This document is made available through the declassification efforts and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages released by the U.S. Government & Military.

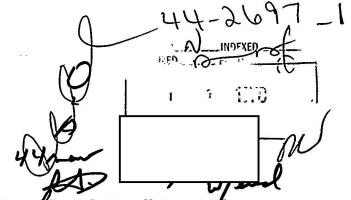
Discover the Truth at: http://www.theblackvault.com

	OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 JULY 1973 EDITION GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.8 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT Memorandum	Ò	-	
то :		DATE:	2/14/78	
FROM :	SUPERVISOR JAMES T. RUSSELL, STATE ATTORNEY, CLEARWAVER, FLORIDA SOME AND COMMUNA- 18 JUDY CARANNA VICTIM; Judy Communa- 18	C (nin)	RBAND	b6 b7С
SUBJECT:	JAMES T. RUSSELL, STATE ATTORNEY, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA JUDY CARANNAZ VICTIM; JUDY CARANNAZ VICTIM;	3-47-	12-3	
	(00:TP)		×	

On 2/14/78, two manila folders with a number of documents enclosed therein were received from victim, JUDY CARANNA. The material was received in an envelope addressed to SAC PHILIP A. McNIFF at the FBI, Tampa. Also received was a three-page letter from victim, JUDY CARANNA, in which she alleges that State Attorney RUSSELL is misusing his office and using victim. State Attorney RUSSELL is misusing his office and using victim. Case Agent should promptly

acknowledge receipt of victim, CARANNA's communications in writing, conduct appropriate review of enclosed material and promptly submit FD-365.

(2) RHD/bat (2)



b6 · b7С



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Ilan

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence FD-192 (Rev. 4-12-77)

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_ 2/16

Title and Charac	er of Case
J	MES T. RUSSELL STATE ATTY
. CL	WR., ELA.
5	MES T. RUSSELL, STATE ATTY. WR., ELA. DOY CARANINA-NICTIM
С	$\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{L})$
Date Property A	
. 2/14	78 VICTIM- JUDY CARANINA
Location of Prop	rty or Bulky Exhibit Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
BUL	(PRM, INVESTIGATIVE AID

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

(2) TWO MANILA FOLDERS WITH A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS ADORESSED TD: FBI SOD ZACK TAMPA, FLA, ATTN: PHILIP A, MENTFF [ng] OF DOCUMENTS ENGLOSED IN A LARGE ENVELOPE Sant to Bu. 2/28/78, D-FILE 1- BULKY - TICKLER

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

5		
	SEARCHEDINDEXED SERIALIZEDFILEDGH	
Field File # 44-2697-181	FEB 1.6. 1978	
00:	FBI-TAMPA	I/DOJ

LAB REPORT (Seric LATENT FINGERPR REPORT (Section X) CHAIN OF POSSESSION NAME NAME From: To: Time: Date: To: From: Time: Date: To: Time: From: Date: Time: To: Date: From: Time: To; Date: From: To: Time: From: 116 Date: Date: To: Time: From: To: Time: Date: From: То Time: Date: From: Wellic CDate: ATTN : PHILIPITING, From: To: FLQ. TAMPA ADDITIONAL AB FINDINGS OR CHAIN OF POSSESSION ADORESTED : CL FBI CISCIDINA LARGE ENVELOPE OK 14 6 DOCUMEN NUMBER DANILA MUHB FOLDERS 1 T VINESTIGATINE KW. O' H BULNI VICTIM - JUDY CARANIVA 2 78 id (c)CARAINIYA, VICTIM 00% am , STATE ATTY. RUSSELL JAMES . . .  $\sim$ 

Post Office Box 3301 Tampa, Florida 33601 February 17, 1978

Mrs. Judy Caranna Petrantoni

Dear Mrs. Petrantoni:

2

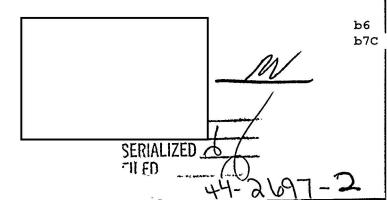
This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated February 9, 1978, and the two manila folders with a number of documents enclosed.

This matter will be reviewed and presented to the U. S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Washington, D. C., for their consideration.

Very truly yours,

PHILIP A. McNIFF Special Agent in Charge

1 - Addressee - Tampa (44-2697 M/bat



b6 b7С Tampa, Florida February 28, 1978

JAMES T. RUSSELL, STATE ATTORNEY, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA; JUDY GARANNA PETRANTONI -VICTIM: - VICTIM

On February 14, 1978, the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Tampa, Florida, received two manila folders with a number of documents enclosed therein, including a letter from Judy Caranna <sup>b6</sup> Petrantoni, dated February 9, 1978. The material was addressed <sup>b7C</sup> to FBI, 500 Zack Street, Tampa, Florida 33601, Attontion, Philip A. McNiff. and hore the return address of

and was postmarked February 12, 19/8, at Tampa, Florida.

The following is the letter received from Judy Carama Petrantoni:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

44-2697-3 SEARCH ...

h6

b7C

SEARCE D INDEVED SERVILIZED

TM:smw

Feb 9th 1978 Judy Laranna Petrantoni Federal Bureau of Onvestigation Re: In the Internet of is being abused by the State of Flordia used as a weapon to futher persecute ly the Pinellas Co. State Attorney's James'T. Kussell ( to futur somear and discredit his and my testimony) while a pending suit in Federal Court in Tumpa, before Judge Terell Hodges, over a period of a year turned over to to send to Anclosed is a package, which I request an investigation of James T. Russell's conduct, and mativations, for the abuse of power, documented, especially his relemtless percusation of in connection with Why where the fatte mot all completely brought out, as in the alledged who at the kribery of city, Commoner time he said he task a bribe from the Lo as in fact living with - to these with any some at all this shows a connection between and James Russell in the take over y a Allegations of are simply to cover-up for the which James Russell plays up to suther ruin our repartation, happyully to falsely imprusion us, drive up crazy, or to an act of

Ĩ

violance ( which would be helpful on the mean's in which they are useing their money and political clouth to steal ), because when our children are used, and taken, as a repult & dirty polities - the pressure is intense-because we live our very much, and when they, public officials bo crime of child aluse. I haven't been allowed in over two weeks, the office (I had to force that last time orde I had to bring it to the attention of and tha must have back into the he won't take my word for it so I had to cal room where he comperimed what I had told Any penews that, but how much time does an old woman of 50 years old with 4 children have to give The following Triday we weren't allowed to and toda from sai was At Dare him héa everytime promiser b7c I get to so him tomorrow. It hunts so much to knowhow is being phychologically abused everytime and a part of both 3 our spirit and heart dies, he must think allow them & I wond any more! - this must end. Judge Page ignorned all the good testimony while served in

ス

advance Jameso T. Russell put out the word he wanted this case won in our behalf, h. no mother what despite all had no grounds to base his decesion to The records and court transcript that should be public and open to the preas, are sealed in the Judges Chambers and our motion for reheaving denied. To this Amercia or Russia said he'd back us all the way and Denatur Don Chamberlin called Judge Page and told him he couldn't get away with the wont and what they did to me as I accused their is criminal, and a violation of my civil rights, just to protect their ami regaining on taking Comorrow from he will who is no longer be a publical presioner. I beg help from the F.B. I. and by taking [ 0'm making this a Federal case to expose the Judge Page. paint out the abuse of power, continued matricious persecution by 1070 James T. Russell. I count get quetice in this corrupt pliased county, and bro after spending a couple of days with Dwill call the F.B.I to come get us - and I pray James Russell descarit get to us first He is an animal. and it will be as great again. I have no money for a good lawyer, so I beg help from the public and the news media, to get the whole bo and stop letting truth, the facts, guve me justice. be abused for political reasons ! Tublic please help me Dim a 22 year old mother with 3 children at home - write do what you can but please demand that I get fustice and hot a protected! Judy Caranna Petrantioni

JAMES T. RUSSELL, STATE ATTORNEY, CLEARMATER, FLORIDA; HUNY CADAMMA DETDAMTONI = VICTIN; VICTIM CIVIL RIGHTS	2
One of the manila folders received contained numerous documents, newspaper clippings and information regarding a civil suit filed by Judy Ann Caranna regarding According to the documents, occurred on	ь6 . ь7С
The domenants contain compared to the	]
The documents contain several letters and other material wherein Petrantoni indicates she is unsatisfied with the by	Ъ6 Ь7С
Other miscellaneous documents are also included in this folder. The second monila folder received is labled. Sent by Sympathetic	<b>b</b> 6
It contains mmerous documents and letters includine bandwritten notes. Also included is a presumably setting forth the investigation conducted by	ЪС Ъ7С
Documents indicated on and that for the and Judy Caranna. Occurred on and as a result of Judy Caranna	Ъ6 <sup>^</sup> Ъ7С
and were married on	o6
and in his opinion. it showed an indication of faitch appeared on	57C

JAMES T. RUSSELL. STATE ATTORNEY. CLEARWATER, FLORIDA; HIDV CADANNA PETRANTONI - VICTIM; VICTIM CIVIL RIGHTS b6 b7C in his opinion within seven were taken looking dava of the date has proviously been ATen. **b**6 and noticed no such b7C Inasmich as the Clearwater Police Department was notified and pictures were taken. **b6** b7C Documents further reveal that two days prior to b6 b7C October 26, 1977, Judy Petrantoni was arrested for shoplifting. Also, in a petition filed by HRS before the Pinellas County Court System on November 4, 1977, it indicated that in the opinion of two psychiatrists, Judy Ann Carenna is suffering from acute schizophernia and is likely to injure herself or others. Also, documents reflect that on b6 b7C pending further investigation. On November 9, 1977, Judge Richard A. Miller ruled that Judy Petrantoni was not a danger to herself or others. On January 13, 1978, by court order of Judge Jace A. b6 b7c PAOP. pending further order of the court. were authorized for the Also. and Judy Caranna Petrantoni was to continue cousel with Appearing in "The Clearwater Sun," a local Clearwater newspaper, in the Thursday, February 16, 1978, edition, was an article by Lynne Perri, entitled, "Judy Petrantoni Arrested for Illegally Taking Son." This article included background

6 . 1 P . V .

## JAMES T. RUSSELL, STATE ATTORNEY, CLEARMATER, FLORIDA; JUDY CARANNA PETRANTONI - VICTIM; - VICTIM CIVIL RIGHTS

1 m

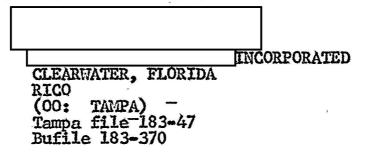
information regarding the case and also stated the following:

"Extradition hearings were expected to begin today for the return of Judy Caronna Petrantoni, a 22 year old city woman arrested Wednesday in Washington, D. C., and charged with illegally removing her son from a state foster home." b6 b7C

FD-365 (Rev. 11-27-	-74)	•
	FBI	
	Date: 2/28/78	
Transmit the follo	(Type in plaintext or code)	
ViaAIRTI	EL AIRMAIL (Precedence)	
To:	Director, FBI	
From:	SAC, TAMPA (44-2697) (C)	
Subject:	JAMES T. RUSSELL, STATE ATTORNEY, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA; JUDY CARANNA PETRANTONI, aka JUDY CARANNA PETRANTONI, aka JUDY CARANNA PETRANTONI, aka - VICTIM; - VICTIM - VICTIM	b6 b7С
	DAMV DAMV-FR CAA	
	EID Bomb Threats Extremist Matters	
	Summary of Complaint:	
	Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of a self-explanatory LHM. Also, enclosed for the Bureau are the documents (2 manila folders) provided by victim, PETRANTONI, which are to be forwarded to the U. S. Departmen of Justice, Civil Rights Division, for their consideration.	5
	Inasmuch as the documents are quite voluminous and some of which are of questionable quality and not conducive to copying, the Tampa Division is not copying the documents and the enclosures are the only copy of the documents received. INDICES:NegativeXSee Summary	
2 - Burea (1) - Temps		
(3)	Report being submitted Preliminary investigation instituted Limited investigation instituted Investigation continuing	ь6 ь7с
Approved: _	Special Agent in Charge Sent DD 3783 Per	

TP 44-2697

Files of the Tampa Office contain no pertinent information regarding However. the following information pertains to JUDY CARANNA PETRANTONI, who is mentioned in the letter received from the victim:



It is noted that a review of this file indicated that when JUDY CARANNA (now JUDY CARANNA PETRANTONI) was interviewed by Bureau Agents on June 18, 1976, at Mobile, Ala., she expressed a fear that due to her one time close relationship with during which time be confided in her the numerous activities he had in the she feels that if called to testify before the Grand Jury. she and her children should be protected against and his associates.

Inasmuch as this complaint does not involve an allegation of brutality, no further investigation is being conducted.

-2:--

b6 b7C

> b6 b7С





# Judy Petrantoni Arrested For Illegally Taking Son

### By LYNNE PERRI Sun Staff Writer

Extradition hearings were expected to begin today for the return of Judy Caranna Petrantoni, a 22-year-old city woman arrested Wednesday in Washington, D.C., and charged with illegally removing her son from a state foster home.

Her 2-year-old son Christopher had been placed in a Clearwater foster home last October pending a child abuse investigation by the state attorney's office and the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services

Foster care was ordered after doctors reported bruises on Christopher's back and thigh that they said could not be explained adequately by his parents.

HRS officials were expected to fly to Washington today for a hearing in juvenile court.

HRS officals have informed Gov. Reubin Askew of the case, and he reportedly hasasked to be kept abreast of the situation.

The warrant for Mrs. Petrantoni's arrest, was teletyped Wednesday afternoon to Washington by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department and she was arrested in her hotel

room at 5 p.m.

Mrs. Petrantoni, who spent the night in a Washington jail, still was being held on \$5,000 bond this morning, sheriff's department spokesman Merrill Stebbins said.

Christopher has been placed in foster care by the Department of Human Resources in Washington.

He is taking medication daily because of severe head, arm and eye injuries he sustained after falling from the sixth floor of the Holiday Inn On the Beach last summer.

Washington police said the infant was in good condition. However, his mother had taken Christopher to a children's hospital in Washington for further tests because she said she could not get adequate care in Pinellas.

Mrs. Petrantoni said her daughter Stephanie, who lives at 430 Vundward Passage on Island Estates with her two step-brothers and step-father Angelo S. "Butch" Petrantoni, would join her soon.

Wednesday, Petrantoni flew to Washington to be with his wife. On probation after pleading no contest in 1976 to a county zoning bribery charge, Petrantoni said he had permission from his probation officer to remain in the capital tor two weeks.

He said he is determined to take the custody case to the FBI if necessary and charged that local officials were persecuting him because of his past.

"They're not going to get away with this anymore," he said. If extradition could not be avoided, "I'll jump my probation and take my family to Costa Rica."

An angry Judy Petrantoni rushed into the unlocked foster home Saturday afternoon, snatched her son and fled. to her, car parked nearby, police said.

She repeatedly has denied abusing her son and HRS officials in December labeled the relationship between mother and child "positive."

However, after the unexplained bruises in October raised suspicions of child abuse, Christopher was ordered to remain in foster care until this summer when the case was expected to be reviewed. (Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

# CLEARWATER SUN CLEARWATER, FLA. page-1A

Date: 2/16/78 Edition:

Title:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Mrs. Petrantoni Arrested In Georgia

By LAURIN MARCH and LYNNE PERRI Sun Staff Writers

A young mother sought by Pinellas County law enforcement officials for allegedly taking her son from a state foster home has been charged with speeding and fleeing from police officers in Gwinnett County, Ga.

Judy Caranna Petrantoni, 430 Windward Passage, was arrested about 5 a.m. Thursday after a chase through four Georgia counties at speeds up to 95 miles per hour, said Jerry Poole of the Georgia State Police.

Mrs. Petrantoni, 22, and her husband Angelo S. "Butch" Petrantoni were returning to Florida after Mrs. Petrantoni waived her right to an extradition hearing in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Petrantoni had taken her son Christopher to the capital after apparently snatching him from a Clearwater foster home. Christopher has since been returned to the state by officials of the State Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS), who have placed him in another foster home.

The chase apparently started after the couple pulled into a service station off Interstate-85 in Banks County. They got \$12 worth of gas and left without paying, Poole said. The station attendant called police, who stopped the Petrantonis shortly thereafter.

While police questioned Petrantoni outside of the vehicle, his wife, who police had left in the passenger seat, started the car and drove away. She led police 25 miles through Banks, Jackson, Barrow and Gwinnett counties before she was apprehended.

Poole had heard radio broadcasts from pursuing officers and was waiting for her at the I-85 intersection with Georgia Road 20. He said he had to maneuver his vehicle in front of hers before she would stop. When he got out of his car she again tried to flee, he said, smashing the rear of his car and striking a passing motorist, whose car blocked hers from further escape, about 20 minutes after the chase had begun.

"I can see that you folks don't know how to drive," Poole said Mrs. Petrantoni told him after her arrest.

Mrs. Petrantoni's son had been placed in foster care last October while the state attorney's office and HRS officials investigated the possibility of child abuse.

. The child, under medical care after falling from the sixth floor of a Clearwater Beach hotel last summer, will be two years old Tuesday.

Mrs. Petrantoni is in Milledgeville, Ga., Central State Hospital under court order, according to sheriff's deputies in Gwinnett County. Her husband said she was recovering from exhaustion and a miscarriage. Mrs. Petrantoni was four months pregnant. Clearwater, Fla. <u>PAG</u>E 2A

CLEARWATER SUN

(Indicate page, name of

newspaper, city and state.)

Date: 2/25/78 Edition:

Title:

Character:

or Classification: 44–2697 Submitting Office: TAMPA

SE RCHED. SEI IALIZED MAR 2 1978 h6FRIM



#### By SUSAN DENLEY St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

19 (38)

From threatening to create an international incident in sophisticated Washington to kicking up a ruckus in cracker Georgia, Judy and Angelo Petrantoni were busy last week.

It was a study in contrasts — but not surprising to those who know the Clearwater couple's flair for the dramatic grand gesture.

Early in the week, the Petrantonis made the rounds of government offices in Washington trying to win aid in their fight to have their 20-month-old son returned to them from foster care. To anyone willing to listen — even an assistant deputy at the Russian consulate — they told the story of the Pinellas power-wielders who they say have conspired against them.

THEY WENT to the Russian consulate, Petrantoni told a reporter in a telephone call, "to make an international incident."

At midweek, the Petrantonis were arrested in rural North Georgia for allegedly shorting a gasoline station attendant by \$1 and trying to elude police in a highspeed chase. Petrantoni posted a cash bond that also serves as a fine. But his 22-yearold wife was ordered to a state psychiatric hospital by a judge, a slightly amused Lawrenceville, Ga. police spokesman said.

In Pinellas officialdom, there are some who are amused, others who wince at the mention of the Petrantonis. The Petranto-

nis have been nothing but trouble to many local officials.

First off, a firm owned by the bearded, beefy Petrantoni and other family members was at the center of a Clearwater City Hall scandal in 1975 in which three highranking city officials lost their jobs. The officials allegedly allowed thousands of dollars in overpayments to the Petrantonis' firm under a utility-line contract. Two of the employees were later reinstated.

THEN PETRANTONI and his father were arrested and charged with bribing a county zoning technician and with perjury. After an initial mistrial, both later pleaded no contest in exchange for probation.

#### (Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ever since the city and county scandals came to light, the Petrantonis have loudly proclaimed their innocence. They were framed, they say, by powerful political forces in Pinellas County.

Specifically, they blame George Ruppel wealthy banker, onetime county commissioner and longtime political mover who also was their partner in a limerock mine in Pasco County. They say Ruppel, through Pinellas-Pasco State Atty. James T. Russell, is persecuting them to gain control of the mine and run them out of the state.

Russell and Ruppel have denied the allegations. But that hasn't stopped the tenacious Petrantonis from writing to the FBI, picketing on the steps of the Pinellas County Courthouse and trying to get an appointment with President Carter to complain about them.

**RUPPEL AND THE** Petrantonis are slugging it out in federal court, where Ruppel is trying to foreclose liens he placed against the mine, win back money he lent the Petrantonis and fend off the IRS, which is claiming about \$170,000 in back taxes and Social Security payroll deductions the Petrantonis allegedly never paid.

(IRS closed the mine because of the unpaid taxes, but it is now being operated by a company under a lease.)

Ruppel's claim is based on more than \$1-million in loans he personally extended to the Petrantonis to help them run the mine from June 1972 — when he was introduced to the family by County Commission Chairman Charles E. Rainey — until 1975, federal court records show.

Although it is Ruppel who is out \$1million, Angelo Petrantoni sees himself as the victim.

AND THE spicy-tongued, flametempered Petrantoni never gives up fighting.

Now his fight is centered around his 20month-old son Christopher.

Christopher came to officals' attention last July when he fell from a sixth-floor balcony at a Clearwater Beach motel. Severely injured, he survived, and his mother filed a \$1-million damage suit against the motel.

The State Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) and Russell's office investigated the unusual incident for possible child abuse, but no charges were filed, and Christopher was returned to his mother.

In October, Christopher was readmitted to Morton F. Plant Hospital in Clearwater with bruises and other injuries that his parents say were suffered in a seizure related to his fall. His mother was also admitted — to the hospital psychiatric ward-Doctors diagnosed her as schizophrenic — a diagnosis she believes is part of a conspiracy. She was released from the hospital when doctors decided she was not dangerous, ST.PETERSBURG TIMES St. Petersburg, Fla -Page 3B

(Indicate page, name of

newspaper, city and state.)

Title:

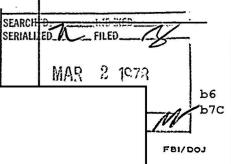
Date:

Edition:

Character: or

Classification: 44–2697–7 Submitting Office: TAMPA

2/27/78





BUT ON THE advice of two pediatricians, Christopher was released to HRS pending a child-abuse investigation. He was placed in a foster home by a judge's order, with the case to be reviewed in June.

The Petrantonis insist Christopher was taken from them because of "politics." They have written letters to elected and appointed officials in Tallahassee and Washington pleading for help.

Two weeks ago, Mrs. Petrantoni found Christopher's foster home and forcibly took him. She was arrested a few days later in Washington and released on bail. Christopher was returned to foster care.

The Petrantonis' trip to the Russian consulate was made, Angelo said, to draw attention to his plight.

"IF WE DON'T get any help, we are going to make an international incident of the joke of President Carter's stand on human rights," Petrantoni said, adding, "We will be happy to move to Russia.

"As far as I'm concerned, to hell with the United States . ... or with any country that would use a baby to play political games."



Angelo Petrantoni: 'If we don't get any help, we are going to make an international incident of the joke of President Carter's stand on human rights. We will be happy to move to Russia. As far as I'm concerned, to hell with the United States...or with any country that would use a baby to play political games.'

T.