVIDSON.

MANION then went on to inform me that he had received information which had come to him "straight" to the effect that on Friday, August 18, 1939, some kidnappers had kidnapped FREEMAN BURFORD while he was under the influence of liquor at Dallas, Texas, and had taken him to the Roosevelt Hotel in Shreveport, Louisiana, where they held him during Saturday and Sunday, August 19th and 20, 1939, for a ransom of $10,000 with a threat that they would turn him over to the United States Attorney for prosecution if that money was not forthcoming. MANION stated that he could not advise me as to the source of his information because if he did so he would violate a confidence. He did advise, however, that it came to him from a source that was looking for someone to go over to Shreveport to cause the release of Mr. BURFORD. He indicated that in all probability the $10,000 ransom had been paid. I informed Mr. MANION that I would check into the matter.
During the afternoon I got in touch with Mr. Dillard Estes, of the law firm of Chisolm and Estes, 1503 Tower Petroleum Building, Dallas, Texas. Mr. Estes is a close friend of Mr. Burford, as well as his attorney. I advised Mr. Estes of the information which had been received at this office without disclosing the source, and informed him that he, Mr. Estes, might be able to definitely advise as to whether Mr. Burford had been absent from Dallas during the period in question. Mr. Estes stated that the information furnished this office was fantastic to the extreme, and that he, Mr. Estes, had been with Mr. Burford almost continually during the period in question except at night when they slept at their respective homes. Mr. Estes stated that if I so desired he could furnish me with a detailed statement of all the movements of Mr. Burford during that period.

The above is being made a matter of record, and is submitted to the Bureau for its information.

Very truly yours

E. E. Conroy
Special Agent in Charge

KEC: MH
7-0-
cc New Orleans
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 24, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: SHIRLEY G. WIMBERLY;
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto are three copies of excerpts of the speech of SHIRLEY G. WIMBERLY given over Radio Station WDSU, New Orleans, Louisiana, August 22, 1939, the excerpts being taken by means of an Ediphone and a transcript made therefrom.

The excerpts taken from the speech of WIMBERLY pertain particularly to O. JOHNSON, Chief of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge.

CWD
FMH
Enc.
62-987

RECORDED & INDEXED.
Following are excerpts from the speech of SHIELEY C. WILBER- 
LY, given over Radio Station WDSU, New Orleans, August 22, 1939, at 9:20 
PM. This was taken by means of an ediphone and the following is the trans-
cript therefrom:

---

...from investigating graft and corruption in Louisiana, 
and they knew in their vicious and corrupt hearts, that was not my pur-
pose. They knew that I am just as much interested in clean Government 
in Louisiana as they pretend to be. The only thing I ever objected to 
about O. JOHN ROGGE was his very obvious disposition to play to the press 
in this State, and the only reason I objected and do still object, was be-
cause I refuse to stand idly by and see ROGGE help these newspapers to 
create the impression throughout the world at large that because some of 
Louisiana's public figures have been indicted and charged with the commis-
ion of crime in this State, that decency and honesty do not reside here 
at all, and that Louisiana is a gangster-land where a man can't even ex-
ercise his right of free speech, without of being in danger of being taken 
for a ride. And I say that's not so. I say a man can speak his mind 
in this State, without any fear at all, and I say that because I've spoken 
my mind all over this State, many times without ever being bothered by the 
people of any locality, whether they agreed with my views or not and lord 
knows, sometimes they didn't. They've always given me a fair hearing, and 
I say further, that when ROGGE had his picture taken by these newspapers, 
with a letter containing bullets and a death threat which he says he re-
ceived, he was actuated by base motives and was playing to the grandstand 
of public opinion. Does my time run out at 10:15?

There never was a prosecutor of public officials, ladies and 
gentlemen, in this world, who has not at some time or another, during his 
official life, received a so-called death threat from a crank. If you 
don't believe me my friends, just pick up your telephone tomorrow morning 
and ask District Attorney CHARLES A. BYRNE or Chief of Detectives JOHN 
GROBCH if I'm telling you the truth. And ask them if they have ever pub-
lished such a letter if they got one. Ask them why they haven't, and I'll 
bet you they'll tell you it was because they realize that it would hurt 
the reputation and credit of this city and State to publish a thing like 
that. Why, I've gotten threatening letters. I've gotten hundreds of let-
ters threatening my life - I've gotten letters, I've gotten messages since 
this little series of speeches started, and anytime I get one of them I 
crumple it up and throw it in the waste basket where it deserves to be, be-
cause it's from some crazy crank that has no intention of killing anyhow.
A man don't warn you when he's going to kill you, he goes ahead and bumps you off.

Why the other day these newspapers carried a picture of ROGGE in his shirt sleeves in a melodramatic pose saying "This fight will be carried on to the end". Why man you look like a character out of Horatio Alger in that pose. What fight? Who's fighting you? You've caught some people and you say they're crooks, and you had them indicted, you get some more and you'll have them indicted - so what? Go ahead and try them. Then if a jury after hearing the evidence says they're guilty, put them in jail where they belong. Who's fighting you? You're supported by all the prestige and power of the United States of America, and you even have the United States Army and Navy to fight at your side, if it should become necessary. You think people of Louisiana are crazy? Do you think they'd want to fight Uncle Sam? What the people of Louisiana insist on is that you function under the American Constitution of 1789 and not under a Constitution drafted for you by the Times Picayune and the Boston Club of New Orleans. Conform to the dignity and tradition of your high office and stop letting these newspapers make you ridiculous. You're down here on serious business MR. ROGGE, and that affects the welfare of an entire sovereign State, and if you comport yourself with dignity and honor when your duties are over, you will leave here with the gratitude, respect and admiration of Louisiana's people. But if you will not so comport yourself, and you continue to permit yourself to be entrapped by the newspapers into an unsound and unjustified position, such as the one at Opelousas when you sent those G-Men over there to do plain police duty, mere police duty, when you knew or should have known that the Constitution, or rather the Supreme Court of the United States said you got no business to do that.

I say if you don't leave off that sort of stuff you're going to leave Louisiana's people but one alternative, and that is, to demand of Attorney General FRANK MURPHY that you either confine yourself to the performance of your official duties, or that you be replaced by someone who will. You should know by this time that you are being exploited by a group of people who were repudiated by an overwhelming majority of Louisiane's citizens fifteen years ago. Not one of these people who are trying to use you for their own selfish purpose could get a letter of recommendation from any decent and honest citizen of this State for the humblest public position in Louisiana.

So MR. ROGGE, again let me appeal to you. Stop misadvertising Louisiana to the world. Make a careful and searching investigation of the violation of Federal laws in this state and vigorously prosecute all Defendants. And if you convict 'em and send 'em to jail all decent people in Louisiana will thank you. But take off the custome of Don Quixote and stock attacking windmills and buzzbys when there's an opportunity for you to perform a real service to Louisiana and her people. Throughout these
United States you could find thousands of honest, capable, level-headed young attorneys who would gladly seize the opportunity you have to win the legal eminence that such a situation as this one afford. Don't throw away the opportunity which these other young men would so eagerly grasp. Don't sacrifice what might... Keep your eye on the ball MR. ROGGE and give Louisiana an investigation and not a three ring circus, so the newspapers can scandalize our fair State in the eyes of the world. That's all I ask of you and that's little...
1503 Masonic Temple Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, August 23, 1939

Honorable Rene A. Vienne, United States Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dear Sirs:

In accordance with past procedure, there is being forwarded to you herewith a letter received by this office from a woman who signs her name as AMILY HAY, which letter was mailed from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This individual refers to a previous communication she addressed to this office. However, a review of the files in this office does not reflect that she has written previously and does not reflect any interview with her husband.

Very truly yours,

B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure

CWD: sh
cc Bureau.
FBI NEW ORLEANS 8-21-39 5--15 PM

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING. FEDERAL GRAND JURY TODAY RECESSED SUBJECT TO CALL. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGGE DOES NOT INTEND TO CALL GRAND JURY INTO SESSION FOR AT LEAST TWO OR THREE WEEKS. JAMES MONROE SMITH WILL BE ARRaigned ON INCOME TAX INDICTMENT THIS FRIDAY AND IS EXPECTED TO PLEAD GUILTY. FREEMAN BURFORD OIL MAGNATE AT DALLAS TEXAS AND HIS ATTORNEY HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH ROGGE AND INDICATIONS ARE THAT BURFORD MIGHT VOLUNTARILY COME TO NEW ORLEANS FOR PURPOSE OF BEING ARRaigned ON HOT OIL INDICTMENT. NOTHING DEFINITE ON THIS AS YET. ROGGE IS LEAVING AT TEN FIFTEEN TONIGHT FOR WASHINGTON BY AIRPLANE AND EXPECTS TO RETURN HERE THIS THURSDAY. ROGGE TODAY INFORMED NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVES HE WAS DISCONTINUING HIS PRESS CONFERENCES AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NEWS UNTIL THE TRIAL OF THE BIENVILLE HOTEL MAIL FRAUD CASE SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE SEPTEMBER FIFTH.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASH DC JAR
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
August 22, 1939

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

Dear Sir:

RE: ABRAHAM L. SHUSHAN, HENRY J. MILLER,  
ROBERT J. NEWMAN, NORVIN TRENT HARRIS, JR.,  
H. W. WAGUESPACK;  
Mail Fraud  
RECORDED & INDEXED  
62-37589-269

On August 15, 1939, Assistant United States Attorney  
General O. JOHN ROGGE requested an Agent (Accountant) be made available  
to Special Assistant Attorney General HAROLD ROSENWALD for the purpose  
of assisting him in the phase of the above-entitled case relating to  
the refunding of Orleans Levee Board bonds by the brokerage firm of  
NEWMAN & HARRIS of New Orleans.

For the information of the Bureau, on July 10, 1936, the  
firm of NEWMAN & HARRIS & COMPANY secured a contract from the Orleans  
Levee Board to refund five outstanding callable 5% bond issues of that  
board totaling in principal $5,485,000.00, with maturities running to  
1975, and for which services under the contract the brokerage house  
was to receive 25% of the savings effected to the Levee Board. The  
maturities on outstanding issues were re-arranged, shortening them  
considerably, and a lower interest rate obtained for the refunded  
issues, which rate by a certain average amounted to 5.87%, according  
to ROBERT J. NEWMAN of the firm of NEWMAN, HARRIS & COMPANY. The  
savings, as computed by the brokerage house, on the $1,985,863.42 was  
computed as the difference in the amount of the interest to be paid  
under the old schedule of maturities and that payable under the new  
schedule prepared by the brokerage firm, less adjustments for premiums  
paid on calling the old issues and that received on the sale on new  
issues, also including other adjustments for forfeitures of stipulated  
maturities made by the brokerage firm. Of the commission received by  
NEWMAN, HARRIS & COMPANY, 50%, less certain deductions for expenses, was  
paid to ABRAHAM SHUSHAN, a former president of the Levee Board who had  
resigned in 1935 after an indictment against him for violation of Federal  
income tax evasion statutes. SHUSHAN is also a notorious political  
character in the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana. The  
amount received by SHUSHAN was approximately $200,000.00. Of this  
amount, about one third, as was learned by the United States Attorney's  
office, was paid to two other individuals. Of this amount, approximately  
$15,000.00 was paid to HENRY J. MILLER, an accountant, and approximately  
$45,000.00 was paid to H. W. WAGUESPACK, who was at the time of the  
payment a member of the Levee Board.
To the Director, 8/22/39

NEWMAN and HARRIS disclaimed any knowledge of the split of the part of the fee paid to SHUSHAN and claimed to have paid SHUSHAN under an agreement with him to furnish them information as to how the contract could be obtained legally, although SHUSHAN is neither lawyer, accountant, or bond expert.

Special Agent (A) NELSON PERRY conferred with Special Assistant to the Attorney General HAROLD ROSENWALD and ROBERT J. NEWMAN, and also conferred with Assistant Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE, Special Assistant to the Attorney General HAROLD ROSENWALD, United States Attorney RENE VIOSCA, ROBERT J. NEWMAN, NORVIN TRENT HARRIS, JR., and E. E. TALBOT, Attorney for NEWMAN and HARRIS. Agent PERRY also attended a private conference with Special Assistant to the Attorney General HAROLD ROSENWALD, and another conference with Special Assistant to the Attorney General HAROLD ROSENWALD, L. L. MOAK, ROBERT J. NEWMAN, NORVIN TRENT HARRIS, JR., and E. E. TALBOT. L. L. MOAK is employed as a clerk at the Bureau of Governmental Research of New Orleans, Louisiana, a civic organization organized to act as a fact-finding body in the interests of better civic government in New Orleans. L. L. MOAK and other members of that bureau have made a study of the Newman, Harris & Company-Orleans Levee Board transaction, and had prepared a report, a copy of which has been furnished for the file of the New Orleans Office, which report reached the conclusion that the savings effected by the brokerage firm to the Levee Board were considerably less than that computed by the brokerage firm and that, therefore, the commission received was excessive to the extent of the difference in the result of the calculations of the brokerage firm, and the Bureau of Governmental Research.

The basis for computation used by MOAK was to apply the old interest rate to the new schedule of maturities and computing the difference between that amount of interest and the amount of interest payable under the new rate on the new schedule of maturities. He said he had also computed present values on a compound interest rate of 2% of the differences in expenditures required each year to make principal and interest payments under the old and new schedules of bond maturities, and the result of this computation is said to be the savings to the Board, based on the present value of money, which savings amounted to considerably less than that as computed by the brokerage firm.

The Bureau of Governmental Research concluded in its report that the methods employed by it were the actual savings to the
To the Director, 8/22/39

Board under the basis of their computations, and the result of their computations in which the difference is interest to be paid by the Board on the refunded issues by applying the old and new rate to the new schedule of maturities amounted to $698,088.42, as compared with the $1,985,963.42 on which the commission was paid to the brokerage firm.

Agent PERRY attended these conferences only in an advisory capacity to the Government's attorneys and declined to furnish any opinion as to the accepted or proper basis for computing the savings effected by the refunding of the Levee Board bond issues, taking the position that such a matter was within the specialized field of bond experts, theorized upon the basis from which to determine the true savings on the refunding transaction. He did, however, furnish suggestions to the Government's attorneys as to different bases that could be employed in computing the savings, and advised them that he was qualified to make computations on the bases suggested.

Due to the fact that Special Assistant to the Attorney General HAROLD ROSENWALD desired that the facts representing the savings to the Levee Board on the refunding of its bonds be presented to the grand jury on August 17, 1939, and the file had not been made available to Agent PERRY, the computations as suggested by Agent PERRY could not be performed within the time required. MR. ROSENWALD, therefore, decided to use for presentation to the grand jury the testimony of L. L. MORE and indicated that he would not at this time require further assistance of Agent PERRY, since the indictments were expected to be returned by August 18, 1939.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

NP: sh
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

New Orleans, La.
Aug. 23, 1939.

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

Re: HILARY J. GAUDIN;
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

The details of the investigation conducted in the above matter are set out in report of Special Agent S. M. WOLF, New Orleans, dated July 27, 1939.

To bring this matter up to date for the information of the Bureau, I may advise that the Attorney General left it up to the U. S. Attorney, RENE A. VIOSCA, as to whether the resignation of GAUDIN should be asked for. MR. VIOSCA considered asking for GAUDIN's resignation, at which time GAUDIN vigorously protested and begged that he be allowed to remain in office, at least until the present inquiries are over, since if he would resign at the present time he would ruin his legal career in New Orleans.

MR. VIOSCA agreed to GAUDIN's request, but asked that he have nothing to do with the investigation into the political situation in New Orleans and Louisiana, and should not acquaint himself with any of the details thereof. Since that time GAUDIN has been coming around the U. S. Attorney's office but has taken no active part in the work connected with the current investigations.

On August 21, 1939, Assistant Attorney General ROGGE and MR. VIOSCA advised me that they were that day going to instruct GAUDIN to stay away from the U. S. Attorney's office entirely, and take all the annual leave he is entitled to in order that he will not be in a position to be around the office and to learn any of the information developed by the investigations being conducted or the plans of the prosecuting officials.

This is the present status of the matter, and if there are any further developments I will of course advise the Bureau in the premises.

Very truly yours,

E. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge,
U. S. Department of Justice.
September 15, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

There are enclosed herewith photostatic copies of the following communications:

Letter dated August 29, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General by A. Hazelard Perry, Vice-Chairman, Red River Parish Democratic Executive Committee, and its enclosures (clippings).

Letter dated August 29, 1939, addressed to the Director by Frank H. Spuhler, 1107 North 33rd Street, Camden, New Jersey, and its enclosure.

The Bureau desires that one copy of each of these be furnished to United States Attorney Rene A. Viroses.

Very truly yours,
For the Director

Harold Nathan
Assistant Director

Enclosure

Communications Section
M A I L E D
SEP 12 1939
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Dept. of Justice
Washington, D.C.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Dept. of Justice F.B.I.

Dear Sir:

The enclosed part of a Sat. Eve. Post
editorial discloses that K. Kennedy is the
real name of the Louisiana person who
paid the settlement.

It is illegal to negotiate two settle-
mements but who kept the fat fee and
pense accounte the Jewish lawyer charged
the individual tank car owners, and were
these fees reported on income tax return?
I do not think Louisiana got the fee but
rather that this lawyer got a certain per-
centage and the rest went to the Jew who
inherited this is my guess because of
the punitive attitude this lawyer had.

9/23/39

Add 9/26/39
trust you succeed in clearing out the smelly mess down there.

Please do not bother acknowledging this letter.

yours truly

Frank J. Spruilla
The Man Who Understood Huey

In 1930, a law student at Louisiana State University published a magazine obscenely libeling members of the faculty. A detective hired by the president of the school identified one K. K. Kennedy, a Huey Long acolyte, as the editor. Kennedy was sentenced to a year in jail.

Long pardoned him at once, but when he tried to force President Atkinson and Dean Tullis to give Kennedy his final examinations, both refused. Long got rid of both. Kennedy now is an attorney for the Tax Commission at Baton Rouge.

James Monroe Smith then was a dean at Southwestern Louisiana Institute. He had been a country schoolteacher, a high school and a normal school teacher, in succession, taking his master's and doctor's degrees at Columbia. Long never had heard of him. But Huey, seeking a man "with a hide as tough as an elephant's," made Doctor Smith head of Louisi-
MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I am attaching hereto a copy of a teletype just received by me from the Agent in Charge in Louisiana, which I think fully confirms the fears which I have had relative to the excessive publicity that has been indulged in connection with the Louisiana matter.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Incl.our.
FBI NEW ORLEANS  8-19-39  12-03 PM  WH

ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGGE RETURNED TO NEW ORLEANS LATE LAST NIGHT. FEDERAL GRAND JURY, PURSUANT HIS REQUEST, WITHHELD RETURNING INDICTMENTS YESTERDAY AND RECESSD UNTIL MONDAY. INDICTMENTS TO BE RETURNED MONDAY, AFTER WHICH GRAND JURY WILL RECESS FOR TWO WEEKS. FEDERAL JUDGE BORAH SPOKE TO ROGGE AND USA VIOSCA WARNING THEM AGAINST FURTHER UNDESIRABLE PUBLICITY, VENTURING AN OPINION THAT IF CONTINUED IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN AN IMPARTIAL JURY AND EVEN IF CONVICTIONS WERE OBTAINED THERE WOULD BE GOOD GROUNDS FOR REVERSAL DUE TO THE PUBLICITY. I ALSO HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT CLARK SALMON MANAGING EDITOR OF THE ITEM TRIBUNE NEWSPAPER EARLIER THIS WEEK ALSO CAUTIONED ROGGE AGAINST CONTINUANCE OF PERSONAL PUBLICITY. USA VIOSCA TODAY INFORMED ME THAT THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY YESTERDAY OFFICIALLY CENSORED ROGGE FOR ADVISING NEWSPAPER MEN THE SUBSTANCE OF INDICTMENTS BEFORE THEY WERE RETURNED AND THAT THIS MORNING THE FOREMAN OF THE GRAND JURY EXPRESSED THE BODYS VIEWS ORALLY TO ROGGE. USA VIOSCA ADVISES ME THAT SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL HAROLD ROSENWALD HAS APPARENTLY TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE PROPOSED MAIL FRAUD

LOCATED DESTROYED 170 SEP 17 1939

Copy sent to A. B. amel at Narragansett, R.I. 8-19-39
PAGE TWO

CASE INVOLVING NEWMAN AND HARRIS COMPANY, BROKERS, AND THE NEW ORLEANS LEVEE BOARD MEMBERS. HE WENT TO HARVARD WITH A BROTHER OF ROBERT NEWMAN, A PROPOSED DEFENDANT, AND ACCORDING TO VIOSCA HAS CONFERRED WITH NEWMAN AND HIS ATTORNEY AND HAS ASKED FOR A DELAY IN HAVING THE INDICTMENT AGAINST THEM RETURNED, HAS PERMITTED NEWMAN AND HARRIS AND THEIR ATTORNEY TO APPEAR BEFORE THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY AND HAS ALSO GONE OVER THE GOVERNMENTS CASE WITH NEWMAN AND HARRIS AND THEIR ATTORNEY AT NIGHT. VIOSCA DOES NOT BELIEVE ROSENWALD IS ACTING IN BAD FAITH BUT DOES THINK HE IS USING EXTREMELY BAD JUDGMENT IN HIS EFFORTS TO PREVENT NEWMAN AND HARRIS FROM BEING INDICTED, PROBABLY AS A RESULT OF HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH NEWMANS BROTHERS.

AT YESTERDAYS HEARING IN DALLAS, AFTER FREEMAN BURFORD WHOSE REMOVAL WAS BEING SOUGHT TO LOUISIANA ON THE HOT OIL INDICTMENT, WAS DISMISSED FROM FEDERAL CUSTODY BY FEDERAL JUDGE T WHITFIELD DAVIDSON WHO REFUSED TO ORDER HIS REMOVAL, ROGGE WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS HAVING STATED THAT HE WOULD AGAIN TRY TO REMOVE BURFORD TO LOUISIANA SHOULD BURFORD LEAVE THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS. THIS MORNING ROGGE ASKED ME WHETHER OUR BUREAU WOULD PLACE A SURVEILLANCE ON BURFORD SO THAT HE COULD BE APPREHENDED IN THE
PAGE THREE

EVENT HE LEFT THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS. I TOLD MR ROGGE THAT HIS STATEMENT TO THE NEWSPAPERS IN DALLAS OF HIS INTENTIONS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY SERVE AS A WARNING TO KEEP BURFORD WITHIN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AND FURTHERMORE, SINCE THE INDICTMENT INVOLVED ONLY A VIOLATION OF THE CONNALLY ACT WHICH IS NOT WITHIN OUR INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION, THE FBI COLD TAKE NO ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH KEEPING BURFORD UNDER SURVEILLANCE TO EFFECT HIS APPREHENSION SHOULD HE LEAVE THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS. I SUGGESTED THAT HE MAKE A REQUEST OF THE INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY WHICH INVESTIGATED THE SUBSTANTIVE CASE. HE IS SENDING CERTIFIED COPIES OF INDICTMENT TO SHREVEPORT LOUISIANA AND LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS FOR AVAILABILITY IN THE EVENT BURFORD SHOULD APPEAR IN THOSE DISTRICTS. I AM TAKING NO ACTION WHATSOEVER RELATIVE TO BURFORD IN VIEW OF FACTS STATED ABOVE UNLESS YOU INSTRUCT TO CONTRARY.

ROGGE THIS MORNING, ACORDING TO USA VIOSCA, TOLD HIS PRESS CONFERENCE TO LEAVE HIM IN THE BACKGROUND AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE HE WAS BEING CRITICIZED FROM ALL SIDES FOR HIS PAST PUBLICITY. ROGGE'S SPIRITS ARE VERY LOW THIS MORNING.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON CDC DH
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Mr. Stanley Carroll of the International News Service called and stated that Mr. Hearst has sent one of the foremost women writers, Inez Robb, to Louisiana to report on the situation there. He stated that Miss Robb is a personal friend of the Attorney General, and had tried to contact him before going to Louisiana in order that he might tell her whom she might contact there and advise those people from whom she might obtain information that she could be trusted. He requested that if possible arrangements be made so that she could be directed to the right people to talk with.

Mr. Carroll stated that he is going to have a man at Mr. Rogge's press conference this afternoon, and that this man will explain the situation to Mr. Rogge. Mr. Carroll inquired if there is anyone in charge of the investigation who could give her the background of the case.

I advised Mr. Carroll that the Bureau is conducting only a small part of the investigation in this matter, and that the work is divided up between several governmental agencies. However, I told Mr. Carroll that I would present the matter to the Director and would get his opinion on it.
TIME 7 p. m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

I called Stanley Carroll of the International News Service and told him I had discussed with the Director the matter of Inez Robb, reporter for the Hearst Newspapers, going to New Orleans to cover the Louisiana situation. I told him the Director said the only person Robb should contact is O. John Rogge.

I told Stanley Carroll I had checked discreetly and found that Rogge intends to return to New Orleans on Thursday.

Mr. Carroll stated he had someone at Rogge's press conference today and this person explained the matter to Rogge at which time he promised to give her every cooperation. Mr. Mulcahy is also going to speak to Mr. Rogge and explain the matter further and in the meantime Mr. Mulcahy intends to inquire of the Attorney General whether Robb is satisfactory as far as he is concerned.

E. A. TAMM
Record of Telephone Call or Visitor.

August 21st 1939.

Time 3:53 p.m.

Name Mr. Fair/Hardin tele
locally

Referred to

Details:

Stated he has corresponded with the Director relative to the Louisiana Situation and is now in the city for a few days to talk with someone relative to this. The call was transferred to Mr. Rosen.

Mr. Rosen advises that he is checking the files on this, that Mr. Hardin has brought various documents from Louisiana with him which he wants the Bureau Laboratory to examine, and Mr. Rosen states he is submitting a memo immediately on this.

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-22 11-265

8/22/39 Hardin checked out

Early this morning.

AUG 23
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TANM

Mr. J. Fair Harden, Assistant Attorney General of the Nineteenth District of Louisiana, called and stated he had written Mr. Hoover requesting the services of a handwriting expert in connection with the Louisiana situation. He stated Mr. Hoover had replied by letter inquiring how long the handwriting expert would be needed. Mr. Harden stated he wrote Mr. Hoover last Tuesday explaining as nearly as possible how long the expert would be needed. He stated that as he was now in Washington perhaps he could get Mr. Hoover's decision and thus save time.

I told Mr. Harden I would check into this matter and thereafter advise him. He stated he was staying at the Washington Hotel, Room 626.

Respectfully,

A. ROEN

A. ROSEN

After checking the files, I find that there is an outgoing letter dated August 17, 1939, which apparently Mr. Hardin has not received. This letter states that it is the Bureau's policy not to make examinations of technical evidence which has already been examined by other experts for it seems an unnecessary duplication of efforts. I will advise Mr. Hardin of this.
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto are copies of indictments returned by
the Federal Grand Jury at New Orleans, one against ABRAHAM I.
SHUSHAN, HERBERT W. WAGUESPACE, HENRY J. MILLER, ROBERT J. NEW-
MAN and NORVIN T. HARRIS, JR., on August 21, 1939, charging
violation of the mail fraud statutes and two against GEORGE
CALDWELL, on August 14, 1939, for violation of the mail fraud
statutes.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge.

BES: WH
62-978
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
FROM: UNIT #1

TO: Director
   Mr. Nathan
   Mr. Tolson
   Mr. Edwards
   Unit Two

Unit Four
   Files Section
   Personnel Files
   Equipment Section
   Chief Clerk's Office

Unit Five
   Identification Unit
   Statistical Section
   Technical Laboratory

SUPERVISORS
   Mr. Deaderick
   Mr. Joseph
   Mr. Listerman
   Mr. Lott
   Mr. Lowdon
   Mr. McKee
   Mr. Newby
   Mr. Richmond
   Mr. Smith

Miss Gandy
Mrs. Kelley
Washington Field Office
Stenographic Pool
Secretary
Correct
Re-write
Re-date
See me
Send file

Please photo report to
Mr. Williams

62-32509
E. A. Tanaw
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

In the District Court of the United States in and for the
Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans Division, at the U.S. term
thereof, J., P., 1926,

The Grand Jury of the United States, duly expanded, sworn
and charged by the usual parolee of the said grand jury, do
hereinafter aforesaid, and

That the defendant, LEVI MILLER, and JOHN G. BURKE, and the court in equity, on behalf of the
full issues are to your Grand Forces unknown, defendants called
defendants, in the New Orleans Division of the Eastern District of Louisiana,
and within the jurisdiction of this Court, on or about the 1st day of
January, 1926, the cause acts of your Grand Forces unknown, and con-
tinuously thereafter until the date of this indictment, have unlawfully
willfully, knowingly and fraudulently, at New Orleans, Louisiana, and other
places to your Grand Forces unknown, devised and intended to devise a scheme
and artifice to defraud, and for obtaining money and property by means of
gain and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, from the Board
of levee commissioners of the Orleans levee district, and the taxpayers of
the city of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana, and certain other persons
to your Grand Forces unknown, which scheme and artifice to defraud was to
be effected by the use and misuse of the United States post office establish-
ments, in furtherance of said scheme and artifice to defraud, all deposit and
seals to be deposited in an authorized depository for mail matter for
mailing and delivery, and knowingly caused to be delivered by mail by the
post office establishment of the United States, according to the direction
therein, false and genuine letters, checks, and龙钞, which said scheme
and artifice to defraud was in substance as follows:

That the said Board of levee commissioners of the Orleans levee
district was set up in an agency of the State of Louisiana; that the said
LEVI MILLER, defendant herein, was then lately a member of and presi-
sent of the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District; that the said ROBERT F. HARRIS, defendant herein, was a member of the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District; and Chairman of the Finance Committee; and the defendants, ROBERT T. HARRIS and
ROBERT F. HARRIS, Jr., were and are engaged in the investment, land and
real-estate business under the name 

of Bessy, Hanita & Co., limited, that all
the defendants, ROBERT T. HARRIS, and one of a majority public resolutions, sold
the said bonds of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District at the
amount of bonds on following, to-wit:
$1,000,000 per value of 6% Debenture Bonds dated July 1, 1927;
$1,000,000 per value of 4% Debenture Bonds dated July 1, 1928;
$1,000,000 per value of 6% Debenture Bonds dated November 1, 1929;
$1,000,000 per value of 6% Debenture Bonds dated September 1, 1928;
$1,000,000 per value of 6%/4% Improvement Bonds dated April 1, 1927;

that the defendants herein would devise and arrange a plan for refunding the
said outstanding bonds of the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans
Levee District, which plan would be proposed to the said Board of Levee Com-
missoners of the Orleans Levee District by the defendants, ROBERT T. HARRIS
and ROBERT F. HARRIS, Jr., and which plan would include provision for the
payment of certain fees to the said ROBERT T. HARRIS and ROBERT F. HARRIS,
that the defendant, ROBERT T. HARRIS, on behalf of himself and of the other
defendants, would appear before the said Board of Levee Commissioners of
the Orleans Levee District at a meeting of said Board, and would present and
propose the said plan so being the plan of his firm, Bessy, Hanita & Co.,
and the said ROBERT F. HARRIS would state to the said Board of Levee Com-
missoners of the Orleans Levee District that the said plan had been presented
to Richard Leche, then Governor of the state of Louisiana, and that the
said plan had the approval of the said Richard Leche; that the defendant,
ROBERT T. HARRIS, on behalf of himself and of the other defendants,
would promptly, zealously and fervently urge and influence the members of the
said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District to accept
the said plan and to employ the defendant, ROBERT F. HENSON, and the defendant, EDWIN T. BARMES, Jr., to assist the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District in giving effect to said refunding plan, that the defendant, ADAM J. BARMES, then lately the President of the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District and an associate of some of the other names therein, on behalf of himself and of the other defendants, would intentionally, directly and indirectly use his influence with the other members of the Board and also directed by reason of the Governor of the State of Louisiana, for the purpose of securing their approval of the said plan and the employment of the defendant, ROBERT F. HENSON, and the defendant, EDWIN T. BARMES, Jr., in assuming that as a result of the representations, promises and claims made by the defendants herein, the Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District would approve the said plan in effecting said plan, then outstanding bond issues of the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District and would enter into a contract with the defendants, ROBERT F. HENSON and EDWIN T. BARMES, Jr., which contract would provide that as compensation for their services in effecting the said refunding plan, the said ROBERT F. HENSON and the said EDWIN T. BARMES, Jr., would be paid one third of the savings to be effected through lowering the interest rates of the said outstanding bonds of the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District; that it was a part of said scheme and artifice to defraud that the defendants would wrongly, corruptly, fraudulently and illegally influence the action of the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District and one of its members, the defendant, ROBERT F. HENSON, on the said proposed refunding plan by secretly and surreptitiously paying and having to be paid to the said ROBERT F. HENSON, defendant, a certain portion of the fees which the defendants, ROBERT F. HENSON and EDWIN T. BARMES, Jr., would receive from the Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District for effecting said refunding plan, as aforesaid, which payments he, the defendant, ROBERT F. HENSON, would conceal from the other members of the said Board;
That it was also a part of the said scheme and artifice to defraud
that the defendant, AMARILLO, would receive a substantial portion
of the fees to be paid the said defendants, HENRY J. HARRIS and HOWARD E.
HARRIS, Jr., by the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee
District as aforesaid, and that this payment would also be concealed from
the members of the said Board.

That it was also a part of the said scheme and artifice to defraud
that the defendants would corruptly, dishonestly and illegally pay or cause
to be paid sums of money amounting in the aggregate to $30,000.00 or a
brisk to one Charles Fureno, an employee in the office of the Board of Levee
Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District, who would act as an agent and
informant, and who would corruptly and illegally reveal to the defendants confi-
dential information concerning competitors of the said HENRY J. HARRIS
and HOWARD E. HARRIS, Jr., that it was also a part of said scheme and artifice to
defraud that the defendants would change the Board of Levee Commissioners of
the Orleans Levee District an exorbitant and excessive fee, far beyond the
value of any services actually rendered by any of the said defendants; that
in calculating the fee alleged to be due the defendants, HENRY J. HARRIS and
HOWARD E. HARRIS, Jr., by the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans
Levee District, the said defendants would change the said Board of Levee Com-
missioners of the Orleans Levee District $50,000.00 in excess of what was due to
the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District by virtue
of the refunding of the said bonds; that on a saving of approximately $425,000.00
in interest to the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District
the said defendants would render, and cause to be rendered, bills for their ser-
vice, which bills would aggregate approximately $475,000.00; that after the pay-
ment of bribes to the said Charles Fureno, as aforesaid, and other payments in
connection with the said refunding plan, the said defendants herein would
divide among themselves the sum of approximately $500,000.00; that solely
for the purpose of effecting the distribution of the said sum of $500,000.00,
the defendants, AMARILLO, HENRY J. HARRIS, HOWARD E. HARRIS and
HOWARD E. HARRIS, Jr., would form a partnership that of said sum of
and the defendants, HARRIS and HARRIS, Jr., would each receive 25% or $100,050 each, and the defendant, HARRIS JR., would receive $50,000 or $100,050 cash; and the defendant, HARRIS JR., would receive $50,050 or $100,005 cash; and the purpose of effecting the surreptitious and secret payment to the defendant, HARRIS JR., SACHUPACK, of his share of the said sum, the defendant, HARRIS JR., HARRIS and the defendant, HARRIS JR., SACHUPACK, would form a partnership, one of the sole aims of the said partnership being that the defendant, HARRIS JR., would pay to the defendant, HARRIS, the sum of $100,050, and would request the release of $100,050 that all of the defendants herein agreed upon themselves that they would lend the principal sum and surrender to, according to the terms of said foreclosure of the Orleans Levee District (the owner of the said mortgaged property) to the employment of the defendant, HARRIS JR., SACHUPACK and HARRIS JR., HARRIS, Jr., for the purpose of effecting said plan and in making a surreptitious distribution of the said sum which would be paid by the said board of levee commissioners of the Orleans Levee District to said parties hereinafter.

And the Grand Jury say and present: That the said representations, promises and covenants were false and fraudulent in that: That the said agreement entered into by and between the said board of levee commissioners of the Orleans Levee District and the defendants, HARRIS JR., HARRIS and HARRIS JR., HARRIS, Jr., for the performance of the aforesaid bond of the said board was fraudulent, false and false for the following reasons, to-wit: That the facts provided therein were perjurious, malicious and illegal and far beyond the value of any services rendered and to be rendered by any of the said defendants; that the said board of levee commissioners of the Orleans Levee District was depopulated of the said, unbiased, impartial and unbiassed judgment of its members in pursing upon the merits of said contract by reason of the fact that the defendants herein bribed and caused to be bribed one of the members of the said board, namely, the defendant, HARRIS JR., SACHUPACK, that the said defendant, HARRIS JR., SACHUPACK, on behalf of himself and on behalf of the other defendants, actively, willfully, corruptly, unlawfully and illegally did persuade and influence the other members
of the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District to accept the said refunding plan and to employ the defendants, ROBERT J. KENNAN and RAYMOND V. NANCE, Jr.; that the defendant, ARTHUR L. SCHREINER, on behalf of himself and on behalf of the other defendants herein, actively, continuously, formally, unfairly and immorally did persuade and influence the members of the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District to accept the said refunding plan and to employ the defendants, ROBERT J. KENNAN and RAYMOND V. NANCE, Jr.; that the said refunding plan did not affect the voters in the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District which the defendants represented, pretended and claimed had been affected by the defendants herein bribed and caused to be bribed an employee of the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District, namely, one Charles Fitzmaurice.

That in calculating the fees to be paid by the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District and in billing said Board for said fees the defendants, ROBERT J. KENNAN and RAYMOND V. NANCE, Jr., on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the other defendants charged to and received from the said Board 90% of savings to be effected in the distance future without discounting said savings and without having first considered in any manner the then present values of said savings.

That it was the duty and obligation of the said defendant, RAYMOND V. NANCE, as member of the Board and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District, to have the outstanding bonds of the said Board refunded on the most reasonable and favorable terms available and possible to the said Board; that contrary to his said duty and obligation and in violation of the laws and confidence placed in him by the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District, the said defendant, RAYMOND V. NANCE, Jr., did cause to be paid to him and did accept a portion of the said Board for the purpose of influencing his judgment and action and the judgment and action of the other members of the said Board; that the defendants, ARTHUR L. SCHREINER, ROBERT J. KENNAN, RAYMOND V. NANCE, Jr., aided, abetted, encouraged, counseled and assisted the said defendant, RAYMOND V. NANCE, Jr., in betraying his duty.
and obligation to the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the said Orleans Levee District and in violation of the trust and confidence placed in him by the said Board, as follows:

That the said Grand Jurors say, present and find: That each and every one of the representations, pretences and claims made and intended to be made by the said defendants were false and untrue and intended to be false and untrue and at all times mentioned herein were known by the said defendants to be false and untrue and were made and intended to be made by the said defendants for the purpose and with the intention of escaping from the said Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District and the Taxpayers of the City of New Orleans the duty of maintaining peace of money

That they, the said defendants, on or about the 11th day of September, 1930, at New Orleans, Louisiana, in the New Orleans Division of the Eastern District of Louisiana and within the jurisdiction of this Court for the purpose of avoiding the action and obtaining advantage, unlawfully, fraudulently and feloniously did knowingly deposit and cause to be deposited

in an authorized depository for said New Orleans, Louisiana, a certain letter and check enclosed in a postpaid envelope addressed to American National Bank and Trust Co., New Orleans, Chicago, Illinois, to be sent and delivered by the Post Office Establishment of the United States, which letter and check were and are of the tenor following:


American National Bank and Trust Co.,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

Gentlemen:

Attention: Mr. Robert Strouse,
Vice-President.

At the request of Harris, Harris and Company of this city, we pay their letter of the 4th instant, as per their letter of the 4th instant, we are enclosing herewith New York exchange on the Chartered Bank and Trust Company of New York City, drawn by the American Bank and Trust Company of New Orleans, on, check No. 27758, dated September 4, 1930, in the amount of $10,704.35 and payable to the order of American National Bank and Trust Company, of Chicago.

Please credit the proceeds of this check to the account of Harris, Harris and Company of New Orleans.
that at the time of plotting and making to be placed the said letter and check in an authorized depository for mail matter of the United States aforesaid, the Defendants, ARTHUR L. NICHOLS, RICHARD E. RABIDEAU, HENRY J. MILLER, ROBERT J. NICHOLS and MARTIN T. KAHRS, JR., then and there well knew that the said letter and check were for the purpose of executing the said scheme and artifice and were for the purpose of defrauding the Board of levee commissioners of the Orleans levee district and the Taxpayers of the City of New Orleans and State of Louisiana contrary to the form of the statute in each case made and provided against the peace and dignity of the United States.

COUNT TWO:

And the Grand Jurors aforesaid, upon their oaths aforesaid, do further present and charge that the Defendants, on or about the 8th day of September, 1907, in said division and in said district and within the jurisdiction of this Court, did unlawfully, willfully and fraudulently devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and claims, that is to say, the same scheme and artifice that is set forth and described in the first count of this indictment, the allegations concerning which, in said first count, are incorporated by reference thereto in this count as fully as if they were here repeated; and, for the purpose of executing
sent scheme and artifice, unlawfully, wilfully and feloniously did knowingly and willfully and through the use of the mails, the mails of the Post Office Department of the United States, according to the direction thereon, a certain registered return receipt addressed to Board of Levee Commissioners, 600 Common, New Orleans, Louisiana, which registered return receipt was and is of the tenor following:

RETURN RECEIPT

Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.

[Signature or arms of addressee]

[Signature of addressee’s agent]

Date of Delivery, 1937

AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY
of Chicago

Form 921

that at the time of causing to be delivered by mail by the Post Office establishment of the United States, according to the direction thereon, the said registered return receipt, the defendant, AMERICAN L. BERNHARD, HERBERT V. VAUGHAN, HARRY F. KELLY, ROBERT J. KERMES AND HERBERT V. BURKE, Jr., then and there well knew that the said registered return receipt was for the purpose of executing the said scheme and artifice and was for the purpose of defrauding the Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District and the Taxpayers of the City of New Orleans and State of Louisiana; contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the United States.
FURTHER PROCEEDINGS
And the said Justice aforesaid, upon their oath aforesaid, do
further present and charge that the defendants, on or about the 8th day
October, 1947, in said division and in said district and within the juris-
diction of this Court, did knowingly, willfully and fraudulently
solicit a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property
by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and de-
ductions that to be true, the same were not, and no such thing to be
false and fictitious.
In the first count of this indictment, the defendants knowingly
in said fraud, did knowingly, with knowledge of the nature of said fraud,
willfully, with knowledge of the nature of said fraud, solicit and
solicit a scheme and artifice, false and fraudulent, with knowledge
of the nature of said fraud, to be defrauded in an unauthorized manner for
the benefit of the United States of America, as follows:
On the 4th day of October, 1947, a certain letter and check
enclosed in a postage-stamped envelope addressed to
American National Bank & Trust Co., 2811 South Washington,
Chicago, Illinois, was delivered by the Post Office establishment
of the United States, which letter and check were and are of the tenor
following, to-wit:

October 4, 1947
American National Bank & Trust Co.,
2811 South Washington,
Chicago, Illinois,

Gentlemen:

Attention: Mr. Robert Chamber, T.D.

We are enclosing herewith check in the amount of
$181,032.80, payable to the order of the
American National Bank & Trust Company of Chicago.

Please consider this your authority to credit
the proceeds of this check to the account of
American National Bank & Trust Company of Chicago.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]  
Chief, T.

American National Bank & Trust Co., 2811 S.
Chicago, Illinois


Pay to the
Order of American National Bank & Trust Co., $181,032.80
or order.

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that at the time of placing and sending to be placed the said letter and
checks in the manner and depositing for said purpose as aforesaid, the defendant, Alphonse Broussard, residing in the City of New
Orleans, Louisiana, did then and there well know that the said letter and check were for the purpose of concealing the
scheme and artifice and were for the purpose of defrauding the Board of
Revenue Commissioners of the Orleans Parish District and the Taxpayers of the
City of New Orleans and State of Louisiana contrary to the laws of the
State in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity
of the United States.

COUNT FOUR.

And the Grand Jurors aforesaid, upon their oaths aforesaid,
do further present and charge that the defendant, as on or about the 16th
day of June, 1927, in said division and in said district and within the
jurisdiction of this Court, and having unlawfully, willfully and fraudu-
ently devised a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and
property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and
claims, that is to say, the said scheme and artifice that is not forth and
described in the first count of this indictment, the allegations concerning
which, in said first count, are incorporated by reference thereto in this
court as fully as if they were here repeated; and, for the purpose of
executing said scheme and artifice, unlawfully, willfully and fraudu-
ently did knowingly draft and cause to be deposited in an authorized depository
for mail matter of the United States at New Orleans, Louisiana, a certain
check enclosed in a postal card envelope addressed to The Bond Buyer, 97 Pearl
Street, New York, N. Y., to be sent and delivered by the Post Office establish-
ment of the United States, which check was and is of the face following,

$21,975

New Orleans, La., June 16, 1927

Attention the Secretary Engraving the Reverse Side of this

Cashier's Check

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AND the Court further aforesaid, upon their oaths aforesaid, do further present and charge that the defendants, on or about the 15th day of November, 1929, in said division and in said district, within the jurisdiction of this County, as having unlawfully, wilfully, and fraudulently devised a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretences, representations and claims, that is to say, the same scheme and artifice that is set forth and described in the first count of this indictment, the allegations concerning which, in said first count, are incorporated by reference thereto in this count as fully as if they were here repeated; and, for the purpose of effecting said scheme
and artifices, unlawfully, wilfully and feloniously did knowingly deposit and cause to be deposited in an authorized depository for real estate of the United States at New Orleans, Louisiana, a certain New Orleans Times Newspaper, dated November 30, 1899, addressed to Frank McDowell, Librarian, L. E. W., Baton Rouge, La., from The New Orleans Times, New Orleans, Louisiana, which newspaper among other things contained the advertisement of the Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District, which advertisement was and is of the lower estoppel, to wit:

\[\text{Communication} \]

\[\text{made called} \]

\[\text{Board of Levee Commissioners} \]

\[\text{of the Orleans Levee District} \]

\[\text{RESOLVED THAT all the “Improvement Bonds, dated at 1898” of the Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District, dated July 1, 1898, numbered from (1) to one thousand and eighty-seven (887), both inclusive, bearing interest at the rate of five per centum (5%) per annum, interest semi-annually on the first of January and first of July of each year, and maturing serially on July 1 of the years 1898 to 1908, both inclusive, issued by the Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District under authority of its resolution passed at a meeting of said Board on June 16, 1898, are now called for payment in both principal and interest, and shall be redeemable by the Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District at par, a premium of three (3%) per centum, and accrued interest on January 1, 1898.

These bonds may be redeemed at the office of the Unitary National Bank of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, or at the office of the State Treasurer in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, or at The New York Trust Company, New York, N. Y., at the option of the holder.

\[\text{REASON IS ALSO GIVEN that} 2014,000 bonds of the issue of “Improvement Bonds, dated at 1898” of the Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District, dated July 1, 1898, said 2014,000 bonds being the last bonds of said issue in numerical order of issuance numbered from one hundred eighty-seven (187) to one thousand (1000), both inclusive, bearing interest at the rate of five (5%) per centum per annum, interest payable semi-annually on the first of January and first of July of each year, and maturing serially on July 1 in the years 1844 to 1914, both inclusive, issued by the Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District under authority of its resolution passed at a meeting of the Board on June 16, 1898, are now called for payment in both principal and interest, and shall be redeemable by the Board of Levee Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District at par, a premium of five (5%) per centum, and accrued interest on January 1, 1898.
These bonds may be redeemed at the office of
the Orleans Parish Clerk of New Orleans,
New Orleans, Louisiana, or at the office of
the State Treasurer, Baton Rouge, Louisiana,
at the option of the holder.

Holders of the aforesaid bonds are further
notified that if said bonds are not presented
for redemption on or before January 1, 1959,
interest shall cease to run from and after
said date.

This notice is given in accordance with Resolution
No. 246, of the Board of Supervisors of
the Parish of Orleans, of the City of
New Orleans, Louisiana.


This bond is to be delivered to the
New Orleans, La., November 24, 1958,

that at the time of payment and delivery to be placed:

in an authorized depository for public moneys of the United States according
to the requirements of the United States Attorney
for the United States District Court for the
District of Louisiana.

the proceeds, as per Resolution No. 246, of the Board of Supervisors of
the Parish of Orleans, of the City of
New Orleans, Louisiana.

In the event that the proceeds are placed
and/or held in trust for the purpose of
constructing the Orleans Levee District and the Taxpayer of the City of
New Orleans and State of Louisiana contrary to the form of the


In the District Court of the United States in and for the
Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans Division, at the 25th Term thereof
As it 1980,

The Grand Jurors of the United States duly summoned, sworn
and charged on the grand jury, upon the part and in the name of the United
States, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of
Louisiana, to answer the information of the United States District Court for
the Eastern District of Louisiana and within the jurisdiction of this Court
on or about the first day of January, 1980, the Grand Jurors
unknown to your Grand Jurors and substantially unanswerable with the State
of Louisiana, being unaccountably, extensively, knowingly and knowingly of
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana, and other places to your
respect, unknown, advised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice
to defraud and for obtaining money and property by means of false and fraudulent
promises, representations and promises from Louisiana State University and
Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State of Louisiana and the Mayor
of the State of Louisiana, and others, other persons to your Grand Jurors unknown,
which scheme and artifice to defraud was to be affected by the use and misuse
of the United States Post Office establishment, in furtherance of said scheme
and artifice to defraud did deposit and cause to be deposited in an authorized
depository for mail matter for mailing and delivery and knowingly caused to be
transferred by mail and by the Post Office establishment of the United States
according to the instruction thereon process and money letters and checks, which
said scheme and artifice to defraud was in substance as follows:

That the said Louisiana State University and Agricultural
and Mechanical College was engaged in an extensive program of building
construction on the campus at Baton Rouge, Louisiana; that the defendant,
EMEA CARMICHAEL, was employed by the said Louisiana State University and
Agricultural and Mechanical College as Superintendent of Construction in
charge of said building construction program; that as Superintendent of
Construction, the said EMEA CARMICHAEL was contracted with or assumed the
duty of obtaining from and receiving from contractors, subcontractors,
and material so named was to be done and materials to be furnished in connection with the said building construction program that the said defendant, by letter and verbally would invite and request contractors, subcontractors, and material suppliers to furnish prices and some bids on various works to be done and materials to be furnished in connection with said building construction program that said said contractors, subcontractors, and material suppliers were to furnish materials and labor to perform said work, but the said defendant, after preparing said plans and specifications, would instruct said contractors, subcontractors, and material suppliers to bid certain amounts to cover price and labor, and some of the said contractors would refuse and instruct the said contractors, subcontractors, and material suppliers to bid some amount to cover price and labor, and some of the said contractors, subcontractors, and material suppliers were paid by the said Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College for work done or material furnished by them in connection with the said building construction program, the said contractors, subcontractors, and material suppliers would pay to the said defendant and the said defendant would receive from the said contractor, subcontractors, and material suppliers, the sums which he, the defendant, had instructed them to add to their bids for work.

That one Clifford L. King of New Orleans, Louisiana, was not so engaged in the building construction business, that he was to say, in those. In his business of furnishing and installing metal, stone, glass, and brick, and the use of building materials that the said Clifford L. King admitted to the defendant, James Galoak, in his official capacity as Superintendent of Construction for Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, a bid to furnish and install certain materials, to-wit, marble and aluminum doors in connection with the construction of what is known as the arts and science building; that the said defendant then instructed the said Clifford L. King to prepare a second bid and to add to the amount of the said original bid the amount of $3,000, and to pay over or "kick back" to him, the said defendant, the additional amount of $3,000.
Construction of the Agricultural Center building, the said Clifford A. King was instructed by the said defendant to add the sum of $1,000 to the amount of said bid and that the said Clifford A. King did add the sum of $1,000 to the said bid, which sum was paid to the said defendant; that an order of the said Clifford A. King for furnishing and installing marble in connection with the construction of the Post Office and Post Office Building

On the night before, the said Clifford A. King was instructed by the said defendant to add the sum of $1,000 to the amount of said bid, which sum was paid to the said defendant; that the said Clifford A. King did add the sum of $1,000 to the said bid, which sum was paid to the said defendant; that the said defendant instructed the said defendant to add the sum of $1,000 to the amount of said bid, which sum was paid to the said defendant.

If said request was for the reason that the said defendant to King would not then have the means with which the said defendant would agree to be paid for payment to him, the said defendant, so far as it appears that in such instance after receiving the said rough draft form of bid, the said defendant would instruct the said Clifford A. King as to the means in which the said bid was to be increased as aforesaid, and the said Clifford A. King would then increase the bid accordingly and submit it to said defendant in formal manner that upon rejection of these formal bids by the defendant the bid, the said defendant, would approve them, thereby falsely and fraudulently certifying, representing and pretending that the said bids were correct and proper and that the entire amount of each of said bids would be payable by Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to the said Clifford A. King upon the compliance by the said Clifford A. King with the terms of the bid, that is to say, upon the delivery of the material and the doing of the work required to be delivered or done under the bid; that the said defendant by virtue of his said false representations and pretenses would cause the construction to be completed by the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to also approve the said bids and to issue a formal order of requisition covering each of said bids; that when payment was due to the said Clifford A. King by Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College
For furnishing materials and installing materials in accordance with the aforementioned plan, the said Clifford A. King would prepare bills and statements covering the amounts so falsely represented, pretended and claimed to be honestly due as said bills, which he would cause and cause to be recorded by the said defendant; that the said defendant would falsely and fraudulently acknowledge, certify, receivably, protest and decline as being due the said Clifford A. King the full amount of said bills and statements and send them to the office of the building of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges for the issuance of checks (or promissory notes), but alleging that the said defendant's reasons, representations, protestations, pretenses and claims of the said defendant to the said plaintiff of sworn appropriate officers of said Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges would cause to be issued checks in payment of said bills and statements, which checks would be dated against the account of the said Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges in a federal reserve banking that the said Clifford A. King would deposit said checks to the credit of his account in the American Bank a Trust Company at New Orleans, Louisiana, that the said defendant would instruct the said Clifford A. King to pay the amounts which had been added to the original bills and bills at the instruction of said defendant as aforesaid. In such case to King the said defendant, said amounts being the difference between the amounts of the original bills and the amounts of the bills as increased in accordance with the defendant's instructions, that the said Clifford A. King would draw checks, payable to each against his account in the American Bank a Trust Company at New Orleans, for which checks he would obtain cash, which cash, he, the said Clifford A. King, would personally convey and pay to the said defendant at his office at the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College that the checks of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College which said Clifford A. King deposited in the American Bank a Trust Company in New Orleans as aforesaid, would be transferred by the said American Bank and Trust Company in New Orleans in accordance with its usual custom to the Federal Reserve Bank at New Orleans, Louisiana, which, in turn, in order to effect payment of said checks, would transmit the said checks to the City National
Back in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, by deposing one is an authorized depositary for mail matter to be sent and delivered by the Post Office establishment of the United States.

That the Grand jurors say and present that said representations, promises and oaths were false and fraudulent in this, to-wit: that the said side of the said Clifford A. King, which the said defendant procured for acceptance and represented as promised was current and genuine, was in fact false, fictitious, false and fraudulent for the purpose that the said defendant and another the said Clifford A. King to aid in the procurement of said title and its proceeds, and in said Clifford A. King to aid in the worthless of said title and its proceeds, and the said defendant, will hereafter not be and is not payable by said Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College that the said defendant will know that the said of the said Clifford A. King which by the said defendant, had approved for acceptance and represented as promised was current and genuine, was in fact false, fictitious, false and fraudulent for the purpose that the said defendant, will know that he had caused the said Clifford A. King to add to the amount of said title and said proceed of money which has, the said defendant, will know were not due and payable by the said Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College that the said defendant will know that as a result of his approval, representations, promises and oaths, the said purchasing department of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College would issue requisitions authorizing the said Clifford A. King to proceed with the furnishing of materials and doing of work covered by the said fraudulent and false title and in said Clifford A. King to aid in the worthless of said title and its proceeds, and the said defendant will know, the said of the said Clifford A. King and the said defendant to fraudulently and falsely obtain more of money from the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, which was not lawfully and lawfully due to the said Clifford A. King and the said defendant, but which more of money would be paid by the said Clifford A. King to the said defendant as what is commonly known as "kick-backs" and "gratuities" that
For each sum of money so unlawfully and illegally obtained from the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College by the said Clifford A. King and the said defendant and in turn paid by the said Clifford A. King to the defendant herein, the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College would not and did not receive anything of value.

And the said Grand Jury, after present and find, that each and every one of the pretenses, representations and stated facts and intentions of which referred to and mentioned were false and intended to be false and untrue and all these additional facts were known by said defendant to be false and untrue and were made and intended to be made by the said defendant for the purpose of and with the intention of obtaining from Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College and the State of Louisiana the sum of $11,200 but honestly due, and converting the same to the use and benefit of said defendant.

That is to say, on or about the 21st day of September, 1949, at New Orleans, Louisiana, in the New Orleans Division of the Eastern District of Louisiana and within the jurisdiction of this Court for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice of fraud, unlawfully, fraudulently and feloniously did knowingly deposit and cause to be deposited in an authorized depository for mail matter of the United States at New Orleans, Louisiana, a certain letter enclosed in a postal envelope addressed to Mr. George Caldwell, Superintendent of Construction, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to be sent and delivered by the Post Office establishment of the United States, which letter was not in the tenor following, to-wit:

September 11, 1949

Mr. George Caldwell
Superintendent of Construction
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, La.

Re: Agricultural Building

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 1st regarding the marble work on the above mentioned job. It is going to be impossible for us to get shipment of the basement portion of this job ready in time to complete same by September 1st. However, I am today writing Cady Pottery Marble Company requesting them to give us the earliest shipping date possible on this portion of the marble.
and I will advise you definitely when I can complete installation in the basement when I receive their answer.

Yours very truly,

CLIFFORD N. KENN

By

that at the time of placing and causing to be placed the said letter in an authorized depository for mail matter of the United States前所未有, the defendant and there knew that the said letter was for the purpose of preventing the said scheme and artifice and for the purpose of obtaining Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State of Louisiana and the purposes of the State of Louisiana contrary to the laws of the State of such acts and provided and against the peace and dignity of the United States.

ADJUDGED

And by the Great Judge aforesaid, upon their oaths aforesaid, to further present and charge that the defendant, on or about the 15th day of Sept. 20, 1956, in said division and in said district and within the jurisdiction of this Court, did with knowledge, with the intent to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, that is to say, the same scheme and artifice that above forth and described in the first count of this indictment, the allegations concerning which, in said first count, are incorporated by reference thereto in this count as fully as if they were here repeated and, for the purpose of securing said scheme and artifice, knowingly and fraudulently did knowingly cause to be delivered by mail by the post office establishment of the United States, according to the direction thereon, a certain letter enclosed in a postal envelope, addressed to Mr. Clifford King, Jr., 404 Esplanade Temple Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, which letter was and is of the tenor following, to wit:

"September 10, 1956

Mr. Clifford King, Jr.
404 Esplanade Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. King:

As we will try to complete the basement of the
Agricultural Extension Building by September 30, for the opening of school, we would like for you to make all possible effort that you can to get the material for the teachers, only, at once.

Please let us know by return mail when you can have this material on the job, and in place, so that we might make a report to Mr. Smith on this item.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) George Galvani
Superintendent

[ SEAL ]

That on the said 30th day of January to be delivered by mail to the Post Office establishment of the United States, according to the direction thereon,

the said letter, the defendant, GEORGE GALVANI, then and there will know that the said letter was for the purpose of executing the said scheme and artifice and was for the purpose of defrauding Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State of Louisiana and the Taxpayer of the State of Louisiana, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the United States.

COUNT SEVENTH,

And the Grand Panel aforesaid, upon their oaths aforesaid, do further present and charge that the defendant, on or about the 15th day of September, 1958, in said division and in said district and within the jurisdiction of this Court, as having unlawfully, willfully and fraudulently devised a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretense, representations and promises, that is to say, the same scheme and artifice that is set forth and described in the first count of this indictment, the allegations concerning which, in said first count, are incorporated by reference thereto in this count as fully as if they were here restated and for the purpose of executing said scheme and artifice, willfully, unlawfully, and fraudulently, the knowing, false statements contained by mail by the Post Office establishment of the United States, according to the direction thereon, a certain letter enclosed in a
postage envelope, addressed to Mr. Clifford King, 604 Masonic
Temple Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, which letter was and is at the
office following, to-wit:

"September 10, 1889

Mr. Clifford King
604 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. King,

I enclosed the sketch of architect's in last's letters
on the first floor of Agricultural Extension Building

Your haste details only last of July, which is now
according to the general plan, subject those present
this at once, according to the sketch we are
giving note.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) George Caldwell

Superintendent

That at the time of causing to be delivered by mail, by the Post Office,
establishment of the United States, according to the direction therein,
the said letter, the defendant, GEORGE CALDWELL, then and there will
know that the said letter was for the purpose of conveying the said
scheme and act as for the purpose of defrauding Louisiana State
University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State of Louisiana
and the Taxpayers of the State of Louisiana, contrary to the term of the
statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity
of the United States.

COUNT FOUR

And the Grand Jurors, after their oaths administrled, do
further present and charge that the defendant, on or about the 60th
day of March, 1897, in said division and in said district, as within the
jurisdiction of this court, causing unlawfully, wilfully and fraudulently
derived a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, that is to say, the same scheme and artifice that is set forth and described in the first count of the indictment, the allegations concerning which, in said first count, are incorporated by reference herein to this count as fully as if they were here repeated and, for the purpose of executing said scheme and artifice, maliciously, fraudulently and feloniously did knowingly cause to be delivered by mail to the Post Office Establishment of the United States, according to the direction thereon, a certain letter enclosed in a plain white envelope, addressed to Mr. Clifford King, Esq., 401 Roosevelt Temple Apts., New Orleans, Louisiana, which letter was not in the lower following:

March 28, 1947

Mr. Clifford King, Esq.
401 Roosevelt Temple Apts.
New Orleans, Louisiana

Mrs. Florence A. King,

Dear Mr. King,

Received your sketch of detail showing measurements that you will check against your plans. We find that you have made a mistake.

Therefore, please follow these dimensions.

Yours very truly,

[Signed] George Caldwell
George Caldwell
Supervisor of Construction

that at the time of sending the letter by mail to the Post Office establishment of the United States, according to the direction thereon, the said letter, the envelope, George Caldwell, then and there well knew that the said letter was for the purpose of executing the said scheme and artifice and was for the purpose of defrauding Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State of Louisiana and the Taxpayers of the State of Louisiana contrary to the laws of the state in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the United States.
COURT OF APPEAL

And the Grand Jurors aforesaid, upon their oaths aforesaid, do further present and charge that the defendant, on or since the 7th day of July, 1897, in said division and in said district, and within the jurisdiction of this Court, did herein unlawfully, willfully and fraudulently devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, and in order to carry out the same scheme and enterprise that he had conformed and according to the said rules of this indictment, the subsections containing herein, as well other subsections, are incorporated by reference herein in this present and fully as if they were here repeated, and for the purpose of executing said scheme and artifice, willfully and fraudulently did knowingly cause to be delivered by mail by the Post Office establishment of the United States, according to the directions therein, a certain letter enclosed in a registered envelope, addressed to Mr. Clifford King, 2110 4th Avenue Temple Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, which letter was and is of the same nature, etc.

July 9, 1897

Mr. Clifford King, Jno.
2110 4th Avenue Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

I want to call your attention to the fact that the work on the Agricultural Center is going to start July 10 and we have not received one piece of granite.

I would like for you to give an explanation as to why this granite has not been shipped and that we are going to do about same.

Upon receipt of this letter, please get in touch with me either by telephone or else write to Leon Huggins.

This job has to be completed by October 1st.

Yours very truly,

[Signature] George Caldwell
General, Construction
C.O.

that at the time of causing to be delivered by mail by the Post Office establishment of the United States, according to the direction thereon, the said letter, the defendant, GEORGE CALDWELL, then and there well knew that the said letter was for the purpose of executing the said scheme and
PAY TO THE ORDER OF
Payee's Printed Name
Payee's Printed Name

PAY TO THE ORDER OF
Payee's Printed Name
Payee's Printed Name

PAY TO THE ORDER OF
Payee's Printed Name
Payee's Printed Name

New Orleans National Bank

As a further charge, we hereby agree to be bound to the jurisdiction of this Court, to present truthfully, faithfully and sincerely to the allegations concerning which, as in first count, are incorporated by reference herein in this count as fully as if they were here expressly set forth, and to the purposes of executing said scheme and artifice, wilfully, illegally and feloniously, did knowingly deposit and receive to be deposited in an authorized depository for all matters of the United States at New Orleans, Louisiana, a certain check enclosed in a postage envelope addressed to City National Bank, New Orleans, Louisiana, to be sent and delivered by the post office establishment of the United States, the face and reverse of which checks were and are of the tenor following: to-wit:
Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College,
the State of Louisiana and the taxpayers of the State of Louisiana,
contending to the form of the address in such cases made and provided
and against the peace and dignity of the United States.

(Signed) JAMIE A. FLOWERS
Secretary of State of the State of Louisiana.

MAY 29, 1865.
NEW ORLEANS, La., April 30, 1865
(Signed) JOHN BURKIN SHIE
Voyeur
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

In the District Court of the United States in and for the Southern District of Louisiana, New Orleans Division, at the Hill House thereof, A.D. 1906.

The Grand Jury of the United States duly constituted, sworn and charged at New Orleans, Louisiana, at the scene of meeting of the Grand Jury, met and proceeded to trace the documents

The said GEORGE CALDWELL, hence will come to the Grand Jury and be duly sworn to give evidence and be examined in accordance with the Constitution of the United States and with the Constitution of this Court, and did at about the 1st day of January, 1906, the court date being known to your Grand Jury, and continuing hereinto until the date of this indictment, being unwillingly, wilfully, knowingly and fraudulently at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and New Orleans, Louisiana, and other places to your Grand Jury unknown, devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and for obtaining money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretences, representations and promises, from Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State of Louisiana, and the Temple of the State of Louisiana, and other other persons to your Grand Jury unknown, which scheme and artifice to defraud was to be effected by the very intent and purpose of the United States Post Office Establishment, in furtherance of said scheme and artifice to defraud said deposit and causes to be deposited in an unauthorized depositary for mail matter for mailing and delivery, and knowingly caused to be delivered by mail by the Post Office Establishment of the United States according to the directions thereon, divers and sundry letters and orders, which pretenses and artifices to defraud was in substance as follows:

The said Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College was carrying on an extensive program of building construction on its campus at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. That the defendant, GEORGE CALDWELL, was employed by the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College as Superintendant of Construction in charge of the said building construction program that as Superintendant of Construction the said GEORGE CALDWELL was entrusted with and assumed the duty of obtaining from and receiving from contractors, subcontractors and material dealers, bids on various work to be done....
and materials to be furnished in connection with the said building construction program that the said defendant, by letter and verbally, would invite contractors, subcontractors and material dealers to furnish prices and make bids on various work to be done and materials to be furnished in connection with said building construction program that when said contractors, subcontractors and material dealers would call on the said defendant at his office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the purpose of submitting such prices and bids, said defendant, after receiving said prices and bids, would submit said contractors, subcontractors and material dealers to said certain amounts of their prices and bids, which amounts the said defendant would advise and indicate to said contractors, subcontractors and material dealers were to be paid away to him, the said defendant, when the said contractors, subcontractors and material dealers were paid by the said Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College; that when the said contractors, subcontractors and material dealers were paid by Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College for work done or materials furnished by them in connection with the said building construction program, the said contractors, subcontractors and material dealers would pay to the said defendant the said defendant would receive from the said contractors, subcontractors and material dealers the amounts which he, the defendant, had instructed them to add to their bids and prices.

That the said defendant would advise said contractors, subcontractors and material dealers that he, the said defendant, would furnish certain of the materials required by the contractors, subcontractors and material dealers in connection with work to be done and materials to be furnished in compliance with their bids, and that they, the said contractors, subcontractors and material dealers, should in payment thereof pay to him, the said defendant, certain sums of money in each of that he, the said defendant, would furnish the said materials to the said contractors, subcontractors and material dealers by embedding, welding, cutting and delivery away materials, the property of the Louisiana State University and the Works Progress Administration of the United States; that one A. J. Gofry of New Orleans, Louisiana, under the trade name of A. J. Gofry Art Terrazzo Company, was and is engaged in the business of installing terrazzo floors, vestibules, wall-cladding and stairs, and in furnishing the materials necessary to do such work; that the said A. J. Gofry submitted to the defendant GEORGE OALWELL, in his official capacity as Superintendent of Construction for Louisiana State University and
Agricultural and Mechanical College, a bid to install certain terrace work in connection with the construction of what is known as the Agriculture Section, and to furnish materials necessary to carry out such work was delivered to the said A. F. Cofrty to prepare a second bid and to add to the amount of the said original bid the sum of $2,000 and to pay over as a "kick back" to the said defendant, the said additional sum of $2,000 as added; that in accordance with the written contract, the said A. F. Cofrty prepared a second bid which included, in addition to the second bid received by the said defendant, the amount of $2,000, which sum of $2,000 was paid in cash by the said A. F. Cofrty to the said defendant, the said additional sum of $2,000 in payment of said second bid and to certify that the said defendant furnished the said A. F. Cofrty with good and sufficient means to prove the property of the Louisiana Agricultural and Mechanical College and the State Progress Administration of the United States, which said and certified the said GEORGE C. COWELL, defendant herein, enclosed, stole, took and carried away from the said Louisiana Agricultural and Mechanical College and the State Progress Administration of the United States, the said said and certified the said GEORGE C. COWELL, defendant herein, certified the said

That the said A. F. Cofrty also submitted to the said defendant, GEORGE C. COWELL, bids for installing terrace work and for furnishing materials necessary in carrying out such work in connection with the construction of what is known as the Stock Exhibit Building and the Post Office and South Addition to the Field House; that in each of these instances the said A. F. Cofrty, before submitting his bid to the said defendant, would ascertain in the said defendant the amounts which the said defendant would require to be added to the respective bid for payments to him, the said defendant of what is commonly called "kickbacks"; that on the bid for installing terrace work and furnishing materials necessary therewith in connection with the construction of the Stock Exhibit Building, the said A. F. Cofrty was instructed by the said defendant, GEORGE C. COWELL, to add the sum of $1,501.65 and that the said A. F. Cofrty did not add the sum of $1,501.65 to the amount of said bid, which sum of $1,501.65 was paid in cash by the said A. F. Cofrty.
to the said defendant that the said defendant furnished to the said A. J. Colby for use in connection with the installation of terrazzo work in the said steel exhibit building under his said bid, materials having a value of approximately $500.00, which materials were the property of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College and the Works Progress Administration of the United States of America, and which materials the said defendant promised, wrote, took and carried away from Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College and Works Progress Administration of the United States of America, that in payment for said materials the said A. J. Colby paid to the said defendant, GENE CALDWELL, the sum of approximately $500.00 in money.

That the said A. J. Colby, in submitting the aforesaid bid, would first prepare said bid in rough draft form that he would then present the bid to the said defendant in said rough draft form for the reason that the said A. J. Colby would not then know the amount which the said defendant would require to be added for payment to him, the said defendant, as aforesaid; that in each instance, after receiving the said rough draft form of bid the said defendant would instruct the said A. J. Colby as to the amount in which the said bid was to be increased, as aforesaid; the said A. J. Colby would then increase the bid accordingly and submit it to said defendant in formal manner. Upon receipt of these formal bids by the defendant, he, the defendant, would approve them, thereby falsely and fraudulently certifying, representing and pretending that the said bids were correct and proper and that the entire amount of each of said bids would be payable by Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to the said A. J. Colby upon the compliance by the said A. J. Colby with the terms of the bid, that is to say,
upon the delivery of the materials and doing of the work required to
be delivered or done under the bid that the said defendant, by virtue of his
said false representations and pretenses would cause the purchasing depart-
ment of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to
also approve the said bids and to issue a formal order or requisition covering
each of said bids; that such payment was due to the said A. J. Gofry by Louisi-
aman State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College for furnishing
materials and installing materials in accordance with the said bid; that
said A. J. Gofry would prepare bills and statements covering the amount of
materials furnished, pretended and claimed to be honestly due on said bids
which he would deliver and cause to be forwarded to the said defendant that the
said defendant would falsely and fraudulently approve, certify, represent, pre-
tend and claim as being due the said A. J. Gofry the full amounts of said
bills and statements and send them to the office of the Auditor of the Louisiana
State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College for issuance of checks
in payment thereof; that relying upon the said fraudulent approval, certifica-
tions, representations, pretenses and claims of the said defendant, the said auditor
or other appropriate officer of said Louisiana State University and Agricultural
and Mechanical College would cause to be issued checks in payment of said bills
and statements, which checks would be drawn against the account of the said
Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College in the
City National Bank, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

That the said defendant would instruct the said A. J. Gofry to
pay the amount which had been added to the original bids and bills at the in-
struction of the said defendant and the amount which the defendant claimed was
due him for materials delivered by him to the said A. J. Gofry, as aforesaid,
in cash to him, the said defendant, that the said GEORGE GOFRY would endorse
one of the said checks for the purpose of enabling the said A. J. Gofry to cash
the said check at the City National Bank in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and the said
defendant would accompany the said A. J. Gofry to the bank where he would wait
outside while the said A. J. Gofry would enter the bank and obtain the money
on the said check, after which the said A. J. Gofry would pay in cash to the
said defendant the sum of $2,000; that the defendant would write a note to
an officer of the City National Bank, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, known to your
Grand Jurors only by the name of "Lowe," introducing the said A. J. Gofry
To the said officer and stating that it was satisfactory to each one of the 
said checks of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical 
College so drawn for the said A. J. Colfray that the said officer of the 
said bank would cash the said check and that thereafter the said A. J. Colfray 
would pay to the said defendant, in cash, the sum of $1,000; that the other 
above-mentioned checks of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical 
College would be deposited by the said A. J. Colfray in the account of the 
said officer in the Whitney National Bank of New Orleans, Louisiana; that the said A. J. 
Colfray would then charge against his account in the said Whitney National Bank 
of New Orleans for which checks he would obtain cash, which cash he, the said 
A. J. Colfray, would personally convey and pay to the said defendant at his office 
of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, 
which cash would be in payment of amounts added to the original bills and bills 
of the instruction of the said defendant, and in payment of materials which the 
said defendant had delivered to the said A. J. Colfray as evidenced that the 
checks of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College 
which said A. J. Colfray deposited in the Whitney National Bank of New Orleans, 
as evidenced, would be transmitted by the said Whitney National Bank of New 
Orleans, in accordance with its usual custom, to the Federal Reserve Bank of New 
Orleans, Louisiana, which in turn, in order to effect payment of said checks, 
would transmit the said checks to the City National Bank at Galveston, Texas, 
by depositing same in an authorized depository for mail matter to be sent and de-
ligivered by the Post Office Establishment of the United States.

And the Grand jurors say and present that said representations, 
premises and claims were false in this respect: The said bids of the said A. J. Colfray 
which the said defendant approved for acceptance and pretended were correct 
and proper were in fact fictitious, false and fraudulent for the reason that the 
said defendant had caused the said A. J. Colfray to add to the amounts of said 
bids sums of money which he, the said defendant, well knew were not due and 
payable by the said Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical 
College; that the said defendant well knew that the bids of the said A. J. Colfray 
which he, the said defendant, had approved for acceptance and represented 
were correct and proper, were in fact fictitious, false and fraudulent for the 
reason that he, the said defendant, well knew that he had caused the said A. J. 
Colfray to add to the amounts of said bids sums of money which he, the said
Defendant, willfully, them and pay for the said Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, that said defendant not have that as a result of his approval, certifications, representations, promises and claims the said Agricultural and Mechanical College would make regulations authorizing the said A. J. Galtry to proceed with the furnishing of materials and doing of work covered by the said fraudulent and false bills that as the said defendant will have the said two-and-one-half inch water meter, and that the said Water Meter will be paid for. The bills and statements, as aforesaid, were drafted solely for the purpose of enabling the said A. J. Galtry and the said defendant, AUBREY CALDWELL, to fraudulently and falsely obtain some of money from the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College which were not legally and honestly due to the said A. J. Galtry and the said defendant, AUBREY CALDWELL; but which sums of money would be paid by the said A. J. Galtry to the said defendant as that is commonly known as "kick back" and crafty, and for which said sums of money will unlawfully and illegally obtained from the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College by the said A. J. Galtry and the said defendant, and in turn paid by the said A. J. Galtry to the defendant's bank; the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College would not and did not receive anything of value.

And the said Grand Jurors says, present and finds that each and every one of the pretended representations and claims made and intended to be made by the said defendant were false and untrue and intended to be false and untrue and at all times mentioned herein were known to the said defendant to be false and untrue and were made and intended to be made by the said defendant for the purpose and with the intention of obtaining from Louisiana State University and Agricultural and
Mechanical College and the State of Louisiana the sum of $4,000.00 not lawfully due and converting the same to the use and benefit of said defendant.

That he, the said defendant, on or about the 15th of August, 1927, at New Orleans, Louisiana, in the New Orleans Division of the Eastern District of Louisiana and within the jurisdiction of this Court, for the purpose of executing the scheme and artifice aforesaid, unlawfully, fraudulently and feloniously did knowingly accept and cause to be deposited in an unauthorized depository for mail matter of the United States at New Orleans, Louisiana, a certain letter containing an unsealed envelope opened by defendant and printed matter of description.

In a U.S. Buildings, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to be sent and delivered by the Post Office establishment of the United States, which letter was put in the following words, to-wit:

June, 1927

George Caldwell,
Chairman

Baton Rouge, La.

George Caldwell,
Chairman

Baton Rouge, La.

Came into possession

Replying to your letter of August 1927,

We are advised that we have placed orders for materials to be shipped immediately for the Agricultural Building and the Strawberry Stadium job, with the exception of the marble steps as we don't want them to be exposed to the weather more than one week, in order not to rot.

Will you kindly advise us the approximate date these jobs will be ready for our use.

Thanking you, we are

Yours very truly,

A. T. Gelert and Co.

A. T. Gelert and Co.

By (Signature) A. T. Gelert

And that at the time of placing and causing to be placed the said letter in an authorized depository for mail matter of the United States aforesaid, the defendant then and there knew that the said letter was for the purpose of executing the said scheme and artifice and was for the purpose of defrauding Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State of Louisiana and the Taxpayers of the State of Louisiana; contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the United States.
And the Grand Jury, upon their oath, do further present and charge that the defendant, on or about the 15th day of August, 1907, in said division and in said district and within the jurisdiction of this Court, for having unlawfully, wilfully and fraudulently devised a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of dishonest and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, did on the said 15th day of August, 1907, cause and ordain and cause to be carried into effect a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of dishonest and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises. For the purpose of securing said scheme and artifice, unlawfully and fraudulently did knowingly cause to be delivered by mail, by the Post Office establishment of the United States, according to the direction thereon, a certain letter enclosed in a postpaid envelope addressed to A. T. Calhoun and Company, 415 Julia Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, which letter was sent on or about the 15th day of August, 1907.

"August 15, 1907

A. T. Calhoun and Company
415 Julia Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Gentlemen,

At a conference with the president on August 11, the completion date of the Agricultural Center is set for November 15. Therefore, we must insist that you deliver all your material in connection with this job as soon as possible.

Please let us know by return mail when you may expect to receive material on this job so that we might complete plans on time.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) George Calholl
George Calholl
Supt. Construction
La. State University"

that at the time of causing to be delivered by mail by the Post Office establishment of the United States, according to the direction thereon, the said letter, the defendant, GEORGE CALHOLL, then and there will know that the said letter was for the purpose of executing the said scheme and artifice and was for the purpose of defrauding Louisiana State Univerisy and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State of Louisiana and the Taxpayers of the State of Louisiana, contrary to the form of the statute in such cases made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the United States.
And the Court being apprised of the facts as above stated, no further present and charging. And the defendant, on or about the 18th day of April, 1909, in said division and in said district and within the jurisdiction of this Court, in having unlawfully, willfully and fraudulently devised a scheme and artifice to defraud and to defraud money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, that is to say, the same scheme and artifice that is set forth and described in the first paragraph of the foregoing, the allegations pertaining to which, in said charge, are incorporated by reference thereof in said charge in full, as if they were here repeated; and, for the purpose of executing said scheme and artifice, unlawfully, willfully and fraudulently did knowingly cause to be delivered by mail by the Post Office establishment of the United States, according to the direction therein, a certain letter enclosed in a postal card, addressed to Mr. A. J. Geirr, 605 Julia Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, which letter was and is of the tenor following, to wit:

Mr. A. J. Geirr
605 Julia Street
New Orleans, L.

Dear Sir:

We have just been notified by Mr. Bold that the letter you sent to him will be sent to you at once. Please submit plans and specifications for the job as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) George Caldwell
George Caldwell
Chief, Construction
L.H.E.

That at the time of causing to be delivered by mail by the Post Office establishment of the United States, according to the direction therein, the said letter, the defendant, GEORGE CALDWELL, knew that the said letter was for the purpose of executing the said scheme and artifice and was for the purpose of defrauding Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State of Louisiana and the Taxpayers of the State of Louisiana, contrary to the form of the statute in such cases made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the United States.
sent to the Court House afterwards, upon which it was afterward, so further provest. The evidence that the defendant on or about the 10th day of October, 1928, is in said Division and in said District and within the jurisdiction of this Court, so proving unlawfully, wilfully and fraudulently devised a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretense, representations and promises, that he did cause or cause another person to do such false and fraudulent defraud and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretense, representations and promises, that he did cause or cause another person to do such false and fraudulent

sent to the Court House afterwards, upon which it was afterward, so further provest. The evidence that the defendant on or about the 10th day of October, 1928, is in said Division and in said District and within the jurisdiction of this Court, so proving unlawfully, wilfully and fraudulently devised a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretense, representations and promises, that he did cause or cause another person to do such false and fraudulent
did incorporate by reference herein in this note so fully as if they were here reported and, for the purpose of executing said scheme and artifice, unlawfully, wilfully and fraudulently did knowingly cause to be delivered by mail by the Post Office establishment of the United States, according to the direction thereon, a certain letter enclosed in a postage envelope addressed to As F. Collier Art Furnace Co., 612 Feite Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, which letter was and is of the tenor following, to wit:

Louisiana State University
and
Agricultural and Mechanical College
University, La.
Professor E. H. C. Smith

As F. Collier Art Furnace Co.
612 Feite Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Gentlemen—

On account of the speed we have been able to make on the Field House (PostOffice), we will be ready for you to start the furnace work, Monday, October 17th. Please make arrangements to have your men and material here on the job so that we can get the work done as soon as you possibly can as we are pushing your starting date up two (2) weeks.

Yours very truly,

George Caldwell

George Caldwell

that at the time of causing to be delivered by mail by the Post Office establishment of the United States, according to the direction thereon, the said letter, the defendant, GEORGE C. CALDWELL, then and there well knew that the said letter was for the purpose of executing the said scheme and artifice and was for the purpose of defrauding Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State of Louisiana and the Taxpayers of the State of Louisiana; contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided.
CASE NO.

And the Grand Jury aforesaid, upon their oath aforesaid, do
further present and charge that the defendant on or about the 10th day
of February, 1900, in said Division and in said District and within the
jurisdiction of this Court, as having maliciously, wilfully and fraudulently
devised a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property
by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises,
that is to say, the said scheme and artifice that is set forth and operated
in the first count of this indictment, the allegations concerning which,
are set forth at length and recited in previous paragraphs in this cause,
as fully as if they were here repeated and, for the purpose of executing
said scheme and artifice, maliciously, wilfully and fraudulently did knowingly
deposit and cause to be deposited in an authorized depository for mail matters
of the United States at New Orleans, Louisiana, a certain letter enclosed
in a registered envelope addressed to George Caldwell, Superintendent of
Construction, Louisiana State University, University, Louisiana, to be
sent and delivered by the Post Office department of the United States,
which letter was and is of the following tenor, to wit:

Mr. J. Colfry & Sons Co.,
Tennessee Florin, Vegetable,
Wine Dealers and Sales
613 Felix Street
New Orleans, La.

George Caldwell, Supt. of Construction,
Louisiana State University,
University, La.

February 10, 1900

Dear Mr. Caldwell:–

Replying to your letter of February 8th, wish to
advice that I will be in Baton Rouge Monday.

Thanking you, we are

Respectfully yours,

A. J. Colfry & Sons Co.

The said letter was one of the items and was for
the purpose of executing the said scheme and artifice and was for
the purpose of defrauding Louisiana State University and Agricultural and
Mechanical College, the State of Louisiana and the Taxpayers of the State
of Louisiana, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and
provided for against the peace and dignity of the United States.

DUE EVIDENCE

And the Grand Jury, being duly summoned, do further present and charge that the defendant, as at above the 16th day of April, 1900, in said division and in said district and within the jurisdiction of this Court, as having unlawfully, willfully and fraudulently devised a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, thereby causing the said Jacob and his agents, in the Name of the said defendant, the said money and property which at said Time came into the possession of the said defendant, was deposited in the account of the said defendant in the bank of said city and county as if the proceeds were separately and for the purpose of securing said scheme and artifice, willfully and fraudulently (as knowingly and directly and cause to be deposited in an authorized depository for all moneys of the United States at New Orleans, Louisiana, a certain check payable to city National Bank, New Orleans, Louisiana, to be paid and collected by the Post Office establishment of the United States, the face and reverse of which check were and are of the tenor following, to-wit:

No. 2466

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A. J. Golffy Collage

Pey to the
Order of A. J. Golffy Art Furnace Co.

L. S. A. Collage

CITY NATIONAL BANK

Peyffendorf O. O. Johnson

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and State Governor of the State of Louisiana in the cause of the state
in such case made and provided not against the peace and dignity of the
United States.

furthermore, that the plaintiff and defendant, having been

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF
ANY BANK, BANKER OR TRUST CO.
Precio Encharenado Guarantee
APR 13 1930
New Orleans Branch
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA
14-21 New Orleans, La. 14-21

that at the time of placing and causing to be placed the said check in an
authorized depository for mail matter of the United States aforesaid, the
defendant then and there well knew that the said check was for the purpose
of executing the said scheme and artifice and was for the purpose of defrauding
Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the State
of Louisiana and the Taxpayers of the State of Louisiana; contrary to the form
of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace and
dignity of the United States.

(Sgd) Enos A. Vinge
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

(Sgd) Herbert W. Christenberry
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

(Sgd) C. John Boggs
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
UNITED STATES

A TRUE BILL

New Orleans, La., AUG 16 1930

(Sgd) Eton Hardie, Jr.
Foreman
Dear Sir,

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 18, 1939, furnishing information as given by Mr. Harry Costello on the occasion of his visit to the Bureau on August 16, 1939.

The Department has advised that Mr. Costello likewise called at the Department and during the course of his interview gave the name of Mr. E. S. Brownson, 3209 Laurel Street, New Orleans (Jackson 2252-W). According to Mr. Costello, Mr. Brownson is a public spirited citizen and is anxious to help the Federal Government, but is fearful for his life. He indicated that Mr. Brownson has information concerning Louisiana matters, including the following: (in addition to the information furnished in the reference letter)

1. That Mrs. Alfredo Blanco, 1341 Esplanade (Crescent 3539), widow of the late Consul of Bolivia, can tell something that will tie up with Shushan.

2. That by investigating the history of the Emerald Oil Company, some line can be gotten on Helis Maestri.

Mrs. Blanco is also according to Costello supposed to possess information concerning a jewel story involving the Maximilian jewels.

The Bureau desires that the above information be furnished to Assistant Attorney General O. John Rogge.

Very truly yours,

For the Director

[Handwritten note:]

Harold Nathan
Assistant Director
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

In compliance with instructions from Mr. Sears, I telephonically communicated with Mr. G. Mennen Williams, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General, as requested by him in the attached memorandum.

Mr. Williams inquired as to whether Mr. Harry Costello had furnished me with the information as contained in this memorandum, and I advised him that this information had been furnished to me by Mr. Costello and subsequently submitted to our New Orleans office for transmittal to Mr. Rogge.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

A. C. Hayden
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. A. C. HAYDEN
(Supervisor, Investigative Division)
Federal Bureau of Investigation

August 17, 1939

Mr. Harry Costello, of whose connections I understand you are aware, saw me yesterday afternoon, the Attorney General being out of town. He wished you to have the following information received from Mr. Harris of the Newman-Harris Company of Louisiana.

Incidentally, Mr. Costello says that Mr. Harris is a friend of his and a fine fellow although perhaps duped by Shushin. Mr. Harris stated, according to Mr. Costello, that Mr. Miller, a CPA, gave Mr. H. W. Waguespack money, probably for Shushin.

He also gave me the name of Mr. L. S. Brownson, 3209 Laurel Street, New Orleans (Jackson 2221-W). He stated that Mr. Brownson is a public-minded citizen and anxious to help the Federal Government, but is fearful for his life. He indicated that Mr. Brownson has information concerning Louisiana matters, including the following:

1. That Mrs. Lydia Wickliffe, manager of the Fontalba Building, St. Peter and Royal Streets, can probably identify someone in Louisiana as Lepke. Mrs. Wickliffe is the widow of former Congressman Wickliffe of Louisiana.

2. That Mrs. Alfredo Blanco, 1341 Esplanade (Crescent 3539), widow of the late Consul of Bolivia here, can tell something that will tie up with Shushin.

3. That by investigating the history of the Emerald Oil Company, some line can be gotten on Hellis Maestri.
Memorandum for Mr. A. C. Hayden

August 17, 1959

Attached is a copy of information given by Mr. Brownson to Mr. Costello—the key is roughly indicated above.

I would appreciate your getting in touch with me about this after you have had time to study it.

G. Wennen Williams,
Executive Assistant to the Attorney General
Mrs. Lydia Wickliffe, manager of the Pontalba Building, St. Peter and Royal Streets, - widow of former congressman Wickliffe, Louisiana.

Mrs. Alfredo Blanco, 1341 Esplanade, Crescent 3589, - widow of late consul of Bolivia here. Ask her to tell you details of jewel story. General Diaz - Maximilian jewels.

Investigate history of Emerald Oil Company, receivership papers filed in Federal Court. Get papers from court clerk.
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MEMORANDUM

F. A. G. Hayden
Superintend. Investigative Divist. Federal Bureau of Investigation
FBI NEW ORLEANS 8-18-39 6-01 PM AHS

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. ASSISTANT
US ATTORNEY LEON HUBERT ADVISED THAT HAROLD ROSENWALD SPECIAL
ASSISTANT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL ATTENDED HARVARD UNIVERSITY WITH A
BROTHER OF ROBERT NEWMAN AND IS ATTEMPTING TO KEEP NEWMAN FROM
BEING INDICTED MAIL FRAUD CASE INVOLVING REFUNDING NEW ORLEANS
LEVEE BOARD BONDS BY NEWMAN HARRIS CO INC. RETURN OF INDICTMENTS
BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY NEW ORLEANS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY REPORTED
DELAYED UNTIL RETURN OF O. JOHN ROGGE FROM DALLAS, TEXAS.
INDICTMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE RETURNED MONDAY. U.S. FEDERAL
JUDGE T. WHITFIELD DAVIDSON, DALLAS, TEXAS, ORDERED FREEMAN
BURFORD, INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY NEW ORLEANS FOR VIOLATION
CONNALLY ACT. DISMISSED FROM FEDERAL CUSTODY IN DALLAS, HOLDING THERE
WAS NO REASONABLE PROBABILITY OF CASE AGAINST BURFORD.

END

62-32509

OK FBI WASH DC JAR
September 2, 1939

Achille
 Recorded
 62-32509 -261

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Ref: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of a letter dated August 18, 1939, received by the Bureau from Mr. E. L. Walden, Route 3, Ashdown, Arkansas, together with two photostatic copies of the enclosure thereto. Also inclosed are two copies of the Bureau's reply to Mr. Walden.

The Bureau instructs that one copy each of the above be furnished to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca at New Orleans.

Very truly yours,
For the Director

Harold Nathan
Assistant Director

Inclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
SEP 2 1939
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
September 2, 1939

Mr. R. E. Walden
Route 3
Ashdown, Arkansas

Ref: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Mr. Walden:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 18, 1939, with inclosure, wherein you volunteer your assistance in connection with the investigation being made in Louisiana relevant to possible violations of the Connally Act.

I wish to advise that I am referring copies of your letter and copies of its inclosure to Mr. B. E. Sackett, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, 1336 Masonic Temple Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, for transmittal to United States Attorney Rene A. Viooss at New Orleans.

Very truly yours,
For the Director

Harold Nathan
Assistant Director

Communications Section
MAILED
SEP 2 1939

Mr. Tomain
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tawm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Carrey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glarion
Mr. Crow
Mr. Herba
Mr. Lawer
Mr. Meletror
Mr. Resen
Mr. Scarn
Mr. Nicholes
Mr. Q. Tawm
Mr. Travis
Miles Gandi
as well as endangering human lives in June 1937. My life was threatened and I was ordered to leave the field or be killed in an unknown accident, which I of course had to do, as I could not get any help from State authorities, as you will find in the letter I am forwarding you. I did not even get a reply to this letter. So please Mr. Weaver get me in touch with your nearest agent as I am so afraid some of this bunch are going to slip through the net.

on a day want to bring the whole thing to light.

Respectfully,

R. L. Walden

Ashdown, Ark. Rf 3
Phone
G. C. Walden Res. Arden. Ask for me
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,

Department of Justice,

Washington, D.C.

RECORDED & INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 21 1939

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Hoover:

As you are working on this Louisiana bunch, I would love to help in any way I can in bringing to light the facts of this racket and to link the rest of this bunch with Freeman W. Buffard. As I know he is guilty of the charge you have against him.

I was switching a oil lease joining the lease this that oil was run off of at that time. And I do know he knew this was not oil, there are several parties involved in this as well as other racketeers that are being carried on in the Rodessa, La. oil field, which are a violation to Federal laws, and State laws.
Teperkand, Arkansas
Rt. 4, Box 84-8

Governor Richard H. Lee:
Baton Rouge, La.,

Dear Governor Lee:

I am forwarding you a copy of my letter which I wrote Mr. Rankine, Conservation Commissioner as you know. Apparently, Mr. Rankine has ignored my letter or perhaps he is getting some of the sugar out of the same bucket his clients are. Governor, do you see any reason why this bribery shouldn't be stopped. I am sure you had not the least knowledge of this kind of work being carried on by the Conservation Dept. If it is not stopped soon the Assicia field will be no good to the state or citizens and taxpayers. Is it not important to the state and people to recover back taxes on gas in this field which will amount to thousands of dollars, as well as protect the field from any further destruction. I have knowledge of this
practice going on in field carried on by major companies as well as independents which most are non-state residence. I know parties who are involved and have actually seen pay-offs. This practice has ruined the Roden field causing loss to the state as well as citizens of La. The tax tapes should be recovered. There are millions of feet of gas illegal being produced in this field as well as oil each day which there are no state or federal tax being paid on. I would like to explain this matter to you or one of your agents personally. I can prove to you every point that I have brought out in this letter. Just give me a chance.

To my own knowing as well as others, the conservation office at Roden was used as a "hang-out place" for oil company agents which brought whiskey in large quantity, as well as dry goods for conservation staff. Also poker games and drunken parties were carried on. I do know...
this is not the true policy in which you are trying to carry on in the State of Louisiana. And I do think you will at least grant an investigation of same. I also know that a certain company selling flow values got wise to this pay-off and took advantage and made a fortune selling flow values which are of very little benefit to a gas well and a number of wells which are on leases are same for a blind to public. I can show you wells in Podesta field which produce natural gasoline +30 color which are rated oil wells. These wells have produced thousands of bales of gasoline which 7 1/2 tax per gal. should have been paid on. As I have already mentioned, the State and citizens are justly due this tax money and same should be collected.

I am a citizen of La. Having lived there 35 years. And I do think I am within my rights in asking of you the investigation.

Respectfully Yours,

K.P. Walden
Mr. Homan,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:—We beg you to read this letter through and help us clean up the vice and corruption in Lafourche Parish. Our Sheriff, Mr. Stock, is to increase the list. His right-hand man, Armand, has brought vice, dope, and whatnot in this parish for the last 10 yrs. We have appealed to the sheriff for the last 10 yrs. We have appealed to the law, but we are only mocked. In this little town, if Raceland, dope, muddling, stealing, and whatnot is done by Danos and Bros. We ask you to save our young generation, as for the old, it is gone to the dogs. Night clubs, speakeasies by Danos and Bros. is the curse to this place. Dope is placed in their drink, under influence dope men are robbed of their money, and girls in their teens are hired to lure men for immoral purposes. Last year our parish was called a meeting announcing over 300 social dancers in the parish, appealing to the people to shut down these night clubs. But our stock, only laugh and no action. Two years ago, fire destroyed Brother Bros. on this very spot, 29.
preached guilty, but nothing was done. The
Panco Bros. are now operating over 20 slot
machine in this parish splitting the profits
fr Stock and the district attorney. Two year
ago a stranger by the name of Jimmy was
at Panco night club he disappeared a year after
man by the name of Buck Bourgeois until the
influence of liquor made a remark that within
a few days an excitement would occur in a tomb in
the cemetery. Two days after Jimmy's body was fou
in an empty tomb with both hands feet cut. Dr.
Stock was called on the scene. He made little fret
not try to investigate, left for a fishing trip left
every thing in charge of Amand Hanos appointed by
Dr. Stock as deputy sheriff. Panco close the scene
by stating nothing could be done. Back of Panco
is lake Tice where ducks geese and pelicans are
plentiful. Panco and Bros. last year killed over 60
in one night taking bit the gizzards and leaving
the rest of bodies floating in the water, all year
round they kill the geese they want. When a
man who is out of Dr. Stock's ring were to kill
one out of the limit was arrested and made to pay
fine. Now this year Mr. Mand Panco and one of his
pal Ernest Rubichaux a mail carrier built a daily
house on the lake taking possession of lake
When I spoke for Mr. A.E. Patin and they went to Baton Rouge to appeal to the governor for help, now with scandal in this state, nothing was done to for Colored people has no right as a citizen of little town and they are known good colored and badly needed for labor. They are much beaten by Dano & Bros. nothing is done more than if they were to kill a poor boy. Four years ago in Napoleonville in Ascension parish white girl was found murdered in a cane patch was or a colored boy. He was placed in jail. The night, Dano & Bros. an and accomplice. The Rod sent the colored boy from the jail hanging by the two months after the father in law of the murder confessed on his dying bed that he had murdered the girl. Such is law here with us. Dano & Bros. What is not done is understand. We beg you to help us clean up this law graft, vice, and what now. Good citizen of we are yet murdered. Please do something.

A citizen...
FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-24-19 4:48 PM

DIRECTOR

MONTE HART RAIL MAIL FRAUD. HART, JAMES MONROE SMITH, LEOY
ADAMS, LOUIS FLESH AND SYMOUR WIESS BROUGHT BEFORE JUDGE BORAH
AT NEW ORLEANS TODAY AND ARRAIGNMENT CONTINUED FOR ALL DEFENDANTS
UNTIL AUGUST FOURTH NINETEEN THIRTY NINE. BORAH INSTRUCTED ALL
DEFENDANTS TO FILE PLEAS BEFORE JULY THIRTY FIRST NINETEEN THIRTY
NINE. SET DATE FOR HEARING ON PLEAS FOR AUGUST FOURTH NINETEEN
THIRTY NINE. TRIAL DATE WILL PROBABLY BE AUGUST TWENTY EIGHTH OR
SEPTEMBER FOURTH NINETEEN THIRTY NINE. HABEAS CORPUS AS TO
JAMES MONROE SMITH EXTENDED TO AUGUST SEVENTEEN NINETEEN THIRTY
NINE. RENE VIOSCA US ATTORNEY ADVISED WPA REPORT OF LOUIS S.
VANDOVER DATED JULY TWENTY SECOND NINETEEN THIRTY NINE CASE NUMBER
ONE DASH LA DASH TWO TEN SENT TO WPA ADMINISTRATOR WASHINGTON.
NO ADDITIONAL COPY AVAILABLE FOR THIS OFFICE.

SACKETT
FBI NEW ORLEANS 8-16-39 6-25 PM AHS

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. FEDERAL GRAND JURY, NEW ORLEANS, CONTINUED TO HEAR TESTIMONY IN REGARD TO MAIL FRAUD CASE REGARDING REFUNDING OF NEW ORLEANS LEVEE BOARD BONDS BY NEWMAN, HARRIS AND COMPANY AND TESTIMONY CONCERNING VIOLATIONS OF THE CONNALLY ACT. O. JOHN ROGGE LEAVING FOR DALLAS, TEX. TO PARTICIPATE IN REMOVAL AND HABEAS CORPUS HEARING OF FREEMAN BURFORD, INDICTED HERE FOR VIOLATION OF CONNALLY ACT.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASH DC JAR
August 18, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

Mr. Harry Costello who has previously furnished information in connection with this case, called at the Bureau on August 18, 1939, and advised he had further information which he was desirous of furnishing to Mr. O. John Rogge.

Mr. Costello stated that he left New Orleans, Louisiana, on August 15, 1939, and that on August 16, 1939, he received a call from Morris Harris of Newman, Harris & Company, which company was active in the refunding of the levy deal. Mr. Costello related that Abe Shushan is closely connected with a man named Miller who is a Certified Public Accountant and this individual Miller reportedly gave to one H. W. Wagnespack a sum of money out of the above mentioned refunding deal. Mr. Costello was of the opinion that Mr. Rogge would be interested in receiving this information inasmuch as he believed that if Miller was located and interviewed he might furnish information relevant to a possible mail fraud violation on the part of Abe Shushan.

The Bureau desires that the above information be furnished to Mr. O. John Rogge.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 18 1939
DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. GEORGE CALDWELL, FORMER SUPERINTENDENT OF CONSTRUCTION, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY, NEW ORLEANS, IN TWO MAIL FRAUD INDICTMENTS AND EUGENE BARKSDALE, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CONSTRUCTION, INDICTED FOR W P A VIOLATION. FEDERAL GRAND JURY CONTINUED TO HEAR WITNESSES TESTIFY IN CONNECTION WITH THE CASE OF JURY TAMPERING IN THE ABE SHUSHAN TRIAL IN NINETEEN THIRTY FIVE.

SACKETT

END

C OK FBI WASH DC GM
Transmit the following message to: SAC, NEW ORLEANS

CODE

JOINT TOP SECRET INFORMATION CONCERNING AUTHORITY GRANTED FURNISH COPY REPORT J. O. PEYRONNIN DATED AUGUST TENTH TO O. JOHN ROGGE.

HOOVER

SENT VIA WESTERN UNION 747D M Per JR
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 12, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Re: JOUETT M. SPEED - INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto are copies of the report of Special Agent J. C. PEYRONNIN, dated August 10, 1939, at New Orleans, Louisiana, in the above-entitled case.

The investigation relative to JOUETT M. SPEED, who is one of the United States Grand Jurors in the present grand jury at New Orleans, was requested by O. JOHN ROGGE, Head of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, and RENE A. VIGOSCA, United States Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana, and was authorized by the Bureau.

The Bureau is requested to advise this office if a copy of the aforementioned report should be submitted to the United States Attorney at New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge.

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-3857-255

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

[Postage Stamps]
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT MADE AT: NEW ORLEANS
DATE WHEN MADE: 8-10-39
PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 2-4-7 to 10-39
REPORT MADE BY: J. O. PETERSON

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject is member of U.S. Grand Jury, New Orleans, La., presently in session. Anonymous communication received by U.S. Atty., New Orleans, reflecting subject, who is connected with Mundet Cork Corp., which firm sold material to Charity Hospital, New Orleans, was giving information to political figures in New Orleans under investigation. U. S. Attorney requested discreet investigation. Investigation developed subject Branch Manager of Mundet Cork Corp. at New Orleans since 1939, earns $600 to $800 per month, and that his company under sub-contract sold materials of his company's manufacture for use in construction of Charity Hospital, New Orleans. Credit rating of subject considered only satisfactory and in some instances unsatisfactory. Nothing against his reputation in general could be learned.

DETAILS: AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

On August 4, 1939, United States Attorney RENE A. VIOSCA furnished the New Orleans Office with a list of the members of the United States Grand Jury presently in session, and both Mr. VIOSCA and Mr. O. JOHN ROGGE, Assistant United States Attorney General, requested the New Orleans Office to conduct a very discreet investigation as to subject J. M. SPEED, a member of the United States Grand Jury. Mr. ROGGE also submitted to the New Orleans Office part of an anonymous letter addressed to him bearing the date of August 1, 1939, in which anonymous communication information was given that there is a man on the present Federal Grand Jury named...
SPEED who is connected with the Mundet Cork Corporation, that SPEED is giving valuable information to SEYMOUR WEISS, ROBERT GAESTRI, and other big political figures; that this man SPEED has sold big orders for cork and floor coverings made by his firm to the new Charity Hospital, New Orleans, and that he, the anonymous writer of this letter, is reliably informed it was a shady deal and a kickback in money; that the political gang has this over him, SPEED, and that he is telling them plenty of what goes on in the Grand Jury.

Mr. ROGGE informed that there is a leak in the present Grand Jury, and at the time of the request for the investigation by this office of SPEED, Mr. ROGGE informed that he believed SPEED was the particular leak. However, during the course of this investigation, contacts have been made with Mr. ROGGE in connection with this investigation, and he informed that SPEED has shown a disposition to be very aggressive in the presentation of matters before the Grand Jury, has asked many questions, and was very cooperative and displayed a disposition to be with the government in these matters.

United States Attorney RENÉ A. VIGOSA submitted to agent copy of tabulations of approved sub-contracts in the construction of the new Charity Hospital, New Orleans, Louisiana. This tabulation shows contract was given to the American Heating & Plumbing Company and opposite the name of that concern shows a sub-contract 7-B dated December 30, 1937 to the Mundet Cork Corp., 432 North Peters Street, New Orleans, type of work: Boxes in morgue, amount of sub-contract, $11,221.00. In this same tabulation of approved sub-contracts there also appears Contract No. 16 given to W. J. RILEY Plumbing & Heating Company, New Orleans, and opposite the name of that concern appears the information as to various sub-contracts, and opposite sub-contract 16-D, dated July 20, 1938, was given the name of the Mundet Cork Corp., 432 North Peters Street, New Orleans, type of work: Cold storage rooms, amount of sub-contract $3,000.00.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau, Inc., American Bank Building, New Orleans, were examined and the said records show that JOUETT M. SPEED resides at 4503 South Derbigny Street, New Orleans, is branch manager of the Mundet Cork Corp. of 432 North Peters Street, New Orleans, and a report dated April 22, 1939 gives information that subject has been in New Orleans for many years, is 57 years old, married, working for the Mundet Cork Corp. at New Orleans since 1929 as branch manager; character, habits and morals, well-regarded; income from present employment estimated at $4,000.00 per year; does not own any property but rents. Under "REMARKS" information is given that SPEED has been connected with the Mundet Cork Corporation, a nationally known concern, for the past 25 years, originally as a salesman, later as sales manager, and 10 years ago was made manager of the local branch of the company at New Orleans; that SPEED has all along resided in a
good residential section of the city and has been receiving a good salary, but so far as is known has not accumulated any particular means; that SPEED is entirely dependent upon his earnings and his net worth is considered limited. Previous addresses were given as 2639 Palmer Avenue and 7217 South Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans, La. Said records contain information that a suit was filed against SPEED on January 19, 1933 by the Audubon Golf Club in the amount of $126.90, and judgment was rendered May 23, 1933, and that SPEED presently owes $18.00 in that suit; also the records show that a suit was filed against SPEED on March 27, 1935 by the Continental Bank & Trust Company in the amount of $160.00. The report shows that the data in connection with this claim could not be verified on account of the bank in question being in liquidation. Also, the said records show that on December 19, 1938, Mrs. EMMA KNOOP, widow of A. HARRY DRAPER, filed a suit for damages against SPEED in the sum of $10,000.00, the details of which are not available. The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau, Inc. regard the credit rating of SPEED as satisfactory.

The records of Dun & Bradstreet Commercial Agency, United Fruit Company Building, New Orleans, Louisiana, contain report dated December 1938 which shows that JOSEPH M. SPEED is local manager of the Munden Cork Corp., 452 North Peters Street, New Orleans; that the headquarters of this concern are located at 450 Seventh Avenue, New York City; that the corporation maintained a sales and distributing office in New Orleans. Mr. GREEN, office manager of Dun & Bradstreet, in the strictest of confidence informed that his office does not have a record of SPEED or complete data as to the Munden Cork Corp. for the reason that the Munden Cork Corp. has a rating of over a million dollars and has a very high credit rating. Mr. GREEN informed that he would in the regular course of business confidentially endeavor to secure information as to SPEED and submit the results of that investigation to reporting agent. On August 8, 1939, Mr. GREEN informed that his confidential investigation developed that SPEED has been in New Orleans for several years, during which period of time he has been branch manager of the Munden Cork Corp.; that the company specializes in the manufacture and sale of cork insulation; that the Munden Cork Corp. through the local office of that corporation at New Orleans sold some cork insulation to the new Charity Hospital, New Orleans, Louisiana, but that no information could be determined as to the details surrounding the sale of the cork insulation to the Charity Hospital. Mr. GREEN informed that the income of SPEED is supposed to be between $600.00 and $800.00 per month, and nothing derogatory to his reputation could be ascertained. On August 10, 1939, Mr. GREEN of Dun & Bradstreet Commercial Agency, New Orleans, confidentially informed agent that a further confidential and discreet check of SPEED was made and he ascertained that SPEED was sued by the Audubon Golf Club in January 1933 for $126.90, judgment rendered, and that SPEED still owes $18.00 thereof; that SPEED
was sued in March 1935 by the Continental Bank in the amount of $150.00; that SPEED was sued on December 19, 1938 by the widow of A. H. DRAPER in the amount of $10,000, which is evidently a damage suit, and no information is available as to the disposition of that suit; that he confidentially ascertained that SPEED owes in a particular account a balance of $34.00 since 1931; that the credit rating of SPEED personally is considered only satisfactory, and in some cases unsatisfactory. The investigation as previously reported reflects he has been with the Mandet Cork Corp. for 25 years and is local manager of the corporation at New Orleans since 1929.

No further investigation will be conducted in this matter unless further requested by the United States Attorney at New Orleans, Louisiana.
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:
Subject is member of U.S. Grand Jury, New Orleans, La., presently in session. Anonymous communication received by U.S. Atty., New Orleans, reflecting subject, who is connected with Mundet Cork Corp., which firm sold material to Charity Hospital, New Orleans, was giving information to political figures in New Orleans now under investigation. U. S. Attorney requested discreet investigation. Investigation developed subject Branch Manager of Mundet Cork Corp. at New Orleans since 1939, earns $600 to $800 per month, and that his company under sub-contract sold materials of his company's manufacture for use in construction of Charity Hospital, New Orleans. Credit rating of subject considered only satisfactory and in some instances unsatisfactory. Nothing against his reputation in general could be learned.

DETAILS: AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

On August 4, 1939, United States Attorney RENE A. VIOGGA furnished the New Orleans Office with a list of the members of the United States Grand Jury presently in session, and both Mr. VIOGGA and Mr. O. JOHN ROGGE, Assistant United States Attorney General, requested the New Orleans Office to conduct a very discreet investigation as to subject J. M. SPKKD, a member of the United States Grand Jury. Mr. ROGGE also submitted to the New Orleans Office part of an anonymous letter addressed to him bearing the date of August 1, 1939, in which anonymous communication information was given that there is a man on the present Federal Grand Jury named
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 16, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS - INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

You will recall that some days ago I informed the Bureau that a MR. SHIRLEY C. WIMBERLY had made a radio talk over three stations in Louisiana for a period of one hour condemning the investigations being made by the Federal Government, particularly attacking Attorney General MURPHY and Assistant Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE.

On August 7, 1939, as I informed the Bureau, this individual made another hour broadcast over station WDSU in New Orleans, during which tirade he also mentioned the Attorney General and MR. ROGGE. This speech on August 7, 1939, was recorded at this office by the use of the Ediphone dictating machine and has been transcribed.

I am enclosing herewith for your information and the completion of the Bureau's file regarding SHIRLEY WIMBERLY three copies of the transcribed talk made by WIMBERLY on August 7, 1939.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge.

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PMR
Encs.
Following is a transcript of the speech of SHIRLEY A. WIMBERLY, New Orleans Attorney, delivered over Station WDSU, New Orleans, from 8:30 to 9:30 PM, August 7, 1939. This speech was taken by means of an ediphone and transcribed therefrom:

At this time you will hear MR. SHIRLEY WIMBERLY, New Orleans Attorney, speaking from the studios of WDSU in the City of New Orleans. This is a paid political program. Views expressed by the speaker are his own and not necessarily those of this station... MR. SHIRLEY WIMBERLY...

Ladies and gentlemen: First let me thank the thousands of good people throughout the State of Louisiana, who have been so kind as to tell me by letter, by telegram and by telephone, since my last speech over this station, that they heartily approve the sentiment I expressed upon that occasion. Each communication almost invariably admonished me to keep up the fight. You need have no fear, my friends, I most certainly intend to keep up the fight. This fight is too important to the interests of every poor man, woman and child in Louisiana, to even think for a moment of quitting. This fight must go on! If it fails, you poor people of Louisiana prepare your wrists for the shackles that the lying and corrupt newspapers, and the big monied corporate interests have been busily preparing to put on you, ever since the first newspaper headlines in the Times Picayune gleefully shrieked with fiendish delight that something was wrong at Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge.

The average citizen of Louisiana, sincere in his love for his State, and deeply interested in the welfare of all its institutions, was shocked and dismayed at the unfortunate disclosure, at L. S. U. The good men and women of this State felt a sense of sorrow that harm had come to their famous and beloved University, but to the newspapers, that was the signal they had awaited so long. It meant to them an opportunity to commence a wave of hysteria and excitement in Louisiana that they might well use, to completely destroy the faith of the people in their Government. Sure, every public official in Louisiana have been a crock and a scoundrel and a thief. That was their program! Say that all politicians, high and low, big and little, were crooks, and then bring forward a scurrilous misfit little outfit of blueblooded corporation lawyers and bankers, and brokers, and other representatives of the special interests, headed by a man like ELDON LAZARUS, JOSEPH AIREY, JOE CARROLL, and every other enemy of the people they could think of, and say to the people: Here's your savior, let these people take charge of Louisiana! Run all your elected officials out, and let these big, pure, holy and patriotic high society boys move in, and then you'll have a real honest clean Government. That was their program, that was the program of these lying and
dishonest newspapers, that's the kind of claptrap they thought they could make the people of Louisiana swallow. Why, when the news broke of the misfortune that had happened at L. S. U., these newspaper fellows and their corporation lawyers went wild with joy. Here's the chance we've been waiting for boys, here it is, and at last we've got our break! We can capitalize on Louisiana's misfortune, let these poor people hang their heads in sorrow, they're stunned, and before they can get over being stunned and start to think straight, again, we will fan the flames of hatred and malice and prejudice against everybody that has any official connection with the Government of Louisiana. We'll say they're all crooks, and burglars and scoundrels and thieves, and the people will get so worked up over it all they'll get so excited and inflamed by the newspaper headlines, and the lies we can print, they won't have time to look into the character and reputation of the sworn out aristocrats we're shoving down their throats. An then we'll be in power in Louisiana again! That's what the newspapers said. Oh, the deceit, the hypocrisy, the villainy of these contemptible newspapers! Glad! Glad! Over Louisiana's scandal! Glad over her shame! When Louisiana's plain, honest and patriotic citizens sorrowed that some of her officials had betrayed their trust and had been found in sin, these buzzards in print, these vultures in type, these scavengers in headlines, licked their loathsome chops and run---------their filthy mouths, while they rejoicingly waited to pick our bones. They rejoiced, these newspapers, I tell you! They rejoiced, these corporation lawyers! When they learned that trouble had started in this State. Just as they sat around tables in a back room and raised their tinkling glasses in rejoicing to celebrate Louisiana's greatest tragedy - the assassination of Huey P. Long! Just as they sent floral offerings to the grave of Huey Long's murderous assassin! Just as some of their kind even went to that assassin's funeral. Oh, they're saying that I was Huey Long's bitterest enemy, they are saying that I opposed Huey Long. They are right when they say I opposed Huey's politics for a period of his political life. They are wrong when they say I was Huey Long's bitter enemy. Tell the truth just once, you lying newspapers. Tell the truth just once, if the truth is anywhere in your lying carcasses. Tell the people about my opposition to Huey Long! I'll help you tell it! I'll tell it for you!

I said in the circular I issued the other day, ladies and gentlemen, that I would not refer to this subject again, and that I would not be put on the defensive by a lot of lying, deceitful, fraudulent newspapers, but I've changed my mind for just this once. As everyone who knows me well will tell you, I supported Huey Long when he ran for Governor in 1924. I remained his friend for four years, until he ran for Governor in 1928, and I supported him again. I made many
speeches for him throughout his campaign. I was his friend after he became Governor, and through the dark days of his impeachment.

In 1930 he came down here to New Orleans, and not knowing the situation, and not knowing certain politicians as well as he might, made the mistake of being fooled into joining forces with a man who was about as foul and sorry a scoundrel as has ever disgraced this city. And you people know who I'm talking about. I'm not going to mention his name because he's out of politics, and there's no purpose in mentioning his name. HUEY didn't know him for what he really was. HUEY'S friends did know this man well. They tried to dissuade him, but HUEY wouldn't listen, and he let this man fool him into joining up with him.

Several of HUEY'S friends and I decided we could not go along on the proposition. We told HUEY that man was universally hated and despised in this city, and would eventually do him a lot of harm. HUEY wouldn't listen, and we parted company. It was then I opposed HUEY LONG. Yes, I opposed him! Openly and fearlessly, at the zenith of his power, when the sun of his success stood at noon. I opposed HUEY LONG at a time when he had all his health and vigor, out in the open, face to face. I didn't wait until after his murder to oppose him, and then turn on his mourning widow and seek to do her harm, as the craven, cowardly newspapers have done.

I said in that circular HUEY LONG and I composed our differences when he discovered that his friends had told him the truth about the man he had joined forces with in New Orleans. That man doublecrossed HUEY LONG, and HUEY kicked him out. And if HUEY LONG saw fit to compose his differences with me two years before his death, then I say that's good enough for me. I spent those two years before HUEY LONG was killed on the battlefield with him, helping him fight his enemies. And the best answer I can make to those, like the lying newspapers, who would try to make me out as HUEY'S life long foe, is that I have since his death, spent my time and all my energy defending the memory of HUEY LONG from the slanderous, malicious and cowardly attacks of foul and cruel heretics like the Times Picayune. Now, that brings us down to what has happened in the State since my last speech, ladies and gentlemen. That speech did away with the Citizens Volunteer Committee. Don't you ever let anybody fool you about that. I'm going to show you in a minute how it did. I'm going to prove to you that the morning after that speech the Citizens Volunteer Committee was on the run, and the next day there wasn't any more Citizens Volunteer Committee. I'll come to that in a minute.

They got to resigning and off so fast, that the big leaders, JOE CARROLL, corporation lawyer, and SHINOLA HELPS, part owner of the Times Picayune, and JOHN W. PARKER, JR., and ELDON LAZARUS and a few others got together and they said: "Boys, we gotta do somethin'. This Citizens Committee is going to pieces. Most of these fellows are scared that any minute the searchlight of truth is going

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to be turned on them and they're stampeding on us. Pretty soon we won't have a baker's dozen of our original one hundred and one, let alone all those who have jined up with us since.

These ring leaders got their heads together and they powwowed and they conferred, and they consulted and they considered and they reconsidered, and finally what do you suppose they came up to? Here's what they decided. These fellows, JOE CARROLL, JOHN M. PARKER, JR., SHINOLA PHELPS, here's what they decided. Let's quit using that Citizens Voluntary Committee. Let's change that ----, let's break off that mask, let's use one of our other names. You know this newspaper corporation lawyer outfit has plenty a names. So they said, let's use our best known name, and try that one out on -------, maybe that'll sound bigger than Citizens Voluntary Committee, and maybe he'll give in to our demands, and let us run the State for 'em without being elected to office.

Here's the name they came up with - Association of Commerce. Assassination of Commerce! That's the latest name these lying newspapers and their big monied friends are using. They figure they'll scare you Governor, better watch those birds, those society people are slick EARL. If you think I'm joking about this my friends, if you want to check up on what I've just been telling you, get your newspapers dating from August 1st to date, and see how active this bunch of high powered rich people have been under the name they started out with - the Citizens Voluntary Committee.

I made a speech last week exposing the hypocrisy and corruptness of that whole bunch of antis, known at various times in the past ten or twelve years as the Constitutional League, and the Honest Election League, and this league, that league and the other league, dedicated to the lofty purpose of taking Louisiana's Government away from the people and giving it back to the newspapers and the corporation lawyers. I climbed on board of that bunch in my last speech and told the plain unvarnished truth about 'em, and like all such fake outfits they commenced to cave in and crumble up at once. Now, on August fifth, that was five or six days after I made my last speech, the Times Picayune came out with big black headline, maybe
some of you will remember it. "CITIZENS DEMAND CLEANUP OF STATE". 'Member that? When I read the word "CITIZENS" in that headline, I naturally thought the Citizens Voluntary Committee had come back to life. But when I read down in the sub-head, as these newspaper people call the small headline that follows the big one across the top of the page, Lo and Behold! There it was! Big as life! A. of C., that's the Association of Commerce, A. of C. urges fair poll. 12 point plan. Not the Citizens Committee, not the devote Citizens Voluntary Committee, but the A. of C. They had decided to take up the battle, and being fakers like they are, they didn't want to quit altogether, so they figured they'd get rid of the Citizens Voluntary Committee name and get a new old one, like the Association of Commerce. Now., Assassination of Commerce urges fair poll, 12 point plan.

Now, here's where I'm going to prove to you my friends, that the members of the now defunct Citizens Voluntary Committee, and the members of the Association of Commerce, are the same identical people, the same corporation lawyers, the same bluebloods, the same representatives of the special interests. I've got before me here, gimme that red book, got before me here the Redbook of New Orleans, Commerce and membership directory of the New Orleans Association of Commerce. I'll show the people in the room, so they'll know I'm not faking on this. Now, I've also got right here the list of members of the Citizens Voluntary Committee of Louisiana and I'm holding it up so everybody can see, as originally published in the Times-Picayune. That's a list of members of the Citizens Voluntary Committee, and that's a list of members of Association of Commerce. I'm going to show you that the members of the Association of Commerce were the members of the Citizens Voluntary Committee, and the members of the Citizens Voluntary Committee are the members of the Association of Commerce.

Now, I can't take up all my time here comparing these lists on every name, but I'm going to take enough of them at random, to show you that the Citizens Voluntary Committee now deceased, having been unable to survive a barrage of truth, is the Association of Commerce with a mask on its face. Same name, same members, same gang of high binding corporation lawyers, bankers and millionaires aided and abetted by the lying newspapers, try to take Louisiana's Government away from its people.

Alright, let's look at these two membership lists, let's just skip around here and there on these lists. One, the Citizens Voluntary Committee of Louisiana, now defunct, the other, the Association of Commerce, now fronting for the newspapers and corporate interests. I'll just pick 'em at random. Here's HUGH McCLUSKEY, I got
him right off the list here, he's on the Citizens Committee. Well, in the Association of Commerce Red Book there's McCluskey and Benedict and Bernard McCluskey. I looked that up. They're related. The McCluskeys are well represented in the Association of Commerce.

Here's RALPH A. PONS, he's a member in good standing in both outfits, Citizens Committee and the Association of Commerce. HAROLD S. MEYER, both, WILLIAM B. WISDOM, both, they're members of the late lamented Citizens Voluntary Committee and the Assassination of Commerce. WILLIAM B. MONROE, member of both, JOHN P. MOORE, both, FRANK FREIDLER, both, W. D. ROUSSELL, I believe that's the gentleman who wrote that letter to the paper - this evening about. W. D. ROUSSELL, member of both Association of Commerce and Ex-Citizens Voluntary Committee. CHARLES F. FLETCHINGER, both, Association of Commerce boy and late lamented Citizens Voluntary Committee boy. JOSEPH M. JONES, both, MARION H. WILSON, here's a triple ----, he's a member of the former Citizens Voluntary Committee, the Assassination of Commerce and the Young Men's Business Club. LEONARD R. WISE, both, A. of C. and the Citizens Voluntary, J. EVERETT FAYES, another triple ---- boy, belongs to all three outfits; JOHN M. HARKER, JR., of course, wouldn't you-----, ------ ------ (sounds like LYON BELL), both, WALTER J. TRAUTMAN, all two star boys, A. of C. and Citizens Voluntary. ALBERT WACKENHEIM, JR., A. of C. and Citizens Voluntary; HAROLD S. WETL, both, JOHN WARD (?), ditto, MALCOLM L. DINWITTE, same, A. --- MOORE, likewise, LAWRENCE ENSKIS, JR., yes, JOHN UPTON, WILLIAM B. HANDEW, that's a pretty name, I'm going to have something to say about that boy in a few minutes. WILLIAM B. HANDEW, W. W. HOLMES, JR., HENRY BORDELON (?), W. S. STEPHEN, JOHN X. WEGMANN, - good lord, I get tired reading 'em. All of 'em are members in good standing of both the Association of Commerce and the late Citizens Voluntary Committee of Louisiana.

Of course the membership is the same. Of course it is. Did you expect it to be different? Does this confirm what I've been telling you? That the lying newspapers and their corporation friends are making their bids for political power in this State? It's history repeating itself, that's all. These few high powered crooked owners of the false and lying newspapers and a small clique of corporation lawyers like EDMUND PHIFPS, JOE CARROLL, MONTE LEWANN and a few others trying to set up a bunch of shirt front and through them take this State Government away from the people. That's all it is. Let's look at a few more names on these two lists - CHARLES PAYNE/MUTTER (?), JR., a member of both the A. of G. and the Citizens Voluntary Committee. MONTE M. LEWANN, wouldn't you just know it?, member of both. KLONCN S. LAZARUS, of course, C. G. ST---, absolutely, he's the president of the Assassination of Commerce. Let me tell you what ST--- boy, you'd better get out of politics in this State - first thing you know the poor people of this city aren't going to trade at that big million dollar chain store you're running if you don't quit trying to boss poor people around in this State. E. B. BURNEY, triple star, J. R. MONROE, member of both, JOSEPH M. CARROLL, what would you expect? S.
WALTER STERN, H. J. JUMONVILLE, S. G. ALKUS, JR., CARL WOOD, ------
-----------, B. S. WILLIAMS, GEORGE S. CLARK, - Aw----- but what's the
use? Don't you know by this time that practically every blessed
member of the Ex-Citizens Voluntary Committee of Louisiana, that was
raising so much fuss in the newspapers a week ago, don't you know
that every blessed member of that outfit is a member of the Association
of Commerce, which from now on is going to do the fussing for the
newspapers and the corporation lawyers. And if we spoke out about that
old enemy of the people of Louisiana, and make that Association of Com-
merce fold up like its deceased sister, and the Citizens Voluntary
Committee did, why just as sure as you're born they'll be back with a
new name. Some league, or committee or association for the saving of
the poor people of the State of Louisiana.

Now, these high collar boys are resourceful alright. I
noticed in the Times Picayune last Saturday in the same issue that was
headlined "CITIZENS DEMAND CLEANUP OF STATE", they have organized them
a junior outfit, this one is called The Peoples League. An organiza-
tion, according to the Times Picayune, of young business and profession-
als of New Orleans. I guess they figure this young budding outfit
will grow up and inherit the parent outfit's monopoly on forming associa-
tions and leagues, for the purpose of trying to run Louisiana for the
people, without bothering to be elected to public office.

What a democratic gathering! What a representative body.
How accurately it reflects public opinion. Bankers, brokers, corpora-
tion lawyers, cotton and stock exchange gamblers, but not a single soli-
tary representative of organized labor. Not a single solitary man from
the ranks of the laboring man and woman. Why? Is it because a hand
callous --------- is not equal in dignity to the heart calloused by
greed and inhumanity? Do you think, you high and mighty Lords of Mammon,
that the men and women whose ingenuity and industry give all that there
is of value to our very articles of commerce, lack the intelligence to
fit into your councils? These are the people who delve into your mines
and bring to the arts of commerce the minerals, the people who fell
the forests, build your roads, construct your houses! Has anyone a
greater right than they to say how this Government is run? Why do you
ignore, you assassins of both character and commerce, why do you
ignore the small independent business man, the corner grocer. Oh, they
ought to give significance to meet with you on your high ---------.
I want to tell you something, you widers and abettors of the national
chain stores, that if it were not for the small independent merchants
the poor people could not survive the economic strife of today. They
could not get credit for food, for coal, for medicine, and for the
various and sundry small necessities that are required in their daily
lives. The average poor man paid twice a month. But of the little
pay envelope he usually pays his month's house rent, leaving hardly
enough for his car fare and a ten cents poor boy sandwich, for his
lunch. For the next two weeks he must necessarily depend upon the
neighborly, kindly, humane little corner grocer. If one of his kids
gets sick, he has his friend the little corner druggist to fall back
on. If his money runs short when the kids' shoe soles get thin, his
children needn't go barefooted until next payday, because there stands
his friend, the little corner shoe merchant who will trust him a pay-
day.

But what would you rich men know about all that? I know
about it! I've been through it myself! Let us suppose that this poor
man walked into ST----'s six million dollar store and said "Trust me
until payday, my little fellow's toes are coming through his shoes."
What do you think STARBY (?) would say? I believe I know what'd he
say. "See our Credit Manager, and if the Credit Associations, after
looking up your rating for a few days, advise me that you are a safe
credit risk, it's alright with me for you to get a three dollar pair
of shoes". Let us suppose that a poor man found himself in trouble
at some time, and he went to seek the advice of a lawyer like ELDON
LAZARUS. Suppose he told LAZARUS, "My need for legal advice is urgent,
but I don't get paid until next Saturday night." What do you think
he'd say? You think he'd say as you and I would say, "That's alright
my friend, just pay me when and if it's convenient to you, and if you
never pay me, that's alright too". Aw, he wouldn't! He'd freeze up
with a man like ELDON LAZARUS. He'd probably have that poor man thrown
out of his office because he's not interested in poor men and their
problems. His god is money! Money and more money! A man like ELDON
LAZARUS ansers on that poor people. What does this kind of people know
about the way the poor man and his family live? Yet these little mer-
chants who do such good for the people of a community are considered
too inconsequential and too insignificant to sit and advise in the
councils of the mighty rich. They're ignored by the Citizens Voluntary
Committee and the Association of Commerce. Oh yes, this Association
of Commerce, successors to the defunct Citizens Voluntary Committee,
is truly a democratic representative body.

Now my friends, let me make a --------, not to the politicians
of this State, but to the poor people of Louisiana, and they're the
only people I'm concerned about, the rich can take care of themselves,
and I might observe in passing that I don't want any quarrel with the
rich, as long as they keep to themselves, but I want the poor people
of this city and state to believe me when I say that while I have been
interested and active in the politics of this State for a long time,
and many of you who know me very probably think that I am conducting
a one man political campaign, this is not a political campaign at all,
this is an attempt to warn the poor people of Louisiana that danger is
waits at their door.

If you are a poor man or women, if you belong to the under-
privileged class, if you work hard for a living, I'm talking to you.
It matters not to me who your candidates are or any other office, support and vote for whomsoever you please. That is your God-given privilege. If any man who is not the open and avowed candidate of these newspapers and corporation lawyers, and is not supported and endorsed by them, offers his candidacy to the people of this State in the January primary, and you believe he is honest and clean and sincere, then by all means support him, vote for him, I'll have no quarrel with you. But meantime, don't you, for your own sake, for your children's sake, for the sake of the State of Louisiana, don't, please don't be fooled by these newspapers of special interest in letting them get control of the Government of this State. That's my proposition. That, and that alone. If before these troublous times in Louisiana are over every politician presently holding office in Louisiana is shown to be a crook from top to bottom, then give your Government into the hands of the tools that will be offered you by these lying crooked, scandal----- newspapers and the big monied interests of this State and nation.

You'll simply be swapping the devil for his brother if that ever happens. Forget me! Forget politics! Forget every personality in the State of Louisiana today! And just look this situation squarely in the face. You don't like this politician? Kick him out of office! If you don't like that one, kick him out! This politician you think has been shown up as a crook and a grasper, slap him in jail, and give him the same kind of trial and treatment that everybody gets, and if a jury of twelve of his peers says he's guilty, put him in the penitentiary where he belongs. Hold all the investigations you want to. I'm glad to see them held. But don't, whatever you do, whatever happens, never let yourself believe, you poor people, that because somebody else is bad the Times Picayune is good. No matter how bad anyone in Louisiana is shown up to be the lying and corrupt newspapers are worse. No matter how little interest in the well-being of poor people some crooked politician has evinced, those blue-blooded, money-loving, society-crazy corporation lawyers have less interest. A man who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, my friends, and who has had plenty all his life, cannot feel for the problems of the poor devils, whose life is spent earning his living by the sweat of his brow. Free school books mean nothing to a rich man. He can buy his children their books, and being rich he can't understand how much saving even a dime or quarter means to a poor man. So it would be a matter of indifference to him if the Association of Commerce and the newspapers elected their tools as your lawmakers and they took your free school books away from you. But it would be a tragedy to you! A homestead exemption means nothing to a corporation lawyer. What does he need with a homestead exemption? He's rich, and he can afford to pay taxes, even on a mention. But to you small home owners it means a lot. It means that you can add just that little money to the few comforts and conveniences that you can provide for your little family.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, some of my friends have told me I'm unwise to take the position I've taken. They've told me that I
might make those in political power in this State angry. They say that I may be criticized for stirring up unrest. They tell me maybe we ought to be quiet and the newspapers will quit misadvertising Louisiana to the world and these so-called indignant citizens of the Association of Commerce will cease raising cane and put their shoulders to the wheel and help to bring about rest and quiet and peace in this State.

Maybe my friends are smarter than I am. But if that ever happens it'll be the first time an eating cancer ever was cured by letting it be. No sir! You let a cancer alone and it'll eat you up! It'll spread out its greedy tentacles to every part of your body it can reach, and it'll grab hold of every one of your vitals until you finally wake up one day and realize you're a goner. These friends might be smarter than I am, and they probably are about most things, but I know what I'm doing in this situation. I didn't ask anybody if I could make a fight for the poor man against his natural enemies, the Times Picayune and the corporate interests. I didn't have to. There are no mortgages on my political soul. No one owns me or controls me. If I chose to make an alliance in politics I do it. But I don't sacrifice my individuality nor my independence. I reserve the right at all times to speak my own mind honestly and open. I knew what I was up against when I decided to commence this fight. Some well meaning people with whom I discussed it told me they're going to say you're trying to protect some crooks ---- myself. But ladies and gentlemen, only a coward hesitates to do that which is right because he fears what some people might say. The welfare of the poor people of this state is infinitely more important to me than what some people might say. If I died right after I completed this speech and I had done nothing more than prevent the poor man, woman and child of Louisiana from falling victims to the snares being set for them by the humbugs, fakes and frauds masquerading as newspapers and corporation lawyers, then I say to you, I honestly believe I would not have lived in vain.

I know what I'm up against, every ---- and evil motive that the ---- of the rich can think up ---- - fact will be ------ to me before this ------. Every foul calumny and slander that tongue and pen of big money can devise will be uttered against me. I'm in for it, I know that! What ---- I succeed in stopping these power-greedy corporation control ------- from lying their way into political power in the State or not, such a fight is but a small one to me. Yes, they'll try to buy me. Now, if I were a demagogue, as one fine gentleman of the press called me in an editorial the other day, I'd say they actually had already tried to buy me, but I'm telling you the truth, I'm not playing a demagogue. One of my friends who was employed in the Civil District Court Building of this city told me the other day he heard a group of elderly lawyers in conversation on the third floor corridor of that building, that they were discussing my last speech, these elderly
lawyers, one of them said "The thing we ought to do at the outset with this fellow WIMBERRY is buy him off right at the start and hush him up". Save your time and mine boys, you definitely got the wrong angle. You fellows think money can buy anything. But it can't. How do you think I could go to sleep tonight if, believing as I do, however mistaken I might be, if believing as I do, that by warning the poor people of this State that they are in grave danger at the hands of unscrupulous people I might play some small part in saving them from that danger. How do you think I could go to sleep tonight if I sold every poor man woman and child in Louisiana down the river to the newspapers and big corporate interests when I know that those same newspapers and corporate interests mean them harm. I told you big money boys, listen to me well, that there are but few ways to shut me up. One is to make these lying newspapers that you own, and your other pliant tools, your corporation lawyers and bankers, stop trying to defraud the poor people of Louisiana out of their political birthright. Make these frauds, hypocrites and humbugs stop trying to fool the poor people of this State into giving them control of our Government - that's simple enough. And you can do it. You might have to go all the way to Wall Street to get it done, but you can do it big boys. You can do it. You know what I mean when I say go all the way to Wall Street.

Now the other way to shut me up is just exactly as you did with HUEY P. LONG. You know what I mean. I'm not going to mince words with you, I don't mince words. I don't hate the rich. I don't envy them. I don't want any quarrel with them. My life has been cast with the poor whom I've lived amongst all my life. I live on the wrong side of the tracks with the poor people, and I'm content and happy to live there in peace and quiet all of my life, and I won't come on your side rich boys, I won't come on your side rich boys - I won't come on your side of the tracks, if you don't meddle with my side. These newspapers brand as a demagogue anyone who dares to expose and denounce their nefarious -- plots to usurp power. They try to mark with infamy the man who expresses the honest convictions of his heart and brain. They stigmatize as treasonable the exercise of free speech, the brightest gem in the golden crown of democracy. Demagogue! I hate! I loathe! I ------- that word, and its abhorrent and malicious implication.

Let us get down to brass tacks. I'm used to asking plain questions. I believe in taking these situations apart. You can't just call me a demagogue you newspaper boys and expect to get away with it. I went to the newspaper, I went to the dictionary, to find out what a demagogue was, and according to any standard dictionary a demagogue is a speaker, now listen to this well please my friends, a speaker who seeks to make capital of social discontent and gain political influence. Now, that is the meaning, the legitimate definition of the word demagogue, let me repeat it again, they called me a demagogue so I'm telling you what the dictionary says a demagogue is, a speaker who seeks to make capital of social unrest and gain political influence. Social unrest. There is no social unrest in this State today, I know there's a great
deal of high society unrest in the State since I exposed and routed some gentlemen of the so-called elite. There is social unrest in the proper meaning of that phrase, the masses are not clamoring for a change in the form of our Government. There might be some fellows who want to put certain politicians out, to be elected to office themselves, but they are not clamoring for a change in our form of Government, like from democratic to communistic or something like that. That's a social unrest. Therefore, it's impossible for me to be taking advantage or to make capital of a condition of social unrest which in fact does not exist in Louisiana. Neither am I a candidate for public office. So you can readily see that the word demagogue as applied to me is a malicious slander and a deliberate libel. Am I a demagogue because I believe in the philosophy of Government formulated and expounded by Jefferson, by Washington, by Franklin? Shall I be because I believe in the grand democratic principle of majority rule? No, ladies and gentlemen! I believe in the capitalistic system, of which labor and capital are parts, and that when properly regulated gives to every man, be he laborer or capitalist, a fair and just proportion of the products of his brain and brawn. And it is because I am a firm believer in democracy and capitalism properly regulated that I am defying the plutocrats and bureaucrats who are fiendishly conspiring to destroy both. They are the demagogues! These fiendish, crooked newspapers and their corporation madmen. They are the cunning heartless scoundrels who, masquerading as patriots, are resorting to undisguised and shameless demagogy, trying to arouse baseless fears, to erupt a volcano of hatred against constituted authority, and to convert this State into an inferno of confusion in order that they might emerge the bureaucratic masters of Louisiana.

And this condition, ladies and gentlemen, mark me well, is not confined to this State alone, but is a part of a free vision conspiracy to turn back the clock of history to the time of medieval servitude. Any man or woman who has ever read history knows that throughout its course democratic Government has been destroyed by the great monied interests who reduce mankind to a state of peonage. Any students of history, any professor in the universities of the United States which are not under corporate domination will verify this historical truth. They will tell you that history for thousands of years, and I speak advisedly, in China, in India, in Greece, in Rome, in continental Europe, in Persia, in the United States, in the South and Central Americas, will conclusively prove that all great social upheavals have their causative factor and germinal inceptions in millions of underdogs driven to desperation and violence by the bureaucratic few. And it is to prevent such a catastrophe, to preserve democracy, to retain the capitalistic system under which everybody should enjoy a just proportion of the fruits of his labor, that I so strenuously and inexcusably opposed these historical enemies. I want to see this great experiment in human liberty, this magnificent republic, grow to more a benefic and greater proportions of the centuries rolled by. It is a cause to which we should all consecrate ourselves. If you big
money boys will let my people, who are the poor people, alone, I'll let you alone! If you won't, then by the great and eternal God who made my soul, get ready to fight, because I'm coming after you. That's my proposition to you, that's the bargain I'll make with you Mr. Big Money. You can keep your money. I don't want it. I'll tell you right now, if a man comes to me and tries to offer me any of it, like dis-wrect corporation lawyers, found there in the corridor of the Civil District Court, one of those babies or any of their friends, come to offer it to me, let them be prepared to fight. Let'em be prepared to fight, I'm an old man now, reached forty the other day, I still think I can take on some of these boys who come around me trying to buy me.

Now, you leave my people alone, and I'll let you alone. And you can pile up all the money you please as long as you do it as a private individual, but take my advice for your own good, and don't try to control the public life of this state. You boys are out of politics and you ain't coming back in and that's all there is to it.

Now, let me get down to talking about some of this newspaper publicity my last speech brought on. These newspapers are great institutions, they're fine, fine institutions. The first thing these newspapers carried the next day was that radio station WDSU had been threatened the morning after my speech by some of those corporation high binders I mentioned in my speech. They were threatened that if they permitted me to speak again some lawsuits might be filed against that station. Now, WDSU, I believe, is the only major radio station in town that will permit broadcast of a ------ nature, broadcasts where politics may be discussed. So these high finance bendits figured they'd put a gag on the radio as they have on the newspapers and then the people of this State couldn't have the truth spoken at all. They didn't question the truth of what I said, they didn't threaten legal action against me, oh no! they threatened the radio people, who are as disinterested in anything else but the sale of their radio time as anybody on earth could be. And they ran to the Governor, and they asked him to repudiate, aw... repudiate this fellow WIMBERRY. Oh, he's cussing us out somethin' terrible! ------------ Governor, -----------. We can't stand for a fellow like that. Governor LONG said he didn't approve of my criticism of MURPHY and ROGGE and when he heard I intended making a speech he tried through mutual friends to dissuade me from it. That's exactly the truth. He did-seed some of our friends to see me to try to argue me out of making that speech and the Governor is entitled to his opinion and I'm entitled to mine, and I think I was right and he was wrong and I don't have to take the ------.

Oh, but those newspapers played that up. LONG disavows -------on -------- in WIMBERRY's talk, voices own firm opinion that criticism of MURPHY and XXXX/سيد were ill advised and bad taste. I might say here that while I respect and admire EARL LONG and have been his close friend for a long time, he and I like other friends
disagree now and then. And not being of a yes man variety I always
reserve the right to form my own opinions and to adhere to it if I
think I'm right, and as I see it in this case I think I'm right and
he's wrong. I think I had a perfect right to object. Not to the At-
torney General of the United States conducting a legal and orderly
investigation, into suspected wrong-doing in Louisiana - no, I'm for
that! I don't want to see crooks protected! I want to see them un-
covered and prosecuted to the utmost limit of the law. What I objected
to was that these fellows were helping the Times Picayune to play poli-
tics in this State. I objected to them strutting around this State and
getting their pictures in the newspapers every day and being quoted on
this that and the other thing, much of which I considered none of their
business and but a thinly varnished attempt on their part to help the
newspaper in their campaign to stampede the people of the State of Louisi-
ana into accepting the newspaper and corporation lawyer Government. Those
things are hurtful to the reputation and credit of the good people of
this State. They are hurtful to the business man and the laboring man,
and to the man who has his money invested in this State as well as to the
general run of the citizens of Louisiana. Why only the other day there
was a picture of this man ROCGE. I'm not trying to pick any fight with
ROGGE. He's not too big for me to criticize when he does wrong, there's
no man in this world too big to criticize when he does wrong. Here's
a picture of ROCGE in the paper, I've got it right here before me.
Picture of ROCGE - big as life - in the Times Picayune, and he was quoted
in the accompanying news article as inviting people to come tell him about
graft. The article was headed: "ROGGE URGES PUBLIC TO TELL UNITED STATES
OF GRAFT", then the article started out: "Husky, six foot three, O. JOHN
ROGGE, Assistant United States Attorney General," Boy, don't you know
those newspapers are trying to flatter you? What has a man's appearance
got to do with investigation? Here he goes on: "Come forward and tell
what you know of political misconduct in the State". Get that, "poli-
tical misconduct", not the misconduct of bankers or brokers or other
people, but political misconduct. Does that show what's on the gentle-
man's mind or not? Now, here he goes on, this is MR. ROCGE talking thru
the newspapers: "We know that lots of Louisiana people are afraid", and
get this well, ladies and gentlemen, you decent, clean, honest, good poor
people of Louisiana, get this plain, "We know that lots of Louisiana
people are afraid, and in the past they have been justified in their
fear". MR. ROCGE said, "However, I can say today that they need hold
those fears no longer, this is the direct problem of the Federal Govern-
ment". Just like they did in Chicago with CAPONE, just like they did in
gangster-land, racketeering, things like that. Why, they'd take you for
a ride if you'd bat your eye. And I'm in bad taste talking about such
a man who could do such a thing as that to Louisiana? Good God, pity
that man, in his mad desire for publicity and cheap notoriety he would
give the world to believe that Louisiana is a place where a man must
fear to open his mouth; that Louisiana is a place where organized rackets-
teering and gangster methods prevail. Where, to open your mouth against
the politicians means being taken for a ride, like in Chicago. Why men
turn on your radio any night and you'll hear the present administration and the politicians in this State roundly and openly and severely criticized, world without end, and they're not taken for rides, they're not beaten up, they're not injured. When have you heard of any witness in a criminal prosecution in this State being injured or taken for a ride or anything like that MR. ROGGE? Where do you think you are ROGGE? In Chicago? Now, I don't object to them investigating — I'm for them. But quit playing politics for these lying newspapers MR. ROGGE? That's blasting the reputation of this State so MURPHY can pose as a racket-buster and tilkorn DEWEY in this next presidential election. That's what I'm against. And do you think I'm the only one in the world who's criticizing Attorney General MURPHY for poking his nose in State's rights? Here's what a friend of mine writes me under date of August sixth: "Did you hear Representative HOFFMAN of Michigan?" That's MURPHY'S home State, so this fellow must know him pretty well, "Did you hear Representative HOFFMAN of Michigan speaking over radio station WWL, CBS, at 8:30 PM August 3, 1939? He stated among other things, (this is Representative HOFFMAN of Michigan, MURPHY'S own State) that MURPHY recently sent five investigators into the State of Kentucky in an investigation there and that they in turn presented a —— return to the Congressional Committee. Representative HOFFMAN asked whether the people of the United States were going to allow themselves to be forced into such a position that their States' rights and civil liberties were to be entirely taken away from them. So I'm not the only one who sees MR. MURPHY'S clay feet. The member of the United States Congress from his own home State has got him down as a man who has no respect for States' rights, a man who doesn't know, or knowing doesn't care, that under the Constitution of the United States of America each State in the Union is given the right to govern itself and to conduct it's own internal affairs. And let me tell you corporation lawyer boys something, you're lawyers, you know about States' rights. You just let these fellows come down here and trample all over States' rights. I'm not talking about protecting crooks. Let 'em conduct all the investigation they want, and I hope they put all the crooks in jail. But you take this business of States' rights. As a matter of principle and ———, don't you know it's a dangerous practice? ----- to let the Federal Government come down here and run our internal affairs. Don't you know that ten years from now you might have the finest set of State officials in the world, the most honest, the greatest, the most decent in the world and that this Federal Government, this precedent having been set, can come down here if they don't like the color of their eyes, and supersede 'em and take over.

Now, now, you corporation lawyer boys think about that. This is a precedent, this is a matter ——— this business of States rights. Let me tell you something. If FRANK MURPHY thinks he's going to step over the crushed and broken ruins of Louisiana's right to the sovereign state into the presidency of the United States he's the most badly mistaken man in America. Again I admonish you, O. JOHN ROGGE, to leave these lying newspaperers alone, and direct your attention to questions of Federal law, investigate violations of Federal law all you want to, and may success attend your every effort. May you succeed
beyond your fondest expectations, in putting every crook and scoundrel and rascal in Louisiana that you find in the penitentiary, and I'll be for you on it and I'll shake your hand when you do it. All good people in Louisiana will commend you for that, but stop demeaning your high office by allowing a lot of scheming newspapers to bring you into the grave error of advertising to the world that Louisiana is a State where a man can't open his mouth to tell the truth without fear of reprisal by gangsters and racketeers, without fear of being taken for a ride, without fear of meeting foul play, that's the inference that was conveyed by your newspaper statement the other day, that was probably taken to the fartherest corners of the United States and they're looking at Louisiana if they read that, as a land where a man is afraid to open his mouth, afraid to testify in a criminal trial for fear he'll be taken for a ride by gangsters.

Be fair to Louisiana and her people, that's all we ask. Be fair. Some people are saying I'm trying to drive you out of Louisiana so the State officials can cover up -------. You know I'm not trying to run you out of Louisiana MR. ROGGE. You know how foolish that would be. How could one poor ------- little fellow like me run the United States Government out of Louisiana. No, I want you to stay here. I want you to catch and convict every crook in Louisiana. I hate crooks as badly as you do. All I'm asking of you is that you don't let these newspapers use the publicity you must necessarily attract to the disadvantage and ruin of the reputation of Louisiana.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, this evening's paper said that former Governor RICHARD W. LECHE was indicted and charged with stealing $67,000. I say to you if that's true, if that newspaper report is true, if the indictment is true, if he's charged and found guilty of stealing $67,000 then may be he go to the penitentiary. I hope you do put him there if it's true that he stole $67,000. I'm not covering up for anybody MR. ROGGE, I'm not covering up for anybody ladies and gentlemen. If what they say about SHEARER MCLEOD and MONTE HART is true that they used the mails to defraud, if what the newspapers say is true, that that Bienville Hotel was a rotten stinking deal and that the people of Louisiana were defrauded out of their money, then I say put them in the penitentiary cause they belong there and you won't find me criticizing you for doing it.

Now coming back a minute to these high society boys------- big rich boys. I think I got a few more minutes. Who profess ------- to such a deep and burning interest in the Government of Louisiana, well it surprise you to learn that many of these boys were not even qualified to vote in the last gubernatorial election in the State of Louisiana? They were not even interested enough to vote for their choice for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General and all of the state officers. They didn't have any interest at all in who was sent to Baton Rouge as their law makers. They had no interest at all three short years ago in the affairs of their state, and
yet they have the unmitigated gall to join up in a Citizens Voluntary Committee, Assassination of Commerce League for the purpose of telling the Governor how to run Louisiana. You know a fellow like that is really got gall, he's really cheap, but don't take my word for it, I'm going to read you the roll of honor here; here's a list of the members of the Ex-Citizens Voluntary Committee of Louisiana, late lamented, out of the plain old undisguised Association of Commerce who had the brazen audacity to give the Governor advice on how to run the State when they couldn't even vote in New Orleans. When Louisiana's public officials were voted on by the people of Louisiana in the last gubernatorial campaign. Not registered, 1935 to 1936, which means they couldn't vote the last time a man ran for Governor: CHARLES C. CHAPMAN, NATHANIEL S. SHARE, JEROME JONES, ALBERT WACZENHEIM, E. KIRBY AUBURN, E. A. TALBOT, WILLIAM B. ANDREW, there's the boy for you. This boy was born in Paris, France and moved to Louisiana in 1938 and he's trying to run the State of Louisiana already, would you believe that? Didn't take that boy long to get started WILLIAM B. ANDREW, boy, boy, HENRY DURBON, W. S. SIMPSON, JOHN A. BURPEE, J. B. STARBURG, HAROLD HAZEN, E. A. STEVENS, CHARLES C. CRAMEN, JR., JOHN MEDLEY COCHRAN, GEORGE S. CLARK, HAROLD S. MELLER, DOUGLAS E. FERGUSON, ROY W. WATSON, he's registered alright, he's a Republican, this boy's registered alright, HUGH MCCLOSKEY, he's registered too, but let me tell you about this boy, he's twenty three years old, this fellow, I believe he's head of the People Indignant Citizens, or something like that. He's registered but he didn't say he had any party affiliation when he filed his registration card, just said party affiliation: none, so he can't vote in the Republican and he can't vote in the Democratic primary, he can't vote at all. And he's trying to tell Governor LONG how to run Louisiana. Twenty three year old boy.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I have a few telegrams that came in here and I'm going to try to read if time will permit, and then I'm tired, I'm going to quit. Here's "Crowd of twenty listening in and all enjoying your talk, program coming in very good"; Elio Bear Parlor, 3401 St. Claude Ave., Thanks boys. "Congratulations, keep up the good work", L. C. STEIGEL, 4920 Bienville St., "SHIRLEY WIMBERRY of New Orleans, "Crowd of twenty listening in, enjoying your talk very much", JAMES SMITH, St. Claude Social Club. SHIRLEY WIMBERRY "Have sympathy for those aristocrats, although they're unfortunate, congratulations" AL LUKOWSKY and family. SHIRLEY WIMBERRY "Crowd of ten listening in, keep up the good fight" KARTIN B. HELM, 1706 St. ---, SHIRLEY WIMBERRY "Congratulations, twenty listening in you have then on the run keep up the good work, tell it to them." SHIRLEY WIMBERRY "Crowd of fifty listening in we're with you 100% continue the fight, and keep up the good work" THE EARL K. LONG FOR GOVERNOR CLUB, JOE F. SUTTER, Recording Secretary 8th Ward, "Congratulations SHIRLEY, keep up the good work, your friend JIM BRENAN" Give them II SHIRLEY, you're not alone" ED MOYLE, I know I'm not alone, don't you worry about that EDDIE. "Do as well tonight as last Monday you---" signed JOHN WILE. "Congratulations keep up the good work, our meeting has adjourned to hear your talk" OSCAR C. FERGUSON, Chairman Laboring Men and Small Business Men Committee, Thank
you OSCAR. Alright, here’s one from MRS. L. SPAN, this is a note from a very good friend of mine, Dear Sir, congratulations to you for defending a man whom we know will come out on top because the poor people of Louisiana believe he will carry out HUEY’S wishes and bring glory out of chaos. Myself and about six person I know of will be listening in to you for champion for the cause of good clean Government, yours respectfully MRS. L. SPAN. Thank you MR. SPAN. "Congratulations on your wonderful speech, crowd listening in" FRIENDS. Aw, you ought to sign you name boy, don’t be afraid. "We’re all for you" ROBERT MITCHEL, JR. AND GANG, 1113 Cambronne St. "Twenty five listening in, keep up the good work" PAUL KN---, 1334 Kusie Street. "Congratulations on your wonderful talk, crowd of ten listening in" MRS. HENRY BEHRINS, 628 Pauline St., Thanks, "Let’s throw out few bad potatoes and carry on, we’re for you and Governor EARL K. LONG 100% gang listening in" HAROLD JORAN, 1006 Frenchman St., How’re you Al. "Crowd listening in, enjoying your talk" CHARLES PLACE, Desire and Roman, Thanks. "Even though I’m in the Dog House with you I still think you’re making a darn good speech, keep up the work boy" Signed JIM LINDSEY. Alright JIM I’ll get out the Dog House. "A crowd of fifteen listening in we’re with you 100%, continue the fight and keep up the good work" MRS. C. J. SMITH. SHIRLEY WIMBERLY "Several listening in keep up good work" Signed OPPENHEIM. "Congratulations, keep up the good work, we’re all with you 100%" CHARLIE GALLIANO.

Now ladies and gentlemen ---- for two minutes for me to conclude this speech. I want to say to you good people of Louisanna you poor people and I’m one of you. That the hour has struck in this State when the underprivileged must rise and stand as a solid against this frenzied attack of the enemies of HUEY LONG. If the Times Picayune and corporate interests want to succeed in their bid to regain power every right, every advantage, every benefit that great and wise statesman wrestled from their unwilling hands would be snatched from you again. Shall history record that HUEY LONG’S blood was spilled in vain? No, there is too much stalwart manhood and noble womanhood in Louisanna to permit such a catastrophe. They have challenged us. They, the heartless idoons who hissed at HUEY LONG as he took his flight into the Great Unknown. They have challenged us, these conscienceless creatures who’s insatiable hatred pursued HUEY LONG’S body even into the dark and silent grave. They have challenged us and we accept that challenge. Hundreds of thousands strong, we, the poor people of this State take up the gauntlet the newspapers have thrown down. HUEY LONG did not die in vain, and we’ll never stop until we make of this, our native State, the kind of a land the martyred HUEY LONG dreamed of all his life. The kind of a land he fought and bled and died for. A land where none shall be too big, and none shall be too little. A land where there shall be clothes to cover the backs of the naked, where there shall be food so that all might eat. Where no little family shall ever be homeless. The kind of a land where every man a King. I thank you.

You have just heard MR. SHIRLEY WIMBERLY, New Orleans Attorney speaking from the studios of WWX in New Orleans. This was a paid political program, the views held by the speaker are his own and not necessarily those of this station.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Dept. of Justice
Washington, D.C.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 15, 1939

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

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter of even date to Assistant Attorney General C. JOHN ROGGE, which mentions an informant who furnished information that one P. W. BIRGER may be in a position to furnish information concerning oil deals on the part of SEYMOUR WEISS and former Governor RICHARD W. OLECHE. The Bureau is advised that the informant mentioned in this interview is Mr. MORTIMER KELLY, Agent for the Travelers' Life Insurance Company, Masonic Temple Building, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge
GA-32509

Section 13
Authorization of investigation given telephonically by Bureau. USA, New Orleans, submitted to New Orleans Division 75 names and addresses of individuals comprising petit jury panel, U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, for the term beginning November, 1939, and requested a discreet investigation be conducted as to each juror. Discreet, confidential investigation conducted through various sources at New Orleans. Detailed information as to each juror included in this report. Also, New Orleans office files checked as to each juror and information derived therefrom made a part of this report.

Letter from New Orleans Division to Bureau dated November 2, 1939.
DETAILS: AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

As indicated in reference letter, MR. O. JOHN ROGGE, Assistant Attorney General, of the Department of Justice, requested that a discreet investigation in this matter be conducted and that information compiled be furnished the office of the United States Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana, by December 1, 1939.

Inspector ROSEN, of the Bureau, telephonically authorized Special Agent C. W. DUNKER to institute the investigation as requested by Assistant Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE.

United States Attorney RENE A. VIOSCA furnished the names and addresses of seventy-five individuals who comprise the November, 1939, term petit jury panel.

In the previous investigation of the petit jury panel for the May, 1939, term of court, conducted by this office, United States Attorney RENE A. VIOSCA considered it inadvisable to contact any member of the Clerk's office in connection with the investigation. Since the previous investigation, however, the U. S. District Court Clerk has been changed and the present Clerk, A. D. O'BRIEN, JR., was contacted for such information as he could furnish regarding members of the November panel.

The investigation has been set out following according to the number given each juror, in compliance with the request of Assistant Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE. There is also included an alphabetical table of the names of each juror on the list furnished by United States Attorney VIOSCA.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents NELSON PERRY, J. O. PEYRONNIN and the writer.
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W. C. HIGGASON

No information concerning W. C. HIGGASON was found in the 1935 city directory. The 1936 city directory lists WALLIE C. HIGGASON, wife LUTICIA W., saleswoman, 6201 South Airo. LUTICIA W. HIGGASON is listed as a clerk, U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service. No other persons by the name of HIGGASON are shown at the address 6201 South Airo.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau in a report on LUTICIA W. HIGGASON, dated August 17, 1934, reflect that she is a clerk for the U. S. Government, 310 Union Building, salary $1,404.00 per year, has been known in the files of the Bureau for years and is a native of New Orleans, age 37, with no dependents. No previous employment is given, competency good, employer's opinion good; character and reputation good; and she has no other income in rents, owning no real estate. The report also indicated that her husband, W. C. HIGGASON, was formerly employed as a clerk in the Donaldsonville, Louisiana, drug store, coming to New Orleans approximately ten years ago. He began employment at the New Orleans Post Office as a clerk in 1929 and following was employed by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as an agent. In 1931 he was employed as a salesman for the Royal Typewriter Company for six months and has had no regular employment since but has been selling specialties on his own account. His income is considered small. Neither W. C. HIGGASON nor his wife represent any financial responsibility and their principal income is the salary earned by MRS. HIGGASON as a Government clerk. The trade reports indicate small open accounts in 1936 and 1937 and good credit rating with some; however, others have been refused credit. It is noted that several accounts of W. C. HIGGASON have been referred for collection.

The report furnished the information that they had lived at the following addresses: 3818 Calhoun Street; 2317 Broadway; 2230 Jena Street; 3419 Beudin; 4139 St. Charles Avenue; 500 S. St. Patrick; 5207 S. Rocheblave; their last address being 6201 South Airo.

W. H. WYNNE

WYNNE is not listed in the 1935 city directory. The 1936 city directory shows WILLIAM H. WYNNE, wife Ada, district freight agent of the Southern Pacific Railroad, residing at 210 Hector Avenue, Metairie. It also lists as residing at this address and possibly relatives of WYNNE, EDWARD W. WYNNE, student; W. HOWELL WYNNE, dentist, with offices at 702 Maison Blanche Building; and HELEN M. WYNNE, clerk, Interstate Electric Company.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau reflect in a report dated August 19, 1937, WILLIAM H. WYNNE, employed as a commercial agent for the Southern Pacific Railroad, 508 Pan-American Bank Building, resides at 210 Hector Avenue, Metairie, having formerly resided at 2310 Calhoun and 1523 Pine Street.
WYNNE is indicated as a native of New Orleans, having lived in New Orleans all his life and has been employed by the Southern Pacific Railway since 1905 and for ten years has been commercial agent. His age is given as fifty-two and he is married. His salary is indicated to be around $4,000.00 a year but it may have been reduced.

On September 29, 1916, the record reflects that WYNNE purchased from the Buresl Homestead Association a piece of property in the 6th District, Square 23, bounded by Pine, Birch, Broadway and Jeanette Streets, which property is subject to a mortgage of $2,700.00 still of record. WYNNE has several children, most of whom are grown, according to the report. On a trade clearance made November 18, 1928, one open account was shown past due. Several installment accounts were shown with good payment and several accounts with personal loan finance companies were shown with good payment record.

WARREN KERNETE, Jury Commissioner, stated that he believed this man was a former employee of the Southern Pacific Railway but he could give no additional information concerning his character or reputation.

LEON BER

The 1935 city directory shows LEON E. BER, Vice-President and General Manager of Stevens, Inc., residing at 5620 Hurst Street, Apartment B. Additional information in the 1935 city directory shows his wife's name to be GLADYS, residing at the same address. Information from this directory shows Stevens, Inc., located at 710 Canal Street, doing business principally as clothiers, furnishers and hatters and handling Hart, Schaffner & Marx suits. It shows, in addition, the following persons residing at 5620 Hurst Street: PETER Y. DUNN, J. PETTIGREW WRIGHT, and IRA F. SCHIESEL.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show that LEON BER formerly resided at the following addresses: 6 Dunleath Court; 1507 Jefferson Avenue; 5520 Willow Street; 2417 Calhoun Street. His business was given as Stevens, Inc. His credit rating is considered good. There is no additional information in the files of this Bureau.

FRANK H. MORTIMER, former Jury Commissioner, stated that this man is manager of Stevens, Inc., a clothing store; he is Jewish; has considerable means and has a high standing in New Orleans.

A confidential informant stated that MR. BER formerly worked for Mayer Israel's Store in New Orleans; left the employ of that concern to go into the haberdashery business for himself; then went out of business and is presently associated with Stevens, Inc., a reputable store on Canal Street. He indicated that this man is a Jew and that he would not use him in a case where there is a Jew on trial.
EARL H. VAUGHAN

The 1935 city directory shows EARL H. VAUGHAN to be an agent of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, with home at 704 St. Charles, Apartment A. The 1933 city directory shows EARL H. VAUGHAN, wife JANE, insurance agent, located at 713 Mantina Building, and residing at 1510 S. Carrollton Avenue. This directory reflects that also at 713 Mantina Building are located C. ADRIAN BODET, insurance agent, and NIEL B. HERMAN, who is in the heating and ventilating business. ELsie Wright is also indicated as residing at 1510 South Carrollton.

The files of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau reflect that EARL H. VAUGHAN is in the insurance business, located at 518 Gravier Street. This record reflects numerous open accounts of small amounts, none of which are past due and the payment on which was good. There is also indication of several small installment accounts, none past due, and payment is good. Several personal loans were indicated with outstanding balances; the record of payment is good. This record shows that there is a chattel mortgage on an Oldsmobile car on February 6, 1939, in the amount of $423.55. VAUGHAN is indicated from this report as having lived at the following addresses: 2007 Pine Street; 1422 Constantinople; 1301 Napoleon Avenue; 7914 St. Charles Avenue in March, 1931; and 1510 South Carrollton in October, 1936.

MILTON F. HIRSCH

The 1939 city directory shows MILTON F. HIRSCH as a solicitor for the Hartwig-Moss, Inc., Agency Company, residing at 512 Valnut, Apartment A. The 1933 city directory shows MILTON F. HIRSCH, wife HATTIE, employed as an insurance agent, residing at 624 Lowerline Avenue, Apartment L. It also indicates that CERF HIRSCH resides at 624 Lowerline and is in the cotton business; This directory shows the following named people as residing at 624 Lowerline: MELVILLE J. THOMAS, JR.; WERNER KURNE; HELEN E. HATLEY; GEORGE KELL; JOSEPH W. ALLEN; MRS. MARGARET COCKE; MRS. MARIE T. PONOR; JOHN S. DYER; and JULIUS J. PERLITTA.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show that MILTON F. HIRSCH is manager of the Hartwig-Moss Insurance Company located in the Union Building. In a report on HIRSCH dated January 5, 1936, it is reflected that he is a native of New Orleans, residing in an apartment located in a good section of town. His age on this date was fifty; he is Jewish; married, and his wife is his only dependent. The report shows that he has been manager of Hartwig-Moss, an insurance company, for twenty-five years. His competency is rated as good and his former employers recommend him. His habits and morals are good, he is indicated as being reliable and having a good reputation. The record shows that his approximate salary is $5,000.00 a year and that his wife has separate means. Their joint worth is about $50,000.00. In addition, this record shows HIRSCH's trade clearance for Marke Ionces in June, 1939, and that payments are good on numerous small open accounts. Payments are also good on several small installment accounts and on an $100.00 personal loan made in 1936.
FRANK H. MORTIMER, former Jury Commissioner, knows HIRSCH to be Jewish and that he is in business as an accountant.

A. D. O'BRIEN, JR., clerk, U. S. District Court, indicated that he knows HIRSCH slightly and also knows his brother, DR. JULIAN HIRSCH. He indicated that the juror impressed him as being a decent and honest sort of fellow but that the firm which he is associated with might have some political connections.

HERBERT C. SALE

The 1935 city directory shows HERBERT C. SALE, an electrician with the Dixie Electric & Auto Parts Corporation, residing at 5139 Canal Boulevard. Also residing at this address, and a possible relation, is JAMES H. SALE, who is assistant custodian in the Post Office Building. The 1935 city directory shows HERBERT C. SALE, wife LOUISE, employed as an electrician and residing at 1320 Adams Street. It also indicates that LOUISE SALE is an X-ray technician.

A report of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau shows HERBERT SALE employed by the Federal Barge Line, with addresses as follows: 5427 Hawthorne; 5139 Canal, December, 1936; 1320 Adams Street, August, 1937; and 5547 Woodlawn, March, 1939. This record shows two credit clearances dated May, 1934, and July, 1936, both showing good payment. There is no additional information in this file.

WILLIAM F. WITTE

The 1935 city directory does not list WITTE. As a possible relationship, however, it is noted that a CHARLES H. WITTE is clerk of the Orleans Parish Board of Assessors, residing at 5911 West End Boulevard. The 1935 city directory shows WILLIAM F. WITTE residing at 1725 Broadway and no occupation is given. It is determined that JOSEPH F. HENDERSON also resides at this address.

There is no record of WITTE at the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau.

PAUL H. MALONEY, JR.

The 1935 city directory lists PAUL H. MALONEY, JR., Congressman, residing at 1200 South Front Street. PAUL H. MALONEY, JR., is listed as being president of the Maloney Trucking & Storage, Inc., residing at 265 Audubon Boulevard. FERDINAND C. CANDOLOFO, JR., is listed as Vice-President and EMILY H. HUGHES, Jr., is listed as Secretary-Treasurer of this corporation. The 1935 city directory shows MALIGNY, wife EVELYN, to be President of Maloney Trucking & Storage, Inc. He is shown to reside at the address given above for him. Officers of the Maloney Trucking & Storage, Inc., are shown as follows:
Vice-Presidents: ROBERT L. HARDIE, ROGER J. NAYREY, and HARRY D. HAMILTON; Secretary-Treasurer, EMILY A. MUGNIER, JR.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show PAUL H. MALONEY, JR., as president of the Maloney Trucking & Storage Company, with former residence at 2216 North Street and present address at 265 Audubon Boulevard.

Credit record prepared April 10, 1939, on MRS. E. H. MALONEY shows that payments are good on open trade accounts.

A credit report on PAUL H. MALONEY, JR., prepared June 14, 1938, indicates that he is a native of New Orleans and that he has resided at 265 Audubon Boulevard for the past ten years. He is thirty-eight years old, has a wife and two children. It indicates he has been president of the Maloney Trucking Corporation since 1930 and that for years previous he was manager of the Maloney Motor Company. His character, morals and habits are good. His estimated income is $10,000.00 a year. This record shows that he owns a home assessed at $15,000.00 and that he is the son of P. H. MALONEY, member of Congress from New Orleans. He graduated from Tulane University as a dentist. For the last fifteen years MALONEY, JR., has been looking after his father's business. This record also states that he has interest in other business in New Orleans. His estimated worth is $50,000.00.

FRANK H. MORTIMER indicated that MALONEY operates a fast freight service owned by him and his father and that his father is a Congressman from the Second District and a Director of the National Bank of Commerce and also of a homestead association. He stated that MALONEY is very wealthy and connected with a prominent social group in New Orleans and that due to his father's political position he is very closely connected with the present political regime.

WARRIN KEARNEY, Jury Commissioner, indicated that MALONEY is a member of the State Legislature and that he is closely allied with the present administration.

Confidential informant indicated that this juror would not be trustworthy at all. He stated that in a building and loan association some time ago he tried "to grow over night as one of the powers". He indicated that there was a levy on all homesteads for certain advertising and that PAUL MALONEY, JR., took $1,900.00 of those funds and bought an automobile and gave it to WILLIAM E. WOOD, State Homestead Supervisor of the Banking Department of the State of Louisiana, and that this car was delivered to WOOD at Crowley, Louisiana. He stated that the funds should have been used strictly for advertising purposes and not converted as MALONEY used then, which act on the part of PAUL MALONEY, JR., was, in his opinion, a criminal offense.
since 1928. He was formerly employed by the New Orleans States as Advertising Manager. References from this company indicated that he is capable and dependable. WALMSLEY appears to be well regarded, possessing good habits and morals. This report indicates that he has many contacts in New Orleans. His income is listed as $4,000.00 a year. This record also shows that WALMSLEY boards with his mother; MRS. WALMSLEY owns an one-third interest in some residential property located at 4717 Carondelet Street.

Information furnished by FRANK MORTIMER shows that WALMSLEY is employed by the Whitney National Bank in the New Business Department. MORTIMER indicated that he is a brother of T. SEBASTIAN WALMSLEY, former mayor of New Orleans, who was removed from office by HUEY P. LONG. MORTIMER indicated that this man has taken no part in the political activities. He is a man of only moderate means but is believed to be of good social standing.

A. D. O'BRIEN, Clerk of the U. S. District Court, believed that this juror is one of the vice-presidents of the Whitney National Bank, New Orleans. He does not believe that this juror is related to T. SEBASTIAN WALMSLEY, former mayor of New Orleans. He knows this man to be a close friend of Judge NUYUS POSTER, of the Circuit Court in this city, and that both are members of a same carnival organization. He believes WALMSLEY a high-class man, entirely reliable and, in his opinion, WALMSLEY would make a favorable juror for the Government.

W. D. KIMBERLY indicated that WALMSLEY was vice-president of the Whitney National Bank.

Confidential Informant indicated that WALMSLEY is a brother of the former mayor WALMSLEY and is an avowed anti-administration man. He indicated that this man was a banker and thought that he undoubtedly would give the Government a hard break and that, as a matter of fact, he might lean too far for the Government. This informant believed the gentleman is above reproach.

NO. 12

E. E. BOUTERIE

E. E. BOUTERIE is not listed in either the 1935 or the 1936 city directory.

Record of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau shows that ETIENNE BOUTERIE resides at 619 President Street, Thibodeaux, Louisiana. This record indicates a trade experience of two 1934 accounts, one of which is past due.

Special Agent J. O. PLYNSON stated that he is acquainted with a number of BOUTERIES residing at Thibodeaux, Louisiana, and there is a BOUTERIE, probably ETIENNE BOUTERIE, who is a former employee of the Post
The 1935 city directory shows GEORGE W. BOHN, President of the Bohn Motor Company, Inc., residing at 17 Newcomb Boulevard. The 1936 city directory shows the same information and, in addition, gives his wife's name as KATHLEEN and shows GEORGE W. BOHN, JR., is a student. This directory indicates the Bohn Motor Company is a Ford agency located at Washington Avenue and South Broad.

Records at the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show GEORGE W. BOHN, SR., as president, treasurer and manager of the Bohn Motor Company, Inc., 2700 South Broad. Information prepared July 1, 1939, reflects that BORN'S bank account is very satisfactory. It shows that department, clothing and furniture store open accounts were all paid satisfactorily. He has been residing at 17 Newcomb Boulevard since 1932. His age in this report is given as fifty years; he is married and has three children. This record indicates that he has been president of the Bohn Motor Company since December 12, 1934. BOHN is well-regarded and possesses good character and morals. His estimated income is $10,000.00 annually. This record shows that BOHN is from Pass Christian, Mississippi, and that he was formerly employed by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad for eight years and that he was employed as secretary for the Edwards Motor Company in New Orleans from 1914 until 1924. In 1924 he organized the Bohn Motor Company, dealing in Ford cars, which has, in addition, repair and service departments. This business has a capitalization of approximately $30,000.00. BOHN is listed as the owner of the building at 2700 South Broad, which is worth approximately $50,000.00. BOHN owns his own home, purchased from C. C. COLE in November, 1932, and which is mortgaged at $17,000.00. He is regarded as a capable man.

FRANK H. MORTIMER indicated that BOHN owns a very large Ford agency in New Orleans and is considered quite wealthy. He is believed to possess a high character and good reputation. MORTIMER stated that he has no close political affiliations.

A. D. O'BRIEN stated that he does not know BOHN personally but knows of him and that he seems reputable and well-established. He does not think BOHN is affiliated with the political element and would be willing to accept him on a case in which he, MR. O'BRIEN, would be concerned.

Confidential informant stated that BOHN is a shrewd business operator; that he has social aspirations and would only use him as a juror if compelled to. He indicated that BOHN is quite friendly with the powers that be and is a close friend of MILES FRAIT, who is close to the present administration.

Assistant United States Attorney HERBERT W. CHRISTENBERRY advised that he was of the opinion that BOHN had done considerable business in selling cars to the city of New Orleans.
The 1935 city directory shows PAUL F. JAHNCKE as president of the Jahncke Service, Inc., and Flint, Sand & Gravel Company, with home at 7 Audubon Place. His wife is listed as financial secretary of the Orleans Club. The 1935 city directory shows PAUL F. JAHNCKE, wife PEARL, residing at 7 Audubon Place, president Jahncke Service, Inc., and vice-president of the Flint, Sand & Gravel Company. This directory also lists at 7 Audubon Place DAVID L. JAHNCKE, clerk, Jahncke Service Company; and PAUL F. JAHNCKE, JR., salesman for Jahncke Service Company, residing at 416 Lowerline. For the Jahncke Service Company, Inc., address 814 Howard Street, PAUL F. JAHNCKE is given as president, WALTER F. JAHNCKE, vice-president and treasurer, and GEORGE BECKER, secretary. The Jahncke Service Company is indicated as dealers in concrete and building products. WALTER F. JAHNCKE is given as president of the Shipside Storage Company and president of the Flint, Sand & Gravel Company. He is also Norwegian Consul. The Flint, Sand & Gravel Company is located at 816 Howard Street, and besides WALTER F. JAHNCKE, president, and PAUL F. JAHNCKE, vice-president, HOWARD J. COWILL, Bogalusa, Louisiana, is secretary and treasurer.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau reflect in a report dated March 27, 1936, that PAUL F. JAHNCKE, SR., is a native of New Orleans and resides at 7 Audubon Place, where he has lived for twenty-five years. This is a single residence located in a good section of town. His age in 1936 was fifty-five years, he is married and has grown children. JAHNCKE has been president of the Jahncke Service, Inc., since 1915, which Service is valued at approximately $300,000.00 and which has a good reputation. JAHNCKE was formerly president of the Jahncke Drydock & Ship Building Corporation for ten years. His habits, character and morals are considered good and he is reputed to have a good reputation. His estimated income is $20,000.00 a year, which is considered permanent. His estimated worth is $250,000.00. The report shows that he owns his home and additional property. His credit record with open trade accounts is very good.

FRANK H. MORTIMER stated that the juror operates Jahncke Service and also barge lines and that he has done considerable business with the State of Louisiana and has close political connection with the present regime. He has a residence in the same neighborhood as ABE SHUBMAN, which is used as a country residence. JAHNCKE is very prominent socially.

WILLIAM KEARNEY indicated that JAHNCKE is a competitor of his in business and he knows JAHNCKE to sell materials to the State Government. It has been reported to KEARNEY that JAHNCKE sold shells for RICHARD LEHME'S boat house. He believes that JAHNCKE would be a warm supporter for the present administration.

A. D. O'BRIEN is not personally acquainted with JAHNCKE and knows him to be head of the Jahncke Service Company.

According to a report in the New Orleans Field Division file in the case entitled "UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; MRS. PAUL F. JAHNCKE, JR., Victim; EXTORTION", MRS. PAUL JAHNCKE, JR., was the victim in an extortion investigation.
file reflects that on March 27, 1936, MR. W. H. NORMAN, former Assistant United States Attorney in New Orleans, and MR. PAUL JAHNCKE, JR., appeared at the New Orleans office and reported that his, JAHNCKE'S wife, received a letter on the morning of March 27, 1936, in which a demand was made for $900.00 cash to be placed at a designated spot on Fontainebleau and State Streets in New Orleans. Information in this file reflects that MR. PAUL F. JAHNCKE, JR., is employed as an official of the Jahncke Service, Inc., of which concern his father, PAUL JAHNCKE, is president.

Confidential Informant stated that it is a known fact that this individual was called as a character witness for EYTMOUR WEISS at the last trial. ROBERT MARSTED is reputed to be interested in his gravel business and is alleged to have put up $100,000.00 in that business. This informant believes that if this juror were unfriendly to the State administration he could not survive. He would under no circumstances recommend this juror to serve.

Assistant United States Attorney HERBERT W. CHRISTENBERY advised that PAUL F. JAHNCKE was very closely connected with the present administration in the State of Louisiana and that he was the subject of a case in the United States Attorney's office for the Eastern District of Louisiana, the facts of which were presented to a Grand Jury but no true bill was returned against JAHNCKE and the company for which he works, Jahncke Service, Inc. The case involved a conspiracy by JAHNCKE and others in the contracting business in collusion in buying on Government contracts. The United States Attorney's file number of this case is 3152. It is MR. CHRISTENBERY'S information that the Jahncke Service, Inc., is or has been in financial difficulty and it is possibly operating under receivership at the present time.

NO. 11

S. P. WALSLEY, JR.

The 1935 city directory does not list S. P. WALSLEY, JR. In this connection it is brought out that T. SEYMUR WALSLEY is a possible relation of the juror and this directory indicates that he is mayor of the City of New Orleans and president of the Commission Council and resides at 2001 Palmer Avenue. S. P. WALSLEY, JR., is not listed in the 1938 directory.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show that SYLVESTER HIREW WALSLEY, JR., resides at 2507 Prytania Street. His occupation is recorded as contact man for the Whitney Central National Bank located at St. Charles and Grevier Streets. A credit report prepared July 23, 1939, shows that payments on open trade accounts are fair and that $13.00 is over due on a clothing account of this date. Payments on installment accounts were fair. The record shows that in August, 1937, WALSLEY made a loan of $300.00 and that payments on this loan were good. This record shows that a suit was brought against WALSLEY by J. I. and L. H. CATER for $2,000.00 on January 22, 1929. Record of this suit could not be verified. Another credit report prepared in April, 1937, showed that WALSLEY has been residing at 2005 Prytania Street for thirty-five years and that he is a native of New Orleans. The home at this address is a frame house, located in a residential section. His age is given as fifty years in 1937; he is married and has no children. WALSLEY has been employed as a contact man with the Whitney Bank.
Office department in Thibodaux as a rural route carrier but this person is presently on a pension, having put in about thirty years of service in that department. The BOUTERIE family is known to be close to Sheriff STARK of Thibodaux, Louisiana, and Sheriff STARK is reported to be close to the present administration.

**ALLARD KAUFMAN**

The 1935 city directory shows ALLARD KAUFMAN, Vice-President of the Southland Lumber Trading, Inc., who resides at 1617 Fourth Street. The 1938 city directory shows ALLARD KAUFMAN, with wife JULIA A., Vice-President and Secretary of the Southland Lumber Trading Company, residing at 1519 Calhoun Street. This directory indicates the Southland Lumber & Trading Company located at 810 Carondelet Building, GEORGE D. IZAREL, President.

From records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau it was determined that ALLARD KAUFMAN is vice-president of the Southland Lumber & Trading Company. In a report prepared December, 1938, it is indicated that KAUFMAN is a native of New Orleans, forty-six years of age, and he is married. He has been vice-president of the Southland Lumber & Trading Company since 1921. He is reputed to have a good character and good morals. His estimated earnings are $5,000.00 a year. He is also a stockholder in the Southland Lumber & Trading Company. This record indicates that he is the son of GEORGE F. KAUFMAN, retired, of Covington, Louisiana. ALLARD KAUFMAN has been connected with the Southland Company since 1919, acquiring with GEORGE D. IZAREL controlling stock in 1921. This corporation is capitalized at $100,000.00. KAUFMAN is believed to have accumulated some personal means. The credit record shows trade experience of several small open accounts of long standing with good payments.

FRANK E. MORTLER stated that KAUFMAN is not considered Jewish but that his father may have been Jewish; his mother is definitely not. He believes KAUFMAN to be in the insurance business and thought that he is quite prominent socially, with no particular political affiliations.

WARREN KEARNEY indicated that KAUFMAN stands very well socially and, to his knowledge, KAUFMAN has no political affiliations.

Confidential Informant indicated that KAUFMAN associates with the better element in New Orleans. He stated that although he does not know much about KAUFMAN'S business connections he is inclined to believe that he would make an exceptional juror. Informant indicated that this gentleman married the daughter of MRS. JEAN CASTELLANO, who operates the Jai Alai Royal where the higher class persons gather socially and where a number of debutante parties are given.
The 1935 city directory shows that there are no JOHN N. LEE listed, nor are there any LEEs listed as residing at 8137 Apricot Street. The 1938 directory shows a JACK LEE residing at 8237 Apricot Street and employed by Dun & Bradstreet. Information afforded by the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau shows JOHN N. LEE resides at 6117 Willow Street, is employed by Dun & Bradstreet. The file indicates LEE'S trade experience in 1935 to be fair payment on several small accounts. No other information is included in the file.

The 1935 city directory does not list a LAWRENCE EUSTIS; however, a LAWRENCE EUSTIS, JR., is listed, with occupation as a teacher, who resides at 1752 Amelia Street. The 1938 directory indicates LAWRENCE EUSTIS, JR., with wife, KATE, employed as a salesman for Godchaux & Mayer, Ltd., residing at 1732 Cadiz Street. This directory indicates the following officers of Godchaux & Mayer, Ltd.: HAROLD S. MAYER, President; RALPH N. PONS, Vice-President; JAMES B. ROSS, Vice-President. The business of this concern is indicated as insurance agents, doing business at 817 Union Street.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau reflect that LAWRENCE EUSTIS, JR., is an agent for the Home Life Insurance Company, 817 Union Street. In a credit report prepared May 7, 1935, from Memphis, Tennessee, it was indicated that EUSTIS, JR., is not known in the files of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau but that his father has been known since 1925. This report shows juror to be attending Tulane University. His age is given as twenty to twenty-two years, he is single and it is indicated that he is earning $40.00 per month as editor of a college paper and also that he earns board at the fraternity house. This record shows that his father is employed at the Commodity Credit Corporation; also, that his father owns his home in Memphis and that his credit in Memphis is rated as good.

In a report prepared June 9, 1939, it is indicated that EUSTIS, JR., had been residing in New Orleans since 1933; that he is thirty years old and that he is married. His occupation is listed as an agent for the Home Life Insurance Company since 1939. He is well-regarded, his habits and morals are believed good. He is considered a capable man and his commissions amount to about $6,000.00 per year. He was formerly employed in the New Orleans City Better Bureau. There is no particular financial ability, other than good earnings, indicated. The report shows he has several small open accounts, with payments good.

FRANK H. MORTIMER indicated that LAWRENCE EUSTIS, JR., is a cousin of LEWIS EUSTIS, Cashier of the Whitney National Bank, who is a member of a very prominent family socially but which is not connected with the present political administration.
WARREN KEARNEY indicated that LEEDS EUSTIS is a member of a very prominent social family and that he might have tendencies to oppose the present administration.

A. D. O'BRIEN stated that he knows this juror very well. He is a personal friend of EUSTIS and believes that he is entirely reliable. O'BRIEN indicated that his occupation is an insurance salesman; that he is a man who is very aggressive and honest in his dealings. O'BRIEN indicated that he is married to the sister of ARTHUR DE LA MOUSSAYE, an attorney of New Orleans, and in his opinion the juror would make a very favorable juror for the Government.

Confidential Informant stated that he believes this man is a son of CARTWRIGHT EUSTIS, who is now the secretary of the Boston Club. He believes that if this juror is a member of that family he feels confident that he would make an acceptable juror.

According to the files of the New Orleans office, the Peoples League was formed in New Orleans about August 5, 1939, for the purpose of cooperation with the public to see that drawings for juries were made public. Information has been furnished the New Orleans office that some of the members of this League possessed radical tendencies and at the time this League was formed it is reported that the League originated a large amount of publicity relative to the indictments and exposure of corrupt politics in Louisiana. According to the list of membership in this League, LAWRENCE EUSTIS, JR., and SHEPHERD SHUSHAN were members. Also in the list were included some of the most outstanding and reputable citizens of this community.

NO. 16

HUGH Mc. C. EVANS

The 1933 city directory shows HUGH Mc. C. EVANS, Department Manager, D. H. Holmes Company, with a home at 1520 Toledo Street. The 1938 city directory shows MR. EVANS residing at the same address, with identical occupation, and indicates wife SEDONIA. From this directory it was determined that the following named are officers of D. H. Holmes Company: ROBERT LIEKHARDT, president; R. W. MILLOT, vice-president; HUGH E. VINCENT, vice-president; PERCY S. BENEDIOT, secretary; BERNARD McGLOCKLEY, treasurer; JAMES A. SMITH, assistant secretary-treasurer.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau indicate HUGH McGLOCKLEY EVANS resides at 1520 Toledo and his occupation is given as Divisional Merchandise Manager at D. H. Holmes Company, 619 Canal Street. Credit record prepared December 6, 1938, indicates the following: his credit record is stated as good; EVANS is a native of New Orleans and has resided at the same address for the past thirty years. He is thirty years old, married to a former DE LA MOUSSAYE and has one child. He was a Tulane student for four years and clerk at D. H. Holmes Company from 1934 to 1936.
He has been Divisional Merchandise Manager at D. H. Holmes since 1936. This record indicates his character, morals and habits are good. It also states that he is a stockholder in the Holmes Company. His salary is given as $5,000.00 a year. This record indicates that he is the only son of FRED W. EVANS, President of Holmes Company until his death in 1937. He left an estate of $109,776.00, which includes 240 shares of stock of D. H. Holmes Company. The juror also inherited about $18,500.00 worth of insurance. EVANS inherited means from his mother, who was a member of the well-known MCCLOSKEY family in New Orleans. His net worth is estimated at over $50,000.00.

FRANK H. MORTENSEN indicated that EVANS is the son of former General Manager of D. H. Holmes Department Store and presently employed in a prominent position at that store. He stated that EVANS is moderately wealthy and is well-regarded.

A. D. O'BRIEN stated that he went to school with EVANS and that he is a son of the late President of D. H. Holmes Company in New Orleans. He indicated that this man is not very bright and that he would not want to trust him in matters where there was self-interest on his, the juror's, part. O'BRIEN indicated that he would not consider the juror dishonest to the extent of taking money but from his experience with EVANS while attending school he gained the impression that the juror was somewhat unethical.

WARREN KEARNSY indicated he did not know EVANS personally but he believed he had no particular political connection.

NO. 17

HENRY E. GOLLIER

The 1935 city directory shows HENRY E. GOLLIER, occupation bookbinder for JOHN E. MATHE, resides at 7323 Nelson Street. GEORGE F. GOLLIER, possible relative, whose occupation is given as an attendant, resides at the same address. The 1936 city directory indicates similar information as the 1935 directory, and, in addition, shows VIOLA PALM, nurse, also residing at 7323 Nelson Street.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau indicate juror residing at 7323 Nelson Street, with occupation as bookbinder for JOHN E. MATHE, located at 300 Camp Street. In a report prepared April 20, 1934, it is stated that GOLLIER is known to this Bureau since 1927; that he is a native of New Orleans and lives in a good section of town. His age is estimated to be fifty to fifty-five years. He is married and his wife is his only dependent. This record shows that he has been employed as bookbinder for thirty-five years, with no previous employment indicated. His competency is recorded as good and it is also indicated that his character and habits are good. His salary is $30.00 to $35.00 per week. This record shows that he has a son employed by the Shell Petroleum Company at $65.00 per month. His estimated worth is $4,000.00 to $5,000.00. He owns a home assessed at $4,000.00, which is not mortgaged. The credit record indicates one open account for $400.00, with payments good; also, several installment accounts with good payments.
The 1935 city directory shows GLEN S. COBB, Secretary-Treasurer of Cobb & Whitehead, Inc. His home is at 4312 South Prier Street. This directory lists DORIS COBB, stenographer, residing at the same address, and a possible relative of juror. The 1936 directory indicates that GLEN S. COBB, wife JANE, is vice-president and general manager of Cobb & Whitehead, Inc., and that he resides at 5863 West End Boulevard. Information from this directory indicates that Cobb & Whitehead, Inc., is a Lincoln Motor car agency which is located at 832 St. Charles Avenue. Also indicated as living at 5863 West End Boulevard is ANDREW E. DUPRE.

From the records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau it was determined that GLEN S. COBB is an employee of Cobb & Whitehead Motor Company, Inc. This record indicates that he is a road man for the Ford Motor Company of Arabi, Louisiana. This record also indicates that he is divorced from NORMA COBB. The addresses indicated from this record of COBB are as follows: September, 1934, 4312 South Prier; January, 1936, 518 Hilary; April 1938, 5863 West End Boulevard; other addresses, the dates of which were not indicated, are 1070 St. Charles Avenue, 7731 Spruce Street, 1413 Adams, 1523 Hilary, and 5209 Prytania. Credit record dated April 12, 1938, has a status of fair. There was no other information concerning this individual at this Bureau.

FRANK H. MORTAUX indicated that COBB is an executive of Cobb & Whitehead, a large Ford agency in this city, and that he is prominent socially and of considerable wealth. He believes that COBB has no political connections.

WILLIAM ZIEGLER

The 1935 city directory shows WILLIAM ZIEGLER, solicitor for Bloodworth, Grasser & Desserer, Inc. His address is indicated as 514 Arlington Avenue, Metairie. This directory indicates that his wife is nurse for WILLIAM A. WAGNER and she resides at the same address. The 1936 city directory indicates that WILLIAM ZIEGLER, wife SOPHIA, salesman, Bloodworth, Grasser & Desserer, Inc., at 812 Union Street. This directory indicates that the following are officers of this corporation, which deals in the insurance business: EUGENE A. GRASSER, president; ALEXANDER E. MORTER, vice-president; JOSEPH THIBAULT, vice-president; THELMA GOSS, secretary; and DAVID J. DESCANET, treasurer. At 812 Union Street, besides the above corporation, is also listed DAVID L. JAMISON, insurance business, and MANUEL M. VEGA, insurance business.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau indicate that WILLIAM A. ZIEGLER, formerly residing at 4926 South Johnson Street, is presently residing at the address indicated above. His credit record as of March 7, 1938, is rated as good. A record prepared by this Bureau on
November 1, 1935, indicates that ZIEGLER is a native of New Orleans and has been residing at 514 Arlington Drive for the past ten years. His house is located in a good section of Metairie. His age in 1935 was fifty-six and this record indicates he is married. He has been employed as a solicitor for Bloodworth, Grasser & Dessane, Inc., insurance company, for about six years. He was formerly employed by other insurance companies in New Orleans. ZIEGLER is well recommended and reputed to have good morals, character and habits. His income is indicated to be about $65.00 or $70.00 a month. This record indicates that his wife is a nurse for DR. W. A. WAGNER and has an income of about $100.00 per month. ZIEGLER owns a home, which is mortgaged with the Home Owners Loan Corporation.

NO. 20

CHARLES A. FARWELL

The 1935 city directory indicates CHARLES A. FARWELL, president of Milliken & Farwell, Inc., residing at 1831 Napoleon Avenue. This directory also indicates ALLEN R. FARWELL is vice-president of Milliken & Farwell. The 1938 city directory shows CHARLES A. FARWELL, wife EDNA, resides at 2311 Octavia Street and indicates that he is president of Milliken & Farwell, Inc. This directory shows the following officers of Milliken & Farwell: CHARLES A. FARWELL, president; F. EVANS FARWELL, vice-President; W. T. GONZALES, secretary-treasurer. This company, which is concerned with the sugar cane industry, is located at 1018 Whitney Building.

From the records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau it was learned that CHARLES A. FARWELL, JR., resides at 2311 Octavia Street, having previously lived at 1426 Prytania and 1831 Napoleon Avenue. This record indicates that he has been president of the Milliken & Farwell Company since 1926. Credit record prepared on FARWELL dated November 10, 1938, indicates payments were good on open trade accounts and payments were also good on installment accounts. The file on FARWELL in this Bureau indicates that he is a native of New Orleans, having resided in this city for the past thirty-five years. He is married and his wife's name is given as EDNA STRAVANT and he has two children. This record shows he has good character, morals and habits. His annual income is stated at $7,500.00 and his estimated worth is $100,000.00. FARWELL is president and stockholder of a company which is engaged in operating sugar plantations. His company works five plantations, in which FARWELL has an interest. He comes from a wealthy and good family and considerable inheritance is expected. He has a home assessed at $6,100.00, on which there are no mortgages. This credit record indicates that FARWELL'S wife has an income of about $1,500.00 annually from money left by her father.

WARRREN KEARNNEY, Jury Commissioner, indicated that FARWELL'S estimated worth is considerable and he is an outstanding sugar planter. He stated that the juror is a member of the Republican party and regularly votes the Republican ticket. He knows FARWELL to be strongly opposed to the City ring.
FRANK H. MORTIMER, former Jury Commissioner, indicated that FARWELL is of a large family of sugar merchants, owning large sugar plantations in the vicinity of New Orleans. He is an executive of Villiken & Ferwell, sugar company in New Orleans, and is very prominent socially. He is a member of the Boston Club. MORTIMER stated that his views are definitely in opposition to the present political regime.

A. D. O'BRIEN, Clerk, U. S. District Court, stated that he is personally acquainted with FARWELL and that he and the juror were members of the New Orleans Academy Alumni Association and that juror is a well-known business man and, in his opinion, would make a very good juror for the Government. O'BRIEN stated that FARWELL is honest, very bright, fair-minded and absolutely reliable.

Confidential informant indicated that this man is a very high-type individual and that he is a nephew of MRS. FARWELL, the well-known philanthropist. He stated that FARWELL is managing her plantation and that he has been given the ownership of her property under some sort of an arrangement which the informant stated he has not seen but that this juror will become the owner of those properties on her death. He indicated that FARWELL associates only with the highest-type of people in New Orleans, all of whom are anti-administrationists and, in his opinion, this gentleman would make an excellent juror.

C. T. SELLER

Assistant United States Attorney HERBERT W. CHRISTENBERRY has informed an Agent of this Division that this juror is deceased.

A note in the files of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau indicates CORNELIUS T. SELLER, SR., local freight agent of the I. C. Railroad Company, died on May 23, 1937.

CHARLES B. McGUIRE

Assistant United States Attorney HERBERT W. CHRISTENBERRY has likewise informed an Agent of this Bureau that MR. McGUIRE is now deceased and a newspaper clipping contained in the files of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau indicates BARNARD McGUIRE, residing at 2217 Adams Street, died February 5, 1939.

M. E. FROLICH

There is no record of this individual appearing in either the 1935 or 1936 city directories. The telephone address directory lists the Industrial Electric Company in business at 2227 Magazine Street. It is to be noted that this is the address indicated for this juror. The 1936 directory indicates that the following persons are officers of the Industrial
Electric Company: I. M. BRIGNAC, president; P. W. BRIGNAC, vice-president; JOSPEH A. BRIGNAC, secretary-treasurer. This concern is engaged in work as electrical engineers and contractors.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show that a MORITZ K. FROLICH under date of May, 1939, was employed by the Industrial Electric Company. The most current address on this record, which was May, 1939, is 743 St. Charles Avenue which, it is to be noted, is a rooming house. Former addresses indicated are 1225 St. Charles Avenue, which is the Audubon Hotel, and also Mobile, Alabama. Record prepared December 15, 1933, appearing in this file indicates FROLICH is thirty-eight years old and is married. This record indicates he had been residing in New Orleans for the past three months and that at that time he was unemployed. It also indicates that FROLICH is a graduate lawyer but there is no indication that he has practiced this profession since his graduation. His wife is known to reside in Mobile, Alabama. The landlords who were contacted in this city spoke well of this individual but were able to afford little financial information. They indicated that FROLICH receives checks from Mobile, Alabama, from time to time. He was known to have no business connection at the date of this report.

A. D. O'BRIEN stated that this juror has been excused by reason of the fact that he is not a competent juror. FROLICH is reported to have a criminal record, according to information furnished to Special Agent J. O. PEYRONNIN by United States Attorney RENE A. VIOSCA and MR. O'BRIEN.

J. B. LINDSEY

MR. LINDSEY's address is given as Bogalusa, Louisiana, and he is not listed in either the 1935 or 1939 city directories.

Information afforded by the files of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau indicates a L. B. LINDSEY who resides in Bogalusa, Louisiana, president of the Washington Bank in that city. Credit report of L. B. LINDSEY dated April 20, 1939, gives a credit rating of very good. Additional information prepared April 14, 1937, indicates L. B. LINDSEY has been a resident of Bogalusa, Louisiana, for the past twenty-five years. At that time he was fifty-five years old, was married and wife's name was EDITH; he has no children. MR. LINDSEY was formerly cashier of the Washington Bank and has been president of this bank for the past twenty-five years. His reputation, morals and character are regarded as excellent. At this time MR. LINDSEY was receiving a salary of $5,000.00 and had an additional income from investments of approximately $2,500.00 per year. His estimated worth is $20,000.00. Resources of the Washington Bank are nearly $1,000,000.00. MR. LINDSEY owns his own home and several other pieces of property. Information furnished by Special Agent T. F. WILSON indicates that he was familiar with a P. W. LINDSEY of Bogalusa, Louisiana, and believes that he might be a brother to L. B. LINDSEY. P. W. LINDSEY is the co-owner of the Knight Lincoln Motor Company in Bogalusa and is also believed to be an officer of the Washington Bank. He knows this bank to be one of two banks in Bogalusa and believes it to be in good condition financially.
A. D. O'ERIEN stated that he does not know this juror but that this juror came in to see Judge BORAH on the morning of November 17, 1939, and was excused until December 4, 1939. MR. O'ERIEN informed that from information which he heard concerning this juror it was indicated that he is engaged in some sort of banking activities in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

G. F. SOUDERES

The 1935 city directory shows GEORGE F. SOUDERES, Department Manager of Woodward, Wight & Company, Ltd., and that he resides at 4210 Cadiz Street. Information in the 1938 city directory shows SOUDERES'S wife's name to be LAURA. This directory also indicates that the following named persons are officers of Woodward, Wight & Company, Ltd.: LAURENCE C. DECHBAR, first vice-president; HARRY S. FORD, second vice-president; W. SIMPSON JONES, third vice-president; RUFUS V. LEA, secretary. This concern handles hardware, mill machinery and contractors supplies and is located on the corner of Howard and Constance Streets.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau indicate that GEORGE F. SOUDERES is a salesman for Woodward, Wight Company, having been employed by that concern for fifteen years, which report was dated September, 1937, at a salary of $200.00 a month. This record indicates former addresses of SOUDERES to be 3301 Magnolia; E100 Milan; 4522 Royal Street. His credit record is indicated as fair. There is no additional information available in these files.

WILLIAM J. HARDIN

The 1935 city directory indicates WILLIAM J. HARDIN, president of Marshall J. Smith & Company, Ltd., residing at 1415 Webster Street. The 1938 city directory indicates similar information and, in addition, shows that Marshall J. Smith & Company is agents for Lloyds of London, doing business at 339 Carondelet Street. Officers of the Marshall J. Smith & Company are WILLIAM J. HARDIN, president; JOHN P. CASEY, vice-president; W. LORING FERGUSON, vice-president; and GEORGE P. MORRIS, secretary.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show WILLIAM J. HARDIN is president of Marshall J. Smith Company, which is agent for Lloyd's. They indicate HARDIN'S former address to be 1433 Pleasant Street. Credit report prepared June 6, 1931, indicates HARDIN'S age as fifty-seven; he is married and has grown children. He has been connected with Smith Company for over thirty years and has a substantial salary income. This record shows that HARDIN owns his own home and personal means. The record shows that his social and business are good. This record also states that HARDIN derives support from connections and is in comfortable financial circumstances; his record is good.
FRANK H. MORTIMER indicated that HARDIN is head of Marshal J. Smith, insurance agency, and also agents for Lloyds of London. MORTIMER knows him to be very prominent socially and believes him to have no political alignments. He is thought to be in opposition to the present political regime.

WARREN KEARNEY indicated that HARDIN has been engaged in the insurance business for many years in this city and that he stands very high socially and in the business world.

THOMAS E. GRINNEN

The 1935 city directory indicates THOMAS E. GRINNEN, manager, J. S. Bache & Company, and his address is listed at 1326 Fern Street. This information appears in the 1933 directory and, in addition, indicates his wife's name as LOUISE. This directory also shows that J. S. Bache & Company deals in stocks and bonds and is managed by JOSEPH P. HENICAN, JR., and THOMAS E. GRINNEN.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau indicate THOMAS E. GRINNEN formerly resided at the following addresses: 8419 Spruce Street and 1921 Dante Street. This record shows that he is a partner of Cibert, Henican, Grinnan & Company, located in the New Orleans Cotton Exchange Building. His credit rating is indicated as good. In a report dated January 31, 1935, it is indicated that GRINNEN is a native of New Orleans; that he is approximately forty-eight years old; that he is married and has two or three children. At this date the record indicated he had been a partner of the above firm for about two years. His character, habits and morals are good. He is also thought to have a good reputation. This record shows GRINNEN has been identified with the cotton business for many years. The firm of which he is a member is looked upon as representing $100,000.00 and it is believed that GRINNEN receives substantial income from other sources. Record indicates that on May 15, 1931, he purchased property in the Seventh District in the amount of $8,565.00 cash.

Information furnished by A. D. O'BRIEN indicated that he does not know this juror but stated that the firm with which this juror is associated is, in his opinion, a very reputable concern. MR. O'BRIEN indicated that he knows a MR. HENICAN, a member of the firm with which the juror is associated, and that MR. HENICAN has a brother who is an attorney practicing law in New Orleans. MR. O'BRIEN stated that he does not know anything of the background of the HENICANS.

FRANK H. MORTIMER indicated GRINNEN is in the cotton business of HERBERT C. CLAY. He is known to be very reliable and of considerable means. He indicated GRINNEN is a self-made man and not particularly socially prominent. He is not known to have any political connections.
PETER HOFFARTH, JR.

The 1938 City directory indicates PETER HOFFARTH, JR., underwriter for Pan-Am Life Insurance Company, and that he resides at 2214 Adams Street. This information is also indicated in the 1938 directory and, in addition, it indicates that his wife's name is NETTIE and that the following named are officers of the Pan-Am Life Insurance Company, located at 228 St. Charles Street: CRAWFORD H. ELLIS, president; EDWARD G. SIMMS, ex-vice-president and general manager; EUGENE J. McGIVNEY, vice-president and general counsel; DR. MARION SOUCHON, vice-president and medical director; FRIEND W. GLEASON, vice-president and secretary; REYNOLD C. VOSS, assistant medical director; FRANZ HENDERMAN, treasurer; HARRY W. BACHER, auditor; JALEN Y. RUDDOCK, vice-president and actuary; and E. P. PATTERSON, cashier. This directory shows that PETER HOFFARTH, SR., resides at 304 Cherokee Street.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau indicate HOFFARTH, JR.'s present address on July 1, 1939, as 140 Metairie Lawn. Former addresses of HOFFARTH are given as 2214 Adams, 3326 General Taylor and 304 Cherokee. His occupation is indicated as insurance underwriter for the Pan-Am Life Insurance Company, located in the Whitney Building. Report of May 10, 1935, indicates credit rating good. Report of June 10, 1931, indicates HOFFARTH is about thirty-three years of age, married and having no dependents. It indicates he has been with the Pan-Am Insurance Company for twelve years with a salary and commissions amounting to $2,000.00 to $2,500.00 a year. He is a native of New Orleans and has been in the employ of the above concern since reaching his majority. He is well spoken of and has a good reputation.

JOHN L. VICARI

The 1935 city directory shows JOHN L. VICARI, wife ELSIE M., as a teller, Whitney National Bank, residing at 1217 Lesseps Street. This information is also indicated in the 1938 directory. In addition, the 1939 directory shows that PAUL VICARI is associated with the New Orleans Police Department and resides at 2525 Art Street. This is indicated inasmuch as he may be a relative of JOHN L. VICARI. This directory also shows that WILLIAM H. WURSTED resides at 1217 Lesseps Street.

Credit record of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau of May 25, 1939, gives the rating of good for JOHN L. VICARI. This shows that he is employed by the Whitney Bank and gives a former address at 1637 St. Roch Street. There is no additional information in the file of this Bureau.

A. D. O'BRIEN indicated that he knows this person to be a teller in the Savings Department of the Whitney National Bank.
F. H. DINGHAUS

The 1935 city directory shows FRED H. DINGHAUS, with occupation as salesman, residing at 4215 Freret Street. The 1939 directory shows this individual is employed as Departmental Manager of E. C. Palmer & Company. It shows that his wife's name is ETHEL K. Also indicated as residing at 4215 Freret Street is RAY DINGHAUS. Officers of the E. C. Palmer & Company, Ltd., are WALTER G. CLEVELAND, president; ASHBY D. CLEVELAND, vice-president; and CHARLES SPROTT, secretary. It indicates that this company does business at 517 Lafayette Street and is engaged in paper-type pressure printing supplies.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show that F. H. DINGHAUS has been residing at 4215 Freret since November, 1935. His former addresses are listed at 3111 Jena, 2515 Jena and 2414 Valence. This record shows he is a salesman for E. J. Palmer Company. Credit report of September 13, 1939, shows this individual has several small open accounts and also several installment accounts with payment good. There is no additional information in the files of this association.

A. D. O'BRIEN stated that he is acquainted with this juror and that he has every reason to believe he would make a favorable and impartial juror. O'BRIEN has always found this man to be a decent sort of individual and he knows him to be in the employ of E. C. Palmer & Company and is the salesman or person in charge of the type and machinery department of that concern. Mr. O'BRIEN stated he would be willing to accept him as a juror at any time.

E. J. FLEMING, SR.

The city directory for 1935 shows EDWARD J. FLEMING, clerk, residing at 1717 Bayou Road. The 1938 directory shows EDWARD J. FLEMING, SR., residing at 1729 Bayou Road. Also, it indicates that JOHN W. HOGERSWERT is a sea captain residing at 1729 Bayou Road.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show EDWARD JOHN FLEMING, SR., is employed by the old Registration Office, City Hall; his present address is indicated as 1717 Bayou Road, with former addresses at 720 First Street; 3933 Toulouse; and 710 Bayou Road. Credit records dated in 1932 and 1934 indicate FLEMING has numerous small accounts with various ratings. In some instances credit was good; in other cases, credit was refused. This record shows a small claim by JOSIAH BEVIN'TO outstanding in February, 1933; also, a $60.00 claim outstanding in favor of Commercial Discount Company in April, 1934. His age is given as fifty-five; he is married and has a salary of approximately $145.00 a month. The date of this information is not given.
FOLWELL A. LEGENDRE

The 1935 city directory shows FOLWELL A. LEGENDRE connected with the firm of THOMAS HOSON and LEGENDRE and that he resides at 1424 Louisiana Avenue. The 1938 directory shows LEGENDRE residing at the DeSoto Hotel. This directory also indicates that JOHN B. HOSON, JR., and FOLWELL A. LEGENDRE are cotton brokers located at 508 Mason Building, 316 Carondelet Street.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show that this individual has addresses at 424 Louisiana Avenue, 1515 Marengo and 12 Audubon Place. In this report it shows that he is connected with Donald Maginnis & Company located at 402 Cotton Exchange Building. Records show several small open accounts from 1933 to 1937 with payments good. There is no additional information in the files on this individual.

WARREN KEARNY indicated that LEGENDRE is very prominent socially. He knows that he has been connected with the steamship line business for a considerable period and that he has no known political connections. MR. KEARNY believes that this individual would make a favorable juror for the Government.

FRANK H. WORTIMER indicated that this individual is in the cotton business and is of a very prominent family and has a high social position. He has no known political connections.

A. M. WEST, JR.

The 1935 city directory shows ALONZO M. WEST, JR., connected with the firm of McFadden & West and residing at 3600 Versailles Boulevard. The 1938 directory shows ALONZO M. WEST, JR., wife ANNE B., residing at 3608 Versailles Boulevard, engaged in the cotton brokerage business. ALONZO M. WEST, SR., is manager of McFadden & West, cotton brokers, 819 Greavier Street.

Record of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau shows this individual as residing at 3508 Versailles Boulevard and indicates former addresses at 1570 Henry Clay, 1315 Calhoun, 1833 Coliseum, 1015 Audubon and 3600 Versailles. He is shown to be a partner of McFadden & West. A credit account prepared September 18, 1939, shows that his record is generally good. It indicates that he has not made any loans or applied for any type of financing. Record prepared May 8, 1939, indicates A. M. WEST, JR., is a native of New Orleans, age forty-four, wife's name ANNE BOYD, and that he has two children. He has been a partner of McFadden & West since 1925 and he was formerly assistant manager in G. E. McFadden and Company. His character and reputation are indicated as good. His estimated income is $10,000.00 a year. He owns a home at 3508 Versailles Boulevard, which he purchased in May, 1932, and paid out approximately $7,000.00 cash and assumed a mortgage of $10,000.00
in favor of the Standard Bond and Mortgage Company. This property is assessed at $14,000.00 value. His investment in McFadden & West is approximately $20,000.00. This record also shows that he has additional investments in the Barclay Compress Company. His estimated worth is $100,000.00.

FRANK E. MORTIMER indicated that A. M. WEST, JR., is in the cotton business with McFadden & West. He has no known political connections and is of modest circumstances and social position.

WARREN KEARNSTY indicated that MR. WEST is the son of the foremost cotton broker in New Orleans and his reputation is very high in this city. He believes that WEST has no political connections.

Confidential Informant stated that he is personally acquainted with MR. WEST and that he recently lunched with him at the Boston Club. He indicated that this gentleman is an excellent citizen and that he takes very little interest in discussing politics and believes that this individual would make an excellent juror.

The 1935 city directory indicates JOSEPH M. FORNARIS resides at 5209 Pitt Street. Also indicated as residing at this address is JOSEPH M. FORNARIS, JR., who is employed as a bookkeeper. The 1938 city directory indicates JOSEPH M. FORNARIS, wife AILMA, no occupation given. JOSEPH M. FORNARIS, residing at the above address, is employed as a credit man and ASHTON F. FORNARIS, also of the same address, is employed at a filling station located at 3670 Ponchartrain Boulevard.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show that JOSEPH M. FORNARIS, JR., resides at 5209 Pitt Street and is employed by the Shell Petroleum Company. His credit record of February, 1939, indicates several small open accounts with a few accounts past due. Payments unsatisfactory. Credit record on installment accounts and personal loans and auto finance indicates good payments. The credit record appearing in this file on JOSEPH M. FORNARIS, SR., who resides at 5209 Pitt Street, indicates he is in the importing and exporting business and indicates his home address as his business address. Report of April, 1938, indicates wife AILMA FORSTALL. Record shows that FORNARIS is a native of New Orleans, fifty-five years old, that he is married and his wife is the only dependent. Record shows that he has been in the importing and exporting business for himself for over thirty years. His character, habits and morals are good. This person operated as J. M. FORNARIS & Company from 1913 to 1918 and in the latter year discontinued that style. He later went in business under his own name and for a period of time he was successful but for the past six or seven years has been dependent on children who live at home and support the family. He owns property which is mortgaged to the HOO in the amount of approximately $20,000.00, which loan is dated July 1, 1934. Credit record shows two accounts given to collection department for poor payments. Payments on a personal loan in 1937 were good.
Information furnished by FRANK H. MORTIMER indicates that this individual is very prominent socially and that he was formerly connected with the insurance business but that his present occupation is unknown. MR. MORTIMER stated that he was not politically active or connected. This information is set out but from the record of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau, it is believed that these persons are not identical.

S. G. FLASPOLLE

This individual is not listed in the 1935 city directory. The 1936 directory shows SIDNEY G. FLASPOLLE, wife MONNANES, residing at 2723 Jefferson Avenue. No occupation is given.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show that this individual has resided at 2723 Jefferson Avenue since September, 1934. He also resided at 1771 North Broad in April, 1933, and other addresses indicated are 2723 Peter Street, 1407 Napoleon Avenue, 1512 Louisiana Avenue and 8308 Prytanis. Credit record indicates several small open accounts with good payments in 1937. There is no additional information in the files on this individual.

PHIL J. FELDNER

The 1935 city directory indicates J. PHIL FELDNER, occupation sign painter, in business at 525 Poydras and residing at 813 Milan Street. The 1933 directory indicates J. PHIL FELDNER, wife ANTOINETTE, sign painter, and residing at 4116 Annunciation Street. Also as a possible relative, this directory indicates HENRY C. FELDNER, a deputy clerk, First City Court, residing at 7817 Ponce. Also indicated as in business at FELDNER'S business address is Stewart & Company and Gus Pitar & Sons, both of whom are manufacturing agents.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show that JOHN PERIL FELDNER is a sign painter and former addresses are given as 813 Milan; 1436 Sixth Street; 325 Poydras; 2319 Valence; and in October, 1936, 8415 Ollander. His credit rating is indicated as good. There is no additional information concerning this individual.

GEORGE W. UNRUH, JR.

The 1935 city directory shows GEORGE W. UNRUH, accountant, residing at 337 Pine Street. The 1936 directory indicates this individual as an accountant employed by Haskins & Sells and residing at 1817 Calhoun. HENRY J. JUNIORVILLE is resident partner of Haskins & Sells, located in the Hibernia Bank Building. Also indicated as residing at 1817 Calhoun Street is GEORGE S. RAPIER.
Records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau indicate GEORGE WALKER UNRUN, JR., is an accountant and formerly resided in Mobile, Alabama. Credit report prepared November 25, 1933, by the Mobile Merchants Company and in the files of the New Orleans Credit Bureau shows that credit record on open account was paid satisfactorily. Also it is indicated that he is single, twenty-seven years old and the son of GEORGE W. UNRUN, SR., a realtor. Record shows that GEORGE UNRUN, JR., was at one time employed with his father. His father is assessed at about $21,500.00 on real estate holdings and his family is well-regarded in Mobile, Alabama. A New Orleans credit report prepared July 12, 1938, indicates his age as thirty-one, married, employed by firm of Haskins & Sells since 1935 at a salary of $200.00 a month. This person is well-regarded and has a good reputation. Payment on several small open accounts and on personal loans was good.

NO. 38

J. G. SWARBRICK

The 1935 city directory shows JAMES G. SWARBRICK residing at 2509 Napoleon Avenue. The 1936 directory gives similar information and, in addition, shows that SWARBRICK is employed as a clerk for the City of New Orleans. It also indicates that ALBERT H. SLAT resides at 2509 Napoleon Avenue and that PATRICK E. BURKE is located at 2006 Canal Street, which is the indicated address of the juror in the list submitted by the United States Attorney. Records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show that JAMES G. SWARBRICK is employed in the State tax office, residing at 2509 Napoleon Avenue in 1933 and formerly residing at 2006 Canal and 233 North Roman. Credit record indicates good payment on two open accounts in 1932 and 1933; also good payment on an auto finance. Record with bank shows that his account carried four figures.

FRANK H. MORTIMER indicated that this individual is employed in the assessors office at the City Hall and that he is very closely aligned to the present political regime.

NO. 39

LOUIS E. OSTER

The 1935 city directory shows LOUIS E. OSTER, salesman, residing at 3530 Gentilly Road. The 1936 directory indicates OSTER residing at the same address, with wife MARIE, occupation given as salesman with the Marine Oil Company. Officers of the Marine Oil Company, Ltd., are WILLIAM C. LUDSON, president; HERBERT L. WASSON, vice-president; GEORGE J. WHITNAN, secretary; MISS BETTY CAUSSE, JR., treasurer. This company is indicated as doing business at 1523 St. Charles Avenue. It also indicates that there is a filling station at this address.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau indicate LOUIS E. OSTER is a salesman for the U. S. Tire Company at 2200 St. Charles. It indicates that he is presently residing at 3530 Gentilly Road, with former addresses at 2110 North Claiborne; 2136 St. Koch; 3605 Belgrade; 1040 North Can; 1735 St. Anthony; and 2110 North Claiborne. In a report prepared on
OSTER dated September 2, 1937, it is indicated that he has been known in the files of this Bureau since 1929 and that he is a native of New Orleans and resides in a good section of the city. His age is forty-one, married and his wife is his only dependent. He has been sales manager of J. S. Tire Company since 1935, former occupation being the L. E. Oster Tire Service, 2100 St. Charles Avenue. This person is competent, capable, well-regarded and possesses a good reputation. His earnings are listed at $200.00 a month. In June, 1935, there was a mortgage on some property in the Third District of Gentilly owned by OSTER to the ELOC. Other property owned by OSTER mortgaged to the Wisteria, Clematis Insurance Company is in the amount of about $10,000.00. Also, some property is mortgaged to JOHN L. OSTER in the amount of $8,000.00. Credit record of May, 1939, indicates payment good on several small open accounts; also, good payments on installment and personal loan accounts.

Assistant United States Attorney HERBERT W. CHRISTENBERRY advised that he knows a man by the name of C. G. HAMMER who is a brother of C. A. HAMMER who married an OSTER girl, probably of the same family as the juror. C. G. HAMMER is employed in the Recorder’s Court, City of New Orleans, and is closely affiliated with the present political administration.

Herman E. Wunder, Sr.

The city directory for 1935 shows HERMAN E. WUNDER occupied as a clerk, residing at 7114 South Claiborne Avenue. The 1935 directory does not list a HERMAN E. WUNDER, JR., listed, wife, WINIFORD; clerk, Federal Reserve Bank; residing at 233 Metairie Lawn. This directory also indicates that FRANK C. COGGINS resides at 1629 Broadway, which is WUNDER’s address as given in the list afforded by the United States Attorney.

In the records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau HERMAN E. WUNDER, JR., is employed by the Federal Reserve Bank as custodian. His present address is indicated as 233 Metairie Lawn, former addresses at 1114 South Claiborne; 325 St. Patrick; 4414 Canal; and 1627 Jackson Avenue. In a credit report prepared October 19, 1935, it is indicated that this person was a native of New Orleans, thirty-five years old and married. He has been employed in his present position since July 27, 1933, at a salary of $140.00 per month. He was previously employed as a clerk with the Canal Bank for eight years. This person has a good reputation and is competent and reliable, according to previous employers. His wife is employed as a stenographer with the Southern Bell Telephone Company and has been in this position since 1915, with a salary of approximately $110.00 per month. There is no indication of additional income nor any record of real estate held by H. E. WUNDER, JR. Credit record for 1933 shows fair payments on several small open accounts, with good payment on installment accounts. Credit record of HERMAN WUNDER, Sr., of this association indicates that he is employed as a cutter with Godeaux Clothing Company located at 2001 St. Bernard Street. He has been residing at 2105 Broadway since November, 1935, with previous addresses at 4114 Canal; 124 North David; 3112 Tulane Avenue. Notes appearing in this file indicate individual has been employed.
as a cutter for Godchaux Clothing Company for thirty-five years at $40.00 per week. He has no real estate or any additional income. A note also indicates that he has grown children with no dependents and that his wife died December, 1932. It is indicated that he has good ability and is highly regarded. Credit record on several small accounts indicates good payment.

NO. 41

ALBERT DAZET

The 1935 city directory shows ALBERT DAZET residing at 1232 Frenchmen. Also, ALBERT DAZET is indicated to be in the ice business at 3102 Toulouse Street. A third ALBERT J. DAZET is listed as Assistant Cashier, National Bank of Commerce in New Orleans and residing at 4531 Canal Street. The 1936 directory shows ALBERT DAZET, wife URSULA, is employed as Assistant Cashier, National Bank of Commerce, and resides at 7925 Birch Street. It also appears that PAUL W. DAZET is a clerk of the City Sewerage and Water Board and is a possible relative of ALBERT DAZET.

The file of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau reflects ALBERT DAZET with previous addresses at 4531 Canal and 4563 Canal Street. In a credit report prepared July, 1937, it is indicated that he has been known in the files of this bureau since 1921. He is a native of New Orleans, resides in a good section, about fifty years old, been married twice and is at present married, his wife being his only dependent. He was formerly connected with the Canal Bank for a period of twelve years and this report indicates that he has been employed by the National Bank of Commerce for the past four years. He is considered a capable, competent individual. He is well-regarded and has a good reputation. He has a salary of $3,000.00 a year. His worth is estimated at $6,000.00 to $8,000.00. In December, 1934, he purchased some property in the Second District of St. Maries, Toulouse, Waters and Decatur Streets, which is assessed at $6,000.00. He also owns a lot in the Fourth District, square 54, valued at $300.00. His credit record shows good payments on several small open accounts; also, good payment on small installment accounts.

FRANK H. MORTIMER indicated that MR. DAZET is Assistant Vice-President of the National Bank of Commerce and of modest circumstances and social position and that he has no political connections.

NO. 42

J. F. UNDERWOOD

The 1935 and 1936 city directories show JUNIUS W. UNDERWOOD manager of the Budget Finance Company, wife's name GRACE, residing 1545 Phillips Street. It is also noted in the 1936 directory that MRS. J. UNDERWOOD is a private secretary employed by the company at 1338 Governor Nicholls and it is possible that she is a juror. The Budget Finance Company is located at 522-
The credit record at the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau shows that JUNIUS W. UNDERWOOD formerly resided in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and also at 1507 Jefferson Street. This record indicates he is president and manager of Budget Finance Company, 1031 Canal Bank Building. In a credit report prepared September, 1936, it is indicated the wife’s name is GRACE GRAHAM, he is a native of New Orleans, age thirty-two years, and he has one child. He has held his present position since June, 1934. He formerly worked for a period of five years as manager of the Globe Furniture Company in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His character, reputation, habits and morals are unquestioned. Salary estimated at $3,000.00 a year. His wife owns property 1545 Phillips Street, valued at $5,000.00. MR. UNDERWOOD is the principal stockholder in the company where he is employed. This record indicates that he inherited some wealth from his grandfather and that his wife also has an independent income. It is noted in this record that he is interested in the Graham Oil Company, with offices in the Hibernia Bank Building, which company handles oil leases and royalties. In a suit filed in June, 1936, a small claim was placed against UNDERWOOD by MILTON M. KELLIM. Paying record on several small open accounts is good.

FRANK H. MORTIMER indicated that UNDERWOOD is of the prominent family of UNDERWOODS in New Orleans and has a very high social standing. He is otherwise not known to MORTIMER.

Confidential Informant indicated that he has known UNDERWOOD since his school days and that this gentleman was reared by his grandfather, J. W. C. WRIGHT, who was the owner of the New Orleans Furniture and Manufacturing Company; that he married a MISS CHEQUILIN, of a splendid and reputable family. He stated that this individual’s associates and friends are practically all anti-administrationists and that he is presently engaged in loaning money and that, in his opinion, would make an exceptional juror.

A. D. O’BRIEN indicated that he is personally acquainted with this juror as he and the juror attended the same school. He knew this juror married a MISS GRACE GRAHAM of a fine reputable family. He believed that the juror is absolutely honest and reliable and would, in his opinion, make a fair and impartial juror.

NO. 43

C. P. BROWNE

The 1935 city directory shows CLARENCE P. BROWNE, salesman with Cadillac Motor Car Company, residing at 5524 Willow Street. The 1933 directory indicates BROWNE resides at the same address, wife THELMA, and that he was then employed by the Ponchartrain Motor Company as a salesman. This Motor Company is an Oldsmobile agency and WILLIAM J. WILKOM, is president, and SIDNEY TREXONLE, JR., secretary-treasurer, said company being located at 719 Baronne Street.
Records of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau show that CLARENCE P. BROWN formerly resided at 2809 Washington Avenue, 7015 Willow Street, 1804 St. Charles, 1689 Bordeaux, and 3020 Calhoun. He has been residing at the Willow Street address since October, 1933. Credit report prepared December 16, 1937, indicates BROWNE is known in the files for years; that he is a native of New Orleans and resides in a good residential section. His age is forty-nine, he is married and has two children, ages eighteen and twenty. He has been connected with the Ponchartrain Motors as a salesman since October, 1935; previously employed for five years by the Mansford Motor Company; also employed five years with the Cadillac Motor Company. He is a competent man, his family is well-regarded, his habits and morals are good. BROWNE also has a good reputation. Commissions amount to about $10,000.00 a year and he has no additional income. His worth is estimated at $500.00. BROWNE has several open accounts and installment accounts with a poor paying record, many of which were placed with collection agencies. A suit was brought by the Jackson Building and Loan Company in April, 1932, in the amount of $5,200.00 against BROWNE. Record of other suits show March, 1922, for $350.00 by LOUIS WORDSHIRE & Son; March, 1922, suit for $25.75 by Kunaghan & Cordell; February, 1923, suit for $131.00 by Maison Blanche, September, 1923, for $56.00 by Harsford, Inc.; and May, 1930, for $25.00 by Singer Sewing Machine Company. Credit record on several small open accounts and installment accounts is very poor. Two personal loans made in 1933 and 1936 show good payment.

NO. 44

FORD T. HARDY

The 1935 city directory indicates FORD T. HARDY, salesman, World Bottling Company, Ltd., residing at 2202 Peniston. The 1938 directory indicates HARDY, wife HELEN, vice-president Monteleone-Iberville Garage, Inc., residing at 448 Millandon. Also indicated as possible relatives are S. J. T. HARDY, assistant general foreman, City Sewerage & Water Board, who resides at 3812 Gentilly, and WILLIAM HARDY, estimator for Caldwell Brothers & Hart, residing at 521 St. Marks.

The files of the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau reflect that FORD T. HARDY is the sales manager for the World Bottling Company and that he formerly resided at the following addresses: 1380 Octavia; 3892 Louisiana Avenue; 4308 Marshall Street; 4227 Elk; and 7018 South Claiborne. Information included in an undated report indicates HARDY has been known in their files for fifteen years. He is about thirty-one years old, married, with one child. He was formerly employed for three years as a manager in the Bond Department of Penner & Beane. His character and habits are considered good. His net worth is approximately $2,500.00, which represents savings and personal property; annual income is $3,600.00. There is no other income indicated. HARDY is considered a capable, honest, and reliable person. Credit record indicates payments fair on several small open accounts with good payments on installment accounts and several loan and finance accounts.
Confidential Informant indicates that this gentleman married the daughter of MR. HENRIQUES, formerly Assistant Attorney General in Admiralty in this city. He stated that HARDY is presently employed as a salesman for an alcohol distillery and that this man has a fine reputation and is entirely trust-worthy. He believes that HARDY would make a good juror.

NO. 45

H. P. TREPAGNIER

The 1935 city directory shows PAUL H. TREPAGNIER employed as machinist and residing at 3121 Banks Street. The 1938 directory indicates he is residing at the same address. His wife's name is ANNA and he is a foreman in his occupation. This directory also lists the following named persons who are possible relatives of the juror: HORACE H. TREPAGNIER, draftsman with Weiss, Dreyfous & Seiforth, residing at 8816 Marks Street; DALTON H. TREPAGNIER, Jr., Lt. Colonel, Louisiana National Guard; WALTER TREPAGNIER, Jr., employed with the New Orleans Police Department, who resides at 1924 Thalia Street.

The records at the New Orleans Retailers Credit Bureau indicate an account of MRS. H. P. TREPAGNIER, of 3121 Banks Street, which was placed with a collection agency in the amount of $3.00 in March, 1938.

There is no additional information available on this individual.
The 1935 city directory gives no listing for JOHN R. LANCASTER or any person by that name at the address 2311 Carondelet Street. However, there is a listing for JOHN LANCASTER at 2028 Clinic. The 1938 city directory lists JOHN R. LANCASTER at 2311 Carondelet Street but gives no other information. This directory also lists AMELIA M. LANCASTER residing at 1721 Broadway, employed as Chief, Louisiana Insurance Commission. At the address 2311 Carondelet the directory lists MRS. ALICE REINECKE.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau have no information on JOHN R. LANCASTER at 2311 Carondelet, but there is a record for a J. P. LANCASTER, employee of the Dock Board, who has resided at the following addresses: 907 Camp Street, 4421 Iberville, 1016 Camp Street, 2331 Carondelet. The files of the credit bureau contain no credit report on this individual.

A. D. O'BRIEN, Clerk, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, advises that he does not know LANCASTER but is of the opinion that he is the brother of MISS ELIZABETH LANCASTER, Secretary to Circuit Court Judge RUFUS FOSTER. He believes that this man is about fifty years of age but knows nothing further concerning him.

Confidential Informant advises that he knows that this juror's sister is Secretary to Judge FOSTER of the Circuit Court of Appeals, and while he knows very little about this man he would not consider it advisable that he be used by the Government for a juror because of his knowledge of LANCASTER personally and his associates.

The 1935 city directory lists ALLISON OWEN, Secretary, Diboll and Owen, Ltd., residing at 1237 State Street. Also employed by Diboll and Owen is listed ALLISON OWEN, JUNIOR, an architect, residing at 1237 4th Street. The 1938 city directory lists ALLISON OWEN - wife, BLANCHE, architect, residing 1237 State Street; also 1601 Canal Bank Building. ALLISON OWEN, JUNIOR, is also listed as an architect residing at 1237 State Street. The directory lists no other persons occupying 1601 Canal Bank Building. There is a listing of ARTH OWEN, residing 1025 Tricou, employed by the New Orleans Police Department.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that ALLISON OWEN, SENIOR, architect, 1601 Canal Bank Building, has resided at 1916 Arment, 1710 South Carrollton, 2013 Pyrtania, and his present address of 1237 State Street. In a report dated November 9, 1930, his age
is given as fifty-five, married, wife's name, BLANCHE POTTIER; that he has no dependents, and that his children are grown. He has been an architect for thirty years and was a Colonel in the United States Army during the World War. His salary is considered substantial and he has other income than that derived from his profession. He owns a piece of real estate in the 6th District, Square 54, bounded by Bloomingdale, Perrier, Pyrtania, and State Street, assessed at $7,500.00. On December 3, 1933, he purchased from MICHAEL CANIN a piece of property in the 4th District, Square 89, bounded by Tchoupitoulas, Philip, Rosseau and Jackson Streets, for $3,250.00 cash and a mortgage of $30,000.00. On July 18, 1936, he purchased from ANTHONY MARURO a piece of property in the 2nd District, Square 50, bounded by Chartres, Mathine, Royal and Governor Nicholls, for $500.00 and a mortgage of $10,000.00. The report indicates that his social and business reputation is excellent; that he has had no domestic trouble and has never been in bankruptcy. "Remarks" in this report reflect that ALLISON OWEN, SENIOR, is one of the most prominent architects in the South and has a very substantial income from his profession. During the War he was Commander of the Washington Artillery bearing the rank of Colonel and presently holds rank of Major General in the United States Army Reserves. Both OWEN and his wife are members of a very prominent social group and of prominent social organizations in New Orleans society. He is stated to represent considerable financial responsibility and has a very favorable paying record. A trade clearance on ALLISON OWEN, SENIOR, was made January 19, 1939, reflecting: accounts in department and clothing stores, all of which report years of experience and good payment.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau also reflect that ALLISON OWEN, JUNIOR, is an architect, residing at 1237 State Street, and a credit report dated June 26, 1934, indicates his wife as the former MISS HARDER; that he is thirty-eight to forty years of age and has no other dependents than his wife; that he has been an architect for a number of years and had no previous employment. His competency, character, reputation and employer's opinion are given as good. His estimated income is $120.00 per month and he is of nominal worth. "Remarks" in this report reflect that he is the son of General ALLISON OWEN, SENIOR, graduate of Tulane University, and that he has been connected with his father's firm as an architect, but was appointed a supervisor for a WPA project at Camp Beauregard at a salary of $150.00 per month. He has no personal means but his father and his wife's family are well-to-do financially. On February 15, 1936, a judgment of separation was entered from his wife. Trade experience indicates open accounts during 1935-36, with a fair paying record.

FRANK H. MORTIMER, former Jury Commissioner, advised that ALLISON OWEN, SENIOR, is one of the outstanding architects in the country, and very prominent in military circles in this section, having the rank of General; that he is also very prominent socially in New Orleans, but is not known to have any particular political connections.
WILLIAM PORTER

The 1935 city directory reflects WILLIAM PORTER presently residing at 2819 Danneel Street. The 1936 directory gives the same information and that his wife's name is OLIVIA M. There is no other person given as residing at 2819 Danneel.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau indicate that PORTER has formerly lived at 2819 South Rampart, prior to his residence at 2819 Danneel. His employment is given as an employee of a printing shop and the file contains no credit report. A trade clearance made August 17, 1939, reflects only three installment accounts, two of which have a poor paying record and the other, a jewelry account, indicates a good paying record.

No other information is available regarding this juror.

GUY A. PARKER

The 1935 city directory has no listing for GUY A. PARKER but lists a GUY C. PARKER, chauffeur for the United States Engineers, and a GUY R. PARKER, district manager for the Singer Sewing Machine Company, 7709 Panola. The 1939 city directory has no listing for GUY A. PARKER. Telephone address directory lists a Parker Grocery Store on East End, Jefferson Parish. The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflected that GUY ALLAN PARKER has formerly lived at 6507 Canal Boulevard, 7163 West End Boulevard, 6666 Avenue A, 38th Street and Avenue A, 820 Leblanche, and presently resides at 38th Avenue, Rural Route 5, East End, Jefferson Parish.

On January 20, 1925, the United Motor Company sued PARKER for $73.55. On April 2, 1924, home was burned, at which time he was behind in payments with the Homestead Association. On January 10, 1929, the New Orleans Bank and Trust Company sued PARKER on claim for $144.00. On March 19, 1929, the Crescent Cigar and Tobacco Company sued PARKER on a claim of $159.53. On February 27, 1930, MRS. DOLORES R. PARKER sued PARKER on a claim for $25.00. On July 16, 1930, J. W. RIDGE sued PARKER on a claim for $3.60. On September 20, 1930, the Solar Studio, Inc., sued MRS. PARKER on a claim for $31.80.

The credit report in the file, for which no date is given, reflects PARKER to be forty-five years of age, that he owns and operates a grocery store, with which he has been connected for five years. He has
four dependents and is considered steady and progressive, has good character and honest and fair in his dealings, and lives within his income. He has had financial difficulties but has never been in bankruptcy. His net worth is estimated at $2,000.00 and his estimated income is about $1,500.00 annually. The "Remarks" in this report reflect that PARKER is conscientious and honest but negligent in regard to his financial affairs. That he applied to the Debt Moratorium Bureau for relief May 24, 1935, and was granted a stay and has paid off these debts. He has a small grocery business, is a hard worker, and just makes a living out of his business. His personal reputation and standing in his community are good, and the only property he owns is his store and personal effects. He does not own his home. His credit record indicates open accounts in small amounts with a fair paying record, one of which accounts was turned over for collection.

VIO C. GONDOLPH

The 1935 city directory lists VICTOR GONDOLPH at 1625 2nd Street. The 1933 city directory lists a VICTOR J. GONDOLPH at 220 Robert Street, wife - BLANCHE; employment - watchman City Sewerage and Water Board.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that VICTOR J. GONDOLPH is employed by the City Sewerage and Water Board; that he has formerly resided at 1708 South Duple, St. Roche and General Taylor, General Ogden and Apricot Street, 3619 General Taylor, 4218 South Dufrene, 2218 Peniston, 2200 Peniston, 2600 Washington Avenue, 2615 General Taylor, 2121 Cadiz, and his present address of 2029 Robert Street. The file contains no credit report. His credit experience from 1931-33 reflects several small open accounts, some of which are past due and one on which credit was refused. On August 22, 1931, a chattel mortgage was given to the Family Loan Company for $300.00. On September 18, 1931, the Industrial Homestead Association sued GONDOLPH for $9,685.37. On March 9, 1932, A. BAEVAN sued GONDOLPH for $16,30. On July 18, 1935, The Liberty Homestead Association sued GONDOLPH for $14,150.13. On July 21, 1937, the Prudential Life Insurance Company sued GONDOLPH for $7,125.00. On July 27, 1938, the HOLC sued GONDOLPH for $5,442.54. On August 8, 1933, the HOLC sued on a judgment for $5,442.54 on property of GONDOLPH at Carondelet and St. Charles Avenue.

JOSEPH ROSE

The 1935 city directory does not list a JOSEPH ROSE at 2415 LaSalle Street, but lists AGUSTA ROSE, maid; MOLLIE S. ROSE, student; and THOMAS E. ROSE, shipping clerk, all of 2415 LaSalle Street. The 1933 city directory has no JOSEPH ROSE at 2415 LaSalle and gives THOMAS E. ROSE, porter, at that address. There are six JOSEPH ROSES listed in the 1933 city directory, however.
The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect no information on JOSEPH ROSE at 2415 LaSalle Street, but this bureau has files on ADAM ROSE and THOMAS ROSE at 2415 LaSalle Street, both of whom are colored porters for COLEMAN E. ADLER and both have been formerly insurance collectors. This address is indicated as being in a colored neighborhood.

R. B. ESKRIGGE

The 1935 city directory lists ROBERT B. ESKRIGGE as residing at 1333 Webster Street, and as employed at R. B. Eskrigge and Company, Cotton Exporters, 806 Perdido. The 1939 city directory lists the same information with addition of the name of VIRGINIA as wife. At 806 Perdido the directory shows ROBERT B. ESKRIGGE and COMPANY, the Victory Oil Company, GUY L. DEANO, President, and Ferrier and Aveno, Cotton Exporters.

The New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau furnished a report dated April 4, 1930, on ROBERT B. ESKRIGGE, residing 1333 Webster Street, cotton exporter, connected with R. B. Eskrigge and Company. His age is given as fifty, is married, and has grown children. He is said to be a cotton exporter in New Orleans for many years and is a member of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange. His net worth is estimated from $200,000.00 to $300,000.00, and he has a very high credit rating. His residence at 1333 Webster Street is assessed at $11,815.00 and is recorded in the name of his wife, being clear of encumbrances. He owns a piece of property in the 5th District, Square 49, Lots 1, 2 and 3, assessed at $13,900. He has a very substantial income from his business and investments, and has an excellent reputation and is considered a successful cotton broker. The trade clearance made April 18, 1939, reflects several small open accounts with good payment record.

FRANK BERTHIER, former Jury Commissioner, advised that he knows this juror slightly; that he is in the cotton business, is considered a successful broker and has the reputation of being very wealthy. His father was a native of England and the family occupies a very prominent social position in New Orleans.

A. D. O'BRIEN, Clerk, United States District Court, advised he does not know ESKRIGGE personally but knows of his family; that this family is very reputable and well thought of in this community. MR. O'BRIEN however knows the brother of the juror, TATUM S. ESKRIGGE, and two sisters, all of whom are considered very high type and reputable people.

WILFRED KLEINWY, present Jury Commissioner, advised that he knows ESKRIGGE to be a retired cotton factor; that he is English by birth but it is not known whether he is presently an American citizen or not. He stands very high in social and business circles in the city.
Confidential Informant advised that he has known HILAIRE D. OGDEN for a number of years and that this man comes from a very excellent and reputable family, is a graduate engineer and now employed by the Celotex Company.

H. D. OGDEN

The 1935 city directory lists HILAIRE D. OGDEN, Special Agent, Union Central Life Insurance Company, 1646 Canal Bank Building, residence - 403 Hilary Street. At this address also is listed HILAIRE D. OGDEN, JUNIOR, physician. The 1938 city directory lists HILAIRE D. OGDEN at 403 Hilary Street, wife - LUCILLE, inspector, State Department of Revenue. HILAIRE D. OGDEN is also listed as a physician, 316 Union Building, residing at 594 Broadway. J. D. HILL OGDEN is listed as a clerk for the civil district court, residing at 4214 Eyrtonia.

It has been noted in a recent edition of the local newspapers that HILAIRE D. OGDEN, State Inspector, Internal Revenue, died.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau indicate a HENRY D. OGDEN, JUNIOR, residing at 394 Broadway, with former addresses of 4816 St. Charles Avenue, 1625 General Taylor, and 1930 State Street, and as a physician in the American Bank Building. A report on this physician dated August 21, 1937, reflected that he is a native of New Orleans, and has been known to the credit bureau since 1934; that he lives in a good section of town, age - 29 years, and single. He is in offices with DR. OLIPHANT and FERDIN. He started practicing in January 1937, having graduated from Tulane University, and spent two years in the Transient Hospital. He is considered competent, his reputation and morals, good, and habits and reliability are also indicated as good. His earnings approximate three to four thousand dollars per year. His mother is a widow of moderate means and he has no other income. A trade clearance made October 11, 1939, reflected several small open accounts, most of which are past due and with a fair payment record. Installment accounts, however, reflected a good payment record, and a personal loan account for $300.00 in 1937 is given with good payment record.

FRANK H. MORTEN advised that he read of HILAIRE D. OGDEN'S death in the morning local paper November 17, 1939; that if this is not the juror, his family is very prominent in New Orleans and any one of the family would be well regarded in the community.

WADHAM KENDRICK advised that HILAIRE D. OGDEN had recently died and is possibly the father of this juror; that he has no information regarding HILAIRE D. OGDEN, JUNIOR, other than that his father was very close to the present State administration.
The 1933 city directory lists a CHARLES N. ROTH as a clerk residing at 500 Lowerline. The 1938 city directory has no listings for CHARLES N. ROTH, JUNIOR, but lists fourteen ROTHS, initials beginning with "C", none of whom reside, however, at 6315 Barrett Street. This directory lists 6315 Barrett Street as vacant. The telephone address directory gives H. C. and H. T. FLADDERMAN and MRS. ETHEL MCLAURIN at 6315 Barrett.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau contain a file on CHARLES N. ROTH with address in 1937 at 6315 Barrett Street, and present address, 607 South Parkacou, Crowley, Louisiana, and as formerly residing at 500 Lowerline Street and 479 Broadway. His employment is given as Federal Land Bank, New Orleans. In a report dated July 25, 1935, CHARLES N. ROTH was listed as a native of New Orleans, living in an apartment house in a good section of town, aged, thirty-five, married, with no children. His employment is indicated as State Manager of the Federal Land Bank since 1928, having been formerly employed by the Hibdon National Bank and Trust Company for seven years as a teller. His employers' opinion is good; habits, morals, character and reputation are also indicated as good. His estimated income is $225.00 monthly. On February 10, 1936, he gave a mortgage to the Home Finance Service for $200.00 on furniture. A trade clearance made December 12, 1936, reflects several small open accounts with clothing and department stores, with a good paying record.

The 1935 city directory lists JAMES C. OPLATEK, clerk, Maison-Blanche Company, 2803 Constance Street. The 1938 city directory lists JOSEPH C. OPLATEK, clerk, Maison-Blanche Company; wife - CORDELIE; residence 2905 Constance Street.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that JOSEPH C. OPLATEK is a druggist, residing in 1936 at 2903 Constance Street, with former addresses of 4117 Eden, 624 Front, Gretna, 1117 8th Street, and 1333 Ursuline. The file contains no credit report and the experience indicates fair paying record.

The 1935 city directory lists BEN J. SIDALL as Assistant New Orleans Public Service, 1705 South Gayoso Street. The 1938 directory gives the same information with the addition of wife's AD.".

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit BENJAMIN ZION SIDALL residing at 1705 South Gayoso Street.
addresses as 4309 South Rocheflave, 2801 Joseph, and employed as
Assistant Engineer, New Orleans Public Service. On a credit report
dated March 24, 1939, SEGALL was known in the files of the credit bureau
since August 1922 and has been employed by the New Orleans Public Service
since that time. His age is given as thirty-four, his dependents, wife
and one child. His estimated salary is $185.00 per month. He is stated
to have good ability and has made good progress with the Public Service
Company and his prospects for the future are favorable. Trade experience
indicates good paying record.

CALLANDER F. HADDEN

The 1935 city directory lists CALLANDER F. HADDEN, Secretary
and Treasurer, Standard Supply and Hardware Company, Inc., 822 Tchoupitoulas
Street, residing 4306 South Miro. The 1936 city directory has a similar
listing. The Standard Supply and Hardware Company, Inc., lists WILLIAM K.
DePAss, President; JOHN W. KrIABERN, Vice-President; CALLANDER F. HADDEN,
Secretary and Treasurer; business - oil well, mill and railway supplies.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau re-
fect the last address of CALLANDER F. HADDEN in 1934 as 4306 South Miro
Street, with former addresses of Covington, Louisiana, and 14 Neron Place.
His employment was listed as secretary and treasurer of the Standard Supply
and Hardware Company, 812 Tchoupitoulas Street, since 1925. The file
contains no credit report but "Remarks" on the record indicate he is well
regarded and his habits and morals are considered good. His estimated
income is about $3,000.00 a year, and his estimated worth is $75,000.00.
He is a stockholder as well as an officer of the Standard Supply and
Hardware Company and is the son of L. F. HADDEN, who, with a sister, MRS.
M. A. RILAU, inherited from their parents several pieces of down-town
property in a commercial district. Dividends on the stock amount to
about $4,000.00 per year and he owns a home in Covington, Louisiana, in
addition to his residence in New Orleans, which is valued at $8,500.00,
mortgaged for $3,000.00 to the Prudential Life Insurance Company. A
trade clearance made October 7, 1935, reflects several small open accounts
with clothing and department stores, with a good paying record.

Confidential Informant advised that this juror is a member
of the Louisiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, a patri-
otic organization; that his mother recently died at the age of eighty
years and she was quite interested in patriotic work. Informant advised
that while he does not know this juror but casually, he is of the opinion
he would make a very high-grade juror.

W. S. CALLANDER

The 1935 city directory lists WILSON S. CALLANDER, Publicity
Secretary of the New Orleans Association of Commerce, residing at 3905
Carondelet Street. The 1936 city directory lists WILSON S. CALLANDER, and
wife, EDITH, Secretary, New Orleans Association of Commerce, residing at 1215 Short Street. H. VAN R. CHASE is given as General Manager of the New Orleans Association of Commerce, 315 Camp Street. No listing for 5216 Coliseum Street is given in this directory.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau indicate WILSON S. CALLENDER residing presently at 1215 Short Street; that he has formerly resided at 1526 Louisiana Avenue, 1510 Amelia Street, 5907 Carondelet Street, and at Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. His occupation is given as Publicity Secretary of the New Orleans Association of Commerce, 315 Camp Street. A credit report dated March 1, 1936, reflects that he is a native of New Orleans; that he has been living at his last address since 1925, is forty-two years of age, married, no children; that he has been employed for fifteen years by the New Orleans Association of Commerce, well regarded; habits, morals and character - good. His income is estimated to be $400.00 per month. He owns a summer home in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Paying record considered to be good.

FRANK H. MORTIMER advised that he has known this man for years, personally; that he is Publicity Secretary of the New Orleans Association of Commerce; that he is thoroughly reliable and has a high character and very good reputation. He is not particularly socially prominent in New Orleans, and his political views are definitely opposed to those of the present State administration.

A. D. O'HERIN advised that he knows CALLENDER only casually, and he believes that he is engaged in the insurance business; that CALLENDER, however, enjoys an excellent reputation and is well known in the community. It is the opinion of Mr. O'HERIN that he would make a very capable juror.

WILLIAM KEARNEY advised that from his knowledge of CALLENDER he would make a very acceptable juror for the Government.

H. M. CROMWELL

The 1935 city directory lists HOWARD N. CROMWELL at 1701 Broadway. Also listed at that address is ALV V. CROMWELL, stenographer. The 1936 city directory lists HOWARD N. CROMWELL, wife - BESSIE, 1701 Broadway, occupation, chair maker.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that HOWARD N. CROMWELL is employed by the Well Made Chair Company, 3301 Conti Street, and no address other than 1701 Broadway is given. In a credit report dated June 10, 1936, CROMWELL was indicated as a native of New Orleans, having lived at his present address for a number of years. His age is given as thirty-six, married, wife being ELIZABETH MOSELY, and has three children. The Well Made Chair Company is a medium-sized organization manufacturing chairs, where CROMWELL has been employed for a number
of years. His habits, morals and character are given as good. He owns his home valued at $15,000.00, mortgaged to the Prudential Life Insurance Company for $10,500.00.

S. J. DRAPEKIN

The 1935 city directory lists S. J. DRAPEKIN, Secretary, New Orleans Cold Storage and Warehouse Company, residing 1624 Napoleon Avenue. The 1938 city directory lists SOL J. DRAPEKIN, wife - HULAH, Secretary and General Manager, New Orleans Cold Storage and Warehouse Company, residing 5510 St. Charles Avenue. The officers of the New Orleans Cold Storage and Warehouse Company listed in the directory are ALBERT MACKIN, President; GEORGE G. WESTFELDT, Vice-President; SOL J. DRAPEKIN, Secretary; and JOSEPH CHALON, Treasurer, address 305 Geinnie Street.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau indicate SOLMON J. DRAPEKIN, Secretary of the New Orleans Cold Storage and Warehouse Company, as residing at 5510 St. Charles Avenue, former addresses 162 and 1607 Napoleon Avenue. Report dated March 29, 1938, reflected his age as fifty-nine, married to HULAH COHN, no children. He has been employed by the New Orleans Cold Storage and Warehouse Company for thirty years; estimated annual income of $5,000.00. His reputation, morals and character considered good. Has a moderate interest in the concern for which he works, and owns no property. Wife is said to have an unknown income from means which she inherited from her family. The trade clearance on DRAPEKIN dated December 20, 1933, reflected several open accounts with clothing, furniture and department stores, with a fair paying record. On August 1, 1933, E. L. CAMPBELL sued DRAPEKIN for $3,750.00. On July 4, 1930, he was in bankruptcy, with assets of $53,319.00 and liabilities of $72,393.49; discharged dated July 31, 1931.

FRANK H. MORTIMER advised that he is not personally acquainted with this man but knows he is Jewish, and head of the New Orleans Cold Storage and Warehouse Company.

ALLEN MEHLE

The 1935 city directory lists ALLEN MEHLE, President of Allen Mehle Company, Inc., and Manager of the Mehle Insurance Agency, residing 1643 Foucher Street. Allen Mehle, Inc., is General Agent for the Atlantic and Pacific Underwriters, 423 Carondelet. The 1938 city directory lists ALLEN MEHLE, wife - HILDA B., with same occupation as shown in the 1935 directory, and residence as 223 Livingston Place, Metairie.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that ALLEN MEHLE formerly resided at 4144 St. Charles Avenue, 417 Royal Street, 1643 Foucher Street, and presently resides at 223 Livingston Place, Metairie. In report, undated, his age is given as sixty-five, married, no children. He has been President of Allen Mehle, Inc., since 1903;
estimated annual income is from $3,000.00 to $7,000.00. He has been in business in New Orleans for forty-five years and at one time was very successful, having been worth in the neighborhood of $50,000.00. He was a bankrupt in February 1935, with assets of $12,293.51 and liabilities of $16,149.59; discharge was dated January 30, 1936. Trade clearance dated March 5, 1939, shows he has several outstanding open accounts with clothing department and jewelry stores and doctors' bills, with a fair paying record, none of which accounts has been turned over for collection. On May 20, 1935, a mortgage was given to JOVITE CARR for $7,999.75.

FRANK H. MORTIMER advised that this man has been in the insurance business for years and that he has had considerable wealth, and is quite prominent socially. His political views are known to be opposed to the present State administration, and he has taken no personal part in political activities.

WARREN KEARNEY advised that he is known to have been in the insurance business for years; that he stands high in this business, and he is believed to be the head of some charitable organization locally.

Confidential Informant advised that he is known to have been in the insurance business for a good many years in New Orleans; that he is a man in the late sixties, but is an excellent citizen and one willing to lay down his life for the freedom of suffrage; that during the days of honest election league this man was a ward captain and helped patrol the election with a gun. He is not affiliated with any political organization and would make an excellent juror.

G. L. WILCOX

The 1935 city directory as well as the 1938 city directory gives no listing for this person.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau indicate that he is presently living in Ponchatoula, Louisiana, having formerly lived at Harvey, Louisiana. His occupation is given as Manager of the Joseph Rathbone Lumber Company, Ponchatoula, Louisiana. The credit bureau's file does not contain a credit report but the trade clearance made as of May 10, 1938, indicates a New Orleans trade experience from 1927 to 1938, with only seven small open accounts with good paying record.

GEOGE P. THOMSON

The 1935 city directory lists GEORGE P. THOMSON as Assistant Vice-President, Whitney National Bank, residing 4416 Perrier Street. At this address also is listed GEORGE P. THOMSON, JUNIOR, clerk for the H. J. Heinz Company. The 1938 city directory lists the same information.
The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau lists GEORGE P. THOMPSON, SENIOR, as Assistant Vice-President and Assistant Manager of the Whitney National Bank, 401 Camp Street. A report dated October 15, 1939, indicates that he is a native of New Orleans and has been living at his present address for twenty-five years. His age is given as sixty-four years, married to ALPHONSINE WALZ. No children. He is well regarded by his employers. His habits, morals, and reputation are good. His estimated income is $300.00 per month. He owns his own home and his wife receives an income of $100.00 per month from employment by the Tuberculosis and Public Health Association. His wife also owns property which is mortgaged for $4,700.00.

FRANK H. MORTIMER advised that he has known of this man for a number of years; that he was formerly in the wholesale grocery business in New Orleans and that he is presently Vice-President of the Whitney National Bank. His reputation in the community is very good. He is considered thoroughly reliable but is not socially prominent.

A. D. O'BRIEN advised that he is acquainted with this juror and has been for a number of years, and that he enjoys a good reputation, in New Orleans; that he is presently Manager of a branch bank of the Whitney National Bank and that he was a very close friend of Mr. O'BRIEN'S father-in-law, the late D. D. MOORE of the Times-Picayune.

WARRIN KENNAH advised that THOMPSON has a very good reputation in the community and that he has no known political affiliations.

Confidential Informant advised that he has known THOMPSON and his family for a number of years; that THOMPSON takes no active part in politics and that he enjoys a very good reputation in the community.

G. J. FERNANDEZ

The 1935 city directory lists GERARD FERNANDEZ as a lawyer residing at 1540 Crete Street. Also listed at that address is CARRILL FERNANDEZ, JUNIOR, lawyer and notary public. The 1936 city directory lists GERARD J. FERNANDEZ, lawyer and notary public, 720 Union Street, residing at 1540 Crete Street. Also at this address is listed GLADYS FERNANDEZ, Interviewer of the City Department of Public Welfare, and OLIVER J. PRIGE. At 720 Union Street, besides FERNANDEZ are listed the Puritan Realty Company, EDWARD W. GIBLIN, Real Estate Agent, Citizens Life Insurance Company of Louisiana, and LOUIS SCHOFER, Real Estate Agent.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that GERARD JOSEPH FERNANDEZ presently resides at 1540 Crete, having formerly resided at 3627 Dumaine Street. His occupation is given as attorney. The file contains a report dated August 10, 1939, in which his age is given as thirty-nine, married; has been an attorney since July 1935.
having graduated from Tulane University. His reputation, morals and character are good, and his estimated income is $2,400.00 annually. He has no other income. Is a native of New Orleans, and son of GABRIEL FERNANDEZ, deceased.

Confidential Informant advised that he knows this man only slightly, having had but one occasion to transact business with him; that he has been practicing law in New Orleans for about four years and would possibly not be recommended as a juror.

JOHN B. VEGOLIA

The 1935 city directory lists JOHN B. VEGOLIA as a carpenter residing at 501 North Hennessey. The 1938 city directory lists the same information with also ANGEL VEGOLIA at 501 North Hennessey.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that JOHN B. VEGOLIA, 501 North Hennessey, is employed as a contractor, located at 614 North Rampart Street. The file contains no credit report but trade experience over a period of years indicates good payments on small open accounts. On July 20, 1938, a chattel mortgage was given to the Asset Realization Company on a truck for $907.92. On October 3, 1938, VEGOLIA bought from the French Market Homestead Association a lot for $1,600.00.

FRANK H. MUNTHEK advised that this man is in the small contracting business and has achieved a moderate success through his own efforts in this business. He is considered very honest and reliable and has no political connections.

ED F. ILLING

The 1935 city directory lists EDWARD F. ILLING as President of Walle and Company, Inc., residing at 1218 North Rendon Street. Also employed by Walle and Company is OLIVER F. ILLING, artist, residing at 1914 Brookenbrough. At 1218 North Rendon, in addition to EDWARD F. ILLING, OLIVER F. ILLING, student, is listed. The 1938 city directory furnishes the same information, with addition of MADELEINE as wife of EDWARD F. ILLING. The officers of Walle and Company, Lithographers, located at 461 Tchoupitoulas Street, are given as EDWARD F. ILLING, President; JOSEPH L. CABILLERO, Vice-President; EDWIN C. WAGNER, Vice-President; WILLIAM W. WAGNER, Secretary and Treasurer.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that EDWARD F. ILLING presently resides at 1218 North Rendon Street, having formerly resided at 3341 Dumaine, 1125 N. Cayuso. Credit report dated September 15, 1939, indicates he is a native of New Orleans, fifty-seven years of age, married to MADELEINE WAGNER, and has in addition to his wife two grandchildren as dependents. He has been President of Walle and Company.
for years, having been formerly employed by the United Fruit Company in the Tropics. He is well regarded and his habits, morals and character are good. His estimated income is $200.00 per month with additional income from rents. He owns his home assessed at $3,600.00, and other piece of property assessed at $2,600.00. His wife also owns small property interests. His credit paying record is shown to be good on several small open accounts.

WALTER GAGNET

The 1935 city directory lists WALTER J. GAGNET, 1723 Joseph Street. The 1939 city directory lists WALTER J. GAGNET, 2634 Joseph Street.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that WALTER J. GAGNET is employed as a margin clerk for John F. Clark and Company, Canal Bank Building. His present address is given as 2634 Joseph Street, and he has formerly resided at 1723 Joseph, 2411 Napoleon, 5319 Perrier. The files of this bureau do not contain a credit report and his paying record on several small open accounts is shown to be good.

CLARENCE J. ROGERS

The 1935 city directory lists CLARENCE J. ROGERS, Secretary-Treasurer, Black and Rogers Company, General Insurance Agents, 417 Hibernia Bank Building; residence, 66 Fontainebleau Drive. The 1939 city directory lists CLARENCE J. ROGERS, wife - LILLIAN W., President and Treasurer of Black, Rogers and Company; residence, 66 Fontainebleau Drive. The officers of Black, Rogers and Company, 417 Hibernia National Bank, are given as CLARENCE J. ROGERS, President and Treasurer; MAURICE L. WARNER, Vice-President; DURIE D. BLACK, Secretary.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that CLARENCE J. ROGERS presently resides at 66 Fontainebleau Drive, where he has been living since 1933; that he formerly resided at 1901 Saint Charles Avenue, and 1826 St. Andrew. A report dated July 25, 1938, reflects he is a native of New Orleans, fifty-five years of age, and married, his wife being the only dependent. He has been employed with Black Rogers and Company, Insurance Agency, for thirty years, having no previous employment. He is a stockholder as well as office in that company. His estimated income is $10,000.00 per year. He owns his home, which is assessed for $11,000.00, and is clear of encumbrances. He is well regarded, his character, morals and habits are good. He has an interest in a piece of property in the 7th District valued at $5,000.00, and his net worth is estimated at $25,000.00. Trade experience shows several small accounts outstanding, with payment shown as slow on most and unsatisfactory on one, only two of which show good credit payments.

FRANK H. MONTIDER advised that he has known of this man for
many years and knows him casually as one of the executives of the Black-Rogers Company. He is considered very wealthy and is very prominent socially in New Orleans. He has no known political affiliations.

Confidential Informant advised that while he does not know Mr. ROGERS intimately he knows his family connections and is of the opinion that those persons with whom he is associated in business are of a political leaning opposed to the present State administration. He believes that this man would make an acceptable juror.

HARRY D. HAMILTON

The 1935 city directory lists HARRY D. HAMILTON as Vice-President of the Maloney Trucking and Storage Company, Inc., residing at 2034 Octavia Street. The 1935 city directory lists the same information with the addition of his wife’s name, RUTH. Officers of the Maloney Trucking and Storage Company, which is located at 1800 South Front Street, are given as PAUL H. MALONEY, JR., President; ROBERT L. MALONEY, Vice-President; ROGER J. NAYLOR, Vice-President; HARRY D. HAMILTON, Vice-President; EMILE J. MUGNIER, Secretary and Treasurer.

It will be noted that PAUL H. MALONEY, JUNIOR, President of the Maloney Trucking and Storage Company, is included in this list of jurors above as No.8.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers’ Credit Bureau reflect that HAMILTON has formerly lived at 2240 State Street, 1821 Pine Street, 5517 Clara Street, 2335 South Carrollton Avenue, and 6028 Benjamin Street. That he is employed as Vice-President of the Maloney Trucking and Storage Company. In a credit report dated December 12, 1935, he is indicated as a native of New Orleans, thirty-eight years of age, married, with two children. That he has been in his present employment for the past seven years, previously employed by the Douglas Public Service Company as a clerk for ten years. He is well regarded and fairly reliable, with good associates. His income is estimated at $3,000.00 per year, and his net worth is nominal. He does not own his own home and rents.

FRANK H. KOTZER advised that his father is well known to him but this man’s occupation is not known. His family is considered to be of character and thoroughly reliable, and he has no known political connections.

A. D. O’REILLY advised that he is well acquainted with this juror and that he is an active member of the Young Men’s Business Club of New Orleans; that he enjoys an excellent reputation for honesty and fairness and has good associates.

WILLIAM KEMNER advised that he is associated prominently with the Maloney Trucking and Storage Company, the head of which company
is the son of the present Congressman for the Second District and, consequently, has very close political affiliations with the present political regime.

Confidential Informant advised that HAMILTON is the son of CHARLES H. HAMILTON of New Orleans who is prominent in the coffee business, being head of the Merchants' Coffee Company; that the juror works for the Maloney Trucking and Storage Company and was formerly an ensign in the Navy during the World War. He is presently a reserve officer in the Navy. Informant knows the juror intimately and believes he is an excellent citizen and would be entirely acceptable as a juror in spite of his connection with the Maloney Trucking and Storage Company.

No. 70

R. J. LEGARDEUR

The 1935 city directory lists RENE J. LEGARDEUR, of R. J. LEGARDEUR and COMPANY, residing 1315 Lowerline Street. Members of R. J. Legardeur and Company are given as R. J. LEGARDEUR and FRANK YOUNGMAN, Accountants, 305 Baronne Street. The 1938 city directory lists RENE J. LEGARDEUR, wife, ANN, residing 1715 Valence Street. Also at this address is listed RENE J. LEGARDEUR, JR. and DANIEL.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that R. J. LEGARDEUR has lived at 2137 Milan and has formerly resided at 1315 Lowerline Street; that he is employed with R. J. LEGARDEUR and COMPANY, firm of Public Accountants. In a report dated September 3, 1930, his age is given as sixty years, married, and children grown. His occupation previously was given for several years with J. Y. Fauntleroy and Company. He has been a certified public accountant since 1908. Estimated income $5,000.00 per year, and is indicated to have other income. On February 3, 1900, he purchased from the Pan American Life Insurance Company a piece of property in the 6th District for $6,000.00. His social and business connections are considered good. He has had no domestic trouble, nor has he been in bankruptcy. His firm is considered one of the more prominent accounting firms in the city. The file of the credit bureau also contains a report on RENE J. LEGARDEUR, JUNIOR, employed at the Southport Corporation as Vice President and Secretary. In a report dated September 8, 1939, his age is given as fifty years, married to MARY H. BUCHANAN, with two children. Has been Vice-President and Secretary of the Southport Corporation since 1926, and is a partner in the Southport Cooperage Company. Estimated income is $5,000.00 annually, and estimated net worth is $5,000.00. He owns his own home, which he purchased September 5, 1925, from the Fidelity Homestead Association. He is considered competent and capable and has a good reputation. His trade experience indicates good paying record.

FRANK H. NORTHERN advises that RENE J. LEGARDEUR, SENIOR, is a certified public accountant practicing in his own name, and has been
in the practice of accountancy for a number of years in New Orleans. He is from a very old and prominent family which has a high standing and good reputation in the community. He is not known to have engaged in any political activities or to have any political connections.

WARREY KEARNEY advised that this juror would be acceptable.

Confidential Informant advised that this man is a certified public accountant and represents the highest type of citizen in the community. That he knows him intimately as a man of much courage, with the power of his own convictions, and he is an avowed anti-administrationist.

GINGER ABBOTT

The 1935 city directory lists GINGER ABBOTT, Accountant, with the General Finance Company of Louisiana, Inc., residing 195 Audubon Boulevard. The 1938 city directory lists GINGER ABBOTT (wife - SERVICE), Salesman, Bohn Motor Company, residence, 4510 Pitt Street. The officers of the Bohn Motor Company are listed as GEORGE W. BORN, President; Ford Agency, South Broad and Washington Avenue.

It is to be noted that GEORGE W. BORN is included in this list of jurors as No. 9 above.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that GINGER ABBOTT is in charge of the Laboratory for the Public Health Institution, 928 Poydras Street; that he presently resides at 4510 Pitt Street, and has formerly resided at 5626 St. Charles Avenue, 1128 Pine Street, 2323 Canal Street, 2107 Broadway, 7021 Apricot, 5325 St. Charles Avenue, 2606 General Pershing. In a credit report dated August 18, 1938, his age is given as fifty-six years; his wife died in 1934 and he has two daughters, 15 and 17 years of age. Since August 1933 his occupation has been in charge of the Laboratory of the Public Health Institute at a salary of $150.00 per month. Previous occupation indicated being thirty-five years in the automobile business, as a bookkeeper and service manager, during which time he was for ten years the local dealer for the Packard. He has also been a salesman for the Bohn Motor Company; also formerly employed as an accountant for the General Finance Company for one year. Previous employment indicates he was with the United Fruit Company for two years. He owns property at 2321 Pine Street which is mortgaged for $2,500.00, and receives rents of $30.00 month from this property. Trade experience reflects numerous small accounts, several of which have been turned over for collection, and several installment accounts with good paying record.

FRANK H. MORRIS advised that this man was formerly very prominent in the automobile business and is presently thought to be in
the insurance business. He is not prominent socially and is not known to have any political connections.

CHARLES MASSIE

The 1935 city directory lists CHARLES MASSIE as a laborer residing at 1429 Cambronne Street. The 1936 city directory lists CHARLES B. MASSIE (life - FLORENCE) as a waiter at the Boston Club, residing 1429 Cambronne.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that CHARLES B. MASSIE is colored, residing 1429 Cambronne Street, and as being employed by the Boston Club for thirty-five years at a salary of $45.00 per month plus tips, which amount to approximately twice his salary. From a report dated October 6, 1932, his age is given as fifty-five years, married, owns his own home, which is assessed at $2,000.00, unencumbered. Has two or three dependents. His employers' opinion is very good and he is considered honest and reliable, having lived in present neighborhood for a number of years and always has been conservative in his financial affairs.

FRANK H. MORTIMER advised he knows this man as a porter at the Boston Club.

HENRY D. MORTIMER

The 1935 city directory does not list a HENRY D. MORTIMER but lists FRANK H. MORTIMER as Special Agent for the Union Central Life Insurance Company, residing 1930 Palmer Avenue. HENRY D. MORTIMER has no listing in the 1938 directory. However, FRANK H. MORTIMER is listed as General Manager, Standard Brewing Company, residing 1930 Palmer Avenue.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that HENRY D. MORTIMER, son of FRANK H. MORTIMER, has resided at 1920 Palmer Avenue, 1537 Camp Street, 3105 Louisiana Avenue, and presently resides at 4018 Pitt Street. He has been employed as customers' men for E. A. Pierce and Company, Brokerage House, 205 Carondelet. Report indicates he was not working as of August 1, 1928. From a trade clearance dated August 14, 1939, his employment was shown to be as bookkeeper for the National Bank of Commerce. His rating is given as good, and several small open accounts are listed. On August 17, 1939, judgment was entered for $64.55 against MORTIMER by Carrere Manufacturing and Investment Company.

FRANK H. MORTIMER advised that this juror is his son; that he is presently employed in the savings department of the Whitney National Bank;
that he knows his son's views to be definitely opposed to the present State administration.

Confidential Informant advised that he knows this juror as the son of FRANK E. MORTIMER who was formerly the Clerk of the United States District Court of Appeals; that HENRY MORTIMER is a young man of fine associates, although the informant is of the opinion that he is inclined to be weak in character and might not hold his convictions under pressure.

DAVID B. JACKSON

The 1935 city directory lists a DAVID B. JACKSON at 1539 Ammunition Street. The 1933 city directory lists no DAVID B. JACKSON at this address but thirteen other DAVID JACKSONS are listed. This directory lists at 1539 Ammunition Street a man named JOHN L. CALES.

Records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that DAVID B. JACKSON residing at 1539 Ammunition is a retired policeman who died July 13, 1937.

CLIFFORD F. FAVROT

The 1935 city directory lists CLIFFORD F. FAVROT residing at 3123 General Fashing. The 1933 city directory lists CLIFFORD F. FAVROT (wife - AGNES), employed by the Favrot Roofing and Supply Company, residing 7325 Rampson Street. The Favrot Roofing and Supply Company is located at 2530 Ferdiio Street. There is a listing for CHARLES FAVROT, foreman for the Board of Levee Commissioners, residing 307 Hillary Street.

The records of the New Orleans Retailers' Credit Bureau reflect that CLIFFORD F. FAVROT is proprietor of the Favrot Roofing and Supply Company and also owner of the Helen Apartments, 2506 Napoleon Avenue. His present address is given as 7725 Rampson Street, with former addresses at 7325 Rampson Street, 3123 General Fashing Street, and 18 Richmond Place. In a report dated March 11, 1936, it is indicated he was known to the credit bureau since 1934; that he is a native of New Orleans and married to AGNES H. GUTHRIE, with three children. His age is given as thirty-six years. He has been proprietor of the Favrot Roofing and Supply Company since 1935 and his estimated earnings are about $4,000.00 a year; his net worth is estimated at $5,000.00. From 1916-20 he was employed by the R. P. Ryan Company, after which employment he organized the Gorillia and Favrot Supply Company, of which he was president until 1923, when the name was changed and incorporated as the Favrot Supply Company. The concern was operated under this name until 1931, when the present name was used. FAVROT owns property in the
1308 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana
November 27, 1959

Honorable Rene A. Viosega
United States Attorney
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS:
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

There is enclosed herewith an anonymous communication received at this office on November 25, 1959, furnishing certain information concerning the "handbook racket" allegedly going on in the City of New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

A. P. KITCHIN
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure
APK:AIL
cc:Bureau
Third District assessed at $1,500.00, and property located at 2530 Perdido, assessed at $2,200.00, which is clear of encumbrances. He also owns property in the Fourth District assessed at $2,500.00. He owns his own home purchased from the Eureka Homestead Association November 7, 1935, for $988.72 and a mortgage of $7,500.00. On April 7, 1936, he was sued by JOSEPH JONES for damages amounting to $4,678.00. On June 7, 1939, he was sued by HARRY JACOBS for $151.29, and on March 26, 1935, he was sued by the State of Louisiana for $340.00. Under trade clearance dated February 6, 1939, there are indicated several small open accounts with good paying record. He owed on personal loans at that time $2,700.00 and he also owed the mortgage of 1935 in the amount of $7,500.00 to the Eureka Homestead Association. A good payment record is indicated.

FRANK H. MORTIMER advised that he knows FAVROT to be an architect of very high standing; that he is from an old and prominent family in New Orleans, which family has a high social position. It is his opinion that FAVROT'S political views are definitely opposed to the present State administration. Mr. MORTIMER knows no other man by this name than the architect.

WARRIN KENNEY advised that he knows FAVROT as a roofing contractor who is President of the Tulane Alumni Association. He considers him a very high-class and honorable person.

Confidential Informant advised that he knows FAVROT as a graduate of Tulane University, and President of the Tulane Alumni Association; that to his knowledge FAVROT is engaged in the roofing and hardware equipment business, and that his family have been known for their political positions as being opposed to the present State administration; that this juror is believed to be a man of courage and would be a type of person acceptable as a juror for the Government.

This is the complete report of investigation concerning the juror in the November 1939 term of petit jury in the Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana.
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

MR. HUGH A. FISHER of the Criminal Division of the Department telephoned the Washington Field Office at 11 A.M. on November 16, 1939 while I was in an important conference, and advised that a MRS. SYKES had called at his office who had some information on the Governor LECHIE case in Louisiana, and requested that she be interviewed by the Washington Field Office.

MRS. IRENE SHEPHERD SYKES was interviewed by Special Agent (A) C. B. POLAND of this office and stated that her place of residence is 47 West 45th Street, New York City and that she has formerly been employed by CARL BEJOUR & ASSOCIATES, INC., 10 East 40th Street, New York City, New York who are public relations counsel for a number of industrial companies including the Freeport Sulphur Company, the Aluminum Company of America and the National Dairy Products Company.

MRS. SYKES stated that CARL BEJOUR had played a prominent part in raising the campaign fund for the election of President ROOSEVELT.

MRS. SYKES further stated that the State of Louisiana had placed a heavy tax on the production of sulphur which the Freeport Sulphur Company, one of BEJOUR’S clients wished to have reduced. She stated that Governor LECHIE had succeeded in reducing the tax on sulphur and that as a consideration for assisting said buyer in this matter, he was to secure his appointment from President ROOSEVELT as a Federal Judge in the State of Louisiana. She stated that when President ROOSEVELT failed to appoint Governor LECHIE as a Federal Judge, that BEJOUR was very much incensed with the President and had from that time opposed him vigorously.

COPIES DESTROYED
170 SEP 17 1945
DIRECTOR
Re: MRS. IRENE SHEPHERD SYKES
November 24, 1939.

The Washington city directory notes that the local representative of Carl Bejoir and Associates, Inc., is CHESTER M. WRIGHT with offices in the Carpenters Building, 1003 K Street, Room 609.

MRS. SYKES had no basic evidence on which to premise these conclusions of hers in this matter, but stated that she had gathered some of this information from conversations with one ELSIE Simons who was secretary to CARL BEJOIR.

MRS. SYKES stated that she had applied for a position as an investigator with the Criminal Division of the Department in connection with the investigation of Governor LECHIE, but that negotiations had not been concluded in this matter. MRS. SYKES inquired as to the possibility of her being appointed by the F.B.I. as an investigator in connection with this matter, and was advised that the investigative work of the Bureau was performed by regularly appointed male Special Agents. MRS. SYKES further stated that she had an appointment with MR. THERNY of the Antitrust Division of the Department on the afternoon of November 16, 1939 with reference to her securing a position as an investigator for the Antitrust Division of the Department under Assistant Attorney General THURSDAY ARNOLD because she stated she had considerable information in connection with the milk investigation recently conducted by the Antitrust Division of the Department, which had come to her attention because of her interest in the consumer relations with that industry.

In view of the statements made by MRS. SYKES, the same are being furnished to the Bureau for its information.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

GUY HOTTEL
Special Agent in Charge

CBB: JG
62-0
1506 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana
November 9, 1939

Honorable Rene A. Varina
United States Attorney
New Orleans, La.

RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

Mr. Paul Hansen, Field Agent in Charge, Work Projects
Administration, New Orleans, Louisiana, transmitted to this off-
cine copy of a memorandum which is quoted as follows:

MEMORANDUM

To: Paul Hansen
From: John E. Harris
Re: Complaint by Mrs. M. S. Coco

Just before I left Baton Rouge, Mrs. M. S. Coco of Bordelonville,
La., Avoyelles Parish, called on me to report an irregularity which
may involve federal funds, although not within our jurisdiction.

According to complainant, one R. G. Ducote, a member of the levee
board, has handled all levee work in Avoyelles parish for a number
of years, probably since 1927 when the highwater required the em-
ployment of large numbers of men. Since that date, the payrolls
have always been large, and complainant states that she is certain
that these payrolls are being padded. She names Byron Jefferson,
San Covillion and Valley Bordelon as others who are beneficiaries
of this practice or who are accessory thereto.

Inasmuch as the federal government, through the Corps of Engineers
of the Army, spends large sums on levee work, augmenting state funds
there is a possibility that federal funds may be involved in this
instance. I suggest that you may want to refer the matter to the
FBI for inquiry, or possibly to Mr. Fields for action by the grand
jury in Monroe.

Mrs. Coco particularly stressed the fact that if it were known that
she had made this complaint, the consequences would be very embar-
assing for her and might result in the loss of employment by her husband.
She therefore made the request that her part in the affair be not
divulged, further requesting that if it were necessary to question
her, this be done confidentially or by means of subpoena of the
grand jury.
This is being referred to you in accordance with past procedure.

Very truly yours,

A. P. KITCHIN
Special agent in Charge
New Orleans, La.
Nov. 2, 1939.

Hon. Rene A. Viosca,
United States Attorney,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

There are enclosed herewith photostatic copies of an anonymous communication dated October 9, 1939, which was received at the Bureau, along with photostatic copies of the enclosure to this letter.

This letter and enclosure are being submitted to your office in accordance with past procedure.

Very truly yours,

A. P. Hitchin,
Special Agent in Charge.

CWD:WH
cc:Bureau
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
October 28, 1939

Honorable Rene A. Viosca
United States Attorney
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are copies of a communication received by this Bureau postmarked at Budora, Arkansas, October 14, 1939, relating to the matters presently being investigated by your office.

Very truly yours,

A. P. KITCHIN
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosures

CWD:ALS

cc-Bureau
November 17, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

In my absence SAC Kitchin telephoned and talked with Mr. Hince concerning the Bureau's request for information concerning one H. H. Dinkins who wired the Bureau November 16th and asked the Bureau to recommend a presently employed or former agent in connection with an investigation to be conducted at Lafayette, Louisiana. Dinkins described himself in his wire as a member of a state Grand Jury inquiring into dishonesty in public office.

SAC Kitchin stated that H. H. Dinkins is a merchant at Lafayette, Louisiana. His son, Ladd Dinkins, is a teller at the Louisiana Savings and Trust Company, New Orleans. H. H. Dinkins has no law enforcement status whatever and is a member of a state Grand Jury sitting temporarily which has taken upon itself to inquire into alleged graft in connection with the construction of a charity hospital, waterworks and in connection with the planting of flowers and shrubs at the Southwestern Louisiana Institute. Kitchin stated there are some allegations that Governor Leche and others participated in a fraud in connection with the construction of these projects. Kitchin indicated also that some WPA money is supposed to have been used in connection with the projects.

SAC Kitchin recommended strongly against the Bureau making any recommendations concerning possible investigators. Kitchin stated this is purely a political matter, that H. H. Dinkins is an anti-Long faction man and that the results of the Grand Jury investigation will be used for political purposes. Kitchin further stated only about $1,500 was available to conduct the investigation.

In view of the above facts, in my absence Mr. Hince recommends that Dinkins be informed by wire that conditions in the Bureau do not permit the loan of a presently employed Bureau agent and that the Bureau does not have available information concerning any former employee who would be interested in obtaining a position as an investigator at Lafayette, Louisiana.

Respectfully,

H. H. Clarke

Enclosure
EI 10  11-15-39  6-12 PM  GOVT VIA RCA
A P KITCHIN  FBI JUSTICE
1303 MASONIC TEMPLE
NEW ORLEANS LA
REFER BUREAU TELEGRAM AND YOUR TELEPHICXXX TELEPHONIC CONVXXX
CONVXXX CONVERSATION YESTERDAY WITH MR. SEARS. CARRY OUT INSTRUCTION
CONTAINED BUREAU TELEGRAM OF YESTERDAY CONCERNING M. H. DINKINS.
HOOVER

EI 10
November 15, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

A telegram has been received from Mr. H. R. Dinkins who refers to himself as a member of the State Grand Jury, Lafayette, Louisiana, and who requests that the Bureau recommend an investigator to conduct an investigation of dishonesty in public office. The Bureau requested the New Orleans Division by a telegram yesterday to contact Dinkins discreetly avoiding publicity and to advise the Bureau more fully concerning Dinkins' identity or the advisability of the Bureau's making any recommendation concerning an investigator.

The attached memorandum by Mr. Sears indicates that SAC Kitchin telephoned Mr. Sears and suggested that Dinkins not be contacted because of the distance between New Orleans and Scott, Louisiana and because no federal violation is apparently involved. Mr. Kitchin furnished no information concerning Mr. Dinkins except that he called at the New Orleans Division. We seem to have no more information now than before the Bureau telegraphed yesterday, and accordingly the attached wire has been prepared to the New Orleans Division instructing that it comply with the Bureau's telegraphic request of yesterday.

Respectfully,

H. H. Clegg

[Handwritten notes and signatures]
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

SAC Kitchin telephonically advised from New Orleans that he was in receipt of a wire from the Bureau advising that H. H. Dinkins of New Orleans had wired to the Bureau stating that SAC Kitchin suggested that he, Mr. Dinkins, wire the Bureau for the name of a prospective investigator in connection with Grand Jury inquires now in session at Lafayette, Louisiana. The Bureau wire suggested that Mr. Kitchin discreetly contact Mr. Dinkins and advise the Bureau more fully of his request.

Mr. Kitchin advised that on Sunday, November 12, 1939, H. H. Dinkins, Todd Dinkins, both of Scott, Louisiana, and Joseph Airey of 843 Union Street, New Orleans, called at the New Orleans Office and advised Agent Parker that they were interested in having an investigation conducted of State graft in Lafayette County, Louisiana, and also the investigation of the graft by State authorities in the vicinity of Lake Charles, Louisiana. Agent Parker referred Mr. Dinkins to Mr. Kitchin at his home, and Mr. Kitchin advised Mr. Dinkins that as there was no Federal violation in connection with the State graft and fraud at Lafayette County and Lake Charles, Louisiana, that no Federal investigation could be conducted. He then inquired if the Bureau had a private investigator, or could recommend a private investigator, to conduct an appropriate investigation concerning this State graft. Mr. Kitchin advised that he did not believe the Bureau would recommend a private investigator, but in the event Mr. Dinkins wanted to take it up directly with the Director, that he should communicate with the Bureau by letter and furnish full details as to the graft and his request.

The purpose of Mr. Kitchin’s call was to advise the Bureau he did not believe that Mr. Dinkins at Scott, Louisiana, should be contacted, because of the distance, and particularly he believed that if the Bureau could get out of this request gracefully, it should do so as no Federal violation was concerned. However, if the Bureau wanted him contacted, he would arrange to contact him, or have an Agent do so.

RECORDED & INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF PROBATION
NOV 28 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
I advised Mr. Kitchin that the purpose of the wire was to ascertain the facts concerning the work that the investigator would do for Mr. H. H. Dinkins, inasmuch as in some instances the Bureau may recommend an investigator to a State agency, particularly an FBI National Police Academy man. I further instructed Mr. Kitchin that in view of his call, he need not contact Mr. Dinkins until advised to do so by the Bureau.

J. F. Sears
NEW ORLEANS, LA Nov 11 1939

J EDGAR HOOVER

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

As a member of the state grand jury now in session at Lafayette Louisiana, I have been appointed to submit name or names of someone qualified or familiar with work of investigation of dishonesty in public office in our section of the state stop is it possible for you to suggest to me someone now or formerly connected with FBI who can do such work, we to pay his salary stop Mr Kitchen of your New Orleans office suggests my wiring you stop please wire reply collect to me at Lafayette, Louisiana

H H DINKINS.
1134  11-17-39  703PM  GOVT PD TW5

H. M. DINKINS

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAPH NOVEMBER ELEVENTH I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT EMERGENCY CONDITIONS IN THE BUREAU'S WORK WILL NOT PERMIT THE RELEASE OF AN INVESTIGATOR TO BE EMPLOYED BY YOU. I ALSO REGRET NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE CONCERNING FORMER EMPLOYEES WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TEMPORARY INVESTIGATIVE POSITION.

HOOVXXXXX  JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New Orleans, La.
Nov. 2, 1939.

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

Re: PETIT JURY PANEL - NOVEMBER 1939
TERM, Eastern District of Louisiana,
New Orleans, La. Division;
JURY INVESTIGATION.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to a telephone call from MR. ROSEN of
the Bureau on November 2, 1939, to Special Agent C. W. DUNKER, at
which time MR. ROSEN advised that MR. O. JOHN ROGGE of the De-
partment had requested that we institute an investigation of the
Jury Panel which will try ABE SHUSHAN in New Orleans. At that
time MR. ROSEN requested that we institute the investigation im-
mediately.

Please be advised that Special Agent C. W. DUNKER con-
tacted U. S. Attorney RENE VIOSCA, New Orleans, on the same date,
at which time he advised that ABE SHUSHAN, HENRY J. MILLER, ROBERT
W. NEWMAN, NORVIN T. HARRIS and HERBERT WAGUESPACK were charged
in a mail fraud indictment, which would come to trial in New Or-
leans on December 4, 1939. He advised that the November 1939 Jury
Panel would be selected for the term of court on November 20, 1939,
on which date he would supply this office with the names of the
persons selected for the Panel.

Immediately upon receipt of the names of the members who
will comprise the Jury Panel, the proper investigation will be in-
stituted.

Very truly yours,

A. P. KITCHIN
Special Agent in Charge.

Nov. 6, 1939
November 8, 1939

Mr. Philip A. Sanders
Crew of U. S. S. Dreadnought
U. S. Engineers Department
Post Office Box 97
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Sanders:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated October 24, 1939, concerning political conditions in the city of New Orleans against the National Maritime Union.

I wish to advise that I have carefully perused the contents of your letter and fail to note therein a violation within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, and I am therefore unable to be of assistance to you in this matter.

I would suggest that in the event you obtain information concerning a violation within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, you may be desirable of furnishing the information directly to Mr. E. R. Holy, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, 2411 Sterick Building, Memphis, Tennessee.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc: Memphis
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

We are writing you in regards to the corruptive political conditions in the city of New Orleans against the National Maritime Union. We have had several of our Brothers of our union murdered and beaten up by phonies which are so called goons and the City Officials and Police Department will not take any actions what so ever to see that these murderers are brought to justice.

They have at present one of our Brothers, Ennis Marshall in jail for shooting two of these so called goons. Several weeks ago this same gang of murderers beat up one of our Brothers and shot and killed Phil [Carey] Secretary Treasurer of the Gulf District of the N.M.U. We know that the New Orleans police have not apprehended these murderers and prosecuted them to what they deserve.

Our brother Ennis Marshall went ashore in New Orleans and was followed around by these two goons who finally jammed him up in a saloon and tried to murder him and he was forced to shoot in self defense of his life.

We understand the Police Dept. in New Orleans are trying to railroad him and send him to prison for some thing he wasin justified in doing.

We all know that the police dept. of New Orleans have nothing about these so called goon beating up our members but just as soon as one of our members has to shoot two of these phonies in defense of his life, the police dept. pounce on him and put him in murders row at Parish Prison where no one can see him but a lawyer and where they try to pin every thing on him that has happened there in the last year.

We are appealing to you as tax payers and citizens and asking you to see that these phonies and goons are apprehended and prosecuted and our brother Ennis Marshall gets a fair trial and justice for it is useless to appeal to the local authorities in New Orleans and we know it. We are asking that you start an investigation at your earliest opportunity.

Thanking you in advance and wishing you success, we are

very truly yours,
Crew of U. S. Dredge Jadwin
U. S. Engineers Dept.
P. O. Box 97
Memphis, Tenn.

[Signature]

Philip A. Sanders
Recording Secretary

RECORDED & INDEXED
1308 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana
October 17, 1939

Honorable Rene A. Viosca
United States Attorney
Post Office Building
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: LOUISIANA POLITICAL SITUATION;
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

There is enclosed herewith a copy of a letter received
by this Bureau signed E. J. Wilson, Baton Rouge, Louisiana,
dated October 2, 1939, in which the author complains of irreg-
ularities in the Louisiana State School for the Deaf. The
writer furnished no return address and, consequently, his letter
has not been acknowledged.

The above-mentioned copy of this letter is being fur-
nished to you for such a disposition as you may desire to make
of same.

Very truly yours,

A. P. KITCHIN,
Special Agent in Charge.

APK
FMH

cc: Bureau
Enc.

INDEXED 62-32507-2971
November 4, 1939

Miss Bosie Hicks
1010 Philip Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Miss Hicks:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of October 16, 1939, with reference to the receipt by an individual of compensation checks of a World War veteran.

From a careful reading of your letter, it does not appear to contain information within the primary investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. In view of the fact that the information contained in your letter may be of some interest to the Veterans Administration, I am transmitting a copy of your letter to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Administration, Arlington Building, Washington, D.C. for appropriate attention.

With reference to the latter portion of your letter wherein you state that you would like to be connected with this Department, please be advised that this Bureau does not employ women investigators at the present time.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc to New Orleans with copy of incoming
November 4, 1939

Administrator of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Administration
Arlington Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs,

There are being transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated October 15, 1939, received by this Bureau from one Beatie Hicks, 1618 Philip Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

In view of the fact that this letter appears to pertain to the fraudulent cashing of compensation checks, her letter is being referred to you for appropriate attention and I have advised the correspondent of this reference.

In the event any investigation is desired relative to this matter, I will appreciate it if you will advise me.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures
New Orleans La -
Oct 16 1939.

Bureau of Investigation.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing some valuable information that may be of some help to your Dept. There is a woman who is receiving checks every month from a World War Veteran who is dead. She is caring the same name as his lawful wife is living out in the county. This woman has children for the dead man, this woman is boasting about the checks that she receives, and is a woman whose character is most ungood. She is hanging around the beer parlor. I don't know her name but I know where she is living. I also know of a man that is supposed to be disabled a World War Veteran and receives her checks every month and he is working, he throws a big beer drinking every month when he receives her check. And a lot of about some doctors and
midwives that perform abortions on women here in this town and elsewhere in the state. I have been an operative making investigations for an agency here for about 20 years. I would like to be connected with your department. Any help from you will be highly appreciated. I would love to alleviate a lot of this injustice.

Hoping to hear from your department soon.

I am 5'5" and weigh 115. Good eye sight and a Negro.

Yours Truly,

Bernie Hicks

1818 Philips St.
COPY

New Orleans, La -
Oct. 16, 1939.

Bureau of Investigation

Dear Sir,

In case you will find some valuable information that may be of some help to your dept. there is a negro woman who is receiving checks every month from a world war veteran who is dead. She is casing the mans name. This mans lawful wife is living out in the country. This woman has children for the dead man. This woman is boasting about the checks that she receives and is a woman whose character is not very good. She is hanging around Beer Parlor. I don't know her name but I know where she is living. I also know of a man that is supposed to be disable a world war veteran and receives his checks every month and he is working. He throws a big beer drinking every month when he receives his check. And a lot of about some doctors and midwives that perform abortions on women, here in this town and elsewhere in this state. I have been on a creative making investigation for an agency here for about 20 years. I would like to be connected with your department. Any help from you will be highly appreciated I would love to uncover a lot of this injustice.

Hopeing to hear from your department soon.

I am 5 ft 4 and weigh 115 good eye sight and a negro.

You's truly,

Essie Hicks
1810 Philip St.
October 25, 1939

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

My dear Mr. Secretary:

There is attached hereto a letter addressed to you which was enclosed with an anonymous communication received by this Bureau on October 16, 1939, in which there was a request that the enclosure be forwarded to you.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure
ACH: 62-32509 - 717

October 25, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

There are enclosed copies of an anonymous communication recently received at the Bureau, and it is desired that you furnish copies of this communication to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures
1308 Masonic Temple Bldg.,
New Orleans, La.

Special Agent in Charge,
Detroit, Michigan.

Re: JAMES MONROE SMITH, with alias;
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of October 10, 1939, and to the report of Special Agent PETR HOBIL dated October 9, 1939, wherein you advise that MR. WALTER H. BELL, Vice President of the Manufacturers National Bank, is holding one $500 bill and eight $100 bills in the event they are necessary in the prosecution of this case.

In connection with your request that you be notified as to whether or not it is necessary for MR. BELL to retain possession of this currency, I telephonically communicated with MR. RENE A. VIOSCA, U. S. Attorney, New Orleans, at which time MR. VIOSCA advised as far as the Federal Government is concerned he sees no reason for the retention of the above mentioned currency. He stated, however, that the State of Louisiana may desire the above mentioned bills be held for use in their prosecutions which are pending against MR. SMITH on a charge of embezzlement; however, he did not feel that we should take the liberty of reporting this matter to the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana.

It is suggested that contact be made with MR. BELL and advise him of the attitude of the U. S. Attorney in this district, and suggest that he may desire to communicate with the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana in connection with the currency which he is now holding.

Very truly yours,

A. P. Kitchin,
Special Agent in Charge.
Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

There are enclosed herewith photostatic copies of an anonymous communication dated October 9, 1939, which has been received at the Bureau along with photostatic copies of the enclosure to the letter.

The Bureau suggests that copies of these be furnished to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures
Washington-Youree
Shreveport, Louisiana

October 9, 1939.

There are many of us in this State who wish to see justice triumph in all matters. The officials of this State will never provide justice for us and we have only the Federal Government to look to.

The Roman Catholic Church in New Orleans and Orleans Parish is stronger in Membership than all the other churches and the I am a Christian still I do not let my religion interfere with my political life.

Ma, or Robert S. Maestri and Archbishop Rummel (both of New Orleans) together with others, are very much involved in the Connally "hot oil" deal. Maestri has not been indicted simply because to do so would automatically throw up Rummel. Both of these men are real Catholics as are your agent Murphy and Jim Parley is using his utmost influence in this investigation. This angle of the "hot oil" deal is openly discussed by the people, in other words it is no secret. I do not know what your religion is, but regardless of that, I believe you wish this investigation to serve its purpose and see that justice is carried out. If this is done you will have to put the matter into the hands of one who is a member of the Roman Catholic Church!

I am sorry this letter has to be anonymous, but since I am not an "official investigator" I cannot afford to sign my name. With the proper investigation the above statements will prove to be true.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

I called SAC Kitchin at New Orleans in connection with a news ticker item to the effect that on a warrant issued by Federal authorities in Louisiana, Frank Costello was arrested today. He is described as being the operator of the Pelican Novelty Company of New Orleans.

In answer to my inquiry, Mr. Kitchin stated he had heard nothing about such an arrest and was not aware that Costello was in New Orleans. Inasmuch as the story was pretty garbled, I told Mr. Kitchin it is possible that Costello was arrested in New York and not in New Orleans, and that as long as the Bureau Office in New Orleans has had nothing to do with this, it would not be necessary to make a check on the story.

E. H. Tamm
1308 Masonic Temple Building  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
October 10, 1939  

Honorable Rene A. Viosca  
United States Attorney  
Post Office Building  
New Orleans, Louisiana  

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;  
Information Concerning.  

Dear Sir:

There are enclosed herewith certified copies of petitions forwarded to this office by an unnamed correspondent, evidently complaining of the political corruption in and around Lake Charles, Louisiana. There are also attached hereto several rough notes that are apparently anonymous, which were likewise received with this communication.

A careful perusal of the documents attached do not reflect any violation over which this Bureau would have investigative jurisdiction. Therefore, this matter is being referred to you for such disposition as you may desire to make of same.

Very truly yours,

APK  
PMH  
62-978  
Encs.  

cc: Bureau  

A. P. KITCHIN,  
Special Agent in Charge.
1308 Masonic Temple Building  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
October 6, 1939

Hon. Rene A. Voisin  
United States Attorney  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS:  
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

In accordance with past procedure, there is being submitted to you, attached hereto, a letter with a list of land allegedly purchased by the Jefferson Parish School Board, the letter dated October 3, 1939 signed "Jeffersonian", which were received at this office.

Very truly yours,

Enclosures

A. P. KITCHIN  
Special Agent in Charge

CWD:ALS  
cc-Bureau
Mr. Paul Kitchen  
F. E. I. Agent  
Masonic Temple  
New Orleans, La.

Will you please come to the aid of the citizens of Jefferson Parish by conducting an investigation of Federal projects. Such an investigation would serve to uncover abuse of State as well as Federal funds. This parish is in the clutches of unscrupulous politicians; most deplorable of all, the schools are the greatest sufferers. There are indications that State and Federal labor and materials have been used for the benefit of private individuals, among them members of the school board. The abuses that exist are too numerous to mention in full, but the following are among them:

"Kick-back" on teachers' salaries to pay the cost of special courses for politically picked favorites being prepared for highly-paid supervisory positions.

Present assistant superintendent attended university in day time (while being paid as assistant superintendent) in order to meet educational requirements for position.

Supervisory positions created for political favorites with little or no training and experience. These favorites are paid their salaries for twelve months, while teachers are paid for nine or ten months.

Teachers with higher degrees are being paid less than the carpenters and bus drivers; the explanation in the case of the latter being that the school board members own the buses (not the drivers, as the public believes) and pay the men who drive them only a small fraction of the amount budgeted for the purpose.

Promotions and salaries are based on political favoritism rather than on qualifications, seniority etc. As a result, principals in many cases are less well qualified and capable than those who work under them.

Board members are allowed to collect as much as $15 per meeting.

Too many members of various boards in the parish are prospering far too rapidly.

In October, 1939 a special 3 mill tax was voted for the building of schools. What was actually done with the money was to purchase land from politicians regardless of suitability of location etc at fabulous prices. The majority of the citizens are in ignorance of this. In the meantime the schools are overcrowded to the point of danger.

Please help us, or place this letter into the hands of one who can and will do so.

Gratefully,
Jeffersonian
Land purchased by Jefferson Parish School Board as per minutes of board meeting of April 28, 1939 as published in the Jefferson Democrat for Saturday August 26, 1939.

1. Olary Tract, 50 acres, Jefferson Highway near waterworks, $68,000.00
2. Odum property, on West Bank, Third Ward, 30 acres $65,500.00
3. Lake Shore, "East End" one square $12,000.00
4. Vic. Pitre, Westwego, 150'X257 on Pazante St. sq. - $22,000.00
5. A. P. Davis, 6 lots sq. 66, McDonoughville, (Gretna) $2,850.00
6. Estate Virginia Scott, Lots 2 & 3 in sq. #30 Brooklyn (Gretna) $950.00
7. W. B. Packard, Jr. Lots 2 & 3 in sq. #30 Brooklyn (Gretna) $1,550.00
8. Mrs. F. J. Tillotson, Lot #8, 3 of 9 in sq. 30 in Mechanicksham (Gretna) $1,500.00
9. Vernon J. Wilty, 2 lots ground Lots 5-6, sq. 44 in Mechanicksham (Gretna) Ward Third $1,650.00
10. Vernon J. Wilty, lots 1-2-3-4-7-8-9-10 & part of lots 5 & 11 (280X250) $22,000.00
11. Estate Gas Dauphaine-Mechanicksham (Gretna) 175' on Cuvier or Weyer St. X 125 ft. on Tenth, lots 14-15-16-17-18 7,000.00
12. Estate Gas Dauphaine-Mechanicksham Lots 6 & 12 of sq. #31 (30X150 on Huey Long Ave. & Eighth St.) $3,500.00
13. Estate Gas Dauphaine-Mechanicksham (Gretna) sq. 31 Huey Long Ave. 50 X 250 5,000.00
14. Herman Landet, in 4th Ward (10 acres) $21,000.00
15. Mercedes Adams, 500 X 375 ft. 7,500.00
16. Theogene Belsom (6th Ward) 30 X 125 Bayou Barataria 1,600.00
17. Estate Isaac O. Fisher, 45 X 500 Bayou Barataria (later canceled) 3,200.00
18. Jos. Graf, "Pown Point 50 X 120 5,500.00
19. Klebert Roger 96 X 254 near Fisher #1 School 2,000.00
20. Ernest Gonzalez 96 X 1000 for negro school 2,000.00

Account of land purchases by Jefferson Parish School Board as per minutes of board meeting of May 18, 1939 as published in the Jefferson Democrat for Saturday September 16, 1939.

1. From L. W. Higgins Oakdale Sub. Plots 4,5,6,7,8,9 of Farm Block #4 fronting on Whitney Ave containing 18 acres 16,200.00
2. From L. Hermann Gaudet, 2 acres, Fifth Ward in rear School property 2,500.00
3. From J. N. Franklin, lots 11 & 12 in sq. 15 of new Gretna 1,450.00
4. From. W. Thomas Block 57 bounded by 14th, 15th & Cuvier Sts. and the 16 foot strip adjoining Nichols Ave., consisting of lots 1 to 24 5,000.00
5. In village of Mechanicksham in sq. No. 2 designated as lot No. 8. lot measures 46 feet 4 inches and 6 lines on H.P. Long Ave. 125' deep for 33,000.00

(The above lot to be used for School for Sight Saving Classes)
Cont. from page One

6. from Oliver Adam 25 ft. x 125 ft. on Bayou Barataria ---- 1,600.00
7. " Mr. & Mrs. Leon Nunez 25 X 125 ft. --------------------- 400.00
8. " Mrs. A. Adam 25 X 540 ft. --------------------------- 1,000.00

Land purchased by Jefferson Parish School Board as per minutes of board meeting of May 18, as published in the Jefferson Democrat for Saturday, September 16, 1939.

1. from Laurecells & Co., Lots No. 1 to 18 in sq. No. 150 in the subdivision known as Shrewsbury subdivision for ------------ 12,000.00
2. from "Iviere family (Metairie Road & Lake Ave. Carollton St.
"Riviere Est." ------------------------------- 35,000.00
3. from Mrs. R. Alexander land on Clay St. thru to "ebster St.
and bounded on the South by property of J. Bautsch & on North by Kenner Lumber Co. property for -------------- 11,000.00
1308 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana
October 6, 1939

Honorable Rene A. Viosca
United States Attorney
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS:
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that J. NOBLE WHITE, United States Probation Officer for the Western District of Louisiana, advised this office that there had been brought to his attention by one of the leading businessmen in the town of Columbia, Louisiana, the probable existence of misappropriation of federal funds in connection with the payment of school teachers' salaries. At this time he indicated that his informant was C. L. ALFORD, owner of the Brown-Alford Drug Company, Columbia, Louisiana, and would be glad to go into the matter with government representatives.

Mr. WHITE was contacted for further information in this matter; and he advised that the only further information he could furnish in the matter was that the Federal Vocational Fund which was handled through the office of T. H. Harris at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, furnished federal aid to assist in the payment of Louisiana school teachers' salaries.

This information is being referred to your office in connection with the present investigations in progress, and for reference to the proper investigative agency.

Very truly yours,

A. P. RITCHIE
Special Agent in Charge

[Signature]

CWD:ALS
co-Budokan
62-978
October 14, 1939

Mr. Howard H. Kail
88 W. V. Mercury
c/o Globe Refinery
Lemont, Illinois

Dear Mr. Kail:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 6, 1939, concerning the murder of Phil Carey in New Orleans.

I wish to advise that I have carefully perused the contents of your letter and fail to note therein a violation within the investigative jurisdiction of this bureau, and I am, therefore, unable to be of assistance to you in the matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC NEW ORLEANS
CHICAGO

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ OCT 14 1939 ★

P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Mr. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Phratically has been the name of the National Maritime
Union (CIO) member to be murdered in New Orleans,
Louisiana (the other victims: Frank Purcell and
John Seymore).

They are men who are trying to organize
men into unions. They are trying to gain
control of our unions by terrorizing such as they
are doing and other violent tactics which have
been used against other groupings.

The New Orleans members had been
organizing men in their area. Recently, they
have been beaten in their homes and
attacked. Some of their families are
now in the hospital. Some of them have
not recovered.

Therefore, we request that you take
appropriate action in this matter.
machine to the New France. Berthier wanted to know and find out the reasons they knew had not been brought to justice.

In closing, we hope you will give the immediate attention we recommend.

The preceding years
Cure of Mr. X. Mining
P. Their feasibility
Amount, added.

Howard
Chief Secretary -

William

August 9, 1818.
Mr. Ralph R. Sourlock
SS Fletcher Farrell
C/O Sinclair Navigation Company
Box 2411
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Sourlock:

This will acknowledge receipt of the letter dated October 5, 1939, together with enclosures, signed by you and other members of the crew of the SS Fletcher Farrell, concerning the murder of Philip Corey in New Orleans, Louisiana.

I wish to advise you that I have carefully reviewed the contents of your letter and find thereon indication of a violation within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. I am, therefore, unable to be of assistance to you in the matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SAN ANTONIO
NEW ORLEANS

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE
MAILED
★ OCT 16 1939 ★
F.P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MURDERED September 17, 1939

PHILIP CARY

A CHANCE NEVER GAVE HIM

(Captioned from photo)

(Captioned from photo)

(Captioned from photo)
Cowards Never Gave Him a Chance

Phil Carey has been murdered.

He was shot in the back in New Orleans last Sunday night. The bullet entered his heart and he died at once.

Three cowards killed him. Two were lashing his face and head with cruel steel chains when the third man shot him dead.

Carey, who had been elected to the Gulf District Committee by the July convention, was sitting in an automobile at the time. It was 9 o'clock in the evening.

The car was parked in Lee Circle on St. Charles Avenue, across the street from the nurses' home of Charity Hospital and close to Jerusalem Temple.

With him was Walter Wilson, 40, an automobile salesman; Mrs. Gertrude Carrier, 29, and Mrs. Colbert J. Alonzo, 27. The car was one that Wilson had been trying to sell Carey for several weeks.

Suddenly, as the four sat idly talking in the car, three men came out of the square. Two of them went directly to Carey and began to lash his face with chains.

"Don't do it, Scotty!" Carey said as he rose from his seat. Then the third man, from the other side of the car, opened fire.

He shot Carey in the back. Phil fell forward. The three then ran back to a black Packard limousine and fled. A crowd gathered and police and ambulances came.

But no ambulance or doctor could do Carey any good. The bullet had entered his heart and lungs. He died at once.

"We had just got into the car and a man came up on the right and stuck a gun in Mrs. Alonzo's face," Mrs. Carrier told Captain William Dowie of the Second Precinct police.

Mrs. Alonzo was sitting in the front with Carey, who

(Continued on Page 3)
Houston, Texas
Oct. 5th, 1939

Mr. J. Ed-ar Hoeyer, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The undersigned members of the National Maritime Union have always had respect for you and your efforts to bring justice to those who need it. We are reluctant to write because of the situation that exists in one section of our country because we feel that you are fully aware of what is going on there, but we feel that you could be of some material assistance to us--now when we need it.

The city of New Orleans, Louisiana has had the reputation of being one of the most corrupt cities in the entire world. Not only politically corrupt but morally as well. We think it is time the F.B.I. stepped in and took a hand. We have had some trying experiences lately--not only with the courts but also with the local police. Organized gangsters roam the streets armed with short lengths of chain and guns intimidating our union members. This has been done as recently as Sept. 17, 1939 when William Callan, one of our Gulf District officials was cold bloodedly slain at Lee's Circle--the heart of one of the busiest sections of the city. Prior to this, John Symonik, a kid about twenty years old, was beaten to death on the corner opposite the post office. Nobody has ever arrested nor even questioned, to our knowledge. Either the local police are unable to cope with this situation or else they are reluctant to do anything for fear they may step on somebody's toes. We are inclined to believe the latter. In any case we feel that in such an emergency the bureau is legally and morally responsible to see that these acts of violence are stopped and order is restored. We are enclosing a clipping taken from the Sept. 22nd issue of our official paper, "The Pile," which gives an accurate account of the latest outbreaks.

As voters, taxpayers, citizens, we are incensed over these outrages and we are appealing to you to see that we are assured of our inalienable rights. It is useless to appeal to the local authorities and we know it. We ask that you start an investigation at your earliest opportunity.

Thanking you in advance and wishing you success, we are--

Ralph R. Earle
Ralph S. Arnold
Edward M. McMillan
Clyde L. Gregory
Martin J. Walker
M. Diller
Tony Polos

Very truly yours,
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The undersigned members of the National Maritime Union have always had respect for you and your efforts to bring justice to those who need it. We are reluctant to write appraising you of the situation that exists in one section of our country because we feel that you are fully aware of just what is going on there, but we feel that you could be of some material assistance to us—now when we need it.

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ENCL.

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Thanking you in advance and wishing you success, we are—very truly yours,

Ralph R. Seabolt  
R. J. Lemieux  
C. J. McFaddin  
E. T. Thomas  
H. S. Tohill  
F. J. Howell  
R. Salazar  
F. R. McMillan  
J. V. Fellers  
J. H. McEwan  
R. M. Langston  
B. F. Gregory  
R. T. Wallace  
R. J. Barrett  
J. M. Kelly  
M. Polk  
R. E. Ritterman  
W. J. McQueen  

G. S. Thrasher  
C. L. Smith  
A. Fults  
T. J. Bourgeois  
W. J. Turley  
G. A. Garner  
A. Parker  
D. R. Doss  
W. W. Hume  

[Signature]

[Seal]

[Stamp]

[Stamp]

[Stamp]
COWARDS NEVER GAVE HIM A CHANCE

Phil Carey has been murdered.

He was shot in the back in New Orleans last Sunday night. The bullet entered his heart and he died at once.

Three cowards killed him.

Two were lashing his face and head with cruel steel chains when the third man shot him dead.

Carey, who had been elected to the Gulf District Committee by the July convention, was sitting in an automobile at the time. It was 9 o'clock in the evening.

The car was parked in Lee Circle on St. Charles Avenue, across the street from the nurses' home of Charity Hospital and close to Jerusalem Temple.

With him was Walter Wilson, 49, an automobile salesman; Mrs. Gertrude Carrier, 29, and Mrs. Colbert J. Alonzo, 27. The car was one that Wilson had been trying to sell Carey for several weeks.

Suddenly, as the four sat idly talking in the car, three men came out of the square. Two of them went directly to Carey and began to lash his face with chains.

"Don't do it, Scotty!" Carey said as he rose from his seat. Then the third man, from the other side of the car, opened fire.

He shot Carey in the back. Phil fell forward. The three then ran back to a black Packard limousine and fled.

A crowd gathered and police and ambulances came.

But no ambulance or doctor could do Carey any good. The bullet had entered his heart and lungs. He died at once.

"We had just got into the car and a man came up on the right and stuck a gun in Mrs. Alonzo's face," Mrs. Carrier told Captain William Dowie of the Second Precinct police.

Mrs. Alonzo was sitting in the front with Carey, who

(Continued on Page 3)
COWARDS
NEVER
GAVE HIM
A CHANCE.

(Continued from Page 1)

was behind the steering wheel.

"Another man came up on the left and stuck a gun on us in the back seat and a third man came up and starting beating Mr. Carey in the face with a chain," Mrs. Carrier continued.

"Mr. Carey said, 'Please don't do it, Scotty,' and he leaned backward toward Mrs. Alonzo trying to dodge the blows. We started screaming, and then there was a shot.

"I don't know which one did the shooting, but I think it was the one on the left rear.'"

Mrs. Alonzo told the same story, adding that the man on the left front beat Carey with a doubled chain of short length. The three men escaped in an automobile which they had parked behind Wilson's car.

Joseph J. Moise, Jr., 30, 1534 Euterpe Street, described to police the getaway of the "chain gang" trio.

Moise said he was sitting in his parked automobile on the downtown side of Howard avenue near Carondelet street when he heard the shot. He said he saw the men running to a sedan parked in the rear of Wilson's car.

The car was driven away speedily, he said, and was driven across the neutral ground to the downtown side of Howard avenue, to Baronne street, then up Baronne.

Phil Carey was a seaman and a union man. Ships have his home, and

left his third year in school and rode out of New York harbor on a freighter.

He was 27 years old, one of an Irish family of 11. Elected from the SS Uruguay to the New Orleans convention, he was selected by the delegates to replace the phonies on the Gulf District Committee.

A tireless worker, he labored day and night to reorganize the Gulf. He was doing such a good job that the phonies hated his guts, as they hate any honest man.

Just a few nights before his death, McCuskie tried to dump him. But he picked the wrong Irishman that time. Phil slapped his ears down, hard.

He was a good shipmate, a good seaman, a good union man. His death has created in our ranks a void that never can be filled.
October 11, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

There are enclosed copies of an anonymous, undated communication received at the Bureau October 5, 1939, concerning tax stamps.

The Bureau desires that you furnish copies of this communication to United States Attorney Hans A. Vioosca.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure
A Chicago company called Meyercord, who has been supplying the State of Louisiana with its tax stamps for cigarette packages and liquor bottles, stocked up the State with approximately a four-year supply and at prices far in excess of what the State could have made their purchases for elsewhere.

This was the result of a financial deal with Alice Lee Grosjean.

It would be well to look into the situation because there is a feeling in quarters that know that the stamps on hand and paid for by the State of Louisiana cannot be used.

So many reports are circulated concerning indictments of Louisiana officials it occurred, therefore, to this anonymous writer that an investigation may be advisable in the matter of the transactions above referred to.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL
FBI NEW ORLEANS 9-30-39 2-35 PM ALS

DIRECTOR

RE LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. FORMER GOVERNOR RICHARD W. LECHE AND MONTE E. HART, ALSO LEON C. WEISS, JULIUS DREYFOUS AND SOLIS SEIFERTH, MEMBERS OF FIRM OF WEISS, DREYFOUS AND SEIFERTH, ARCHITECTS, WERE INDICTED TODAY BY LINCOLN PARISH GRAND JURY AT RUSTON, LOUISIANA ON CHARGES OF OBTAINING MONEY UNDER FALSE PRETENCES AND OPERATING A CONFIDENCE GAME IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF LECHE HALL AT LOUISIANA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE IN RUSTON. BOND WAS FIXED FOR ALL DEFENDANTS $10,000 AT FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS EACH AND WARRANTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE SERVED MONDAY.

E. SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC OEC

RECORDED & INDEXED 3-12-1939
400 U. S. Court House
Buffalo, N.Y.

October 2, 1939

Mr. William C. Grasuell
W & T Bldg.
Buffalo, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks receipt of a copy of your letter dated September 28, 1939 to the Hon.
W. C. Andrews, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., commending the work of this Bureau in the investigation in the state of Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

W. V. McLAUGHLIN
Special Agent in Charge
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

While in telephonic communication with Mr. Matthew McGuire, I was informed that it had been suggested that he talk with Welly Hopkins, Mr. Schweinhaut and myself about some hot oil case and a remark alleged to have been made by Mr. Rogge in New Orleans. Mr. McGuire has to see the Secretary of the Interior on Monday or Tuesday. I told him I would be glad to meet with them at any time.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM

62-3057-4
September 22, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

There is quoted below for your information a telegram dated September 15, 1939, received in this Bureau from Mr. Tom W. Dutton, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

"J. Edgar Hoover, Federal Bureau of Investigation
The people of this state are intensely anxious for Mr. Rose to stay on the job and I implore you personally to use your influence to that end. He has done a good deal to restore public confidence in Louisiana, and, in the good intent of the Federal Government, your department is to be congratulated on the recent convictions. Kind personal regard to you and Miss Cleee."

/S/ Tom W. Dutton"

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: LOUISIANA POLITICS

Dear Sir:

The caucus of the Louisiana Democratic Party meeting in Baton Rouge today nominated Governor EARL K. LONG as its candidate for the Governorship for the next election, which is to be held in January 1940. This action was expected generally, and virtually assures the reelection of LONG as Governor, since the Louisiana Democratic Party is the official political organization in the State. The caucus also nominated the following individuals for the offices mentioned:

HARVEY FELTIER of Thibodaux, Louisiana for the position of Lieutenant-Governor;
Present City attorney FRANCIS F. BURNS for the office of State Attorney General;
EARL J. CHRISTENBERY of New Orleans, who is presently the State Publicity representative at Washington, for the office of State Treasurer;
Secretary of State EUGENE A. CONWAY of Shreveport for reelection to that office;
State Auditor L. BURNARD-BAYNARD of Alexandria for reelection;
State Registrar of Land Office, Miss LUCILLE MAY POYTHRESS of Baton Rouge, for reelection;
State Superintendent of Education THOMAS H. HARRIS of Baton Rouge for reelection;
State Commissioner of Agriculture HARRY D. WILSON of Roseland, Louisiana for reelection.

THOMAS H. HARRIS has been Superintendent of Education for the past 32 years, and HARRY D. WILSON has held the position of Commissioner of Agriculture for the past 28 years.

Mayor MAESTRI of New Orleans apparently did not attend the caucus of the party, nor did ex-Governor RICHARD LEGER, SEYMOUR WEISS, or any of the others whose names have come up in the Federal investigations here in New Orleans.

I thought that you would be interested in receiving this information.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana  
September 22, 1939

Special Agent in Charge,  
Dallas, Texas

Dear Sir:

The following quoted anonymous letter was received at New Orleans, Louisiana, by O. John Rogge, Chief of the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, a short time ago, the exact date of which is unknown as the letter is undated and the envelope in which it came was destroyed before this matter was referred to this office:

"O. JOHN ROGGE,

THE Lawyers here all believe you are Right. Millionaires are still able to pay their way out; as long as there are Rubber Stamp Judges.

If I were you I would investigate how much the Man Harris Buxfords Lawyer was, and see if he did not Split' with Judge Davidson.

As Judge Davidson showed he was BIASED, PREJUDICED and UNSUFFICIENT, and he must have been SHOVELLED, as so many Judges both Federal and State are being done NO.; Especially where it is a BIG MILLIONAIRE IN THE CASE

Found out that Harras' s tip in and you will find he SPLIT WITH JUDGE DAVIDSON.

While you are in Texas, if you want to find out where the $15,000.00 KIDNAP Money that Katherine Kelley paid to W. P. McLean and Walter B. Scott to defend Old Man Shannon, you will find it RIGH Tah in the Vaults of the Union Bank & Trust Company here in Forth Worth, of which Dan. L. Lydick is President, and who STANDS in with them in all their BIG STAKES, if you are wise and VERY SURE you will locate it in said Bank.

Lawyer. Jaskey of Denver Colorado is serving 10 years for taking $10,000.00 of it, to defend one of the Kidnapers, in the famous Charles Grislad case W. P. McLean and Walter B. Scott got $ 15,000.00 of it from Katherine Kelley, to defend Shannon, W. P. McLean got drunk and bragged about how he went himself out to the Shannon Farm and she paid it to him.

INDEXED

If you will keep close watch on Judge Davidson's Investments and his BANK accounts or his wife, you may yet find the money is all."

[Signature]
To the Dallas Office, 9/22/39

There is apparently no investigation to be conducted with reference to the letter quoted. It is, however, being referred to you for your information.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

Cc: District
cc: Bureau
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

SAC Conroy called from Dallas in regard to the case involving Freeman Burford, Richard Leche and Seymour Weiss in New Orleans. He advised that Assistant U. S. Attorney Robert Weinstein of New Orleans yesterday morning called U. S. Attorney Clyde O. Eastus in Dallas and stated that he was talking for Assistant Attorney General O. John Rogge. Mr. Weinstein advised that Freeman Burford had a divorce suit in Dallas about a year ago and that a hearing is being held on this matter in Dallas at the present time. He stated that it is probable that testimony will be introduced in that hearing relative to the disposition of certain monies that will be contrary to the testimony that Freeman Burford gave at the time a writ of habeus corpus was sworn out for his release.

Mr. Conroy advised that Mr. Eastus stated that Mr. Weinstein had asked him to get information regarding the testimony given at the hearing. Mr. Conroy stated that he is not sure why this information is wanted, but that probably it will be used against Burford in New Orleans or will be used to indict him in Dallas for perjury. Mr. Conroy stated that Mr. Eastus requested him to obtain the desired information.

I advised Mr. Conroy that Burford was charged with oil irregularities, which matter was handled by the Federal Tender Board; that this Board should therefore conduct all relative investigation. I advised him that it has been the policy of the Bureau to let the agency that handled the substantive investigation conduct all supplementary investigations.
New Orleans, La.
Sept. 21, 1939.

AIRMALL-SPECIAL
DELIVERY

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

Re: U. S. ATTORNEY HARVEY G. FIELDS;
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

Dear Sir:

I wrote the Bureau some time ago in detail concerning the
background and activities of U. S. Attorney HARVEY G. FIELDS.

Some time ago MR. FIELDS' son was arrested on an assault
or rape charge, brought about by an eighteen year old girl, at Kenedy,
La. The charge was dismissed and it was informally understood that
MR. FIELDS, SR., had agreed to pay the college tuition of the young
lady as consideration for dismissing the charges. This, however, has
never been verified, and is merely a rumor.

It now appears that the charge of rape against HARVEY G.
FIELDS, JR., has been revived, and that individual has been arrested
and is presently incarcerated in the Parish Jail at Kenedy, in default
of bond. This naturally resulted in newspaper publicity, and apparently
charges were made that FIELDS, SR., through his influence when the
crime first was allegedly committed, kept the matter out of the news-
papers. I am enclosing herewith a clipping from the Shreveport, La.
Journal dated September 18, 1939, giving the facts concerning the in-
carceration of FIELDS, JR. I am enclosing also a clipping from the
same newspaper of the same date concerning the details of the statement
by U. S. Attorney FIELDS alleging that the arrest of his son and reviv-
sing such charges was due to his official activity as U. S. Attorney.

On September 18, 1939, Special Agent W. L. PARKER, who is
one of the resident agents at Shreveport, in a conversation on official
business with MR. FIELDS, was told by U. S. Attorney FIELDS that early
the previous week he received a long distance call from one of the
defense attorneys in the mail fraud case against SEYMOUR FIELDS, JAMES
MONGHOLSMITH, MONET HART, ET AL. It appears that this defense attorney
called from New Orleans, and according to MR. FIELDS' statements, told
MR. FIELDS that he, the attorney, had overheard a conversation in which
it was plotted to revive the charges against FIELDS' son; that this
action would take place in the event FIELDS did not "loosen up" on in-

vestigations. U. S. Attorney FIELDS did not advise Agent PARKER of the identity of this attorney, although he did tell agent he knew who the attorney was. U. S. Attorney FIELDS also stated that he submitted a full report concerning the matter to Assistant Attorney General O. JOHN ROGGE.

I thought that the Bureau would be interested in having all of these facts concerning the current difficulties which U. S. Attorney FIELDS and his family are in. This office, of course, is conducting no inquiry or investigation concerning any phase of this matter.

Very truly yours,

B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge.

BES:WH
1308 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana
October 5, 1939

Honorable Rene A. Viosca
United States Attorney
Post Office Building
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS; INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

DR. B. W. GENTRY, New Orleans, Louisiana, advised that Edward Burke, 1040 South Genoa Street, who is Superintendent of the New Basin Canal, had on various occasions in the past taken materials destined to be used in the construction of the New Basin Canal for his personal use and that such materials had been used by him in building a home at the above address, which home is valued at $12,000.00.

Dr. Gentry further indicated that he believed Burke was receiving rebates and kick-backs from various laborers and other employees under his supervision. Gentry admitted he had personal reasons for furnishing this information to the Government in that he was a political opponent of Burke.

This information is being submitted to you for reference to the proper investigating agency.

Very truly yours,

A. P. KITCHIN,
Special Agent in Charge.
September 23, 1939

Mr. Tom W. Dutton
1849 North
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Dutton:

Upon my return to Washington I received your telegram of September 15, 1939, concerning the attitude of the people of Louisiana toward Dr. Rogge, and advising that they were anxious to have him continue his work in that state.

I deeply appreciate the commendatory remarks contained in your telegram regarding the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and I trust that our efforts will continue to merit your esteem.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

cc - cc - New Orleans
(With copy of incoming telegram)
WH25 67 DL BATONROUGE LA SEP 15 1939 1130A

J EDGAR HOOVER, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE ARE INTENSELY ANXIOUS FOR
MR ROGGE TO STAY ON THE JOB AND I IMPLORE YOU
PERSONALLY TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO THAT END HE HAS
DONE A GOOD DEAL TO RESTORE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN
LOUISIANA AND IN THE GOOD INTENT OF THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT YOUR DEPARTMENT IS TO BE CONGRATULATED
ON THE RECENT CONVICTIONS KIND PERSONAL REGARDS TO
YOU AND HUGH CLEGG

TOM W DUTTON,

230PM
1508 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana
September 6, 1939

Honorable Rene A. Viosca
United States Attorney
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS IN LOUISIANA

Dear Sirs:

I am enclosing for your information and your files a photostatic copy of a letter received from one R. L. Walden, Route 5, LaSalle, Arkansas, together with a photostatic copy of the enclosure he refers to in that communication.

This letter was received at the Washington headquaters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was forwarded here.

Very truly yours,

Enclosures

B. B. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge

cc: Bureau
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
September 6, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

AIR MAIL

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

This is for the purpose of advising the Bureau
that this office, about two weeks ago, completed all inves-
tigation pursuant to requests received from Assistant
Attorney General O. JOHNSON, and which were approved
by the Bureau, in connection with the above matter.

Since that time this office has made no inves-
tigations nor is it conducting any inquiries relative to
any phase of the matter at the present time.

Reports have long since been submitted on inves-
tigative activities in connection with this matter.

Very truly yours,

B. K. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge

BES: ALS

62-32-501-26
1306 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana

September 15, 1939

Hon. O. John Rogge
Assistant Attorney General
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
   Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that Mr. Harry Costello furnished information to the Bureau and the Department in Washington to the effect that L. F. Brownson, 3209 Laurel Street, New Orleans, telephone Jackson 2221-W, a public-minded citizen, is anxious to help the Federal Government but is fearful for his life. Costello indicated that Brownson had information concerning Louisiana matters.

In this interview Costello indicated that Brownson claimed Mrs. Alfredo Blanco, 1341 Esplanade Avenue, telephone Crescent 3559, widow of the late Consul of Bolivia, could tell something which would tie up with Shushan. That by investigating the history of the Emerald Oil Company, some line can be gotten on William Helis and Robert Maestri.

In addition to the foregoing matter, there is attached hereto a letter addressed to you which was received by this office, dated September 11, 1939 at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACZET
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure.

62-978
GWD:ALS
co-Bureau
New Orleans, La.
September 11, 1939.

Mr. C. John Mogge,
Department of Justice,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U.S. Post Office Building,
New Orleans, La.

Gentlemen:

This joint communication, for obvious reasons, is unsigned. The information, however, is the whole truth, and is given you direct by an eye witness.

On Monday afternoon, September 4th, 1939, Seymour Weiss' brother, known as "Johnny Weiss", employed by the Cohnaux Company, departed from the Roosevelt Hotel and caught the 5:10 p.m. plane for Houston, Texas.

At the time of his departure from the hotel, Johnny Weiss was carrying an enormous roll of what appeared to be bills of large denomination which he placed in his right hand trouser pocket and kept his right hand over that pocket until he drove away in a private auto. He also carried a formidable looking weapon in a holster suspended from his shoulder on his left side.

The party who drove Johnny Weiss to the airport is not well known to me but I have since had his identified as O.A. Morvant, also known as "Bob Morvant", a member of the Louisiana Legislature, and Roosevelt hotel hangarman.

Of course, eye witnesses at the time had no knowledge of why Weiss was departing for Houston, Texas, armed, and carrying a large sum of money in bills, but some of these eye witnesses were heard discussing the incident after Weiss had departed.

This information is not based on rumor or a desire to waste the time of the Department of Justice employees who are doing an excellent job in the present fight for justice against fraud and chicanery. That I have stated in the foregoing is absolutely true and correct and may be verified as to the person described herein, time of his departure, and his means of transportation from the city, and the destination of the plane. Beyond that, I can tell you no more, and I now place the matter in your capable hands.

Other information will be brought to your attention if and when similar incidents occur.

Well Wishes,
Hon. Frank Murphy, Atty. General,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

I wish something would be done to clear up the mysterious death of Senator Huey P. Long and other mysterious deaths following his raising to the highest position in the land of Louisiana. I have learned that shortly after being nominated to the Senate, his sister, Mrs. Jettie Rogers, Shreveport, La., told me in confidence that her brother was killed in an air crash in California. About the same time, State Senator Anderson was killed in an automobile accident. About a month later, Mrs. William E. Smith was killed in an automobile accident in Shreveport. About two months later, the body of a man was found in an automobile in a remote part of the state. I have been told by reliable sources that this man was a member of the association of Huey P. Long.

All of these events are being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The investigation has been conducted in a thorough and fair manner. All of the facts are being recorded and indexed.

As a fervent New Dealer and admirer of Frank Murphy, I do not believe that the death of Senator Long is an isolated incident. I am confident that a full and impartial investigation will reveal the truth behind Long's assassination.

With kind regards and justice for all,

A. Hazard Perry
Vice-Chairman, Red River Parish Dem. Ex. Committee
FBI NEW ORLEANS 8-30-39 6-16 PM AHS

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING, FEDERAL GRAND JURY CONVENED FOR ONE DAY YESTERDAY AND MAY RECONVENE TUESDAY NEXT.

O. JOHN ROGGE ADVISED GRAND JURY HEARD TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES TO GET THEIR STATEMENTS IN PREPARATION FOR TRIAL OF PENDING CASES. ROGGE ADVISED THAT JAMES MONROE SMITH WILL PLEAD GUILTY TO ALL FEDERAL INDICTMENTS IF STATE AUTHORITIES WILL MAKE STATE SENTENCES CONCURRENT THERewith. HE FURTHER ADVISED TRIAL BRIEFS ARE BEING PREPARED ON CASES TO BE TRIED SEPTEMBER FIFTH NEXT.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASH DC JAR
Hon. Frank Murphy, Atty. General,
Washington, D.C.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

New Orleans, Louisiana
September 1, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS - INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is a copy of the Farmers' Friend, which is the September edition of the newspaper published at Hammond, Louisiana, by the Louisiana Farmers' Protective Union, Inc. This is being forwarded for the information of the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

B. E. Sackett,
Special Agent in Charge.
MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGGE

In connection with the automobile accident involving Mrs. Rogge and your two children near Galveston, Texas, on the evening of August 23, 1939, I wish to advise that Chief of Police L. B. Maddox, Beaumont, Texas, informed the Dallas Field Division of this Bureau on August 25, 1939, to the effect a negro by the name of Alex Alexander of Winnie, Texas, called at the office of the Chief of Police, Beaumont, Texas, and informed him that he had seen the automobile accident and was willing to testify in behalf of Mrs. Rogge.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
August 30, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau has no doubt been advised of the automobile accident in which were involved the wife and two children of Assistant Attorney General O. J. ROGGE near Galveston, Texas, on the evening of August 23, 1939.

Chief of Police L. B. MADIX, Beaumont, Texas, on August 25, 1939, informed me that a negro by the name of ALEXANDER of Winnie, Texas, had called at his office and informed him that he had seen the automobile accident in which Mrs. ROGGE was involved; that ALEXANDER was willing to testify in behalf of Mrs. ROGGE.

The above information is being furnished to the Bureau for any action it might deem appropriate.

Very truly yours,

E. E. COLLINS
Special Agent in Charge

cc San Antonio
FBI NEW ORLEANS 9-29-39 3-33 PM WH

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING. MONTE E HART
AND SUMMA CALDWELL OF THE FIRM OF CALDWELL BROTHERS AND HART NEW
ORLEANS LOUISIANA WERE INDITED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY NEW ORLEANS
TO DAY FOR CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION
OF THE PWA GEOLOGY BUILDING ON THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

THE INDICTMENT INCLUDED FIVE COUNTS AND CHARGED FRAUD IN THAT EXTRA
ITEMS WERE CHARGED WHICH WERE IN FACT NOT INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASH EC GMC
August 25, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sirs,

There are enclosed herewith two photostatic copies of the following letters which were received in the Bureau:

One undated letter to the Director signed "Murph."

One letter dated July 11, 1939, to the Attorney General signed "Miss Agnes E. Lewis"

One anonymous letter addressed to Assistant United States Attorney Rogge under date of August 1, 1939, a copy of which was furnished this Bureau by the Department, together with enclosed newspaper clippings.

It is desired that you furnish one copy of each to U. S. Attorney Rene A. Viosca.

Very truly yours,

For the Director

Harold Nathan
Assistant Director

Enclosures

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
AUG 26 1939
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
J. Edgar Hoover  
Washington D.C.

Hello old timer I note with interest you have your hands full with the SHARE THE Wealth out fit in this City. I think if you get organized properly you will be able to link this bunch with wholesale Smuggling of Alcohol, Dope and other contraband good as well as Aliens.

I no of two cases in particular whereas they were raided on January 2nd 1932 over a half million dollars worth of goods were seized by the customs and these birds were never brought to trial, as pressure was brought to bear and the records in the Custom House were altered to read the goods seized were of no value.

If you will look up the back files of the Times Picayune on this date you will get the low down on this wholesale raid.

The two men in connection with this raid informed me they were immune from arrest and would never go to trial.

The question is how to stop these wholesale law violations.

Suggest you put some of the old timers back on the job as they are honest and fear no man and will fight to the last ditch.

Incidently I called at your office in Washington D.C. and was informed you were in conference sorry I could not see you imperson old timer.

I also tried my best to contact you in Los Angeles Cal during the American Legion Convention you are a hard man to get close to let alone converse with.

I expect to go to the Convention in Chicago Ill hope to have better luck next time.

Your Truly, J

[Handwritten signature]

B-O-A-Z.
J. Edgar Hoover.
Chief F.B.I.
Washington, D.C.

PERSONAL.
62-32509

Section

14
Mrs. William Kerns  
1401 Mazant Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70117

Dear Mrs. Kerns:

Your letter of May 24th has been received, and I want to thank you for the generous remarks you expressed regarding my work.

In response to your request, I am enclosing an excerpt from my testimony before the House Subcommittee on Appropriations on February 16, 1967. The only material that I can send you regarding the subject of your inquiry is set forth on pages 57 to 59.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

NOTE: Files reflect Mrs. Kerns has written to the Director in the past concerning the topic of communism. The Director's letter 5/16/66 enclosed printed material and thanked her for her kind remarks concerning the FBI.
May 24, 1967
New Orleans, Louisiana

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover:
Dear Sir:

My husband and I feel that you have given our Country a wonderful service. We know that the F. B. I. only investigates. Yesterday I took a course here in New Orleans that the Police are giving for women to protect themselves and children. Crime is getting so bad here. Negroes are raping old women and young ones too. As long as the Negroes here are being told by Stokely Carmichael, and Robert Williams from Cuba, they actually believe they can go out and do anything they want to do. They are not being punished and the new ruling of the Supreme Court is just awful. Sir, can you send me some copies of your recent address in Feb. on Stokely Carmichael. As you know he has been here, at two negro colleges, and one colleges already had trouble.

Thanking you
Mrs. Wm. Kerns
1401 Mazant St.
New Orleans,
La.

17C 5-29-67
cat
75: 5-31-67
ref: sri
DML
May 24, 1967

New Orleans, La.

Crime Conditions

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover,

Dear Sir,

My husband and I feel that you have given your country a wonderful service. We know that the F.B.I. only investigate yesterday I took a course here in New Orleans that the Police are giving for women to protect themselves and children. Crime is getting so bad here, Negro are raping of women and young ones too. As long as the Negros here are being treated like Stoles Coscimich and Robert Williams from Cuba, they actually believe they can go out and
do anything they want to do, they are not being punished.

The new ruling by the Supreme Court is just awful. Sir, can you send me some copies of your recent address in Feb. on Stokel Cormier? As you know, he has been free at two Negro colleges, and one college already had trouble.

Thank you.

Mr. Wm. Dietrich
1401 Magazine St.

New Orleans

7-0-117
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (94-502) (RUC) (Crime Conditions - Louisiana)


On 4/12/66, Lt. W. A. SMITH, Criminal Division, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Courthouse, Gretna, Louisiana, and Lt. L. J. ESTOPINAL, Records Division, New Orleans Police Department, were made aware of the content of the captioned anonymous letter. They each advised they would take necessary steps to alert individuals in their departments of these contents.

3 - Bureau
2 - New Orleans

MMM: jms (5)

REC-32

62-32509-3 2/5

55 APR 23 1966

Approved: [Signature] Sent M Per

[Signature] No further action on correspondence

[Signature] APR 14 1966
Transmit the following in

62-32569-344

(Date in plaintext or code)

Via

Airtel

To: SAC, New Orleans

From: Director, FBI

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
POSTMARKED IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, ON 3/26/66

RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

Enclosed you will find:

☒ Two copies of self-explanatory communication.
☒ One copy of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin.
☐ One copy of the Uniform Crime Reports bulletin.
☐ Other:

Take following action:

☐ Make discreet inquiries of established sources to determine reputation of captioned individual and/or organization. Under no circumstances should correspondent become aware of our interest.

☐ Have correspondent interviewed to determine whether correspondent has any information of interest to Bureau.

☒ Have substance of enclosed communication made available to appropriate local law enforcement officials.

☐ Acknowledge enclosed communication by mailing enclosed Bureau publication or publications to correspondent to address indicated, following your determination of status in law enforcement. If correspondent is not type of person to whom we want to furnish this material, or does not have legitimate interest in law enforcement matters, correspondent should be contacted and informed that our budgetary limitations restrict its distribution and request cannot be granted. Advise Bureau of action taken, together with recommendation as to whether correspondent's name should be added to our mailing list.

☐ Submit results under above caption to reach Bureau no later than

☐ Submit results and recommendations as to whether or not Bureau should comply with request, under above caption, to reach Bureau no later than

☒ Other: On the basis of available information, Mrs. Sonfield is not identifiable in Buffalo.
TRUE COPY

Please investigate the following: ---

There are crooks operating here in New Orleans, Louisiana, & Metairie, La - Who own the buses, calling people to work (house work) & not letting them work, picking up money that way - approximately 40 people a day calling on these crooks - 40 people per one crook. One is Mrs. Sonfield, 315 Cuddihy Drive, Metairie, La; - off of Oakridge Park (road) This circle of houses on Oakridge Pk. road, directly off the Metairie bus stop, & on Cuddihy Drive, accross Railroad tracks, are owning the Transit Co. & crooking people out of their money, calling them to work & not letting them work --
United States Senate

Washington, D.C.  March 4, 1964

Respectfully referred to

Mr. Alan H. Belmont
Assistant to the Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

for your information only.

CRIME CONDITIONS
Louisiana

163-22509
NOT PROCEEDED
179 MAR 13 1964

ENCLOSED

ENCLOSURE

[Signature]

U.S.S.

7 MAR 17 1964
March 1, 1964

Honorable Frank Lausche
United States Senate Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Lausche:

As you know, Mr. William Davidson has written a series on crime in America which is presently appearing in The Saturday Evening Post. I am anxious to know if you have recently investigated the penetration of the Syndicate, Mafia or Cosa Nostra into Cleveland, Ohio. I suggest that between you and Secretary Celebreeze's efforts in Washington a possible identification of the degree of penetration of these racketeers in Ohio could be established.

I dislike guilt by association, but can not discount the degeneration possible in a state where betting and gambling are permitted in a State. Of course the profits from gambling are used to aid the racketeer in establishing a legitament business to compete with honest businessmen. Not to mention the racketeers illegitament pursuits.

Perhaps you could inquire of your Honorable Colleagues from the State of Louisiana as to how that State's police authorities plan to attack the largest industry in Louisiana. Actually, if Louisiana does not plan to aggressively enforce their laws, I have identified the rackets in Louisiana as a desirable addition to my portfolio and need confirmation of the apathy of authorities in re the racket in Louisiana.

Next Senator, I call your attention to the American neglected Colonial Paradise. Suggest you investigate this abnormal situation. If you need positive leadership, I will volunteer for the position.
Honorable Frank Laus

Hope you have an opportunity in your busy and demanding schedule to investigate these two areas.

Look forward to your comments.

Most respectfully,

Paul G. Baily

7404 Broadmoor Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060
Main Line of Mid-America

Date

Please investigate the following:

There are crooks operating here in New Orleans, Louisiana, at Metairie, La., who own the houses, calling people to work (house work) and not letting them work, keeping their money that way—approximately 40 people a day calling on these crooks. 40 people fear the crook.
One is Mrs. Sumfield, 315 Cuddity Drive, Metairie, La.,
off of Oakridge Park (road)
This circle of homes on
Oakridge Dr. road, directly
off the Metairie boulevard,
+ on Cuddity Drive, across
Railroad tracks. Are owning
the Transit Co. & evicting
people out of their home,
calling them to work, not letting
them work—
Enclosed are two copies of an anonymous postal card received at the Bureau. You are requested to make a copy of this card available to local law enforcement officials at New Orleans, unless information in your files dictates otherwise.

Enclosures (2)
Sir,

I think you should investigate the RACKET going on at 2440 DUMAINE ST. here in New Orleans. Its run by "six" telephones in a small office at the above address sir. The entire operation is a front believe me. I'd rather not give my name! V. F. W should get the income, but don't.

"Thank You Sir"
Sir,

I think you should investigate the HURRICANE going on at 2440 Dumaine St. There is a "sick" telephone in a small office at the above address, Sir. The entire opposition is a front believe me. I'd rather not give my name — V.F.W. should get the money but don't.

Thank you, Sir.

F.B.I.

To: J. F. K.
From: S.Z.

Washington, D.C.

VIA AIR MAIL
Dear Mr. Shaver:

Your letter postmarked January 2, 1957, has been received.

Although I appreciate the interest prompting your writing, on the basis of information you furnished, there does not appear to be a violation of any Federal law coming within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI. It is suggested that you continue to rely upon your local law enforcement authorities in this regard.

In the event you have information relating to criminal activities coming within the scope of this Bureau's authority, I hope you will not hesitate to contact the representatives of our New Orleans Office.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - New Orleans, with copy of incoming
ATTENTION SAC: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

NOTE: No telephone directory for Dunn, Louisiana, to check spelling of correspondent's name.

DCL: gfs
(4)

JAN 14 1957
67 JAN 22 1957

[Signature]
Dunn, Louisiana 12-20-36

J. B. J  Dept. of Justice

J. Edgar Hoover
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

I wish to call your attention to a Cope & Truck Stop located at Dunn, Louisiana, Richland Parish, Natchitoches & North Louisiana. This place has always been a dive spot, causing lots of trouble & an open sewer for truck drivers. Annually, girls have been approached for dates, spreading of disease, etc. The church has tried to stop this place.

The local law enforcement are not effective. The FBI at New Orleans & State Troopers. The proof would have to be furnished.
I thought the F.B.I. would always get the needed proof.
I have wrote to the F.B.I. at New Orleans about this place.
I know that they date in the building where the children gather.
They have been there. This place has made this town unfit to live in for decent people.
I would like a investigation of the people who operate this place also.
I would like for you to write the F.B.I. at New Orleans about this place - Respectfully, Ed. Charles
TRUE COPY

Dunn Louisiana  12-20-56
F. B. I. Dept of Justice
J Edgar Hoover
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir

Wish to call your attention to a Cafe & truck stop, located at Dunn Louisiana, Richland Parish, Highway 80, North Louisiana. This place has always been a sore spot. Causing lots of trouble, girls are kept there for truck drivers for a price. Minors girls have been approched for dates, spreading of diease etc. The church has tried to stop this place seems the local law inforcernents are not interested.

The FBI at New Orleans and State troopers say the proof would have to be furnished. I thought the FBI would always get the needed proof.

I have wrote the F.B.I. at New Orleans about this place. I know that they date in this building school children catch the school busses & church busses there. This place has made this town unfit to live in for decent people would like a investigogation of the people who operate this place also investigate the people who own this place now. something of their back ground etc.

Would like for you to write the FBI at New Orleans about this place. -- Respt Yours /s/  Ed Shaver
Mr. William LeDonnels  
Editor  
The Federationist  
New Orleans, Louisiana  

Dear Mr. Donnels:

Your communication dated August 25, 1951, with enclosure, has been received in the absence of Mr. Hoover from Washington and I am taking the liberty of acknowledging it. You may be sure that he will appreciate your interest in bringing the observations you set forth to his attention.

As you know, the FBI has no jurisdiction in matters of a purely local interest and can take no action in regard to them.

Sincerely yours,

Helen W. Gandy  
Secretary

NOTE: Mr. Donnels is on the mailing list for the Uniform Crime Reports and general material. Since the matters he mentioned are of a political nature and since personalities are involved, it is not believed that Mr. Hoover should reply directly lest any statement might be misinterpreted.
August 25, 1951

Hon: Edger Hoover
U.S. Dept. of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Hon: Sir,

I am very much interested in your letter, dated October 3, 1951, in reference to the publication of your speech at the Grand Lodge of New York. I did not send your letter.

However, conditions have steadily grown worse in New York, with Schmidt in office, my health requiring early retirement, and I decided to write in the interest of the labor movement. I am not to be confused with the labor movement, nor am I to be confused with the labor movement in New York.

I am enclosing a copy of your letter to Mike McCann, who is a prominent labor leader in New York, and I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Mike McCann, who is a prominent labor leader in New York. I am enclosing a copy of your letter to Mike McCann, who is a prominent labor leader in New York. I am enclosing a copy of your letter to Mike McCann, who is a prominent labor leader in New York. I am enclosing a copy of your letter to Mike McCann, who is a prominent labor leader in New York.
Dear Sirs,

My son Leroy and a young lawyer who happened to be present in my office when you called, informed me that you asked for me "Wm. L. Donnels" and when informed that I was not stated and I Quote:

"Is Bill Donnels here? Answer: "No he isn't." You know who I am?" The answer: "I believe you are Mr. Milo Williams." "That's right, you better tell Bill Donnels he had better watch his step," turned around walked out, and then came back stating:

"You know I represented your father at one time and I know a lot of things about him, tell him he had better watch his step."

I deny that you have ever represented me at any time, or in any way and if, as you state, you know something the general public should know then you have been derelict in your duty by not making it known before this and I challenge you to do your worst.

Apparently your attempt at Blackmail or Intimidation, is the result of an ordinance to Jail Lottery Vendors, as follows: and I Quote.

"Mr. Mayor and Members of the Commission Council, as proof of the moral degeneracy in New Orleans, I had the unhappy experience of sitting in Judge Moore's Court, when PILO WILLIAMS, Atty. started from the front of the court and going down the aisle asking practically everyone present ARE YOU A LOTTERY CASE— I am in a position to prove these statements and you can take any action against me you desire. I am sending copies of this letter, under Registered Mail to the following:

New Orleans Bar Association
New Orleans Commission Council
Hon. Edgar Hever, F. B. I.
The District Atty. of New Orleans
The Times-Picayune
New Orleans States

New Orleans Item
Associated Press
United Press

Yours truly,

Wm. L. Donnels

Defenders Of Democracy Champions Of Free Labor

NOTICE! This newspaper is not affiliated with YEARBOOKS or YEARLY REVIEWS.
Office Memorandum

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, New Orleans, La.

DATE: January 22, 1951

SUBJECT: ALVIN A. COBB
INFORMATION CONCERNING CRIME CONDITIONS

Received a copy of a lengthy telegram which COBB had recently transmitted to the Bureau.

For the Bureau's information, this office has had considerable contact through the years with Mr. COBB, who has been a self-styled private investigator for 25 years. He has a brother, LLOYD COBB, who is a wealthy attorney and who represented the WILLIAM S. HELMS interests in New Orleans. ALVIN A. COBB was an independent candidate against Mayor de LESSEPS S. MORRISON in the last mayoralty race, being a self-styled Dixiecrat candidate, and the Dixiecrats openly disavowed him. He received approximately 1,000 votes out of approximately 300,000 votes cast, and his limited campaign over radio and public address system consisted primarily of attacks on Mayor MORRISON and advocating a strong "white supremacy" vote. He is the subject of a closed case in this office entitled "ALVIN A. COBB; IMPERSONATION," New Orleans File 17.1223. Recent New Orleans newspaper publicity in connection with the forthcoming hearings by the Kefauver Committee states that ALVIN COBB has been seen at the Committee headquarters and had stated that he had conducted considerable investigation on behalf of the Kefauver Committee.

By appointment, Mr. COBB visited this office on January 20, 1951, and talked at great length concerning his past experiences. He said that since his defeat in the mayoralty race, he has made five trips to Washington to confer with various Senators and other officials concerning crime conditions in New Orleans, and for the purpose of exposing Mayor MORRISON as an associate of the criminal element. He states he has sent many telegrams to President TRUMAN and Attorney General McGRATH, as well as to the Bureau. He says that at present he is "completely broke" and owes Western Union $18.00 for telegrams. COBB rambled on at great length on general conditions in New Orleans, strongly criticizing Mayor MORRISON and the New Orleans Police Department. He indicated that he has been in contact with investigators of the Kefauver Committee and had last visited their headquarters on the date of his visit to this office. He stated that Mr. DOWNEY RICE, legal advisor, was now "mad at him" and would not advise him of the identities of all persons to be subpoenaed by the Committee, despite the fact that COBB had previously furnished considerable information to RICE. COBB further advised RICE he hesitated to furnish further information because the girl secretary for the Committee in New Orleans is also the secretary of the so-called New Orleans Crime Commission, which was appointed by Mayor MORRISON, and is also the secretary for GASPAR GUILLOTTA, self-styled Mayor of Bourbon Street in the New Orleans French Quarter, whom COBB describes as a racketeer.

JML

62-204

COPIES DESTROYED

170 SEP 17 1954

SFP 5 1951
January 22, 1951

Director: JAI

COBB was on 8th St. for a total of 12 hours. He was unable to furnish any information pertaining to a FederalHoldup case. The Investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau was tactfully pointed out by one of his assistants.

COBB closely borders upon being a person of importance to a person of interest in the background information. This background information may be evaluated for letter writer and sender of telegrams. This background information may be evaluated for letter writer and sender of telegrams. This background information in order that future contacts by 

[Signature]

-2-
January 9, 1951

Ex-37

Mr. Alvin A. Cobb
2520 Marigny Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Cobb:

This will acknowledge receipt of your telegram dated January 7, 1951, furnishing the text of your communication to Senator Reauver.

If there is information in your possession indicating a violation of a Federal law within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, you may desire to furnish the details to Mr. J. W. Lopez, Special Agent in Charge of our New Orleans Office, 1300 Masonic Temple Building, New Orleans 12, Louisiana.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - New Orleans (with copy of incoming)

Alvin A. Cobb is mentioned in the New Orleans Crime Survey report of October 15, 1959, as a private detective and a one-time candidate for mayor of New Orleans. In 1949 he furnished information to local newspapers concerning handbook operations in the city of New Orleans (62-75147-33-51 pg 142). He sent a telegram to the Bureau in Sept 1949 concerning local crime and vice and requested Bureau assistance and was advised there appeared to be no violation within the jurisdiction of the FBI. (62-32509-327). In 1941 he was the subj of an Impersonation case in which prosecution was declined. (47-21627)
WU 003 NL PD

NEW ORLEANS LA JAN 7

J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR FBI

THIS IS A COPY OF THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT TO US SENATOR ESTES KEF AUVER Senate Office Bldg Washington DC. QUOTE

STILL WAITING FULFILLMENT PROMISES MADE BY YOU AND OTHERS CONNECTED WITH CRIME COMMISSION RELATIVE TO CONTACT OF INVESTIGATORS STOP HAVE LIST OF WITNESSES AS WELL AS RECORDS TO PROVE EFFORTS BY MAYOR MORRISON TO DECEIVE CRIME COMMISSION WITH TEMPORARY LAST MINUTE REFORM WAVE IN THIS CITY WHICH IS SECOND TO NONE IN THE NATION FOR CRIME, VICE AND GRAFT INFECTED RACKETS STOP CAN PROVE OPERATION OF STRONG ARM AND POLICE PROTECTED RACKETS INCLUDING ONE OPERATED WITH GAMBLING MACHINES DISTRIBUTED HERE THROUGH MEANS OF INTERSTATE COMMERCE, A SAID RACKET WAS SPONSORED AND IS CONDONED BY MAYOR MORRISON STOP I HAVE RECORDS, WITNESSES AND OTHER EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT TO PROVE THAT MAYOR DE LESSEPS MORRISON REQUIRES YOUR ATTENTION MORE THAN THE MUCH ADVERTISED AND PUBLICIZED NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS WHO DO NOT OPERATE IN NEW ORLEANS STOP MAYOR MORRISONS ACTIVITIES CAUSED THE BIRTH OF THE CRIME COMMISSION WHEN HE WAS SEEKING GLORY AND PUBLICITY BY CLAIMING CRIME WAS AT ITS PEAK IN THIS AND OTHER CITIES

END 1.
September 29, 1949

62-32509-337

Mrs. Alvin Cobb
2130 Robin Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Cobb:

Your telegram of September 22, 1949, has been received and a review of the information you related fails to reflect any matter within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI. It is suggested that you may wish to contact the Attorney General of your state in that regard.

In the event you have additional data in your possession pertaining to the violation of a Federal law investigated by this organization, please furnish complete details to Mr. Pecky, Special Agent in Charge of our New Orleans Office, 1300 Masonic Temple Building, New Orleans 12, Louisiana.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC New Orleans

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 12
SEP 27 1949 

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
HON. J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CAN FURNISH SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO CONVince YOU THAT "COSTELLA NIGHTMARE" IS A SMOKE SCREEN FOR GRAFT INFECTED GAMBLING RACKETs, VICE AND WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC THAT FLOURISHES IN NEW ORLEANS WITH KNOWLEDGE OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO DECEIVE AND APPEASE THE PUBLIC WITH TOKEN RAIDS. I CAN ENLIGHTEN YOU ON THE CAMPAIGN FUND SYSTEM PRACTICED BY THE VOICE THAT CRIES FOR YOUR HELP TO CRUCIFY COSTELLO. OTHER THAN DESIRING GOOD GOVERNMENT I AM NOT INTERESTED IN POLITICS. IF YOU WANT TO PROVE THAT CRIME DOES NOT PAY I BELIEVE I CAN MAKE IT POSSIBLE. AS A CITIZEN REQUESTING RELIEF ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF POLITICAL GANGSTERISM THAT SEEMS TO DESTROY OUR NATION I WAIT UPON YOUR PERSONAL REPLY.

RECORDED 60-32527-337
INDEXED 60-32527-337
645A SEP 23 5

ALVIN CORP 2150 ROBIN ST

a.m. nichols
AND THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS NEEDED TO HELP ERADICATE SAME STOP THIS HONOR NOW FEARS AN INVESTIGATION HERE UNLESS SAME CONCERNS ONLY OUT OF TOWN CHARACTERS WHO HE USES AS A SMOKE SCREEN AND SCAPEGOAT STOP I HAVE THE EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT VERY CLOSE ASSOCIATES OF MAYOR MORRISON ARE NOTORIOUS OUTLAW CHARACTERS ONE OF WHOM IS A GANGSTER CRIMINAL WHO SERVED THREE PENITENTIARY TERMS AND WHO HAS BEEN KEPT ON CITY PAYROLL CONTRARY TO CIVIL SERVICE DURING LAST FIVE YEARS MY MAYOR MORRISON STOP I HAVE MADE MORE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CRIME COMMISSION THAN ANY OTHER CITIZEN THEREFORE I ASK THAT AN OPEN HEARING BE HELD HERE IN NEW ORLEANS AND THE GUILTY EXPOSED AND PUNISHED STOP IF YOU REALLY WANT TO STIMULATE DEMOCRACY WITH TRUTH JUSTICE AND HONEST GOVERNMENT CONTACT ME IN THE NEAR FUTURE AS I AM AT YOUR SERVICE WITHOUT LIMITATIONS UNQUOTE

ALVIN A COBB

711A JAN 8.
May 7, 1946

Mr. Clyde H. Jones
15 Esplanade Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Jones:

I have for acknowledgment your telegram of April 25, 1946, in which you furnished information to this Bureau. The interest and courtesy which prompted you to call this matter to my attention are indeed appreciated.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is limited to the investigation of violations of Federal statutes. Since the subject matter of your telegram appears to be a local violation, I regret that this Bureau can take no action under the circumstances. I would suggest that you may wish to discuss this case with the appropriate New Orleans city officials.

Should you receive information which you believe to be a matter of interest to this Bureau, please feel free to communicate with Mr. C. E. Weeks, Special Agent in Charge of our New Orleans Field Division, 1309 Masonic Temple Building, New Orleans 12, Louisiana.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC - New Orleans (With copy of incoming)
E HOOVER, FBI

ON APRIL 24 ABOUT 9:00 AM DICK SPINKS, ORDINARY SEAMAN WHO JUST SIGNED OFF THE SS WILLIAM HARPER, OF WATERMAN SS CORP, WAS ROBBED OF OVER $150.00 NEAR MACKS BAR ON CANAL ST. HERE IN N.O. ABOUT 11:00 AM I TOOK HIM TO THE GREYHOUND BUS STATION TO GO HOME BEING TOO DRUNK TO RIDE THE BUS I TOOK THE DISPATCHERS ADVICE AND HAD HIM SENT TO THE FIRST PRECINCT POLICE STATION TO SOBER UP. AT THE TIME HE WENT TO THE POLICE STATION HE HAD FIFTEEN DOLLARS IN CASH IN HIS SEAMAN WALLET. WHEN HE LEFT IT WAS NOT THERE. I'LL SWEAR TO THE LAST IT WAS THERE WHEN HE WAS PICKED UP BY THE POLICE. IT OFTEN HAPPENS HERE FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD OTHER SEAMEN SAY. CANT THE GOVERNMENT DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ROTTEN CITY. THE CITY OFFICIALS SEEM TO BE VERY SLACK. MR SPINKS WAS WONDERING WHY HE BOthered WITH BEING IN THE ARMY IN THE PACIFIC FOR SEVERAL YEARS IF THIS IS THE FREEDOM FROM FEAR HE WAS FIGHTING FOR. I WONDER TOO AS ONE OF THE HAND FULL OF SEAMAN THAT WAS BLOOD VEIN OF THIS WAR I'LL STILL FIGHT ALTHOUGH IT IS DISGUSTING AT TIMES. ANY WAY I CAN HOPE CONTACT ME AT 1415 ESPLANADE AVE NO. THANK YOU FOR WHAt YOU CAN DO.

CLYDE H. JONES

705A APR 26

24 9:00 AM SS $150.00 11:00 AM 1415.
February 3, 1949

Mr. Jeff Kimble
Sondheimer, Louisiana

RE: GENERAL CRIME SURVEY

Dear Mr. Kimble:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 25, 1949, and to thank you for your interest in forwarding the information to this Bureau.

Please be advised that the data which you have furnished do not fall within the investigative jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. However, I am forwarding copies of your letter to the Special Agent in Charge of the New Orleans Field Division of this Bureau located at 1305 Masonic Temple, New Orleans 12, Louisiana, for his information. I suggest that you communicate with him should you receive further information which you believe of interest.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - New Orleans (with cc incoming)

It is suggested that the information which Mr. Kimble claims to possess might be of interest to your office in connection with the general crime survey program. The Bureau's files indicate a Selective Service case concerning one Jeff Davis Kimble was closed by the Little Rock Field Division on December 10, 1943, when the United States Attorney declined prosecution.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I see a lot in the papers about drafting labor. I am a laborer - I farm and work in a defense plant during off seasons. I am willing to be drafted if need be but I would hope to be drafted and have all the racketeers and gamblers left at home to prey on my friends and family. We have a lot of fine young men in the army now who have gone off to fight and die for a bunch of gamblers and racketeers who are getting rich off the poor folks at home.

I am a family man and have six children. I want to raise them in a decent community. Our community is running over with professional gamblers and racketeers who ought to be producing something or fighting for their country.

I think it is high time that something be done to stop this preying on the public. Our local enforcement officials are being paid off or are professional gamblers themselves and there is no hope of their helping us. The poor people are being exploited on every hand by the racketeers and by the landlords who charge 25% interest and make big charges for overhead expenses.

I can show you and will be willing to point out to your men as many as 200 able-bodied citizens here doing nothing but run gambling dives, poker and dice games, slot machines and the like. These men and their like all over the country are going to be the cause of us losing the war on the home front even if our armies are the winners on the battle field.

Please investigate and do something about the gamblers and racketeers in this section and answer this letter, please.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Jeff Kimble
Office Memorandum
UNited States Government

From Walter Binechell.

Subject:
1 APR 6 1944

Indexed
145

RECORDED
INDEXED
EX-7

27 MAR 24 1944

SIX

Plaintext: From Walter Binechell.
To Mr. Walter Winchell

To New York City.

Dear Sir:

A few weeks ago I heard you say that some one was coming down to New Orleans to investigate claims that 'it was an open city.' The address on the enclosed card is that of a disorderly house about 100 feet from the Induction Center.

It is also true that there is some robbery by cab drivers -- and I have seen soldiers and sailors drink tobacco and beer after midnight.

Perhaps another investigation should be made!

Very truly yours,

Sam Chargentier

Sgt. Maj. CHAPLAIN [signature]
SAC Guerin phoned Mr. Pennington relative to the declaration of Martial Law by Governor Sam Jones of Louisiana in Plaquemines Parish this morning.

It appears that for some time there has been considerable argument between the Governor and Parish Authorities over the Governor's appointment of Walter J. Blaise as Sheriff. The Governor's contention is that he has the power to appoint a sheriff to fill an existing vacancy. Parish authorities contend that a sheriff should be elected.

Mr. Guerin stated the Governor has taken just about as much as he can and this morning 31 trucks loaded with Louisiana State Guard proceeded to the barricade placed at the entrance to the Parish. In addition, Mr. Guerin has been informed that the Guard has sent out a flanking party to enter the Parish from the rear. According to Mr. Guerin it looks very much as if there will be actual fighting in the attempt to place Sheriff Blaise in office.

Respectfully,

G. Rosen

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-32507_3

We are doing nothing whatsoever.
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 27, 1943

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director, FBI

RE: NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

In order that the Bureau will be currently informed as to the conditions which presently exist concerning the New Orleans Police Department, I am outlining herein certain data which has been prepared by me for this purpose.

I know that the Bureau has over a period of years received information from various sources as to the slot-machines and gambling activities which have been permitted to operate in the city of New Orleans and also as to the alleged connection of different police officials with these rackets. It can be said in this connection, that the same conditions generally are now in existence notwithstanding considerable agitation and efforts to correct engendered by editorials and news articles appearing in local newspapers. A few weeks ago, Mr. GEORGE REVER, the Superintendent of Police, asserted in response to an inquiry: "I have no evidence of any gambling going on" in New Orleans, which statement brought about a wave of protest and the subsequent publication of photographs of gambling houses in operation. Although the great majority of well-known houses of prostitution were closed about a year ago upon instructions of the United States Army authorities, it is known that some call houses are still in operation in addition to the number of girls who operate out of honky tonks and beer joints and similar places of ill repute.

In connection with the gambling situation, however, it has been ascertained that one of the most recent and common methods of circumventing regulations pertaining to dice and card games is the establishment of a club which entitles the members to engage in such games of chance. It is also known that the bookmaking establishments and race track betting places operate under police protection, and as a matter of fact, two detectives, namely: JOHN BARRADAT and HENRY LUTHJENS, are reported to act as collectors for Captain E. L. DeLATTE who is in charge of the First Precinct Police Station. Captain HENRY ASSETT, attached to the headquarters of the Police Department, is considered as the Superintendent's right-hand man and in one instance, it is known that he receives $10.00 weekly from a small "bookee." The distribution of money collected as described here is not known.
Some months ago, the Louisiana State Police operating under the specific instructions of Governor SAN JONES entered Orleans Parish (city of New Orleans) for the purpose of conducting investigations and making a series of raids of known bookmaking establishments. The argument advanced in political circles for such a move on the part of the Governor was that these activities produced a source of revenue available to the Old Regular (New Orleans political organization) which organization was politically opposed to the administration of Governor JONES. However, the aggressiveness of the raids originally instituted by the State Police was somewhat lessened when it was subsequently ascertained that the members of that organization themselves began to enjoy the benefits of the payments previously afforded only to the members of the New Orleans City Police Department. It is also known that Captain JOHN DARDENNO of the Louisiana State Police was subsequently eased out of his position and finally released from the State Police because of his acceptance of “bribes” from different gamblers in this city.

As an example of the lust which the majority of the New Orleans Police Department are imbued with, it has been learned from one WILLIS MOSES, a negro who peddles watermelons on the corner of Broad and Galilope Streets, New Orleans, that each evening a motorcycle patrolman drives by and collects $1.00 from him which allegedly is turned over to the Captain of the Twelfth Precinct. This is not, of course, any payment for any legal privilege, but MOSES is permitted to park his truck off the sidewalk into the weeds and then places a few watermelons alongside the street which is neither used for driving or for pedestrian purposes.

The patrolmen in the downtown sections and also in the outlying districts have knowledge of the gambling establishments which are now in operation today, and an agent recently in contacting a patrolman in connection with official business had displayed to him a ticket on a race which the officer in question had received in connection with a winning bet he had placed.

The employees of the New Orleans Police Department have for many years received salaries which are reputed to be the lowest of any large police department in the entire United States. I am quoting the salary schedule below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrolman</td>
<td>$152.00 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeants of Precinct Stations</td>
<td>160.00 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenants of Precinct Stations</td>
<td>170.00 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detectives</td>
<td>183.00 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant of Detectives</td>
<td>191.00 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captains</td>
<td>214.00 per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above figures, however, there is a 10% deduction which was placed into effect in 1932, and which has not been reinstated. As a result a policeman today receives approximately $157 per month as his base pay. From this sum
sizeable deductions are made such as a 5% sum for a pension and retirement fund. In addition, the "lottery tax" deduction of 20% is in effect today and there are also certain political contributions which are invariably needed for diverse purposes which add to the sum which is deducted from the base pay of the police officer. It is noted, therefore, that the bi-monthly salary check of a patrolman is actually less than $50.00, and that of a detective is just about $60.00 per pay check.

Since the advent of war and the definite increased cost of living, many employees of the police department have sought additional income through extra work and odd jobs. The exact number of such employees is not definitely known although the information available reflects that more than 50% of them have found employment at Delta Shipyards, Higgins Industries, Inc., or at Todd Johnson's Dry Docks, and many as taxi-cab drivers. It is known that such jobs have been obtained with the full knowledge and approval of the Superintendent of Police and as a matter of fact, he furnishes a letter to the police officer who is desirous of obtaining additional work. It has been reported that the Superintendent of Police has stated that of course if the officer performs his duties for the police department, no objection can be made if he is anxious to secure outside employment. It is known though that many of the officers leave their shifts earlier than the usual quitting time and obviously, if they work on other jobs for either four or eight hour periods, their efficiency in connection with their police department jobs is necessarily affected.

A number of the New Orleans Police Department representatives are permanently assigned to local business houses, places of amusement, railroad stations, etc., and are paid by those business institutions although they are directly connected with the police department. For example, a Lieutenant of Police, and a patrolman are assigned to the Roosevelt Hotel and are paid by that firm. Another is assigned to a bank whereas another police officer is in attendance at the telephone company at all times. It will be recalled that in a form letter to the Bureau from this office under date of August 8, 1943, information was set forth indicating that as of June 30, 1943, there were 880 police employees in the police department. It was further indicated that in the eighteen month period preceding June 1943, 168 individuals had separated themselves from the service which is approximately nine employees per month.

During the past few weeks, a rather large number of crimes including hold-ups and robberies have taken place in the city of New Orleans, and on August 24, 1943, District Attorney J. BERHARD COCKE, in an open letter to the Superintendent of Police, called his attention to the steady rise of crimes during the past year. It was indicated that the records showed that from July 15, 1943, to August 18, 1943, there had been reported to the New Orleans Police Department, 57 hold-ups and robberies and a survey further revealed that of the above-mentioned number of crimes, eight were committed by white men, two by color unknown and the remaining 57 crimes were perpetrated by negroes. Of the 57 reported hold-ups, the records showed that ten were followed by arrests while in 47 robberies, no arrests were made. The records also indicate that a number of the victims suffered beatings from the hands of the hold-up men. A reorganization of the police department was called for by the District Attorney who incident-
ally has been at odds with the police department over a period of years. The Superintendent of Police GEORGE REIER has been away on a vacation since he completed his visit to the Convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police at Detroit, Michigan, some weeks ago.

With further reference to Superintendent of Police GEORGE REIER, information has been received that he is being kept in office by MAJOR MAESTRI because the latter does not want to be "put on the spot" at this time of being compelled to make another selection because of the coming election. In other words, he would necessarily alienate the supporters of the unsuccessful candidates for the position of Superintendent of Police. It is also known that about a year and a half ago, Superintendent REIER suffered a stroke in his office and as a result his illness has been prolonged. There have been reports that REIER has attempted to resign on different occasions but has always been persuaded to remain in office by Mayor MAESTRI. His office hours are to his own making and very seldom can he be reached in the afternoon hours and then only from Tuesday to Saturday. A Captain of Police has confidentially advised an agent of this office that Superintendent REIER is suffering from a condition of paralytic and is really not physically capable of handling the duties of Superintendent of Police of the city of New Orleans. In his absence, the office is administered by Captain JAMES J. PURCELL, who, according to the same informant, is not sufficiently conversant with the many duties and problems the Superintendent has to contend with outside of his office.

Chief of Detectives JOHN GROSCH has been holding that position for a number of years but he is not believed to have any particular ability as an officer other than the success he has obtained by using underworld informants and third degree methods. It is believed that any results which GROSCH may have accomplished have been due to his "trading" activities with members of the underworld by means of favoring those who are useful to him. At the present time, he lives in a house worth approximately twenty-five thousand dollars located on Canal Boulevard in New Orleans. Information has been received from the same Captain of Police that Chief GROSCH is considered absolutely irresponsible and is worthless as a witness in the courts of New Orleans because his word under oath is no longer accepted.

Chief GROSCH himself has indicated that he has about thirty detectives in his office who are absolutely irresponsible and "too dumb" to be depended upon. Of course, it might be indicated, too, that GROSCH's statements may be made for the purpose of serving as an excuse for certain omissions, carelessness, or failures in connection with the functioning of his own department.

One individual against whom no unfavorable or derogatory comments are ever heard is Assistant Chief of Detectives JOHN J. JACKSON, Sr., who is in charge of the Auto Theft Squad of the New Orleans Police Department. He is the father of Captain JOHN J. JACKSON, Jr., NFA, who is handling the Internal Security Unit of the Police Department working on cases assigned to that organization by this office. Their names, however, were mentioned in local news articles recently when considerable comments were offered concerning the number of relatives of high-ranking police officials who hold positions of importance in the police department. In this connection, it is stated that five of Superintendent
Reuter's relatives hold positions of importance in the police department and are referred to as members of the "Royal Family."

A Civil Service Law went into effect on January 1, 1943, and it is known that on December 31, 1942, a large number of wholesale promotions were made in the police department, a number of these being among relatives of the police officials. The explanation has since been offered by those who were not equally favored that naturally the men who have worked for years become disheartened when their promotions are not forthcoming.

It is somewhat surprising to note just how many citizens in the city of New Orleans are satisfied with the operation of the New Orleans Police Department. They offer the somewhat shallow explanation that the police department must be all right because there have been no large major serious crimes committed in this city. It is not believed, however, that the absence of such violent crimes can be attributed to any great extent to the accomplishments of efforts of the New Orleans Police Department. The geographic location of the city is such that more than the normal amount of difficulty would be experienced in attempting a get-away as there are but a few roads leading out of the city which could be blocked with not too much trouble. Then, too, the cooperation of certain police officials with "big-time" gamblers and racketeers by permitting them to have a free hand in their operations is also of assistance in keeping outsiders from carrying on any illegal operations here and also in making known information as to the identity of such outsiders who may commit crimes of violence. Such conditions, of course, would be known to the members of the underworld and might attempt to discourage them from committing major crimes in the city. I would certainly minimize any amount of credit which might be given to the New Orleans Police Department as the members are undoubtedly of an inferior caliber than will be found in any city in the country comparable in size to New Orleans. The officers are lackadasical in the performance of their duties, not too careful in the matter of neatness and all in all not the type of individual which will be found in other large cities.

The above data are being made available to the Bureau for information purposes and will be added to from time to time as developments warrant.

Very truly yours,

R. A. Guerin
SAC
June 4, 1943

Reverend E. J. Holmes
Chairman
Social Betterment Committee
New Orleans Ministerial Union
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Holmes:

The Attorney General of the United States has brought to my attention your letter of May 19, 1943, together with a copy of the resolution of the New Orleans Ministerial Union.

I do want you to know that I understand the thoughts which prompted you to write as you did, and I have requested the Special Agent in Charge of our New Orleans Field Office to communicate with you concerning this matter.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

58 JUN 9 1943
NEW ORLEANS MINISTERIAL UNION
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

May 19, 1943

The Honorable Francis Biddle
United States Attorney
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The enclosed is a copy of paper unanimously adopted by the New Orleans Ministerial Union, representing thousands of our best citizens. It is sent to you as the Chief of Law Enforcement in our country.

For two years we have tried to secure law enforcement through our local officials. We have failed. Every form of commercial gambling and other forms of vice are run wide open in defiance of all law and decency. The situation here is really alarming. It is anarchy. It would appear that the law enforcement officers are tied up with the law violators. Unless all signs are wholly misleading we are in the grip of one of the worst official rackets.

New Orleans is one of the great cities of the South. It is headquarters for many of our war activities. Thousands of Service Men must come this way. Many of them are robbed in low liquor dives and gambling houses or cursed with venereal diseases through commercial prostitution.

We respectfully request you to order such steps as will through the F.B.I. or other agencies that will give us relief.

Thanking you, we are

W. W. Holmes
Chairman

New Orleans Ministerial Union
The following was unanimously adopted by the New Orleans Ministerial Union
on May 3, 1943.

Appeasement and dilly-dallying in law enforcement has brought a condition in
New Orleans, Jefferson Parish and some other sections of Louisiana that is unspeak-
able deplorable. The worst thing about it is not the lawlessness itself, as bad as
that is, but it is the increasing disrespect for our local government and law en-
forcement officers. Such a condition breeds disloyalty and anarchy and is a portend
of worse days to come. It would appear that the law enforcement department, with
some notable exceptions, has much more concern in protecting crime and the criminal
than in seeing that lawlessness is justly punished and suppressed and that the
rights of the people under the law are conserved.

The Vice situation in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish has long been notorious—a
detriment to the city's growth and prosperity. And now when our country is at
war and New Orleans has become headquarters for many of our training camps, and
many of our war industries are located here, and thousands of our Service Men are
passing this way, we find that the City and the adjoining parish of Jefferson
have become veritable cess pools of iniquity and flagrant lawlessness. Great "Monte
Carlo" gambling houses are wide open and run unmolested. Other forms of gambling
such as bookies, lotteries, pin ball, slot machines and many other kind of mecha-
nical gambling devices are much in evidence in public places—by the road side, in
night clubs, saloons and elsewhere. In many of these places women are employed
to sell and distribute liquor drinks in violation of law and in encouragement to
prostitution. The condition is wholly bad and is growing worse. We have ex-
hausted every resource in our efforts to get relief through local auth-
crities. We have been patient, persistent and long-suffering. The official set up seems
to be so tied in with crime for monetary gain or political power that just and
democratic government through such officials is impossible. The crime syndi-
cate is composed of comparatively few in number, and yet this few, abetted and
protected by corrupt officials, is dominating the city and is advertising New
Orleans as one of the most wicked cities in the world. No wonder that this

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beautiful city with so many natural advantages has lagged in its growth and prosperity while other cities not so favorably located have forged ahead. Your Social Betterment Committee asks your approval of the following letters:

A letter to Honorable Francis Biddle, United States Attorney, calling his attention to the flagrant law violations in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish and the refusal of the local law enforcement officers to take any action. A letter to the Honorable Paul McNutt, War Man Power Commissioner concerning the large number of men and women needed in war service who are now engaged in illegal occupations. A letter to the Chairman of Senate Committee charged with duty of looking after moral conditions around service camps. A letter to the O.P.A. concerning ration cards for gasoline used by private cars and taxis in the patronage of gambling joints on the outskirts of city and in Jefferson Parish. A letter to the Foreman of Grand Juries in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes calling their attention to these flagrant law violations and asking for action. A letter to the Superintendent of the Louisiana Moral and Civic Foundation asking for the support of the State-wide organization for law enforcement. Your Social Betterment Committee would ask further for your approval of Protestant Mass Meetings, if found necessary.
F. B. I. Washington D. C.

Dear Sirs,

I want to make an appeal to someone in Washington to make an investigation here in our city in regard the gambling houses.

If you knew the waste of money surely something could be done to stop it, there are three large gambling houses within a block of each other with dice tables, roulette tables, keno games and slot machines, these places are packed with people, young and old every night and the money that is thrown away in these places is terrible.

I can't understand why these places are allowed to operate when our government needs men, young and old to help win this war. I see young healthy men standing behind those dice and roulette tables taking peoples money, money that should be spent for war bonds, thousands of dollars a night, I know if Washington would step in to help us close these places Uncle Sam would be thousands of dollars ahead in war bonds.

I am just a citizen, but I know what is going on, these men that operate these places can't be real American citizens or they wouldn't want to close and let the money that is spent there go to help win this war.

There are hundreds of cars parked at these places each night, taxis bringing people, and taxis parked there to take them home, if they have enough money left to get home.

This is without a doubt the most lawless city in the U. S. and I think it is time Washington stepped in to help.

I understood people weren't supposed to waste gas and rubber to go to places of amusement.

Surely something should be done to stop this waste of money when our country needs so much to win this war.

A. Citizen
FBI, Washington D.C.,

Most of us men in the service of our country. Do believe that most of the clubs in New Orleans should be closed. If you know how they operate, and allow them to operate, that way, we will make the best of our stay in New Orleans. They have girls working in these places, who want you to buy them a drink. They call for a Tom Collins or old fashioned. They choose you from 50c to 75c and it color wets. A soldier who is new don't know this as this is suppose to be a mix drink with whiskey. You can say something to the management and they say they have the right to do it in this town. Is this legal or not.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Address]
November 18, 1942

Mr. Leslie Stringfield
Det. K, Tent City
37th Headquarters Base
Army Air Base Squadron
New Orleans Army Air Base
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Stringfield:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 24, 1942, which was also signed by Private Andrew H. Ratechmer.

The facts reported in your communication do not concern a matter coming within the scope of this Bureau's activities and for that reason it is not possible to be of assistance.

It is suggested, however, that you may desire to call this matter to the attention of the Louisiana State Liquor Board, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC - New Orleans
July, 17, 1942

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The State Government of Louisiana is about to collapse. The United States Government needs full-functioning State Governments more in war times than in peace times. Members of the State Senate refuse to vote sufficient money to provision the State, saying there is already money enough.

The old Cabildo, where the Treaty of Purchase of Louisiana Territory was signed, (now a Museum,) closed on the 15th instant, for want of funds to operate. Charity Hospital is more than 200 years old, costing lately $14,000,000, some of which was Federal money; it has 3100 beds, 140 doctors, and probably that many medical interns. It also must close.

Sworn representatives of the people who would seek the paralysis of the State Government in war times, do not lack much of being guilty of treason; and Senator Ellender became a kind of errand-boy in Washington for the purpose of drawing out of the State Senate a man who had been, temporarily excused from army service, to break Governor Jones' funds-getting majority; so that some of us conclude that a U. S. Senator has been developed who prefers to destroy the State, than see it preserved.

I think if you could fly a trusted agent down here, to give you the facts, you could deliver an effective interview to the reporters upon the dereelection of official duty for sinister advantage. It is your duty to keep the wheels of the State Governments turning. No politician would take the responsibility of writing you, in my opinion.

Yours truly,

EMMET ALPHA
ATTORNEY
PHONE RAYMOND 7206
904 MARITIME BUILDING
NEW ORLEANS

July, 17, 1942

Confidential Report
For Agnew's Demonstration and Consideration

M. H. M. Justice
Secretary to the President

Louisiana State Official
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
July 30, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR J. EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This is to acknowledge your memorandum of July 16, 1942, to
which you attached a copy of a letter received from R. A. Guerin, Special
Agent in Charge at New Orleans, Louisiana.

The contents of the Special Agent's letter with reference to
the information that he obtained by way of a letter dated May 29, 1942,
from Frank O. Kreager of Baton Rouge, have been noted. The Administrator
for the Work Projects Administration has been furnished with a photo-
static copy of the Special Agent's letter, and has been requested to
advise the Department further in regard to his pleasure in the matter as
soon as it has been thoroughly investigated.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

WENDELL BERGM
Assistant Attorney General

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

I called SAC Guerin at New Orleans and told him I had just seen his note about the controversy between the political elements at New Orleans. I advised him in any inquiries he gets from the press as to whether an investigation is being conducted of those people, he should state no investigation is being conducted. I told him I thought he would probably help one side or the other by saying he had no comment, and in any situation of this kind in which no investigation is being conducted it is better to say so.

Respectfully,

Edward A. Tamm
MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL BENZIE BLAIR

Attached is a copy of a letter dated June 11, 1942, received from the New Orleans, Louisiana, Field Division of this Bureau, concerning certain alleged irregularities in connection with W. P. A. activities.

This matter is being brought to your attention for purposes of information and possible reference to the Works Projects Administration.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
1908 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana
June 11, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: LOUISIANA POLITICAL SITUATION

Dear Sir:

I am quoting below a letter from Frank O. Greager, 167 Sunset Blvd., Route 3, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, dated May 29, 1942, in which certain allegations are set out relative to the disposition of W. P. A. monies. The Bureau is advised that this matter has not been reported to the W. P. A. Headquarters of this district.

"I desire to call your attention to an apparent mysterious disappearance of some $50,000.00 of W. P. A. money in connection with a W. P. A.-Louisiana State University project in 1938-39.

"As you know, after the exposure of Smith, Caldwell and others in June, 1939, Franke, Hannon and Withey, certified public accountants of New York City were employed to audit the accounts of the University and install a modern system of accounting.

"After some nine months of work these auditors made a report of their findings entitled:

"LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND
AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

REPORT ON INVESTIGATION
AS AT JUNE 30, 1939

FRANKE, HANNON & WITHEY
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
444 Madison Avenue
New York City

"On Sunday, April 28, 1940, articles based on this report, several pages in length, screamingly headlined, appeared in the New Orleans papers.

COPY IN FILE
"Many of the most significant and astounding findings of the auditors were not even mentioned in these articles—as a comparison with the Report will show.

"In case you do not have a copy of this report, doubtless you can obtain one in a few minutes from Mr. J. Y. Fauntleroy, secretary of the L. S. U. Board of Supervisors, Pere Marquette Bldg. The report in your hands will make my statements clear.

"The Camp Grant Walker Case

"On page 123 of the Report you will note, the auditors state that a project agreement between the W.P.A. and L.S.U. provided that the University was to spend $13,534.75 and W.P.A. $52,709.59 for "building construction" at Camp Grant Walker—(the 6th Club camp near Pollock, La.)

"Certainly a clear impression is left that all of the $52,709.59 W.P.A. funds, and $4,399.80 of University funds were spent on this project; but a question, you will note, is raised as to the propriety of the L.S.U. "offsets" for the remainder of the $13,534.75. In "offsets" and "Direct Payments" then $13,534.75 of University funds and $52,709.59 of W.P.A. funds—a total of $66,244.34, was spent for "building and construction" at Camp Grant Walker during the year of June 30, 1938 to June 30, 1939.

"Now turn to "page 3" of "Exhibit F"—(the last 4 pages of the Report):

"Statement of Investment in Plant

As at June 30, 1939

Note:

"Camp Grant Walker Buildings & Equipment $8,500.00."

"What happened to the $52,709.59 of W.P.A. money?

"And why did the writers of the news articles miss this astounding discrepancy?

"Is it possible that "selected items only" were released to the press?

"I hardly need point out to you the absurdity of those "offset" tricks (p 123) for the deception of the auditors;"
"1. The items of "Plans, Engineering and Superintendence, $4,939.00" is 55% of the total investment in buildings new and old and in equipment.

"2. The items "Use of trucks", $3,695.95 is 43% of the total investment in buildings. Together these items constitute 101% of such investment.

"3. The items "Use of trucks" is more than three times the cost of new truck listed on p 121.

"4. The greatest absurdity of all is exposed by the auditors statement: "We were told that the trucks were 4-H Club trucks, not University trucks"

"Since when have the 4-H Clubs of Louisians owned a fleet of trucks whose rental value for one year is $3,695.95? (Call the Orleans Parish Ag. Agent for light on this)

"5. The auditors were not informed that the 4-H Club work is supported by Federal and state funds. The item is not therefore a proper offset.

"So it seems to me:

1. That whoever was handling this matter for L. S. U. got a W.P.A. grant by misrepresentation - by trickery.
2. That the evidence is convincing of attempts, some successful, to deceive the auditors.
3. That $52,709.59 of W.P.A. money was not spent on this Camp Grant Walker project.
4. That the whole affair was covered up - nothing concerning it was released to the press.
5. That the content of these two pages of the Franke, Hannon and Withey Report, is convincing evidence of the need for a searching investigation of the whole matter.

"I am at your service for any help I can give,"

Very truly yours,

R. A. GUERIN
Special Agent in Charge
May 30, 1942

New Orleans, La.

[Signature]

Dear Sir,

Franklin Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Please Sir, I'm very sorry to trouble you with this letter. I work very hard for my living, but since I been sailing from the Port of Lewes, as seaman, I have seen I have no right to have my own gambling all the time. What it takes me two months to save little close in 30 days. Only I want to tell you for this favor.
Sir President
Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington D.C.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

For record purposes, Seymour Meiss who was convicted in the Louisiana scandal a few years ago, was paroled on April 1. The request for parole of Dr. Smith, formerly President of the Louisiana State University, was denied.

Respectfully,

L. E. Nichols
FBI NEW ORLEANS 1-15-42 8-49 PM CAP

DIRECTOR

LIGHT. WITH FURTHER REFERENCE NEW ORLEANS LETTER JANUARY FOURTEEN, NINETEEN FORTY-TWO, WITH REGARD TO CAPTAIN MAHER AND CAPTAIN YELDELL, FORMER NPA GRADUATES, THIS IS TO ADVISE THAT DISTRICT ATTORNEY B. E. KEMP XXXX KEMP, JR., REPORTED TO NEWSPAPERS FROM AMITE THIS AFTERNOON THAT LIVINGSTON PARISH GRAND JURY HAD RETURNED INDICTMENTS AGAINST GENERAL STEVE ALFORD, SUPERINTENDENT OF STATE POLICE, AND HIS ASSISTANT, MAJOR L. A. NEWSOM. THE INDICTMENTS CHARGED VIOLATION OF PRIMARY ELECTION LAWS OF NINETEEN FORTY, IN THAT ALFORD AND NEWSOM ORDERED STATE TROOPERS STATIONED AT OR NEAR POLLING BOOTHSS IN RECENT ELECTION IN THE PARISH HELD LAST MONTH FOR THE DISTRICT JUDGESHIP VACANCY, CREATED BY DEATH OF FORMER JUDGE. AS BUREAU KNOWS, MAJOR NEWSOM IS FORMER AGENT.

END

9-53 PM OK F I XXX FBI WASH DC

3 FEB 9742
June 9, 1941

Mr. Morris L. Aron
c/o Greenbaum, Wolff & Aron
265 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

My dear Morris:

I have received your letter of June 2, 1941, and appreciate your courtesy in furnished me a copy of the letter which you addressed to the President under date of June 2, 1941, in connection with the application for Executive Clemency filed by Robert Newman. I am pleased to have the benefit of your observations concerning Mr. Newman. A careful review of the files of the Bureau indicates that to date the application of Mr. Newman has not been received. You may be assured, however, that this case will receive immediate investigative attention upon its receipt and that the investigation will be expedited in order that a complete report may be returned to the Pardon Attorney at the earliest possible date. I will instruct the Agent to whom the case is assigned to contact you during the course of his investigation.

I have received the bundle of papers which you sent me concerning the "other adventure".

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely,

J. Edgar Hoover
June 18, 1941

Mr. Ferrin in Room 308, 400 Greenbush, Valley Forge
355 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Ferrin,

With further reference to my letter of June 9, 1941, concerning the application for executive clemency filed by Robert Newman, I have determined that this case will not be referred to the Bureau for investigation. The Department as a matter of practice refers to the Bureau for investigation cases involving requests for executive clemency relating to restoration of civil rights. I am informed that in the Newman case the application for executive clemency relates to the actual sentence imposed and not to the restoration of civil rights. In such cases the Department through the Pardon Attorney requests comments and observations on the part of the governmental agency which investigated the substantive case upon which the applicant was convicted. Since the Newman case was investigated by the Post Office Department, the Pardon Attorney is taking the matter up with that Department and the case will not be referred to this Bureau for investigation.

I thought you would be interested in knowing the results of my inquiry as to the status of this case in the Department.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely,

J. Edgar Hoover

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
* JUN 18 1941 *

P.M. F.B.I.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
June 4, 1941.

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

Re: Application for Executive Clemency -  
Robert Newman

My dear Edgar:

I don't think there is any great impropriety in my writing to you in regard to the above matter but if so, slap me down hard.

I am enclosing herewith copy of a letter I have written to the President. I also sent him a personal letter.

I am writing to you because I understand that in the normal course, the FBI investigates such applications. As you will note from my correspondence with the President, I have never before in my professional career - which is all too long - asked the President for clemency for any client and only once before have I asked clemency for a person who was not a client. I trust that you know me well enough to realize that this record on the part of an ordinarily busy lawyer carried some significance.

My specific request is that when your men have finished their investigation that they feel free to get in touch with me for any additional information that they may desire. I know what a tough job it is to report on a matter of Executive Clemency, a case of this nature, but I urge it with deep sincerity.

Let me know if you got the bundle of papers I sent you on the other adventure.

Yours,

[Signature]

Enc.
June 5, 1941

The President,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I am writing this letter in support of the application of Robert J. 
Newman for Executive clemency. At the outset may I say that in over twenty-
five years practice at the Bar, I have never - except on one previous occa-
sion - seen fit, in spite of many solicitations, to address myself to the 
President of the United States or the Attorney General on behalf of clemency 
for any convicted person. If, in order to appraise the value of my letter, 
you care to examine the previous occasion for a similar request, I mention the 
fact that you will find it in the file of Charles Berns.

I had never met Newman until last week, although I talked to him on 
the telephone on numerous occasions previously. My wife, who together with 
her family lived for many years in New Orleans, was acquainted with Newman and 
his family - although she is in no way a blood relation.

I was invited to represent Newman and Harris in proceedings in the 
United States Supreme Court through Mr. Isaac S. Heller, an outstanding lawyer 
at the New Orleans Bar whom I have known for many years. He is an outstanding 
lawyer of his district, who has had the courage to represent the Civil Libery 
Union in many matters, was outspoken in his resistance to the Long regime, 
and has always been one of the leaders in the movement for Negro education in 
the South. At Mr. Heller's suggestion, although he did not represent any of 
the defendants in the instant case, our office considered for some time the 
acceptance of a retainer in the Supreme Court proceedings. Before deciding to 
accept the responsibilities of that task, I conferred with various people, 
some of them connected with the administration itself, and others familiar with 
the entire series of brilliant legal battles which have contributed to the 
mopping up of the outrageous political situation in New Orleans and Louisiana. 
Early in the situation I had a visceral feeling that the verdict of the jury 
and certainly the sentence of the judge did not represent full justice to New-
man and Harris. I was in no position in the Supreme Court proceedings to ques-
tion the fundamental facts underlying the verdict. In the light of the opinio-
of the Circuit Court of Appeals, it was my impression, and it still is my impression, that through the unavoidable impact of a proceeding in the nature of a conspiracy, there was a resulting sense of guilt through association. I realize that in exercising Executive clemency, there must be an implied, if not an actual admission of the correctness of the rulings of the court.

On the other hand, several facts still stand in my mind to trouble me. In the first place, Newman and Harris, as well as I am credibly informed, were never active in politics in any form whatever. Although Newman's father was one of the leaders in reform movements in New Orleans, Newman himself remained entirely removed from any political controversy or participation. To this extent the situation is distinguishable at least from two of the other defendants. Without presuming to make any comment as to the other defendants, it may not be amiss to note that Shushan, at least, had for a long time been in the front ranks of politically dominant personalities in the community. The high political excitement which naturally attended the trial affected all defendants alike, even though Newman and Harris had not put themselves into the political arena.

I was informed shortly after accepting the retainer in the Supreme Court proceedings, that Newman, alone, without previous appointment and without invitation, interviewed various jurors. Letters from six jurors are being submitted with Newman's application. I assume that your first reaction will be the same as mine or that of anyone else who is familiar with letters from jurors. It is true that jurors, and even judges and prosecutors, after having done their duty, very often out of simple human generosity will bear certain regrets and when faced with the personal object of the punitive judgment will endeavor to soften the impact of the blow. I cannot too strongly indicate that these letters are not such letters. There is no need for me to explain the distinguishing features. A careful reading of the letters as against the decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals must place upon them a very vital significance in relation to Executive clemency, and will indicate a clear dividing line between Newman and Harris, and the other defendants.

I have personally checked, through innumerable sources, the life pattern of Robert Newman. It goes without saying that he is a man of culture and previous wealth and had a position of high standing in the community. This is naturally true and may carry no particular value in the direction of clemency, because had he not held such status he could not have become the leading underwriter of government bonds in the community. My inquiries, however, go into a different sector of life. Rather than give value to the above, I have been far more impressed with the fact, verified by inquiries
before taking the retainer and afterwards, that he was the type of person who did not drive a snide bargain, the type of man whose word was credited as being the complete antithesis of his code that he befriended without clamor or publicity inconspicuous people who would do him no favors in return. He was brought up in a home where the head of the household was a courageous fighter, particularly for every reform urged in a community whose civic affairs had fallen to a very low level. Against this background Newman’s punishment to date has been terrific.

From my examination of the record and from many other sources I have become persuaded that Newman testified truthfully; that he did not evade issues; that he volunteered information to the prosecuting arm of the Government, which information they might otherwise have found difficult to obtain. In my opinion he dealt in connection with the litigation vis-à-vis the Government and all others in a frank and forthright fashion without the usual indicia of guilt that arise from inconsistency of stories or concealment of even minor details of proof. However, not having been in this case at the time of the trial itself, I would be less than frank if I did not indicate my observations should carry little weight compared to the statements made in your ordinary course of procedure by the Federal prosecutor in charge of the trial.

As indicated above, on only one other occasion have I addressed myself to you in support of a prayer for Executive clemency. Needless to say, I have been called upon by clients, friends and others to send similar letters in behalf of other applicants. I point this out merely in the hope that this reluctance on my part may perchance give added weight to the plea which I hereby make for Executive clemency on behalf of Robert J. Newman.

I should be more than glad to supply any further data or information available to me which your Excellency may consider pertinent to the application.

Having been of counsel for the applicant in the Supreme Court proceedings, I think it proper to add that I am accepting no compensation in respect to assisting him in preparing the petition for Executive clemency.

Very respectfully yours,

MORRIS L. SHAPIRO

M.L.S.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

With reference to the legal status of the mail fraud case against Norman Harris, I have ascertained the following.

Harris, together with Robert J. Newman, who were partners in a brokerage firm in New Orleans, and H. M. Fuguspack, former member of the Levee Board and Henry J. Miller, accountant, were co-defendants together with Abraham L. Shushan on mail fraud charges in New Orleans.

They were indicted August 21, 1939. A jury returned a verdict of guilty against them on December 22, 1939. They were sentenced on January 2, 1940 to 30 months in prison and each assessed a fine of $2,000.00.

On January 18, 1941 the Circuit Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, which had the case referred to it by the lower court, affirmed the conviction of the lower court. On February 7, 1941 Harris filed a petition for a re-hearing. The Circuit Court of Appeals has not acted on this petition for re-hearing but it will probably, according to Mr. Rosenwald, deny the petition. If this is done a petition for certiorari will be filed in the Supreme Court. This will probably take until sometime in May in view of the fact that the government will also be allowed to file an answer. Therefore, the case will probably not reach the Supreme Court docket until sometime in June. This will probably result in the case not being acted upon until the October term of court.

According to Rosenwald, Harris and the other defendants will use every means possible to appeal this case.

Respectfully,

A. ROSEN

RECORDED: INDEXED
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Norvin Harris was indicted at New Orleans, Louisiana on August 21, 1939 on a charge of mail fraud. This was in connection with the general investigation conducted in Louisiana by the Criminal Division. The Bureau of course conducted no investigation of the case. The matter is presently in the hands of Mr. Rosenwald in the criminal division of the Department.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

Please find out from Rosenwald what the legal status is. I understand Harris is trying to get an appeal to U.S. Supreme Court.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New Orleans, La.
Feb. 27, 1941.

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

Re: ABRAHAM L. SHUSHAN; et al.;
MAIL FRAUD.

Dear Sir:

The following will confirm the telephone conversation had
with Inspector AL ROSEN on February 18, 1941, at which time he requested
that this office obtain from the docket of the Mail Fraud case the sen-
tences of ABRAHAM L. SHUSHAN, ROBERT J. NEWMAN, NORVIN TREN'T HARRIS, JR.,
H. W. WAGUESPACK and HENRY J. MILLER.

Please be advised that Special Agent W. O. SCOTT of this off-

cice checked the appropriate docket in the office of the U. S. District
Court at New Orleans, and ascertained that on December 22, 1939, the five
defendants mentioned above were found guilty of mail fraud as charged in
the indictment returned against them, and were found not guilty on count
four of said indictment. A true bill was returned against the five defen-
dants on October 17, 1939. On December 27, 1939, the five defendants
filed motion for a new trial. On January 2, 1940, an order was entered
over-ruling the motion for new trial, and on January 2, 1940, the five de-
defendants were sentenced on count one of the indictment to serve thirty
months in a Federal Penitentiary and pay a fine of $1,000, and on count
eight of the indictment to serve a sentence of thirty months in a Federal
Penitentiary, which was to run concurrently with the sentence on count one,
and to pay an additional fine of $1,000. This makes a total of thirty
months in a Federal Penitentiary, plus a $2,000 fine.

On January 2, 1940, the defendants filed notices of appeal
and on January 18, 1941, the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Cir-
cuit confirmed the conviction of the five defendants. On February 6,
1941, HENRY J. MILLER filed a petition for a re-hearing of the appeal and
on February 7, 1941, NORVIN TREN'T HARRIS, JR., filed a petition for a re-
hearing; and on February 8, 1941, H. W. WAGUESPACK, ROBERT J. NEWMAN and
ABRAHAM L. SHUSHAN filed petitions for a re-hearing. No ruling has been
made with respect to the petitions filed as indicated herein.

After obtaining this information it was telephonically
conveyed to Inspector ROSEN.

Very truly yours,

A. C. Rutzen,
Special Agent in Charge.
December 16, 1940

Mr. Frank J. Wilson
Chief
Secret Service Division
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wilson:

There are transmitted herewith copies of a communication dated December 3, 1940, received by this Bureau from Honorable Allen J. Ellender, United States Senate, Washington, D.C., together with copies of the enclosure mentioned therein.

It appears that this communication does not relate to any matter coming within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau but may be of some interest to you.

Senator Ellender has been advised of this reference.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (No copies of encl. ret. in Bu. file)
December 10, 1940

Honorable Allen J. Ellender
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator:

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 8, 1940, together with the letter dated November 29, 1940, received by you from Mr. Jack Gordon of the New Orleans Cigarette Service Corporation.

The subject matter of Mr. Gordon's communication concerning the use of slugs in cigarette vending machines does not constitute a violation of any Federal statute within this Bureau's jurisdiction.

However, it is believed the information may be of interest to the Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department which has investigative jurisdiction over counterfeiting violations and under the circumstances, I have taken the liberty of forwarding copies of your letter and its enclosure to Mr. Frank J. Wilson, Chief, Secret Service Division, Treasury Department, Washington, D.C.

For your information, this Bureau has recently received several complaints concerning...
the use of slugs in vending machines and has been advised by the Secret Service Division that due to the fact these slugs contain an outline of Monticello which now appears on the new five-cent piece, they were very much interested in developing information concerning this particular slug.

In accordance with your request, Mr. Gordon's letter is being returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure
December 3, 1940

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am enclosing a self-explanatory letter which I have received from Mr. Jack Gordon, owner of the New Orleans Cigarette Service Corporation.

Will you kindly give careful consideration to the matter outlined in Mr. Gordon's letter and let me have the benefit of your advice in replying to him?

With kind regards and thanking you for your prompt attention to this case, I am

Sincerely yours,

Allen J. Hellemson

Enclosure
December 16, 1940

Mr. Frank J. Wilson
Chief
Secret Service Division
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wilson:

There are transmitted herewith copies of a communication dated December 8, 1940, received by this Bureau from Honorable F. Edward Hebert, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., with copies of the enclosure mentioned therein.

It appears that this communication does not relate to any matter coming within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau but may be of some interest to you.

Congressman Hebert has been advised of this reference.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

[Enclosures (no copies of incl. ret.in Bu. file)]
Honorable F. Edward Hébert
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 9, 1940, together with the letter dated November 29, 1940, received by you from Mr. Jack Gordon of the New Orleans Cigarette Service Corporation.

The subject matter of Mr. Gordon's communication concerning the use of slugs in cigarette vending machines does not constitute a violation of any Federal Statute within this Bureau's jurisdiction.

However, it is believed that the information may be of interest to the Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department which has investigative jurisdiction over counterfeiting violations and under the circumstances, I have taken the liberty of forwarding copies of your letter and the enclosure to Mr. Frank J. Wilson, Chief, Secret Service Division, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

For your information, this Bureau has recently received several complaints concerning the use of slugs in vending machines and has been advised by the Secret Service Division that due to...
the fact these slugs contain an outline of Monticello which now appears on the new five-cent piece, they were very much interested in developing information concerning this particular slug.

For the completion of your records, I am returning herewith the copy of Mr. Gordon's letter.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure
December 3, 1940.

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I do not know whether or not the use of slugs instead of United States coins in legal vending machines comes under your jurisdiction, but I am referring a complaint from a constituent of mine in this connection to you, and ask that you direct it into the proper channel.

I am enclosing a copy of his letter, which I received today, and thank you for any courtesy extended in connection with it. The letter is self-explanatory.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

F. Edward Hebert

[Postmark: 12-16-40]
New Orleans, La.
October 28, 1940

United States Dept. Of Justice
Washington, D. C.

J. Edgar Hoover-Chief Of Investigation

Dear Sirs:

It is my belief that there should be an investigation into the affairs of the city of New Orleans.

100,000 of the citizens in this community never work and are always got money and ride around in late model automobiles, yet are supposed to be poor people.

Most certainly these people are not living by such standards as the low income of WPA relief and Social Security provides.

As a matter of fact thousands of these people are not eligible for relief or social security.

The proof of the situation is plain as day and there should be an investigation immediately to ascertain where the money is coming from that the city of New Orleans is paying these people with.

Either this is Federal Money diverted from bonified appropriations for other purposes or it is tax money that is not supposed to be used for this purpose.

Which ever way they divert this money is not quite certain to the layman's mind but an investigation should be made in order to find out if these citizens are violating Federal laws in receiving incomes from the city without working for them.

I am under the impression that thousands of cases of income tax invasions may be in evidence as well as other violations too numerous to mention.

Hoping you will conduct this investigation secretly I am yours for an honest government.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-32101-31

AN AMERICAN CITIZEN
J. Edgar Hoover
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
October 15, 1940

Mr. Howard L. Holmes
2020 Bay Road
Saginaw, Michigan

Dear Mr. Holmes:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 28, 1940, and its enclosures.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted by Congressional enactment to the investigation of alleged violations of certain specified Federal Statutes and to the collecting of evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. The activities of this Bureau are limited by this jurisdiction.

This is to advise that after a careful review of the contents of your communication, it does not appear that the subject matter contained therein relates to any violation coming within the scope of this Bureau's jurisdiction.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc Detroit
YOUR TASK AND MINE

TO SAVE AMERICA BY THE GOLDEN RULE
UNIVERSALLY APPLIED

HOWARD L. HOLMES, SALESMAN

ST. LOUIS, MICHIGAN  September 28th, 1940

Present address - 2620 Bay Road, Saginaw, Mich

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Supt. Federal Bureau Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Reading the story of Agatha Christie in the current numbers of COLLIER'S WEEKLY, "The Patriotic Murder" brings to mind the peculiar circumstances of the assassination of Huey Long, together with one previous attempt and the fact that there was a well known conspiracy in Washington among certain administration leaders, violently opposed to Long and to his further continuance in public affairs.

I have often wondered just why this assassination was never investigated. Why the conspiracy against Long were never questioned. Why the only periodical which opened up some of the facts at that time was immediately debarred from all news-stands in the U.S.A, and immediately found itself in such serious financial difficulty that it had to cease publication.

There have been several other deaths during the past few years which have evidently been very much to the advantage of the present dictatorial administration. Just why the peculiar circumstances has never been made public.

Doubtless you could not give out information to a private individual concerning the matters under discussion but could you tell us whether the activities of your department depends upon orders from administration heads or whether you can act upon your own initiative?

I am well aware of the seriousness of these implications but I have considerable faith in the loyalty and thoroughness of the FBI and as a native citizen above my three score and ten in years, I feel that America and all the world are now entitled to know the FACTS.

Thanking you for considerate attention, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Howard L. Holmes

Howard L. Holmes (H)

RECORDED & INDEXED
Which every American citizen should be proud to know, but tells the world:

1. How can a President fail to honor his inaugural OATH?
   Ans.: By permitting officials of the government, state or national, to violate the United States Constitution.

2. What should be the penalty? Impeachment by Congress.

3. If the Federal Reserve Bank is operating contrary to the Constitution, and has been for twenty-six years, who is responsible? The President and Congress.

4. What event of the Buchanan administration parallels the recent arrest of the "Chief Front"? John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry. (Study carefully)

5. If John Brown deserved death by a firing squad for treason, why do we still sing: "John Brown's body lies a moldering in the grave, but his soul goes marching on"?

6. What governor of New York led his legislature to nullify a portion of the United States Constitution? Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the 15th Amendment.

7. What President permitted this violation of the Constitution, and the eight others who followed suit? Herbert Clarke Hoover.

8. What was Andrew Jackson's reaction to such a state nullification?
   He sent a regiment of U.S. Troops (The Brooklyn Reserves) to South Carolina and at four o'clock the next morning the officials and the legislature were called out of their beds to their front porch to renew their OATH of allegiance to the Constitution and the government of the U.S.A. or go as prisoners to Fortress Monroe. (The nullification was immediately rescinded.)

9. Are the average citizens of the United States today, intelligent enough to know when the Constitution is being violated? (Apparently the politicians think not.)

10. Are men who nominate themselves, "announce their own candidacy," public spirited men of character and ability? Or are they merely self-seekers, who frequently lack both character and ability?

11. Who is responsible for the election of our public officials and our Congressmen? The average citizen.

12. As the Roosevelt administration still employs Communists and both men and women of the subversive type who scheme to overthrow American traditions and the American form of government, what does the Dies Committee amount to? Merely a "false front" to deceive the common people.

13. What is the greatest need of America today? Men of character who will honor their own OATH.

By Howard L. Holmes of Michigan
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Congressman Newt V. Mills of Louisiana called relative to the political situation in Louisiana. He stated he noticed an article in a New Orleans paper concerning the indictment of Commissioners in Ward 11, Precinct 1, he presumed by the Federal Grand Jury, on mail fraud charges. He furnished me some political background which, in substance, indicated that he was responsible for the clearing up of the graft in Louisiana and that he was the man behind the scenes and that he had never mentioned this to anyone else.

He was interested in knowing whether the Bureau had conducted any investigation of alleged election violations as a result of certain ballot thefts and irregularities in the Primary. I advised him that I did not know but that it would be appropriate to ask the office of the Attorney General what action was being taken as any request would necessarily arise from the office of the Attorney General. He was advised to communicate with Mr. Carusi in the Attorney General's Office who would be in a position to handle the matter for him.

Respectfully,

A. ROSEN

6 SEP 30 1940

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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**SUPERVISORS**

**Notes:**

- Miss Gandy  
  - Bring file up to date
- Mr. Gauthier  
  - Send File
- Miss Stalcup  
  - Correct
- Mr. Albaugh  
  - Call me regarding this
- Mr. Bryant  
  - Note and Return
- Mrs. Irwin  
  - Search, serialize and route
- Mrs. Woolf  
  - Stenographers 5724
- Typists - 5716  
  - Stenographers 1509
- Typists - 5724  
  - Stenographers 1503
- Stenographers 5706  
  - Prepare ticker for
- Stenographers 5261  
  - Call these files
- See Me  
  - Stamp and mail

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E. A. TAMM - 5734
1938
Nominee for Governor

HOWARD L. HOLMES
State Chairman
Square Deal Party and
Michigan McGuffey Federation
National Committeeman
Died American Federation Committee

St. Louis, Michigan
When Was Mr. Reyer Named as Legal Advisor to Mayor? Schools and Pinballs

THOUSANDS OF NEW ORLEANS children and young folks are entering the public and parochial schools today.

There, they will be taught the things that should aid them in meeting the problems of life and in better equipping them, not only to help themselves but their country.

There, they should be taught Americanism, should be instructed in what the blessings of freedom and liberty stand for, and how to preserve these heritages, bought with the sweat and the blood and the courage of the founders of America.

On the way to these schools, however, they will pass hundreds of places where Americanism is not taught, where Americanism does not make its home.

Because the superintendent of police is either afraid to act or has been told not to act, pinball machines, the lowest form of gambling because it takes the nickels and the dimes of the young as well as the old, beckon to nearly every pupil on his or her way to school. Why should temptation be placed in the path of our young people? Why should vicious devices, cheating machines, be placed in their way to snatch their nickels?

The city administration seems to think that these machines are games of skill. Some of our courts have indeed also leaned toward that view. Do we want to teach our children this kind of skill? Do we want to teach them how to gamble for nickels instead of teaching them the saner and better lessons of life?

Mayor Robert Maestri has said: "If pin balls are illegal, action is up to Superintendent Reyer."

When was Mr. Reyer named to be the legal arbiter of New Orleans? Does Mr. Maestri refer all of his legal problems to the chief of police? From what law school did Mr. Reyer graduate? How long has he practiced law? Has he ever occupied the judicial bench? We think not. Then why should Mr. Maestri refer legal questions to a man who is supposed to catch crooks?

An able assistant attorney-general of Louisiana has declared that pinballs are illegal. Does Mr. Maestri place Mr. Reyer's opinion above that of a man trained in the law, versed in the law?

Why doesn't Mayor Maestri place the responsibility squarely where it belongs? Why doesn't he ask his city attorney or some high legal authority as to the legality or illegality of pinball machines?

As a matter of plain fact, it doesn't take one versed in legal lore to know that these crooked pinball machines are gambling devices. All Mayor Maestri has to do is to gather up five or six City Hall employees and send them out with a pocket full of nickels, let them go to places where they are not known, and there play these machines. Their report will show him that the pinball machines now infesting New Orleans are gambling machines.

Mayor Maestri might also ask hundreds of school children who play these machines whether or not they are gambling machines. They will give him the answer, and none of them are yet practicing attorneys or judges.

No, Mr. Mayor, let's stop this snatching of nickels from children.

Why are these machines necessary? Who owns them, and why are they allowed immunity from molestation by the police.
New York, N.Y.
July 2, 1940

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, La.

RE: WILLIAM HELIS

Dear Sir:

It is my recollection during the several federal investigations we had in New Orleans about a year ago that the name of William Helis, a prominent Greek oil man in New Orleans, entered into the picture. As I recall it, he was either indicted subsequently or was wanted for questioning by either the state or federal government in connection with oil lease transactions in the state. However, before he could be located for questioning, Helis fled to Greece.

I today received information from a confidential source here in New York to the effect that Helis has just arrived in New York from Greece and is now supposed to be stopping at the St. Moritz Hotel in New York City.

I am passing this information on to you in the event your office is trying to locate this individual, and if not, you may consider the advisability of furnishing the information to any local authorities interested in his present whereabouts.

Very truly yours,

B. E. SACKETT
Special Agent in Charge.
March 7, 1940

3:45 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAME

Mr. Don C. Miller, of 444 - 3rd Avenue, East Kalispell, Montana, was referred from your office to me for interview. Mr. Miller related that he is a truck driver by occupation, and that he is presently on a tour of the United States.

During the first part of February he related he was at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and at that time stopped at the grave of the late Huey Long, located in the State Capitol in that city. The guide, in pointing out spots of interest about the Capitol, described the death of Long, according to Mr. Miller, and advised that 14 people were connected with the plot to kill Long. He related that the conspirators had been led by President Roosevelt, and advised that Roosevelt was in Baton Rouge at the time of the death of Long.

Mr. Miller related that this guide is an old man with a black beard, and he thought that because of the derogatory statements made concerning the President, the Federal Bureau of Investigation should be apprised of the remarks of this guide. I thanked Mr. Miller for the interest which prompted him to furnish the above information to us.

Respectfully,

A. C. Hayden

A. C. Hayden
March 9, 1940

Mr. James B. Crowe
Editor
The New Orleans States
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Crowe:

I have just read your editorial entitled "Crime by the Clock," which was published in the February 21, 1940, issue of the New Orleans States, concerning the crime conditions in this country during 1939.

I feel that an editorial of this nature assists in bringing to the average citizen the realization that crime constitutes a problem which can be solved only by his wholehearted cooperation and that it is not a problem alone for his law enforcement organizations. I was particularly pleased to note your observations that the prime consideration in the incarceration of any criminal should be protection of the public and not his personal comforts.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

RECORDED & INDEXED

COMUNICATION: NEW ORLEANS

3 MAR 10 1940

cc - New Orleans
Crime by the Clock

DURING 1939 a major crime occurred every 21 seconds, says a report recently issued by J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the FBI, and sent us by A. P. Kitchin, special agent in charge of the New Orleans office.

This is an appallingly short interval between felonies. Since any serious act of lawlessness cannot be fully perpetrated in 21 ticks of a grandfather's clock, it means that crime is a continuous process, never ending, never a break in violence in those United States. Three crimes every minute, reaching the yearly grand total of 1,484,554 violations calling for prison sentences, as given by Mr. Hoover. No wonder the business of constructing penitentiaries and other institutions for the incarceration of criminals is having something of a boom all over the nation.

Mr. Hoover's striking illustration of the prevalence of crime goes on: A larceny was committed every 36 seconds, a burglary every 1 2-3 minutes, on the average an auto was stolen every 3 minutes, a citizen was robbed every 9 minutes, and a felonious homicide occurred every 44 minutes.

The grand total of criminal homicides, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and auto thefts for 1939 was 40,742 greater than for 1938, an increase of 3.5 per cent. Mr. Hoover did not figure out the number of political crimes in Louisiana—

When crime grows so fast in the freest, happiest and most prosperous country on earth, what can be the reason? Maybe we have too much freedom, maybe not enough. Perhaps there is too much pampering of prisoners, what with radios in prison cells and the inmates playing football and baseball and having movies and musical concerts and plays, and enjoying good fare and easy "working" hours, and in the end getting the nod from parole boards when only fractions of their terms have been served.

It strikes us that one of the purposes of incarceration, besides keeping the wrongdoer locked away for society's safety, is to deprive him of some of those comforts, luxuries and conveniences of the outer world which law-abiding citizens may enjoy, and which they have not forfeited their right to obtain. Life is a lot harder for millions of poor folk who are obedient to all laws, than it is for the average termer in a prison.

One reasonable conclusion is that crime goes up as the quality of government goes down. It is the old story of the alliance of crooked politics with the criminal world. Louisiana people know the reason for a lot of crime which has been bared in this state in the past year. Bad government undermines public morality, breeds contempt for law, and multiplies the "aw, what's the use?" cynics even among the so-called good people in the community or state.
Heads expected to fall in Long defeat reprisals

By HARNETT T. KANE
(Of The Item-Tribune Staff)

BATON ROUGE, March 3.—Many a head will roll this week in Louisiana's political dust, said the informed in both Long and Jones circles today, as a result of the wholesale desertion of Earl Long by former wheathorses Saturday.

Eminentos once unquestioned in their machine adherence popped up on the Jones side, their proxies in Jones men's hands, when the old and new Democratic central committees nominated James A. Gremillion, Crowley, as the party entry on the April election ballots.

Vengeance is expected to be swift, with jobholders who figured in the voting, their relatives and partisans expected to feel the ax. But a check today showed that in many instances, Long was powerless to take punitive action against the fence-jumpers in his final days in office.

NOT RECORDED
Angola Warden Marked

Louis Jones, warden of Angola state penitentiary who was named by Richard W. Leche, was a leading figure reported in a position to feel Long's wrath. In the old committee's first voting on the subject, Warden Jones gave his proxy to the Long side, but on Saturday it was cast by Fred S. LeBlanc, East Baton Rouge Jones man.

Theodore S. Landry of Jefferson parish, general manager of the penitentiary, also switched from Long to Jones, after showing up in the Long column the first time. But Mr. Landry is protected in his job, having been confirmed by the Senate for the rest of the present administration term.

More dramatic than either shift was that of Harvey Pettier, Thibodaux oil man, who was Long's running mate for lieutenant-governor in the first and second primaries. Before Pettier gave his proxy to the Jones forces, he is said to have taken part in a hot exchange of sentiments with his former chief. Pettier is a member of the Senate, and Long could take no action against him, but it is thought that

Dr. J. A. O'Hara, president of the machine that Hucy Long created and head of the state health board, switched like the others. His term, by law, is to run through August of this year. Hucy found trouble in his efforts to snag this job in his early days. Dr. O'Hara is expected to hang on, though his former chief may clip away at some of his political prerogatives in the two months before Earl steps down.

Oddly, Earl will find his hands tied in any reprisal against one group who turned against him. These are the parish sheriffs. They put through a law giving his dictatorship control over sheriff's aides. But Earl, just after the first primary, called his "rule bals" special session, and repealed that law in the hope of assuring him victory in the second primary. Among sheriffs who went from Long to Jones Saturday were William Dohle of St. John, E. C. Coleman of Tensas, Frank M. Edwards of Amite, Thomas Slack of Lafourche and others.
"Blood Bath" Languishes

Immediately after the previous meeting of the "old" committee, the machine struck at three who had gone over to Jones, or were related to a member who did. Colonel Henry Rougemont, Pointe Coupee, was fired from a state police job he had held for 13 years, and two aides of the state revenue department were discharged in North Louisiana.

This week in Baton Rouge is expected to see, too, the "blood bath" of general state workers, at Earl's orders, that has been imminent for some time. Many are to go for suspicion of knifing, for remarks made in Jones' favor, for reasons of spite, and, in some cases, for economy. The latter unusual reason for letting machine workers go is explained as follows. The machine borrowed hundreds of thousands to give jobs in the second primary, from individuals and banks. Now the money must be repaid.

The capital was a more or less deserted political village today. Earl Long drove off Saturday night to an unannounced destination, believed to be his home at Winnfield. Sam Jones started on his long-planned vacation, spending the weekend in Lake Charles. Only the fear of imminent firings kept the political candlepin burning.

Long Suits Hearing

March 11 will see a hearing on Earl Long's suit to restrain the secretary of state from placing the name of Grewillon on the ballot for secretary of state. Judge J. W. Womack signed the order Saturday night, after Long appeared in person to obtain it. The suit attacked the legality of the reversal of the previous nomination of Long.

General Manager Landry declined comment of any kind last night on questions regarding reports that Warden Jones was being fired at the state prison farm. Warden Jones was reported at the farm as being "on the road." Dock board officials said they knew nothing of any discharge of Attorney Morgan.
SENATOR PEPPER TOLD THE SENATE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT "HAS NO BUSINESS" INTERFERING WITH STATE ELECTIONS.

OPENING THE FIFTH DAY OF DEBATE ON THE PROPOSAL BY SENATOR HATCH TO EXTEND HIS "CLEAN POLITICS" ACT TO THE STATE EMPLOYEES PAID IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITH FEDERAL FUNDS, PEPPER CRITICIZED JOHN ROGGE, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO CONDUCTED INVESTIGATIONS IN LOUISIANA LATE IN 1939 AND EARLY THIS YEAR.

READING NEW ORLEANS NEWSPAPER HEADLINES TELLING OF ROGGE'S ACTIVITIES IN A "VOTE FRAUD" INQUIRY, PEPPER ASKED THE SENATE:

"DO WE ADMIT TO THE WORLD THAT DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA HAS SO BROKEN DOWN THAT A SOVEREIGN STATE CAN'T CONDUCT ITS OWN ELECTION?"

"IT'S NONE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS WHAT KIND OF LOCAL OFFICIALS A SOVEREIGN STATE CHOOSES TO ELECT."

HATCH HOPED TO GET A VOTE ON HIS MEASURE LATE TODAY, BUT SAID HE FEARED THAT SENATORS OPPOSED TO IT MAY USE DELAYING TACTICS TO FORCE IT TO BE PASSED OVER UNTIL NEXT WEEK, WHEN IT WOULD HAVE TO BE LAID ASIDE IN FAVOR OF THE RECIPROCAL TRADE AND FARM APPROPRIATION BILLS.

ADD HATCH ACT, SENATE

PEPPER TERMED ROGGE "A MODERN POLITICAL KNIGHT" SENT TO LOUISIANA BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE "TO SEE TO IT THAT DEMOCRACY OPERATES IN LOUISIANA THE WAY HE WANTS IT TO OPERATE."

HE ACCUSED THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR OF "CRACKING THE WHIP" OVER LOCAL LOUISIANA AUTHORITIES "AND THREATENING THEM WITH PROSECUTION."

PEPPER SAID THAT ONE HEADLINE, APPEARING FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE RUN-OFF GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY, SAID "ROGGE TURNS ON HEAT."

"WHAT KIND OF HEAT, SENATORS?" HE ASKED. "THIS MODERN POLITICAL KNIGHT SAFEGUARDING HIS CONCEPTION OF DEMOCRACY "TURNS ON THE HEAT" FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE SECOND PRIMARY. IS THAT A PROPER SPHERE OF FEDERAL ACTIVITY?"
MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL DOUG

March 8, 1940

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter dated February 27, 1940, received in this Bureau from the New Orleans, Louisiana, Field Division, in which there are quoted two anonymous letters addressed to you concerning a complaint against Ernest A. Carrere's Sons and other matters.

No investigation is being conducted by this Bureau in reference to the subject matter of these letters and they are being referred to you for any action you deem appropriate.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana,
February 27, 1940

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

Dear Sir:

This office is in receipt of copies of letters which were forwarded to this office by the office of the United States Attorney at New Orleans, Louisiana, the letters being quoted as follows:

"New Orleans, La.
December 26, 1939

Mr. O. John Rogge,
U. S. District Attorney's Office,
New Orleans, La.

Dear Sir:

Your attention is directed to a matter worth investigating either by your Department or the F.B.I. and that is the method of handling the purchase of the sites for the Slum Clearance projects in New Orleans.

It is commonly thought that the commissions obtained were divided with one of the higher officials in the City Hall, and no doubt this information could be traced by the Internal Revenue Department.

The firm who handled these real estate transactions is Ernest A. Carrere's Sons, and one of the members of this firm told a party that he had divided his commissions with someone who would be designated as a 'Top Official'.

The records of Ernest A. Carrere's Sons should show to whom this commission was paid. This runs into a vast sum of money.

AN INTERESTED OUTSIDER"

"New Orleans
February 27, 1940

Mr. O. John Rogge

Dear Sir:

How is it that the housing authorities demolished so many good houses Mayor Maestri stated that he wanted to clean the slums

U. S. Department of Justice

Two
To the Director, 2/27/40.

up where the slums are they are leaving you take your au-
tomobile drive out Josepohine Street from Saint Thomas to the river
half rotten delabitated houses ought to be demolished 10 years
ago occupied by the lowest class of negroses drive out Adele
Street from Saint Thomas to the river you will see the same
thing drive out Saint Andrew from Saint Thomas to the river you
will see the same thing drive out Saint Mary St. from Saint Thomas
to the river you will really see for yourself that every word that
I am saying is true.

I think it would be a good idea to investigate the Public Service
on their light and gas bills they state that if you pay before a
certain date they deduct so much off your bill lots of people
say they dont deduct 5 cts off but if you wait a day or two
after the time stated on you bill they charge you so much more
The Public Service owns the City they can do what they want with
the people any time they want to discontinue a car line all they
do is they put on add in the paper that after a named date that
car line will be discontinued every time they take car line off
look the amount of men they put out of work 4 men to every car
2 regular men an 2 relievers they discontinued the Prytania St
car line no bus discontinued the Coliseum St car line no bus 4
men out of work on every car discontinued the Henry Clay car 4 men
out of work no bus discontinued the Peters Ave car 4 men out of
work now named Jefferson Ave 4 men out of work bus runs there
discontinued the Tchoupitoulas car 4 men out of work bus run there
the levee an Barracks car The Explanade Ave car bus runs there
discontinued several other car lines take all the car lines that
the Public Service discontinued 4 men to every car 2 regular and
2 relievers look the amount of men put out of work look the amount
of money they save During the World War some 20 years ago The
Public Service raised the car fare to 7 cts they never reduced
the car fare to 5 cts the price before the war. Everything else
after the war had to come down all mechanics and labors wages
had to be reduced The Federal Government ought to make them re-
duce the car fare to 5 cts mate they keep two setts of books if
they say it dont pay to run the buses and the few car lines for
5 cts fare let them sell out the Public Service is nothing but a
trust a monopoly no other Co can operate here I thought the housing
business was a Federal Government proposition. What right has
Mayor MAESTRIR and the housing authorities to allow Mr. CARRERE the
real estate agents to make the people who sold their property to
the Federal Government make them pay 4% of the price they got from
the Federal Governments for their property I guess 20% went to Mr.
CARRERE and 2% went to MAESTRIE and his gang. You think any body
To the Director, 2/27/40

... got any graft furnishing material for the housing business. The Federal Government had a law passed that no place of business can work their employees more than 40 hours a week. Right here in New Orleans at the Post Office in the mail department they work the men all the year around 12-14 and 16 hours a day. The WPA is a political machine. Mrs. WIGGINS who has charge of the WPA Station at Carrollton Ave and Appel St her husband is a money broker. I guess she has political influence. Mrs. WIGGINS who has charge of the WPA Station at St. Charles and Lafayette opposite the City Hall her husband has a job in the City Hall why cant they give those two jobs to some one that is more in need. A man by the name of CARTER who lives at 2125 Annunciation St he works in the office of the WPA he gets $70.00 a month from the Federal Government his wife owns the double house they live in they live on one side the other half of the house 2127 Annunciation St they have rented for $22.50 a month. You think those people needs help. Mrs. CARTER is an Italian I guess she has she has influence through MAESTRI why cant they give that job to some man that is more in need of work. Some time ago JAMES H. MORRISON of Hammond, La. had published in Hammond stating that MAESTRI was paid by the slot machine people and gamblers to allow all kinds of gambling and slots machine to operate in New Orleans. Mr. MORRISON also stated in the paper that MAESTRI was in Co with the biggest crooks, gamblers and racketeers in New York it must be true that MAESTRI never denied it why is it that MAESTRI doesn't want the Conservation book to be examine by the committee of the 100 citizen league because to much underhand business will come to light more money taken illegal than in the Levee Board MAESTRI does not want the crocket work exposed if every thing was kept strait he would allow the books to be examine.

I think EARL LONGB and his gang will have all the ballots boxes stuffed before the election with fake ballots. A lady told me that any persons wants to rent any of those new houses that the Housing Authority are building in the St. Thomas Project will have to go to the Catholic Priest are the Catholic Priest appointed by the Federal Government to collect rents MAESTRI doing.

If you will read your meter and compare it with you bill you will see they dont take any thing off.

------

A perusal of the letters will indicate that they refer primarily to some slum clearance in New Orleans which is being handled by the Federal Housing Authority. It is suggested that the Bureau may desire to transmit this information to the Federal Housing Authority in Washington, D. C.

Very truly yours,

A. F. KITCHIN, Special Agent in Charge
Clarion 2nd St., St. Paul, Minn.

200 Per Day

By Order, (Signature)

May 29, 1890

Jno. B. D.

[Handwritten note: 310]
February 2, 1949

Mr. W. L. Atwood
Post Office Box 59
Cooke Creek, Texas

Dear Mr. Atwood:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated January 17, 1949, relative to political irregularities in and around Alexandria, Louisiana.

I wish to advise that the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau is limited by Congressional enactment to the investigation of specific Federal statutes. I have perused the contents of your letter and have failed to note therein a violation within that jurisdiction and I am therefore unable to be of assistance to you in this matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC - New Orleans (with copy of incoming letter)
PO Box 55,
Goose Creek, Texas
January 17, 1940.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
F.B.I.,
Washington.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Several months ago I wrote you regarding certain political irregularities in and around Alexandria, Louisiana. I never heard anything from you but inasmuch as a Grand Jury investigated conditions there and indicted a number of people, someone evidently got busy.

Among those indicted in that Parish is an Aunt of Mine Mrs. Lou Lee Teekel. She had been deadheading on the State payroll for several years. This Aunt is somewhere in the neighborhood of sixty years of age and her first marriage took place something like two years ago. Her father, (my grandfather) was a Confederate veteran and died in 1914. The last few years of his life he was rather feeble and this Aunt worked to take care of the family. She cared for my grandmother after my grandfather's death. Her brother, George W. Lee, now deceased, might correctly be termed a political sycophant, as he seemed to have little scruples about fraud, or even outright theft. His income through these questionable transactions amounted to more than $1,000.00 a month but from this income he took care of four women besides his own wife and children. He and Earl Long, Governor of Louisiana, had a cattle business jointly and would buy poor cattle cheaply and then exchange these for fat cattle in State institutions near there.

Both Earl Long and my uncle assured this Aunt that she was committing no wrong. A brother of mine and my father heard Earl Long assure her that she would not be indicted by a grand jury. This was after Earl Long became Governor of Louisiana and she believed he had official authority to make such disposal of state funds if he so wished.

My Aunts, Lou Lee Teekel and Alice Lee are in a position to give you a lot of information about Earl Long's irregularities. If you could make some sort of deal that would benefit them in this indictment, they will open up and give a lot of information about the inside workings of that gang of crooks, including the murder of the late Huey P. Long.

Sincerely,

/s/ W. H. Atwood

JAN 22, 1940
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Mr. Crowder of the Tax Division phoned and stated the Department has an income tax case pending against six racketeers in New Orleans, and wanted to know whether the Bureau could furnish criminal records. He was advised that if names only were furnished the Bureau could furnish records of individuals believed to be the ones the Department wants, but it was suggested to him in the event he was able to furnish fingerprints, arrest records or Police Department numbers it would be far better.

Mr. Crowder stated he believed he could secure this information and would transmit the request to the Bureau for criminal records over the signature of Assistant Attorney General Clark.

Respectfully,

L. R. Pennington
January 10, 1940

Mr. George Bussung
Detective
Police Department
Quincy, Illinois

Dear Mr. Bussung:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of January 4th, advising me of the difficulties you encountered in endeavoring to extradite an individual wanted by your Department for passing a forged check.

Your thoughtfulness in furnishing this information is indeed appreciated and I assure you that it will be made a matter of record.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Glaesig
Mr. L. M.
Mr. Ober
Mr. L. M.
Mr. Glaven
Mr. Pasco
Mr. Lester
Mr. Henderson
Mr. McDonald
T. M.
C. E.
Mr. Quinlan
T. M. A.
Mr. Pess
[Signature]
CITY OF QUINCY

Leo W. Lenane, Mayor

Quincy, Illinois
January 16, 1937

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

A man by the name of Leslie Willis was recently arrested in Shreveport La. This man is also wanted in Quincy for passing a forged check. Shreveport notified us that they would hold Willis until we could send someone to pick him up.

I was selected to go to Shreveport to bring Willis back for prosecution. All the papers seemed to be in order, but the Governor Earl Long refused to sign. I asked him for a reason but he would give none. His only comment was: "the poor devil may have been hungry" and "I just don't want to sign the papers".

I talked to him for a long time in an effort to get him to change his mind, but to no avail. I showed him the long record of Willis which was supplied to us by the F.B.I. to let him know this was not the first time this man was in the hands of the law.

Feeling sure that you would be interested in a case of this sort is the only reason I am writing this letter.

Sincerely Yours:

George Hussong/s/
10th Session
National Police Academy
GUEYDAN, LOUISIANA. December 13th, 1939

FEDERAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I am wondering if it would be possible for your bureau to send to Vermilion Parish on the coming election day the 16th, day of January next, at least two men to survey the proceeding of the election and see that all parties are fairly treated. The Administration that is in power then, stole the election from the honest people four years ago and will do it again unless some one with authority is on the grounds to keep them straight. There is no doubt but that they will be on hands with lots of their "doduc" money and buy votes right and left as they did in the past. If you could do that and let it be know that these men are watching things, it would be the best thing you ever did for the honest people of the state of Louisiana.

Kindly let me hear from you with reference to this at once, and much obliged.

Very truly yours,

I. H. BOATNER,

[Signature]

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THOS. RASCOE, 1st V-PRESIDENT
J. BOY THIBIAUX, 2nd V-PRESIDENT
DR. G. L. GARDNER, 3rd V-PRESIDENT

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Liberty & Intelligence
LIONS CLUB
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Kindly let me hear from you with reference to this at
once, and much obliged,

Very truly yours,

I. H. BOATHER,

(Signed) I. H. BOATHER
Mr. I. H. Boatie
C/o Lion Club
Ouaydan, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Boatie:

Your letter of December 13, 1939, has been received in which you make known your views concerning conditions in your community.

You may be sure that I appreciate your writing to me and making your observations available to this Bureau. However, I must advise that the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is restricted by Congressional enactment to the investigation of violations of certain specified Federal Statutes. The contents of your letter do not indicate a violation within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau and consequently I regret that I am unable to be of assistance to you at this time.

In the event you do receive any additional information that might be of value, it is suggested that you communicate directly with Mr. A. P. Kitchin, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, 1308 Masonic Temple Building, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc: New Orleans (with copies inclosed letter)
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. PAIN

RE: ABE SHUSHAN, W.A.S., ET AL., MAIL FRAUD

Agent Dunker called from New Orleans and advised that Assistant U. S. Attorney Leon D. Hubert, Jr., informed him that an article appeared in the "New Orleans Item" to the effect that U. S. Attorney Rene A. Viozca had made the statement in court that Shushan had been convicted of giving a bribe, which statement was in fact untrue. The defense attorneys asked for a mistrial because of this, and the judge took a poll of the jurors to see if any of them had read the statement. The judge found that they had not read the story and therefore denied the motion. However, the judge advised that the paper should be placed in contempt for this.

The U. S. Attorney's Office requested that the New Orleans Office conduct an immediate investigation relative to the alleged contempt violation by the newspaper. Mr. Dunker stated that this case was investigated by the Post Office Department, and inquired whether we should decline to accept the case.

I advised Agent Dunker to point out to the U. S. Attorney the jurisdiction we have in the matter and tell him that we can take no action on it unless we get Departmental authority. I advised him to point out definitely that the case under trial was investigated by the Post Office Department, and for this reason it would be well to have them look into this matter.

Respectfully,

A. ROSEN

December 7, 1939

AR: LCJ

4:50 P.M.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAYLOR

RE: ABE SHUSHAN; et al.
MAIL FRAUD

SAC Kitchin called from New Orleans in connection with the above case which is presently being tried and which was investigated by the Post Office Inspectors and the Internal Revenue men entirely.

Assistant U. S. Attorney Herbert Christenberry has called Agent Dunker with advice that one George Whitaker, a former secret service agent who was fired for being drunk, is loitering around the court and that it is anticipated that Whitaker has been employed for the purpose of getting to the jury. Christenberry requested that the Bureau Agents place a surveillance on Whitaker.

Mr. Kitchin stated he would like authority to advise Christenberry that inasmuch as the substantive offense was investigated by the Post Office Inspectors and the Internal Revenue that they also should handle the surveillance. I told Kitchin it would be satisfactory to so advise Christenberry.

Mr. Kitchin stated that should the defendants be acquitted, he is sure the Bureau will be asked to investigate a tampering with the jury, as this has been intimated by Mr. Rogge ever since he has been in New Orleans.

Respectfully,

A. ROSEN

[Signature]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 7 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
December 1, 1939

2:25 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: ABE SHUSHAN, ET AL

SAC Kitchin called from New Orleans on another matter and advised that his office had been requested to conduct a surveillance of two men who have been rumored to be contacting jurors in an effort to "fix" the jury. Mr. Kitchin advised that he told the person who made the request that he would look into the background of the matter, but that he did not think a surveillance should be conducted at this time because of the possibility of jeopardizing the case with the jury.

I advised Mr. Kitchin that this is the proper way to handle the matter.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAYLOR
This letter read—
years ago— he may
be just crazy
but if I turn it over
to you in case he
may be watched
for violence. These
are dangerous days and Amer-
icans should be loyal to
Roosevelt and America—Mrs. Roussel

11/5/1
Mrs. J. S. Roussel,
President Women's Organization
of the Square Deal Ass'n of Louisiana.

My dear Mrs. Roussel:

Thank you for your letter of Feb. 8, 1926.

I am a little surprised to hear of Senator Long's taking away the rights of fine citizens down there, even since the newspapers stated substantially that the latest New Orleens primary elections were probably the most honest and peaceful in years (and in what is called hostile territory—New Orleans). However, it may be that the newspapers are too partial to Senator Long to tell the truth. Then, again the newspapers may not look upon the Negro to vote as you or I might. I was born in New Orleans and nevertheless subscribe to the principle that the Negro man and voter just as others, but you should admit that it is easy task to enforce Negro rights in the South and there is some reason for other races to worry over the possible trend of Negro vote. In this, I believe we should be fair to Senator Long—i do not believe you would contend that all Negroes are permitted to vote in our Southern States.

I believe you are right about Long's not having shared the wealth in Louisiana, as I understand he left Mrs. Hill Phelps Hammond's husband out in the cold and I intuitively believe that Senator Long did not give Hon. John P. Sullivan even a miserable cigar when the latter was in Washington supporting the appointment of an A-1 labor union man, Hon. Daniel D. Mooney. You are probably right that there will be no share-the-wealth as Messrs. Rockefeller, Morgan, Mellon, etc., know that money is the "root of all evils" and will not permit wealth to trickle down and wreck and corrupt our noble citizenship.

As you say, people do not need bodyguards when they do the right things in this world. Lincoln was a tyrant like Senator Long, but an outraged citizen, John Wilkes Booth, with those immortal words "Sic Semper Tyrannis" ended that tyranny despite all the guns and bodyguards at Lincoln's command. An outraged citizen or alien (Zangara, I think) tried to shoot President Roosevelt. Perhaps he foresaw that you would have to feed poor hungry men at your back door while Roosevelt got credit for "feeding the hungry," in which we can blame Senator Long as it was Long's damnable demagogic tyranny that won Roosevelt the Democratic nomination and final victory, more than any other internal cause. But it seems that the fight against this demagogic tyranny against the Standard Oil in your state will be carried on by patriotic men like John Wilkes Booth and altruists like Zangara, but I must decline to join your organization as I am afraid (a coward), afraid I have not the bravery and patriotism of Booth—afraid my good motives may be misunderstood and that I will be cast aside as just another gossack if you put me in jail with Capone who was thus disgracefully treated for his valiant fight against the tyrannical income tax law.

Yours truly,
The F. B. I.
Washington, D.C.