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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

December 7, 2016

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

FOIPA Request No.: 1362207-000
Subject: LINKLETTER, ARTHUR GORDON

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

Records responsive to your request were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Enclosed is one CD containing 125 pages of previously processed documents and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions. This release is being provided to you at no charge.

Please be advised that FBI files 15-7223 (1/5/1993); 26-47877 (12/1/1993); 15-3920 (10/10/1992); 95-HQ-62416 (8/17/1993); and 87-95585 (6/28/1990), which may or may not be responsive to your FOIA request, have been destroyed. The records-destruction practices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are conducted in full compliance with Title 44, United States Code, Chapter 33 and the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter 12, subpart 1228.

For your additional information, a record that may be responsive to your Freedom of Information Act request has been transferred to the National Archives. You may desire to direct a request to the National Archives, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Please reference file numbers 94-57196, 31-173141, and 100-HQ-0-SEC 808.

Additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. If this release of previously processed material does not satisfy your information needs for the requested subject, you may request an additional search for records. Submit your request by mail or fax to – Work Process Unit, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, fax number (540) 868-4997. Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in your correspondence.


For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S. C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing ogis@nara.gov. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

SAC, Los Angeles (9-1618)

March 10, 1954

Director, FBI (9-25669) - /
RECORDED - 93

UNSUB; EX - 104
AKT LINKLEITER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

Further reurlet February 26, 1954, submitting an envelope and note, designated in the laboratory report as Q5 and Q6, for examination.

No latent impressions of value developed on Q5 or Q6 which are enclosed.

-laboratory report separate.

Enclosures (2)

CC-New York

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Gandy _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Sizoo _____

RGW:pt
9-25669

MAILED 4
MAR 10 1954
COMM - FBI

-25669-

b6
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICERecorded
3-4-54
VWSLaboratory Work Sheet

Recorded 3-9-54 9:00 AM to

LAB FILE

L A T E N TRe: UNSUB
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTIONFile # 9-25669-1 ✓
Lab. # D-180956 AX

9-25669-1

Examination requested by: SAC, LA (9-1618)

Date of reference communication: 2-26-54

Date received: 3-3-54

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

b6
b7CSpecimens submitted for examination

- Q5 Envelope bearing hp address "ART. LINKLETTER C.B.S. TELEVISION HOLLYWOOD CALIF," postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 16 1954 9-PM."
- Q6 Accompanying note consisting of cut-outs from newspaper clippings reading "THIS IS IT YOUR LAST CHANCE YOUR CHILDREN ARE NEST RAT."

*No latent of value developed
Q5 & Q6 returned
Lab report sep*

*Dict 3-9-54
Row*
9-25669-

*Out 10-10-54
22*

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-1618)

SUBJECT: UNSUB;
ART LINKLETTER - Victim
EXTORTION

DATE: 2/26/54

24547

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

Remytel 2/25/54 and mylet same date.

There is enclosed herewith for the Bureau the original and one photostatic copy of an additional letter received by victim which was postmarked February 16, 1954, at Jamaica, New York. It is noted this letter was addressed to ART LINKLETTER, CBS Television, Hollywood, California. The contents of the letter consists of cutouts from newspapers attached with scotch tape to accounting type paper and states, "This is it. Your last chance. Your children are nest. Rat".

It is requested that the same examination afforded the letters previously furnished the Bureau be afforded this letter.

Victim's secretary, [] advised that the above letter was discovered today, February 26, 1954, among fan mail which was received at victim's office from CBS Television Studio, Hollywood, California. [] is causing a check to be made of all fan mail which has not previously been screened for any additional letters from Unsub to victim.

b6
b7C

[] advised she showed the enclosed letter to victim this date and he does not feel concerned about the matter. Attempts have been made to interview victim; however, due to his extremely busy schedule, he has not been available for interview up to this time. Victim's secretary is attempting to arrange for an interview with victim concerning this matter on Monday, March 1, 1954.

The Bureau will be kept advised of any additional developments.

One photostatic copy of the afore-mentioned letter is being forwarded herewith to the New York Division.

AIR MAIL - REG.

Encl.

GDM/pms

cc: New York (AM)(Encl.)

RECORDED-34

SE 23

EX-131

17-25269

MAR 1 1954

F24

MAR 11 1954
INDEX LAB FILES

SAC, Los Angeles

March 10, 1954

Director, FBI (9-25669) - 2
RECORDED - 93

104
UNSUB;
ART LINKLETT - VICTIM
EXTORTION

Further reurlet February 25, 1954, submitting two envelopes and accompanying notes, designated in the laboratory report as Q1 through Q4, for examination.

Four latent fingerprints of value developed on Q3 and Q4. Evidence is enclosed.

Laboratory report separate.

Enclosures (4)

CC-New York.

WJ:rt

9-25669

9 -25669- 2

MAILED 4

MAR 10 1954

COMM - FBI

MAR 10 1 30 PM '54

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FBI

RECEIVED

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Gandy _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

MAR 16 1954

11 MAR 10 1954

b6
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet Recorded 3-4-54 4:00 PM bc

Recorded 3-2-54
gcb

UNSUB;
Re: ART LINKLETTER -VICTIM
EXTORTION

Lab. File

File # 9-25669
Lab. # D-180737 AX

9-25669-2 ✓

Examination requested by: SAC, Los Angeles (9-New)

Date of reference communication:

Let. 2-25-54

Date received:

3-1-54

Examination requested:

Document - Fingerprint

Result of Examination:

Examination by:



b6
b7C

Specimens submitted for examination

*indicated
noted
with*

- Q1 Envelope bearing the hand printed address in pencil and red ink "ART LINKLETTER C-B.C. TELEVISION HOLLY CALIF." postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 10 1954."
- Q2 Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning "We want you....." ending on reverse side "you Tramp."
- Q3 Envelope bearing the hand printed address "ART -LINKLETTERS C. B.C. TELEVISION. HOLLY WOOD CALIFORNIA" postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 10 1954 6:30 AM."
- Q4 Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning "Eat This It's....." ending "WARNING."

Q4 7c photo - print on rev side of scotch tape
Q3 x 4" 6 photo after calvering 3-5-54
1 lab photo noted under scotch tape on Q4.
2 lab photo dev on Q4
1 lab photo dev on Q3.
End returned - Lab rep rep!

Disc
Bon

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-NEW)

DATE: February 25, 1954

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

180787

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

Remytel February 25, 1954.

There is submitted as an enclosure hereto the original and one photostatic copy of two extortion letters received by victim. It is noted one letter is postmarked February 1, 1954, and the other, February 10, 1954, both Jamaica, New York.

The laboratory is requested to examine these extortion letters for fingerprints. It is likewise requested that the handwriting on the envelopes be searched through the anonymous letter file for a possible identification.

The victim, ART LINKLETTER, is a prominent television and radio personality.

The letters were forwarded to the Los Angeles by [redacted] LINKLETTER's secretary, by letter dated February 24, 1954. She was telephonically contacted upon receipt of the letters and advised that she had shown the letters to Mr. LINKLETTER, and he could furnish no information concerning the identity of the subject. According to [redacted] LINKLETTER has no acquaintances in Jamaica, New York. She advised that LINKLETTER was Master of Ceremonies at a Pillsbury "baking contest" in New York City on December 15, 1953, and has not been in New York since that date. LINKLETTER was also M.C. of a Press Party for President Eisenhower in Washington, D. C., on February 6, 1954.

[redacted] explained that LINKLETTER receives a tremendous amount of fan mail and some of it is not handled for three or four weeks after receipt. She advised she would

AIR MAIL REGISTERED

Encls.

GDH:MRB

cc: NEW YORK (Encls.)(Air Mail)

RECORDED-26

COPIES DESTROYED

301 JUL 21 1965

LA 9-NEW

cause an immediate search to be made of all fan mail on hand to determine if any additional letters of a similar nature have been received.

[redacted] further advised that LINKLETTER is the father of three daughters and two sons, aged from five to seventeen.

No personal contact has been had with LINKLETTER as yet, but arrangements will be made to interview him as soon as possible.

The New York Division is being furnished one photostatic copy of each of the letters received by the victim. New York is requested to conduct any logical investigation possible at Jamaica, New York, to determine the identity of the unknown subject.

b6
b7C

Assistant United States Attorney HOWARD R. HARRIS, Los Angeles, was contacted and advised of this matter. He stated that the letters undoubtedly constitute a violation of the Extortion Statute and suggested that investigation be made.

[redacted] Homicide Division, Los Angeles Police Department, was advised of the receipt of the aforementioned letters by the victim. He stated that no information has previously come to the attention of the Los Angeles Police Department regarding this matter, but he would notify this office immediately if they receive any information of interest.

The Bureau will be kept advised of all pertinent developments.

9-2-69-

2

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

FEB 25 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Belmont ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Mr. Glavin ✓
Mr. Harbo ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tracy ✓
Mr. Mohr ✓
Mr. Tamm ✓
Mr. Winterrowd ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Mr. Holloman ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

FBI, LOS ANGELES

2-25-54

8-38 PM

NDB

DIRECTOR, FBI

URGENT

UNSUB., ART LINKLETTER, VICTIM. VICTIM IS NATIONALLY KNOWN TV AND RADIO
STAR. VICTIM RECEIVED TWO LETTERS POSTMARKED JAMICA, NEW YORK, FEB.
ONE LAST AND FEB. TEN LAST. FIRST LETTER, COMPOSED OF NEWSPAPER
CUTOUTS PASTED WITH SCOTCHTAPE TO BLACK PAPER, STATES QUOTE WE WANT
YOU TO GET TOGETHER ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS. WE WILL LET YOU KNOW WHERE
YOU HAVE TO SEND IT. DONT CALL THE POLICE OR YOUR QUOTE LITTLE GIRL
UNQUOTE WILL NOT HAVE THEIR LAST TEN DAYS, YOU TRAMP UNQUOTE. SECOND
LETTER, COMPOSED OF NEWSPAPER CUTOUTS PASTED WITH SCOTCHTAPE TO PLAIN
WHITE PAPER, STATED QUOTE THIS ITS YOUR FINAL WARNING UNQUOTE. VICTIM
IS FATHER OF THREE GIRLS AND TWO BOYS. VICTIM CAN FURNISH NO INFO
CONCERNING IDENTITY OF SUBJ. VICTIM WAS EMCEE OF PILLSBURY BAKING
CONTEST IN NYC DEC. FIFTEEN LAST AND HAS NOT BEEN IN NYC SINCE THEN.
VICTIM WAS ALSO EMCEE AT PRESS PARTY FOR PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AT
WASHINGTON, D C, FEB. SIX LAST. LAPD ADVISED. FACTS PRESENTED USA,
LA, WHO REQUESTED INVESTIGATION. EXTORTION LETTERS BEING FORWARDED
BY AIR MAIL TODAY.

MALONE

END ACK PLS

91-RECORDED - 36
EX-126168-57
MAR 2 1954
MR. ROSEN
AND SUPERVISOR
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED - 36

9-25669-3

MARCH 2, 1954

AIRTEL

GJR-6

SAC, LOS ANGELES AIR MAIL

EX-11

UNSUB., ART LINKLETTER, VICTIM, EXTORTION. REBUREAU
FEBRUARY 24, 1954. AFFORD MATTER CONTINUOUS INVESTIGATIVE
ATTENTION. KEEP BUREAU ADVISED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS.

HOOVER

EHH:js

W. H. ...
RECEIVED
MAR 9 1954
FBI
MAR 9 1954

MAR 9 1954

COMM - FBI
1954
MAILED 27

9-25669

REPORT
of the

7-1



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D. C.

March 5, 1954

To:

SAC, Los Angeles

Re:

UNSUB.;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO. 9-new
FBI FILE NO. 9-25669
LAB. NO. D-180787 AX

Examination requested by: Los Angeles

Reference: Letter 2/25/54

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint - 25669-4

Specimens:

- Q1 Envelope bearing the hand printed address in pencil and red ink "% ART LINKLETTER C-B.S. TELEVISION HOLLY CALIF." postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 10 1954."
- Q2 Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning "We want you...." ending on reverse side "you Tramp."
- Q3 Envelope bearing the hand printed address "% ART - LINKLETTER C. B. S. TELEVISION. HOLLY WOOD CALIFORNIA" postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 10 1954 6:30 PM."
- Q4 Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning "Rat This It's...." ending "WARNING."

Results of examination:

MAR 8 1954

RECORDED-49

Specimens Q1 through Q4 were searched through the appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letters File without effecting an identification. A photographic copy of these specimens will be added to the file for future reference.

The physical characteristics of specimens Q1 through Q4 were taken and are being maintained in the Laboratory for future reference.

Specimens Q1 through Q4 will be chemically treated for the development of latent fingerprints and you will receive a separate report regarding the results of this examination. The evidence will be returned to your office with copies of that report.

Jee
Wls 37r

MAILED 2
MAR 5 1954
COMM-FBI

Tolson
Ladd
Nichols
Belmont
Clegg
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tracy
Gearty
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Miss Gandy

REPORT
of the

7-1



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D. C.

24545

To: SAC, Los Angeles

March 9, 1954

Re: UNSUB
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO. 9-1618
FBI FILE NO. 9-25669
LAB. NO. D-180956 AX

Examination requested by: Addressee
Reference: Letter dated 2-26-54
Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint
Specimens:

- Q5 Envelope bearing hand printed address "ART. LINKLETTER C.B.S. TELEVISION HOLLYWOOD CALIF," postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 16 1954 9-PM."
Q6 Accompanying note consisting of cut-outs from newspaper clippings reading "THIS IS IT YOUR LAST CHANCE YOUR CHILDREN ARE NEST RAT."

ALSO SUBMITTED: Photostats of Q5 and Q6.
Results of Examination:

It was concluded that the hand printing appearing on the envelope, Q5, was prepared by the individual who prepared the hand printing appearing on the envelopes, Q1 and Q3, previously submitted with your letter of February 25, 1954.

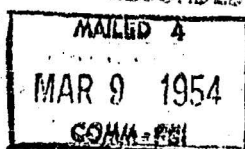
The envelope and paper used for Q5 and Q6 is different from the envelopes and papers used for Q1 through Q4, previously submitted with your letter of February 25, 1954.

Q5 is a plain white envelope measuring approximately 4 by 4 1/2 inches. It contains no watermark. Q6 is a portion of a lined ledger sheet which now measures approximately 6 by 12 inches. It contains a watermark "Riverside Bond Made in U.S.A." Paper bearing this watermark

Page 1

JCC:VWS

MAR 16 1954



MAR 10 1954
130

Continued next page

24546

is manufactured by the Riverside Paper Corporation, Appleton, Wisconsin. The message appearing on Q6 appears to have been prepared by cutting out portions of a newspaper and affixing them to the sheet of paper with a transparent cellophane tape.

Specimens Q5 and Q6 will be chemically treated for the development of latent fingerprints and a separate report will be submitted on this phase of the examination.

Specimens Q5 and Q6 will be returned to your office with the latent fingerprint report.

9 - 25669

5

9-25669 - 5

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-1618)
SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
ART LINKLETTER, VICTIM;
EXTORTION

DATE: 3/7/54

G.I.R.-7

Remylet 2/25/54.

Contact has been maintained with the victim's secretary, [redacted]. She advised on 3/3/54 that no additional threatening letters have been discovered in the victim's fan mail and for this reason "They are not getting exercised about the matter". [redacted] again advised that the victim can furnish no information regarding the identity of the unknown suspect. [redacted] stated that the victim has been unusually busy the past week and for this reason she has not arranged an appointment for Agents to personally discuss the matter with him.

[redacted] was again advised that Agents of this office are available to interview Mr. LINKLETTER about the matter at his convenience. She stated that if Mr. LINKLETTER desired to arrange an interview with Agents to discuss the matter she would contact this office and make arrangements for such interview. [redacted] further stated that they are continuing to search LINKLETTER's fan mail for any additional letters sent to him by the unknown subject. She will immediately notify this office if any additional letters are uncovered.

In view of the close contact being maintained with ART LINKLETTER's secretary and her insistence that LINKLETTER can furnish no information concerning this matter, no further effort will be made to personally interview the victim unless additional developments warrant such action.

GDH:ELM

9 -25669-

6

RECORDED-33

MAR 11 1954

60 MAR 19 1954

b6
b7C

EXP. PROC.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES

REPORT MADE AT <u>LOS ANGELES</u>	DATE WHEN MADE <u>2/2/54</u>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <u>2/25, 2/26, 2/27, 2/28, 2/29, 3/1, 1954</u> <u>16, 25/54</u>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> (A) MIS
TITLE <u>UNKNOWN SUBJECT; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM</u>			

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Victim is nationally known TV and radio personality. Victim received 3 anonymous threatening letters postmarked 2/2/54, 2/10/54 and 2/16/54, at Jamaica, New York. Letter of 2/2/54 demanded victim ~~for~~ together \$1,000 under threat of harm to victim's child. Letter of 2/10/54, stated "This is your final warning." Letter of 2/16/54, stated "This is it. Your last chance. Your children are next. Hat." FBI Laboratory concludes that handwriting on all 3 envelopes is identical. Victim receives large volume of fan mail and can furnish no information regarding identity of subject. Victim believed letters are work of "crack" and expresses lack of concern for safety of himself and family. Los Angeles Police Department notified.

- P -

DETAILS: AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

By letter dated February 24, 1954, secretary to ART LINKLETTER, a well-known radio and television personality, furnished the Los Angeles Office two letters which, she stated, had been received in Mr. LINKLETTER's fan mail.

One letter was postmarked February (date illegible), 1954, at Jamaica, New York. The envelope was addressed "% ART LINKLETTER, CBS Television, Holly, Calif." The reverse side of the envelope has the initials SWAK. This envelope was addressed in hand printing with red ink apparently drawn over pencil lettering. The letter contained in this

COPIES DESTROYED

301 JUL 21 1965

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT (2 Bureau (9-25669) 1 USA, Los Angeles 2 New York 2 Los Angeles (9-1618)		7 - 25661 - 7 9 - 25669 - <div style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-15deg); display: inline-block;">669</div>	RECORDED-67 EX-129 7

LA 9-1618

envelope consisted of newspaper cut-outs pasted with scotch tape to a piece of black paper. The letter states as follows:

"We want you to get together \$1,000. We will let you know where you have to send it. Don't call the police or your 'little girl' will not have that last 10 days. You Tramp."

The other letter furnished by [] was contained in an envelope addressed in hand printing in pencil to "% ART LINKLETTERS, CBS Television, Hollywood, Calif.," and postmarked February 10, 6:30 p.m., Jamaica, New York. The contents of the envelope consisted of a piece of plain white paper on which there was attached, with scotch tape, newspaper cut-outs stating as follows:

"Rat, this it's your final warning."

At the request of the reporting Agent, [] had an employee in Mr. LINKLETTER's office make a search through the available fan mail that had not been opened, to determine if any additional letters had been addressed to him which contained a threat. On March 1, 1954, [] furnished an additional letter which had been located in the victim's fan mail. She likewise furnished this letter and it is noted that the envelope is also hand printed in pencil and postmarked February 16, 1954, at Jamaica, New York. The contents of this letter consisted of newspaper cut-outs pasted by scotch tape to a piece of plain white paper to read as follows:

"This is it. Your last chance. Your children are nest, rat."

On March 9, 1954, the FBI Laboratory advised (Lab file D-180956AX) that it was concluded that the hand printing appearing on the envelope postmarked February 16, 1954, was prepared by the same individual who prepared the hand printing appearing on the envelopes of the other two letters received by victim. The laboratory further advised that the letters received by victim had been searched through the Anonymous Letter File without effecting an identification.

On March 10, 1954, the laboratory advised that four latent fingerprints of value were developed on the first two letters mentioned above as received by victim. On the same date the laboratory also advised that no latent impressions of value were developed on the last letter received by victim which was postmarked February 16, 1954.

[] secretary to ART LINKLETTER, and who is employed by the John Guedels Agency, 8321 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, telephonically advised SA [] on February 25, 1954, that the two letters which she had just sent to the Los Angeles Office

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9 -25668-

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LA 9-1618

were apparently letters received as regular fan mail by the CBS Studio. She stated that Mr. LINKLETTER receives a tremendous amount of fan mail and that the fan mail is sometimes not handled for three or four weeks after receipt. She stated that upon discovery of the first two threatening letters quoted above she showed them to Mr. LINKLETTER. She stated Mr. LINKLETTER advised her he has no acquaintances in Jamaica, Long Island, New York, and he has no idea who the author of the letters could be. She stated that the only activity which Mr. LINKLETTER had had around New York was on December 15, 1953, when he was Master of Ceremonies at the Pillsbury baking contest in New York City. She stated he had not been in New York since that date. She further stated that LINKLETTER was Master of Ceremonies at a press party for President EISENHOWER on February 6, 1954, and this was his last occasion to be in the East.

Contact was maintained with [] by both SA [] and the reporting Agent, and she advised on March 3, 1954, and March 11 and 16, 1954, that victim had received no additional threatening letters, and for this reason victim is not concerned about the matter and feels that the writer of the letters is apparently a "crank."

The reporting Agent and SA [] made several attempts to arrange an appointment to interview victim LINKLETTER about the matter, but [] advised he was extremely busy in that he followed a "tight" schedule due to his radio and television activities. Upon receiving no additional letters [] advised that Mr. LINKLETTER did not feel the matter should receive any additional attention at this time.

It is noted that ART LINKLETTER has a nationally televised show known as "Art Linkletter's House Party," which is televised over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

On February 25, 1954, Mr. HOWARD R. HARRIS, Assistant United States Attorney, was advised of the threatening letters received by victim, whereupon he stated that there was no doubt the letters constituted a violation of the Extortion Statute.

On February 25, 1954, [] of the Homicide Division, Los Angeles Police Department, was telephonically advised of the receipt of the first two extortion letters by victim. He advised that no previous information concerning this matter had come to the Los Angeles Police Department's attention and advised the Los Angeles Office would be immediately contacted in the event any further information was received.

The following description of victim was obtained by SA [] from victim's secretary:

9 -25669- 47
- 3 -

LA 9-1618

Name: ART LINKLETTER
Age: 40
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 190 lbs.
Sex: Male
Race: White
Nationality: American
Hair: Sandy
Eyes: Blue
Occupation: Radio and television
Marital Status: Married
Wife:
Children: JACK, 16 years

ROBERT, 9 years

DIANE, 5 years

Residence:
Office Address:

219 South Mapleton Drive, Los Angeles
8321 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles,
telephone York 6291

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LA 9-1618

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

LEADS

NEW YORK

At Jamaica, New York

Will conduct investigation through any logical sources available to determine the identity of the subject.

LOS ANGELES

At Los Angeles, California

Will follow and report results of any further investigation.

REFERENCES

Los Angeles teletype to Bureau, 2/25/54.
Los Angeles letter to Bureau, 2/25/54.
Los Angeles letter to Bureau, 2/26/54.
Bureau air-tel to Los Angeles, 3/2/54.
Los Angeles letter to Bureau, 3/7/54.
Bureau letter to Los Angeles, 3/10/54.
FBI Laboratory reports to Los Angeles, 3/5/54 and 3/9/54.

9-25669-7

REPORT
of the

7-1



2454

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D. C.

9-25669-8

April 15, 1954

RECORDED-107
To: SAC, New York

Re: UNSUB.
ART LINKLETTER
VIKEY

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO. 9-1995
FBI FILE NO. 9-25669
LAB. NO. D-182502 AX

Examination requested by: New York

Reference: Letter 3/30/54

Examination requested: Document

Specimens:

K1 - K1030 1030 specimens taken from 1030 students attending
Thomas A. Edison Vocational School and Woodrow
Wilson Vocational High School.

Results of examination:

The hand printing appearing on the envelopes Q1, Q3 and
Q5 previously submitted with Los Angeles letters of 2/25/54
was compared with specimens K1 through K1030 but nothing of
particular interest or significance was noted which would
suggest the desirability of obtaining any further known hand-
writing specimens from any of the individuals represented in
K1 through K1030.

Specimens K1 through K1030 will be retained in the Laboratory
for thirty days and unless advised to the contrary by your office
in that time these known hand printing specimens will be destroyed.

1 - Los Angeles (9-1618)

CC:VPP

MAILED 2

APR 15 1954

COMM-FBI

53 APR 23 1954

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Gearty _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

9

RECEIVED
APR 15 1954
COMM-FBI

8

Jan
APR 27 1954

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (9-25669)

FROM : SAC, New York (9-1995) ATT: FBI Laboratory

SUBJECT: UNSUB;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

DATE: 3/30/54

24543

192582

For the information of the Laboratory and the Los Angeles Office, it has been ascertained that the threatening letters in this case were cleared through the main Jamaica Post Office, 88-40 164th Street, Jamaica, LI, NY.

This Post Office covers a densely populated area of approximately 12 square miles, and the Jamaica Post Office handles more than 1000 collection boxes with all mail funneled through the main Post Office. As a consequence, it is not possible to trace these letters to any particular locality or neighborhood by means of the postmark.

It is believed, however, that the following clues in these letters tend to show that the letters may have been prepared by high school or junior high school students: (4)

The letters were all postmarked after school hours; in two instances the stamps were placed in the wrong corner; in all three letters the writer used hand-printed Upper Case letters indicating the possibility that the writer had taken or was taking a school course such as Art in which lettering is used.

In view of the above, arrangements were made through various principals and Art Course instructors in five secondary schools in the area covered by the Jamaica Post Office to obtain hand-printed specimens of the students printing in Upper Case letters.

Submitted herewith under separate cover are approximately 1000 specimen of hand-printing obtained from students attending the Thomas A. Edison Vocational School for Boys, also known as PS #49 at 92-23 170th Street, Jamaica, LI.

Encs. (1,18D)

1 - Los Angeles (9-1618)

INDEX AND FILES

EES:PHA

RECORDED-102

APR 1 1954

EX-100

RECEIVED

4/15/54
JCC:VPS

24544

Letter to Director
NY 9-1995

Also enclosed are 30 specimen obtained from students taking the Commercial Art Course at the Woodrow Wilson Vocational High School, 156-10 Baisley Boulevard, Jamaica, LI, NY.

The above specimen were obtained as a result of cooperation with local school authorities.

The Laboratory is requested to compare the unidentified hand-printing on the envelopes in this case with the known specimens submitted in an attempt to effect an identification.

The samples submitted are not to be returned and may be destroyed after they have served their purpose.

9-25669-8

9-25669-8

8

REPORT
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D. C.

To: SAC, New York

9-25669-9

April 16, 1954

RECORDED-74

EX - 104

UNSUB.;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO. 9-1995
FBI FILE NO. 9-25669
LAB. NO. D-182792 AX

Examination requested by: New York

Reference: Letter 4/5/54

Examination requested: Document

Specimens:

K1031 - K2712 Handwriting from 1682 students of Jamaica High School,
Long Island, New York.

Results of Examination:

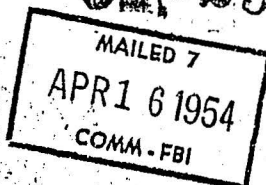
The questioned hand printing appearing on the envelopes Q1, Q3 and Q5, previously submitted with Los Angeles letters of February 25, 1954, was compared with the known hand printing specimens designated above as K1031 through K2712 but nothing of particular interest or significance was noted which suggests the desirability of obtaining any additional known hand printing specimens from any of the individuals represented in the above known specimens K1031 through K2712.

The submitted evidence will be retained in the Laboratory for thirty days unless advised to the contrary by your office will be destroyed at that time.

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Gearty _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Nease _____

Los Angeles (9-1618)

JCC:PAL



5 5 APR 26 1954

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI
 FROM : SAC, New York (9-1995)
 SUBJECT: UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
 EXTORTION

DATE: 4/5/54

Re NY letter to Bureau, 3/30/54.

Submitted herewith under separate cover are 1682 specimens of hand-printing obtained from students of the Jamaica Long Island High School.

For the information of the Los Angeles Office, these specimens are limited to students taking the Art and Mechanical Drawing courses. The Jamaica High School has a total enrollment of 5000 and is in approximately the same general area as the main Jamaica Post Office through which the threatening letters in this case were funneled.

The Laboratory is requested to compare the hand-printing on the specimens submitted in an attempt to effect an identification with the unidentified lettering on the envelopes previously submitted on this case.

The specimens are not to be returned and may be destroyed by the Laboratory after they have served their purpose.

EXP. PROC.

Encs. (1682)

9 -25668-

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1 - Los Angeles

EES:PHA

RECORDED
EX - 10412-25668-9
APR 6 1954INDEXED
FILED4-16-54
CJC:PHL

SEVEN

CJA

REPORT
of the

7-1



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D. C.

RECORDED - 90

To: SAC, ~~866~~ YKrk

9-25669-10

April 16, 1954

Re: UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER - Victim
Extortion

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO. 9-1995
FBI FILE NO. 9-25669
LAB. NO. D-182942 AX

Examination requested by: New York

Reference: Letter L/7/54

Examination requested: Document

Specimens:

K2713 - K3516 Known specimens obtained from 804 students of
Shimer Junior High School.

Results of examination:

The questioned hand printing appearing on the envelopes
Q1, Q3 and Q5, previously submitted with Los Angeles letters
of February 25, 1954, was compared with the known hand printing
specimens designated above as K2713 through K3516 but nothing of
particular interest or significance was noted which would
suggest the desirability of obtaining any additional known
hand printing specimens from any of the individuals represented
in the known specimens K2713 through K3516.

The submitted evidence will be retained in the Laboratory
for thirty days and unless advised to the contrary by your
office will be destroyed at that time.

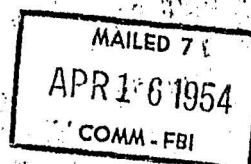
1 - Los Angeles (9-1618)

CC:VPP

5724

APR 26 1954

9-25669-10



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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI
 ATT: FBI Laboratory
 FROM : SAC, New York (9-1995)
 SUBJECT: UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
 EXTORTION

DATE: 4/7/54

24541

182942

Re NY letter to Bureau, 3/30/54.

Submitted herewith under separate cover are 804 specimens of handprinting obtained from the Shimer Junior High School, 142nd Street and Linden Boulevard, Queens, NY. These specimens were obtained through the cooperation of the Principal. The Shimer Junior High School is in the same general area as the main Jamaica Post Office through which the threatening letters in this case were funneled.

The Laboratory is requested to compare the handprinting on the specimens submitted in an attempt to effect an identification with the unidentified lettering on the envelopes previously submitted in this case.

The specimens are not to be returned and may be destroyed by the Laboratory after they have served their purpose.

Encs. 804

1 - Los Angeles (9-1618)

~~EX-PROC~~

91

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9 -25668-

10

RECORDED - 90

EX - 118

19-25669-10
APR 8 1954
31-4-79

EES:BAR

INDEX LAS FILES

VCC:VPP

73 8 1 55 00 12

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (9-25669)
(ATT: FBI Laboratory)
FROM : SAC, New York (9-1995)
SUBJECT: UNSUB: ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

DATE: 4/19/54

Re. NY letters to Bureau, 3/30/54, 4/5/54 and 4/7/54.

Submitted herewith under separate cover are 1,263 specimens of handprinting obtained of students taking art courses I and II at the Andrew Jackson High School, 207-01 116th Avenue, St. Albans, NY, which is covered by the main Jamaica Post Office. These specimens were obtained through the cooperation of the art instructor.

The Laboratory is requested to compare the handprinting on the specimens submitted in an attempt to effect an identification with the unidentified lettering on the envelope previously submitted in this case.

In the event no identification is effected the specimens may be destroyed by the Laboratory after they have served their purpose.

Encl. 1,263

1 - Los Angeles (9-1618)

EX-1159 -25669-

11

RECORDED - 40

12 APR 21 1954

5/5/54

INDEX LAB FILES

EES:KAK

EX-1159

REPORT
of the

7-1



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D. C.

To: SAC, New York

May 4, 1954

RECORDED - 40

EX-11 9-25669-11

UNSUB.; ART LINKLETTER - Victim
Extortion

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO. 9-1995
FBI FILE NO. 9-25669
LAB. NO. D-183597 AX

Examination requested by: New York

Reference: Letter 4/19/54

Examination requested: Document

Specimens:

K3517-4779 Known writing taken from 1263 students of Andrew Jackson High School.

Results of examination:

The questioned hand printing appearing on the envelopes Q1, Q3 and Q5 previously submitted with Los Angeles letters of February 25, 1954, was compared with the known hand printing specimens designated above as K3517 through K4779 but nothing of particular interest or significance was noted which would suggest the desirability of obtaining any additional known hand printing specimens from any of the individuals represented in K3517 through K4779.

The submitted evidence will be retained in the Laboratory for thirty days and unless advised to the contrary by your office will be destroyed at that time.

1 - Los Angeles (9-1618)

9-25669-11

ICC:VPP

MAILED 16
MAY 4 1954
COMM - FBI

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE MAY 26 1954	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/8, 19, 29; 4/2, 5, 7, 19/54	REPORT MADE BY EDMUND E. SENESAC jma
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE EXTORTION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

The 3 extortion letters in this case cleared through the main Jamaica, L.I. Post Office, 88-40 164th St., Jamaica, L.I., N.Y., which covers densely populated area. Inasmuch as certain characteristics in threatening letters indicated they may have been prepared by a high school or junior high school student, specimens of known handprinting of 4,779 students in 5 secondary schools covered by Jamaica Post Office were obtained for comparison. No identification effected as result of this examination.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

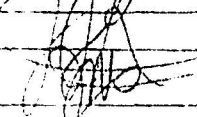
At Jamaica, Long Island, New York

T-1, of known reliability, who is in a position to identify mail which clears through the main Jamaica, Long Island Post Office at 88-40 164th Street, Jamaica, Long Island, New York, advised that the postmarks on the three envelopes of the letters mailed to ART LINKLETTER show that they were processed through the Jamaica Post Office. T-1 stated, however, that their Jamaica Post Office covers an area of approximately twelve square miles. This area is densely populated and the Jamaica Post Office handles more than 1,000 collection boxes with all the mail funneled

COPIES DESTROYED

301 JUL 21 1965

9 - 2567 9 12

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 - Bureau (9-25669) 3 - Los Angeles (9-1618) (1 - USA, Los Angeles) 1 - New York (9-1990)		7-125047-12	RECORDED-17
		EX-123	

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NY 9-1995

through the main post office. As a consequence, it is not possible to trace these letters to any particular locality or neighborhood by means of the postmarks.

Arrangements were made through T-1 to have a post office notice issued to the twenty post office sub-stations which bring mail to the main post office to be alert for any communication goint to a television entertainer on CBS Television in Hollywood, California. The victim's name was not used. This resulted negatively.

A close examination of the threatening letters in this case showed that they were postmarked after school hours; in two instances the stamps were placed in the wrong corner; on all three envelopes the writer used handprinted Upper Case letters, indicating the possibility that the writer had taken or was taking a school course such as art or mechanical drawing in which lettering is used; the language and spelling of the actual contents of the threatening letters indicated immaturity; it is noted that although a sum of money was demanded, no actual place was ever indicated as to where the money should be sent.

As a result of the above noted characteristics in the threatening letters and the nature of the ART LINKLETTER program, it is believed that the possibility existed that the threatening letters may have been prepared by a high school or a junior high school student in the Jamaica, Long Island area.

In view of the above, arrangements were made through various principals and art instructors in five secondary schools in the area covered by the Jamaica, Long Island Post Office to obtain handprinted specimens of the students handprinting in Upper Case lettering.

The breakdown of the specimens obtained of the students from the different schools is as follows:

1. Through [redacted] Art Department, Jamaica High School, 167-01 Gothic Drive, Jamaica, Long Island, New York, specimens from 1,682 students in art courses.
2. Through [redacted] Thomas A. Edison Vocational School for Boys (Public School 49), 92-23 170th Street, Jamaica, Long Island, New York, specimens from approximately 1,000 students, covering full enrollment.

9 25669

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NY 9-1995

3. Through [redacted] Woodrow Wilson High School, 156-10 Baisley Boulevard, Jamaica, Long Island, New York, specimens from 30 students in art classes.
4. Through [redacted] Shimer Junior High School, (Public School 142) 142nd Street and Linden Boulevard, Jamaica, Long Island, New York, specimens from 804 students covering full enrollment.
5. Through [redacted] Art Department, Andrew Jackson High School, 207-01 116th Avenue, St. Albans, Long Island, New York, specimens from 1,263 students enrolled in art courses I and II.

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The total amount of specimens obtained was 4,779.

All of the known specimens obtained from the 4,779 students of the five secondary schools listed above were forwarded to the Bureau Laboratory for comparison with the questioned handprinting on the envelopes in this case.

As a result of this examination the Laboratory advised that the questioned handprinting on the envelopes previously submitted was compared with the known handprinting on the 4,779 specimens forwarded by the New York Office but nothing of particular interest or significance was noted which would suggest the desirability of obtaining any additional known handprinting specimens from any of the individuals represented in the specimens submitted by the New York Office.

Inasmuch as the above investigation resulted negatively and there are no other known logical sources through which the identity of the subject might be determined, this case is being referred upon completion to the Office of Origin.

- RUC -

9 - 25668 - 12

NY 9-1995

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANTS

T-1

is



His identity is being kept confidential in view of the nature of his employment.

REFERENCE: Los Angeles letter to the Bureau, 2/25/54 and 2/26/54.
Report of SA [redacted] (A) at Los Angeles, 4/2/54.
New York letter to the Bureau 3/30/54, 4/5, 7, 19/54.
Bureau letters to New York 4/15/54 and 4/16/54 and 5/4/54.

9-25669-

12

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ~~teletype~~ message to:

FBI, LOS ANGELES

6/4/54

11:35 AM

DIRECTOR, FBI (9-25669)

UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER DASH VICTIM, EXTORTION. THIS MATTER IS PENDING AWAITING DEVELOPMENT OF OUTSTANDING LEADS AT NEW YORK CITY. NEW YORK DIVISION REQUESTED TO COMPLETE INVESTIGATION AND SUREP IMMEDIATELY.

MALONE

GDH:ndr
9-1618

cc: NEW YORK CITY (9-1995)

AIR MAIL

RECORDED-95

9-25669-13

13 JUN 7 1954

EX-108

9-25669-

13

50 JUN 10 1954

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
6/8/54

FD-36

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Boardman _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU
UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER-VITEX. RE LOS ANGELES AIR TEL, 6/1/54.
NY RUC REPORT SUBMITTED THIS CASE ON 5/26/54.

KELLY

Mr. Rosen

9 -25669-

3-BUREAU (9-25669)
1-LOS ANGELES (9-1618)

RECORDED - 87
- 107

9-25669-14
JUN 9 1954

EES:PAF (#5)
NY 9-1995

Approved: *JJK*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *U* Per *100W 1824*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 6/11/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/7/54 6/9/54	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> (A) pam
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE EXTORTION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Victim has received no additional threatening communications. Logical investigation has failed to produce suspect.

- C -

DETAILS:

At Los Angeles, California:

June 9, 1954, Secretary to Victim ART LINKLETTER, advised on June 9, 1954, that victim has received no additional threatening communications of any kind.

Inasmuch as logical investigation has failed to identify the unknown subject and there are no leads outstanding, this matter is closed.

- C -

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301 JUL 21 1965

9 -25669-15

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT (2) - Bureau (9-25669) 1 - S. Attorney, Los Angeles 1 - Los Angeles (9-1618)		RECORDED 16 JUN 15 1954 6-25669-15	RECORDED EX-122

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LA 9-1618

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent EDMUND E. SENESAC dated May 26, 1954,
at New York.
Report of Special Agent (A) [REDACTED] dated April 2,
1954, at Los Angeles.

b6
b7C

9 -25669- 15

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. B. NICHOLS

DATE: 4-11-56

FROM : D. J. PARSONS

SUBJECT: UNSUB
Art Linkletter
VIKEX

9-25669

9-25669-
NOT RECORDED

1 APR 12 1956

There is attached the file which has been maintained in the Laboratory in connection with the above-captioned matter. It is desired that this file be maintained as an enclosure behind the main file in the Records Section.

Attachment

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
 Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

9-25669-16
Jensen

ART. LINK LETTER

C.B.S. TELEVISION

HOLLYWOOD



ALIF

THIS IS IT!

your

LAST CHANCE

are

WILL DREW WEST

RE

AT

THE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

7-2

Recorded
3-4-54
VWS

Laboratory Work Sheet

LAB FILE

L A T E N T

Re: UNSUB
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

File # 9-25669
Lab. # D-180956 AX

Examination requested by: SAC, LA (9-1618)

Date of reference communication: 2-26-54

Date received: 3-3-54

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Result of Examination:

Examination by: 3/8

b6
b7C

*Env & paper Q5, Q6 different from Q1-Q4 (2/25/54)
See report on latents.
HP Q5 ident H Envs. Q1, Q3*

Specimens submitted for examination

- to
SFS
3/8
- Q5 Envelope bearing hp address "ART. LINKLETTER C.B.S.
TELEVISION HOLLYWOOD CALIF," postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y.
FEB 16 1954 9-PM."
- Q6 Accompanying note consisting of cut-outs from newspaper
clippings reading "THIS IS IT YOUR LAST CHANCE YOUR
CHILDREN ARE NEST RAT."
- also submitted: Photostats of Q5, Q6.

HP Q5- ART LINKLETTER
HOLLYWOOD

Q HP Q1, Q3 ART LINKLETTERS

HOLLYWOOD

9-25669-

16

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Recorded 4/2/54 bdf

LAB FILE

Re: UNSUB.
ART LINKLETTER
VIKEX

File # 9-25669
Lab. # D-182582 AX

Examination requested by: SAC, New York (9-1995)

Date of reference communication: 3/30/54

Date received: 4/1/54

Examination requested: Document

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

b6
b7C

*K1 - K1030 nothing of interest
or signs noted which would suggest
descent of getting any further*
Specimens submitted for examination

K1 - K1030 1030 specimens taken from 1030 students attending
Thomas A. Edison Vocational School and Woodrow
Wilson Vocational High School.

Q_{1,3,5} ART. LINKLETTER

L.F. letters of 4/1/54

C.B.S. TELEVISION

HOLLYWOOD

CALIFORNIA

9 - 25668 -

16

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

7-2

RECORDED 4-7-54
ALC

Laboratory Work Sheet

LAB FILE

Re: UNSUB.;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

File # 9-25669
Lab. # D-182792 AX

Examination requested by: SAC, New York (9-1995)

Date of reference communication: Let. 4-5-54

Date received: 4-6-54

Examination requested: Doc.

Result of Examination:

Examination by

*Sp 9, 3, 5 nothing of interest or signif with 51031-2712
to suggest any further known.*

Specimens submitted for examination

K1031 - K2712 Handwriting from 1682 students of Jamaica High School,
Long Island, New York.

Envs. Q1, 3, 5 - prev LA letters 2/25/54

Los Angeles - (9-1618)

Lab Report

4-16-54

CJC:PAL

9 -25669- 16

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICELaboratory Work SheetRecorded
4-9-54 eawRe: UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTIONLab File
File # 9-25669
Lab. # D-182942 AX

Examination requested by: SAC, New York 9-1995

Date of reference communication: Let. 4-7-54

Date received: 4-8-54

Examination requested: Doc.

Result of Examination:

Examination by: [redacted]
*8/4/55*b6
b7C*Q1, 3, 5 prev LA letters 2/25 nothing of sig in K2713
thru 3516*Specimens submitted for examinationK2713 - K3516 Known specimens obtained from 804 students of Shimer
Junior High School.*Lab rps
4/11/54
100 VPP*

9 -25669-

16

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICERECORDED
4/22/54 jarLaboratory Work Sheet

LAB FILE

Re: UNSUB.; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTIONFile # 9-25669
Lab. # D-183597 AX

Examination requested by: SAC, NY 9-1995

Date of reference communication: let. 4/19/54 Date received: 4/21/54

Examination requested: Document

Result of Examination:

Examination by: b6
b7C*K3517-4779 noily sig with 9, 3, 5*Specimens submitted for examinationK3517-4779 Known writing taken from 1263 students of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Andrew Jackson High School.*cc Los Angeles (9-1618)*

9 -25669

16

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

7-2

Recorded 3-2-54
gcb

Laboratory Work Sheet

UNSUB;
Re: ART LINKLETTER -VICTIM
EXTORTION

Lab. File

File # 9-25669
Lab. # D-180737 AX

Examination requested by: SAC, Los Angeles (9-New)

Date of reference communication: Let. 2-25-54

Date received: 3-1-54

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Result of Examination:

Examination by: SCC

Q1 → Q4 No Id A.L.F. copy added.
Phy. chas taken
separate rpt on latents. Encl to SFPS.

3/4/54 *UFW*

b6
b7C

Specimens submitted for examination

- Q1 Envelope bearing the hand printed address in pencil and red ink "ART LINKLETTER C-3.S. TELEVISION HOLLY CALIF." postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 10 1954."
- Q2 Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning "He want you....." ending on reverse side "you Trump."
- Q3 Envelope bearing the hand printed address "ART -LINKLETTERS C. B.S. TELEVISION HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA" postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 10 1954."
- Q4 Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning "Let This It's....." ending "WARNING."

Hf. Q1, Q3 searched A.L.F., UC Hf. (N.Y. & Calif.)
Nothing similar found.

3/3/54
ams

9 -25668-

16

3/8/54
ans

Q5 Plain white envelope which measures
4.77" x 4.00" x 0.0052" - 0.0054".

No w.m.

Q6. message made up of letters + words clipped
from newspaper (probably) attached to piece of
lined paper (~~probably~~ ledger paper) with
transparent adhesive tape (Scotch
Paper measures 11.90" x 6.11" - 6.13" x 0.0023".

Wm. "Riverside Bond" Riverside Paper Corp.
"Made in U. S. A." 9 725669-16 Appleton, Wis.

Q1 Light buff envelope which measures $5.78" \times 3.79" - 3.80"$
 $\times 0.0056" - 0.0059"$
No com.

Q2 Words clipped from newspaper attached to piece of blank paper
with transparent adhesive tape. $(3.78" \times 4.85")$

Q3 Similar to Q1.

Q4 Letters & words clipped from newspaper attached to sheet
of white paper $(10.96" \times 8.53" \times 0.0030")$ with transparent
adhesive tape.

No com.

9 - 25609 - 16

AIRTEL

FBI

Date: 5/16/58

Transmit the following in AIRTEL
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-2142)

RE: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

Subject directed partially incoherent hand written air mail letter postmarked Molena, Georgia 5/12/58 to victim, CBS, Hollywood, California, which is as follows:

"I am a gang leader and I have 15 boys in my gang, 6 are in California State. If you don't do what you are told you will wish you had. The police or FBI or any other law won't help. If you don't sent \$700 this date I said your boy ROBERT or JACK will be murdered, as told send me money \$700 this date 5/17 or 19 or 20 so if you want boys to live as well as yourself sen cash or check. No marked bills. It up to you. Send money or check to Mr. BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, Molena, Georgia, Route Number 2."

An unfired .22 calibre bullet was enclosed in the letter. In letter, subject refers to self as 18 year old boy. Letter handled by LINKLETTER employee who opens fan mail. LINKLETTER aware of letter but not concerned regarding threats as believes author seems like mental case.

Instant letter turned over to FBI, Los Angeles, 5/16/58 by [redacted] to ART LINKLETTER.

3 - Bureau
1 - Atlanta (SPECIAL DELIVERY)
1 - Los Angeles
JMC:hts
(5)

REC-7

MCT-41

MAY 19 1958

AIRTEL

EX-135

34483

52 MAY 23 1958

Approved: _____

Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

b6
b7C

LA 9-2142

ROBERT LINKLETTER is described as:

Age	12
Height	5'10"
Weight	140
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown

JACK LINKLETTER is described as:

Age	19
Height	6'
Weight	160
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue

ART LINKLETTER is described as:

Age	44
Height	5'10"
Weight	160
Hair	Light Brown
Eyes	Blue
Complexion	Fair

AUSA [] Los Angeles, desires inquiry to establish age and mental capacity of subject before making prosecutive decision.

b6
b7c

Letter being forwarded to Bureau.

Request Atlanta through inquiry at Molena, Georgia develop information concerning subject and advise.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: **FBI, Atlanta**

Date: **May 29, 1958**

Re: **BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON -
VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION**

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

REC-74

FBI
EX-110

4 34483-7

9-34483

D-279896 DJ

Examination requested by: **Washington Field Office**

Reference: **Letter 5/26/58**

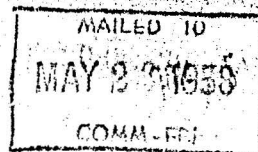
Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint**

Remarks:

Enclosures (3) (3 Lab report)

2 - Washington Field Office - Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

GFM:PCC
(6)



50 MAY 29 1958
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED
MAY 10 5 52 PM '58

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____

34483

2

7-10-7607

REPORT
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: **FBI, Atlanta**

Date:

May 29, 1958

Re: **BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON -
VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION**

FBI File No.

D-279896 DJ

Lab. No.

Specimens received from **FBI, Washington Field Office, 5/26/58**

- Q1 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Tamadge State Captial Washington D C.," postmarked "MOLENA GA. MAY 9 1958 P.M."**
- Q2 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Talmadge State Captial Washington D C.," postmarked "MOLENA GA. MAY 14 1958 P.M."**
- Q3 One-page handwritten letter dated 4/5/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a white..." ending on reverse side "...do something very soon Address Bennie James Riggins Molena Ga."**
- Q4 One-page handwritten letter dated 5/10/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending on reverse side "...out of danger."**
- Q5 Piece of paper bearing handwritten letter dated 5/10/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending "...army marine crop."**
- Q6 One-page handwritten letter dated 5/15/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I wrote here a week..." ending on reverse side "...this address Bennie James Riggins Molena Ga R#2."**

ALSO SUBMITTED: Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58, to "Honorable J. Astor Riggins Sheriff of Pike County, Zebulon, Georgia."

Results of Examination:

Q1 through Q6 were compared with the appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letter File without effecting an identification.

Q1 through Q6 do not contain any watermarks or other identifying characteristics which would assist in determining the sources of the envelopes and paper.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Nease _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Clayton _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

Page 1

Continued next page

**GFM:PCC
(7)**

MAIL ROOM ☐

34483

2

You will be separately advised regarding the results of the latent fingerprint examination. You will be advised of the disposition of the evidence in the fingerprint report. Photographs are retained in the files of the Bureau.

Page 2
D-279896 DJ

Recorded
5/28/58
PCC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Recorded 5-29-58 12:00 Noon
Laboratory Work Sheet

NO LAB FILE

L A T E N T

Re: **BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION**


File # *1-37413*
Lab. # **D-279896 DJ**

Examination requested by: **FBI, Washington Field Office Letter 5/26/58**

Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint**

Date received: **5/26/58**
(Personally delivered)

Result of Examination:

Examination by: 

b6
b7c

*orig. let to Talmadge
No lats Q1-Q6
Q1 + Q6 + AS & WFO*

*Original rep to RT per request relet
Lab report sep sent 5/29*

Specimens submitted for examination

- Q1 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Talmadge
~~Talmadge~~ State Capital Washington D C.," postmarked
"MOLENA GA. MAY 9 1958 PM."
- Q2 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman
Talmadge State Capital Washington D C.," postmarked
MOLENA GA. MAY 14 1958 P.M."
- Q3 One-page handwritten letter dated 4/5/58, beginning
"Hello Senator Talmadge I am a white..." ending on
reverse side "...do something very soon Address
Bennie James Riggins Molena Ga."
- Q4 One-page handwritten letter dated 5/10/58, beginning
"Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending on
reverse side "...out of danger."
- Q5 Piece of paper bearing handwritten letter dated 5/10/58,
beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending
"...army marine crop."
- Q6 One-page handwritten letter dated 5/15/58, beginning
"Hello Senator Talmadge I wrote here a week..." ending
on reverse side "...this address Bennie James Riggins
ATLANTA/Molena Ga D.C."

*5/29/58
SW: [signature]*

ALSO SUBMITTED: Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58, to
"Honorable J. Astor Riggins ~~Sheriff~~ Sheriff of
Pike County Zebulon, Georgia."

page 2
D-279896 DJ

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 5/26/58

Att: FBI LABORATORY

SAC, WFO

SUBJECT: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART/LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
Vice President RICHARD N.
NIXON - VICTIM
Senator HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION
(OO: AT)

279896

9-1
6-1
8-1
10-1

Re Bureau telephone call to WFO 5/26/58.

SA DONALD E. WALTER contacted Senator HERMAN TALMADGE of Georgia on the morning of 5/26/58, and obtained from him letters dated 4/5/58, 5/10/58, and 5/15/58, addressed to Senator TALMADGE from BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, whose address is shown as Molena, Georgia.

Accompanying the three above letters from RIGGINS was a copy of a letter from Senator TALMADGE to the Sheriff of Pike County, Georgia, wherein the Senator advised the sheriff of having received handwritten letter from the subject and drawing it to the sheriff's attention. The Senator's letter was dated 5/13/58.

[redacted] advised that she and the following persons had personally handled the letters from RIGGINS to the Senator. [redacted]

[redacted] and Senator HERMAN TALMADGE. All of the above persons are attached to the office staff of Senator TALMADGE.

The above documents were delivered to SA GEORGE DINGLE of the FBI Laboratory the morning of 5/26/58. The Laboratory is requested to submit original Laboratory report to Atlanta. Ruc.

3-Bureau
2-Atlanta
1-WFO
DEW:pap
(6)

MCT 41

REC-86

2 MAY 29 1958

SEVEN

34483

2

Worksheet + serial.
retained in lab file
6/10/58 dep

EXP. PROC.
b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

INDEX LAB FILES

REC-26 9-34483-3

Date: May 26, 1958

To: Mr. U. E. Baughman
Chief, United States Secret Service
Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON - VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM;
EXTORTION

This is to confirm information furnished
Special Agent [redacted] of your office
on May 24, 1958, by Mr. O. H. Bartlett of this
Bureau regarding Bennie James Riggins having
admitted writing a threatening letter to
Vice-President Richard Nixon within the past
two weeks.

Bennie James Riggins, age 18, of Molena,
Georgia, was interviewed by Special Agents of this
Bureau's Atlanta Office on May 22, 1958. At this
time he admitted having written letters within the
past two weeks to Vice-President Nixon, Senator
Herman Talmadge, and Art Linkletter, television
personality, in which he demanded \$200 each from
Vice-President Nixon and Senator Talmadge and \$700
from Linkletter on threat of death if they failed
to pay.

A doctor who has treated Riggins in the
past has advised that he is not mentally sound and
has diabetes incipidus.

BY COURIER SVC.

51 MAY 27

COMM - FBI

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Nease _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

CB:jlp
(4)

52 JUN 3 1958

MAIL ROOM ☐

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

MAY 26 3 12 PM '58

Mr. U. E. Baughman

Riggins was arrested by the Sheriff's Office, Pike County, Georgia, for having written the threatening letter to Senator Talmadge, and he was released from the Pike County Jail, May 21, 1958, on \$500 bond.

The matter of Riggins having written threatening letters to Vice-President Nixon, Senator Talmadge, and Art Linkletter will be discussed with an appropriate United States Attorney for his opinion as to desired prosecutive action. You will be furnished copies of this Bureau's investigative reports in this matter.

NOTE: On 5/26/58, Mr. DeLoach in Mr. Nease's Office, contacted Mr. Kenneth Turner, Administrative Assistant to Senator Talmadge, regarding the above matter. Mr. Turner advised that he would make the letter sent to Senator Talmadge available to Mr. DeLoach. Supervisor [redacted] WFO, was advised to have an SA immediately proceed to Senator Talmadge's Office and obtain the letter written by subject from Mr. Turner.

b6
b7C

O. H. Bartlett, Liaison Section, on 5/26/58, contacted the Protective Research Unit, U. S. Secret Service, in an attempt to obtain the letter sent to Vice-President Nixon by the subject. Secret Service advised that they did not have this letter immediately available; however, they would contact the Vice-President's Office and endeavor to locate instant letter.

34483

F B I

Date: 5/22/58

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (9-1299)

SUBJECT: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER-VICTIM;
VICE-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON-VICTIM;
Senator HERMAN TALMADGE-VICTIM
EXTORTION

00: ATLANTA

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 5/16/58

Title changed to add names of victims, Vice President RICHARD NIXON and Senator HERMAN TALMADGE. Subject located and interviewed this date Molena, Ga. Subject in signed statements admitted sending letters within the past 2 weeks to victims demanding \$700 from LINKLETTER, \$200 from NIXON and \$200 from TALMADGE and threatened to have them killed for their failure to pay. Subject, 18 years of age, advised that he completed 7th grade and that about 5 years ago he was committed to State Hospital, Milledgeville, Ga. for "High Temper". M.D. who treated subject in the past advised subject not mentally sound and has diabetes incipidus. Subject was arrested by Sheriff's Office, Pike County, Ga. and released from Pike County Jail, 5/21/58 on \$500 bond for writing letter to TALMADGE.

REC- 26 MAY 23

Bureau notify Secret Service as to signed statement of subject concerning his mailing extortion letter containing threat to Vice-President.

Washington Field Office will obtain extortion letters from Vice-President NIXON and SENATOR TALMADGE and will forward them to Laboratory for comparison purposes with handwriting of subject obtained by this office.

3- Bureau 2- Los Angeles 2- Washington Field 2- Atlanta

Approved: JPG/rjh
(9) [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge.

Sent _____ M Per ☒

34483

b6
b7C

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

AT 9-1299

LOS ANGELES:

Will discuss facts concerning subject's writing letter to LINKLETTER with AUSA.

Atlanta is considering itself Office of Origin since subject resides in Atlanta territory and extortion letters mailed from that Division.

ATLANTA:AT MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA

Will review records State Hospital for information as to diagnosis of subject's mental condition.

ATLANTA:AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Will notify Secret Service as to extortion letter to NIXON. Will discuss facts with USA as to threats directed to Vice-President NIXON and Senator Talmadge.

9

34483

8

-2-

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

To: FBI, Los Angeles (9-2142)

Date: June 12, 1958

**Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON -
VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION**

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **9-34483 - 4**
Lab. No. **D-280279 DJ**

Examination requested by: **Los Angeles**

Reference: **Letter 5/27/58**

Examination requested: **Document**

Remarks:

Q1 through Q6 were submitted by the Washington Field Office under date of May 26, 1958.

No record was found in the Laboratory of known handwriting specimens of the subject submitted by the Atlanta Office.

Enclosures (5) (Q7, Q8, 3 Lab report)

- 1 - Atlanta - Enclosure (Lab report)**
- 1 - Washington Field Office - Enclosure (Lab report)**

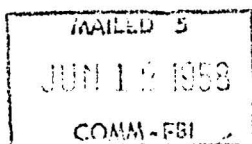
GFM:PCC
(6)

9

34483

4

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Nease _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____



JUN 18 1958

MAIL ROOM ☒

JUN 13 1958

REPORT
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Los Angeles

Date:

June 12, 1958

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON -
VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION

FBI File No.

9-34483

Lab. No.

D-280279 DJ

Specimens received 5/29/58

- Q7 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Art Linkletter
CBS Hollywood, California," postmarked "MOLENA GA.
MAY 12 1958 PM," bearing writing in the upper left-hand
corner.
- Q8 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning
"Monday May 12, 1958 this is..." ending on reverse
side "...don't fool around."

Results of Examination:

It was concluded that the handwriting on Q7 and Q8
was prepared by the writer of specimens Q1 through Q6,
previously submitted in connection with this case.

Q7 and Q8 are returned herewith. Photographs are
retained.

GFM:PCC
(7)

9

34483

4

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Nease _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holloman _____

MAIL ROOM ☐

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 5/21/58

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-2142)

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

SUBJECT:

BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
 ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
 Vice President RICHARD NIXON - VICTIM;
 Senator HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
 OO: ATLANTA
 EXTORTION

280279

Remyairtel 5/16/58.

Enclosed herewith is the original and a photostatic copy of the letter received by victim, ART LINKLETTER, from subject. The .22 caliber bullet which was included in the letter is being retained in this office.

It is requested that the handwriting in the enclosed letter be compared with handwriting specimens of the subject, which were submitted by the Atlanta Office.

- ③ - Bureau (Encl. 2) (REGISTERED)
 1 - Los Angeles

JMC:mmw
 (4)

9

34483

4

REC-74

9-34483-4
 6-3
 13 MAY 29 1958

EX-101

INDEX LAB FILES

Monday

May 12, 1958

this is very important
your Boy like is in
danger no jokes at all

Dear Art

I wrote you a few weeks ago
I am a young Boy eightee.
I have seen you give large sum
of money runing in your show
people that don't even need it
as bad as I need it I am a
Gang leader now and mean
business there are 15 Boys in
my Gang they are 6 of my Boy
in California state if you
don't do what you told you
will wish had my Boy hang
around some of the school
The police FBI & Bi are on me
Athe lawr want help any
if you don't send me \$700.00

Dollar at the date I said
your Boy Robert and Jack
will be murder I send
my Gang to a few states like
New York Chicago ill. your
House party show some Gang
may come there if you
don't send me the
Money \$700.00 dollar this lat

address Bennie James Riggins
Malena Ga R# 2
if you want your Boy to live

May 17, or 1930 10 20 if you
want your Boy to live and
well as your self send
Cash or check no mark Bill
Know it's up your Boy
like a real stake it's up to
you if you want your
Boy to live we mean
him to live you are telling
first and last chance
your Boy or boy will

Be sent to death as well
as jail if your own life is
dangerous don't you dare
call my name we are part
of the new job & Gang
it's up to you this no joke

Send the money or check
for \$700.00 dollar to this
address

Mr. Bennie James Riggins
Malena Ga R# 2

don't fool around

F B I

Date: 5/27/58

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-2142)

RE: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART/ HINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE-PRESIDENT RICHARD
NIXON - VICTIM; SENATOR HERMAN
STALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION

OO: Atlanta

Re Atlanta airtel to the Director 5/22/58.

Information concerning subject developed
by Atlanta Office discussed with AUSA ROBERT D.
HORNBAKER, Los Angeles 5/26/58.

AUSA HORNBAKER declined prosecution in
favor of prosecutive decision of USA, Atlanta, Georgia
inasmuch as all letters originated within Georgia
judicial district.

- ③ - Bureau
1 - Atlanta (9-1299)
1 - Washington Field
1 - Los Angeles

JMC/lah
(6)

REC-59

MAY 29 1958

9

34482

AIRTEL

EX-140

STX

Approved: *DKB*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

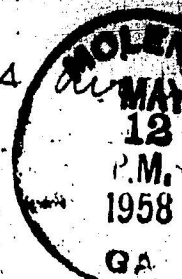
M

Per _____

70 JUN 6 1958

It not delivered 5 day
Return Bennie Higgins
Molena Ga R # 2

VIA



Art Zinkletter

C B S Hollywood -
California

9 34483

4

SAC, Atlanta (9-1299)

5/28/58

Director, FBI

BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON - VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM;
EXTORTION

Reurairtel 5/22/58.

Mr. Robert J. Bouck, Special Agent in Charge, Protective Research Section, United States Secret Service, White House, Washington, D. C., on 5/26/58 advised Bureau's liaison representative that they were in possession of the letter written by subject to Vice President Nixon. Mr. Bouck stated Secret Service desired to retain this letter in view of the threat to Vice President Nixon. Mr. Bouck advised that this letter would be made available to the Bureau if such was needed in any pending prosecution against the subject.

NOTE:

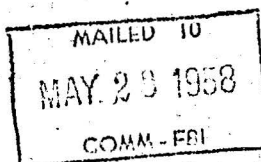
Above per O. H. Bartlett, Liaison Section.

CB:mlm
(4)

34483

REC- 83

24 JUN 3 1958



Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐



FED BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington 25, D. C.

REPORT of the LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION Identification Division

YOUR FILE NO.

May 29, 1958

FBI FILE NO.

LATENT CASE NO. 15633

TO: SAC, Atlanta

RE: **BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION**

REFERENCE: Letter WFO dated 5/26/58

EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: WFO

SPECIMENS: Two envelopes and accompanying letters, Q1 through Q6
Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58 to "Honorable
J. Astor Riggins, Sheriff of Pike County, Zebulon,
Georgia"

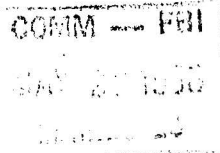
No latent impressions developed on specimens designated
Q1 through Q6.

Q1 through Q6 and the carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58
are being forwarded with copies of this report to WFO.

Laboratory report separate.

REC-83

2 - WFO (Enclosures 7)



19 JUN 3 1958

JW:emh
(7)

Original report sent
to Atlanta Office per request
of relet.

Tolson
Boardman
Belmont
Mohr
Nease
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☒

THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

John Edgar Hoover, Director



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Atlanta (9-1299)

Date: June 16, 1958

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER-VICTIM
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M.
NIXON-VICTIM
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE-VICTIM
EXTORTION

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

REC-84

FBI File No.
Lab. No.

9-34483 - 8
D-280989 DJ

Examination requested by: FBI, Atlanta

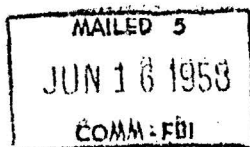
Reference: Letter 6/5/58

Examination requested: Document

Remarks:

Q1 through Q6 were submitted by Washington Field Office under date of May 26, 1958. Q7 and Q8 were submitted by the Los Angeles Office under date of May 27, 1958.

1 Atlanta 7-15-58 re stat & when rept. rpt. & submit 2 cc of all repts. CB: fm



Enclosures (4) (K1, 3 Lab report)

- 1 - Washington Field Enclosure (Lab report)
- 1 - Los Angeles Enclosure (Lab report)

GFM:bc
(6)

9

34483

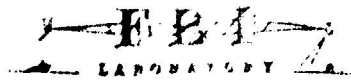
8

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Nease _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM

59 JUN 18 1958

JUN 18 1958



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Atlanta

Date: June 10, 1958
FBI File No. 44-38861
Lab. No. D-25459-2-12

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS:
ART LINKLETTER-VICTIM
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M.
NIXON-VICTIM
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE-VICTIM
EXTORTION

Specimens received 6/9/58

K1 Four sheets of ruled paper bearing known handwriting of
BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS.

Results of Examination:

It was concluded that Q1 through Q8 were prepared
by BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, whose known handwriting specimens
are designated above as K1.

K1 is returned herewith. Photographs are retained.

GFM:bc RB
(7)

34483

8

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Nease _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Clayton _____
Tele. Room _____

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 6/5/58

FROM : SAC, ATLANTA (9-1299)

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

280989

SUBJECT: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
 ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
 VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON - VICTIM
 SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
 EXTORTION

Re Atlanta airtel to the Bureau dated 5/22/58.

Enclosed herewith are four pages of handwriting specimens of subject BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS.

The Laboratory is requested to compare enclosed handwriting specimens with handwriting found on extortion letters.

Following completion of the examination, the Laboratory is requested to forward results of the comparison to the Atlanta and Los Angeles Offices. The Laboratory may desire to retain the handwriting specimens enclosed.

ENCLOSURE

- ② - Bureau (Encls. 4) (RM)
 1 - Washington Field Office
 1 - Los Angeles
 1 - Atlanta (9-1299)
 JPG:hcs
 (5)

EX-140

SEVEN

Lab Report
 G. F. M. / hcs
 June 14, 1958

Recorded 6/10/58 bp

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

LAB FILE OPENED...

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER-VICTIM
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON-VICTIM
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE-VICTIM
EXTORTION

File # 9-34483-8
Lab. # D 280989 DJ

Examination requested by: FBI, Atlanta(9-1299)-Letter 6/5/58

Examination requested: Document

Date received: 6/9/58

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

b6
b7C

*evid not'd
6/16/58 bup*

Specimens submitted for examination

<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>CHECK #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYABLE TO</u>	<u>SIGNED BY</u>	<u>BANK</u>
-----------------	----------------	---------------	-------------	-------------------	------------------	-------------

K1 Four sheets of ruled paper bearing known handwriting of
BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS

9 34483 8

ENCLOSURE

ROLL 488 DATE 6/22
FRAME 597-600

I am a young leader and I have
15 boys in my gang. 6 are in California
state. if you don't do wa what you
are told you will wish you had
told the police or FBI or any
other law would help if you
don't send \$700.00 dollars
this date I said your Boy
Robert or Jack will be
murdered or told me money
seven hundred this date
May 17 or 19 or 20 so if you
want Boy to live as
well as your self send
cash or check no mark
Bill it up to you send
money or check to
Mr. Bennie James Higgins
Malrose Igo- R.H. 2

PC 17 686086C

I am a Gang leader
I have put together Boys in my Gang
6 are in California state if you
don't what you are taking you will
wish you had if you don't send
\$100.00 dollar this date I said you
Boys Robbed at Jack will be
murdered or told send me
money \$700.00 dollar this date
May 17 or 19 or 20 so if you want
Boys to live as well as your
self send cash or check no
mark Bill it up to you
and money or check to me.
Kennie James Muggins Molina You
N+12

080989 KI DJ

FBI

I am a gang a leader
I now 15 Boys in my Gang 6 are in
California state if you don't do
what you are told you
will wish you had the police or
FBI or any other law won't help
if you don't send seven hundred
dollar this date I assist your
Boy Robert of Jolt will be
murdered or told send me
money seven hundred dollar this
date R May 17 or 19 or 20 so
if you want Boy to live or
well or your self send
cash or check no mark Bill its
up to you send money or check
to Mr Bennie James Piggins
Maleno Ho. R# 2

PC 14 6860802

Malena Ga

May 22, 1958

I Bennie James Higgins

Give the following specimens of my
Hand willing voluntarily
the quick Brown fox hunt over
the lazy dog

Malena Ga.

May 22, 1958

I Bennie James Higgins

the quick Brown fox hunt over
the lazy dog

Q280989 K1 QJ

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Atlanta (Your file (9-1299) DATE: 7-15-58

FROM : Director, FBI (Bufile and serial (9-34483)

SUBJECT: *Bennie James Riggins;*
ant Link letter - victim
vice President Richard Nixon - victim Office of Origin:

1. () The deadline in this case has passed and the Bureau has not received a report. You are instructed to submit a report immediately. In the event a report has been submitted, you should make a notation of the date on which it was submitted on this letter and return it to the Bureau, Room No. *Bureau*

Report submitted

Report will be submitted

Reason for delay

Submit 2 cc of all reports.

2. () Advise Bureau re status of this case.

3. () Advise Bureau when report may be expected.

4. () Surep immediately.

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau. Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and acknowledgment of this communication.)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office ATLANTA	Office of Origin ATLANTA	Date 7/21/58	Investigative Period 1/22, 29, 30; 6/20, 30; 7/21
TITLE OF CASE BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS; MR. LINKLETTER - VICTIM; MR. PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM; SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM		Report made by <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	Typed By: WCT
		CHARACTER OF CASE EXTORTION	

b6
b7C

Summary

Subject in signed statements admitted sending letters to Victims LINKLETTER, NIXON, and TALMADGE demanding \$700 from LINKLETTER, \$100 from NIXON, and \$200 from TALMADGE, and threatened to have them killed in their failure to pay. Subject, 18 years of age, advised that he completed 7th Grade, and that about five years ago he was committed to State Hospital at Milledgeville, Georgia. Subject was arrested by Sheriff's Office, Pike County, Georgia, and released from Pike County Jail May 21, 1958, on \$500 bond on charge of writing threatening letter. Subject was committed to State Hospital, Milledgeville, Georgia, August 7, 1953, where his condition was diagnosed as "mental deficiency with psychotic reaction". AUSA, Atlanta, declines prosecution.

- C -

DETAILS:

Investigation in this matter is predicated upon receipt of copy of communication from Los Angeles to the Director dated May 16, 1958, which communication reflected that BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS

Approved: Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below		
Copies made: 1-Bureau (9-34483) 1-USA, Atlanta 1-Los Angeles (Info.) (9-2142) (1-USA, Los Angeles) 1-Atlanta (9-1299) <i>1 cc Secret Service 8-14-58 Rlb: fu</i>	9-34483-9	9	REC-1

59 AUG 18 1958

AT 9-1299

directed partially incoherent handwritten air mail letter postmarked Molena, Georgia, May 12, 1958, to victim, CBS, Hollywood, California, which is as follows:

" I am a gang leader and I have 15 boys in my gang, 6 are in California State. If you don't do what you are told you will wish you had. The police or FBI or any other law won't help. If you don't send \$700 this date I said your boy ROBERT or JACK will be murdered, as told send me money \$700 this date 5/17 or 19 or 20 so if you want boys to live as well as yourself send cash or check. No marked bills. It is up to you. Send money or check to Mr. BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, Molena, Georgia, Route Number 2."

An unfired .22 calibre bullet was enclosed in the letter. In letter, subject refers to self as 12 year old boy. Letter handled by LINKLETTER employee who opens fan mail. LINKLETTER aware of letter but not concerned regarding threats as believes author seems like mental case.

Instant letter turned over to FBI, Los Angeles, May 16, 1958, by [redacted] to ART LINKLETTER.

ROBERT LINKLETTER is described as:

Age:	12
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	140 lbs.
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Brown

JACK LINKLETTER is described as:

Age:	19
Height:	6'
Weight:	160
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Blue

ART LINKLETTER is described as:

Age:	44
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	160
Hair:	Light Brown
Eyes:	Blue
Complexion:	Fair

34483

AT 9-1299

Assistant U. S. Attorney ROBERT D. HORNBAKER, Los Angeles, desired inquiry to establish age and mental capacity of subject before making prosecutive decision.

The Los Angeles Office reported that the letter addressed to LINKLETTER was being forwarded to the Bureau.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (9-1299)

DATE: 7/18/58

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

Dictated: 7/15/58

b6
b7C

SUBJECT: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION

On May 22, 1958, BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS was located in Molena, Georgia, and executed the following signed statement, the original of which is maintained in the files of the Atlanta Office:

"Molena, Ga.
May 22, 1958

"I, BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, give the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] who has told me he is a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I know I do not have to make this statement and that it can be used against me in a court of law. No threats or promises have been made or given to me to make this statement. I have been told I can have a lawyer.

"I am 18 years old and can read and write.

"I had been looking for work around Molena, Ga. and work was hard to find. I felt that if I had \$200.00 or \$300.00 I could go to Florida and get a job there. I felt I could get the money from some rich persons and I sat down and wrote a letter to ART LINKLETTER. I wrote that I wanted \$700.00, and that if he didn't send me the money, I would murder his sons. I also sent along a .22 caliber bullet in the letter. I placed the letter in the mail box outside my home, and the letter was picked up by the rural carrier about a week or two weeks ago.

"I am not a gang leader, and I don't belong to any gang. I had no intentions of harming or killing ART LINKLETTER or any member of his family. I have

JPG:rjb

- 4 -
9 34483 9

AT 9-1299

read above statement and I_ has Been Read to me and every word of it is true.

"/s/ BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS

"Witness:

Special Agent, F.B.I., Atlanta, Ga."

The following is a copy of the second signed statement executed by RIGGINS with respect to Vice President NIXON, the original of which statement is incorporated as an exhibit in the files of this office:

b6
b7C

"Molena, Ga.
May 28, 1958

"I, BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, give the following voluntary statement to who has told me he is a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I know I do not have to make this statement and that it can be used against me in a court of law. No threats or promises have been made or given to me to make this statement. I have been told I can have a lawyer.

"I am 18 years old and can read and write.

"About a week ago I wrote a letter to Vice President NIXON. In the letter, I wrote that if he didn't send me \$200.00 by a certain date, which I don't remember, that I would send some of my gang to kill him. I signed my name to the letter and also put my address on the letter.

"After finishing the letter, sealing it and placing a stamp on the envelop, I placed the letter in the mail box outside my home, and the letter was picked up by the rural carrier.

"I had not nor have any intentions of killing or harming Vice President NIXON or any member of his family. I do not have any gang nor am I a member of any gang. I

AT 9-1299

have Read the above Statement and I has Been Read to me and every word of it is true

"/s/ BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS

"Witness:

Special Agent, F.B.I., Atlanta, Ga."

RIGGINS executed a signed statement with respect to a letter sent to Senator TALMADGE, and the following is a copy of that statement, original of which is maintained in the files of the Atlanta Office:

"Molena, Ga.
May 22, 1958

"I, BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, give the following voluntary statement to who has told me he is a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I know I do not have this statement, and that it can be used against me in a court of law. No threats or promises have been made or given to me to make this statement. I have been told I can have a lawyer.

"I am 18 years old and can read and write.

"About a week ago, I wrote a letter to Senator TALMADGE of Ga. In the letter, I wrote that I wanted \$200.00 and that if he didn't send it to me by the 17th or 18th of May, that I would send some of my gang up to Washington to kill him.

"I repeated that statement several times in the letter. I placed a stamp on the envelope enclosing the letter; placed the envelope and letter in the mail box outside my home and the letter was picked up by the rural carrier. I had nor have no intentions of killing or harming Senator TALMADGE in any way. I am not a member of any gang nor do I have any gang.

AT 9-1299

"I have Read the above statement and it as Been
Read to me and every word of it is true"

"/s/ BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS

"Witness: Special Agent, F.B.I., Atlanta, Ga."

Additionally RIGGINS furnished four pages of hand-writing specimens.

The following is a description of the subject as obtained by observation and interview:

Name:	BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS
Address:	Route 2, Molena, Ga.
Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	18
Born:	Molena, Ga., November 15, 1939
Height:	5'6"
Weight:	130 lbs.
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Red
Complexion:	Fair, freckles
Build:	Small
Marital Status:	Single
Education:	Completed 7th Grade
Father:	WALTER S. RIGGINS, Old Age Home, Flovilla, Georgia;
Mother:	LULA MAE GIBSON, deceased
Brother:	
Brother:	
Sister:	
Military Service:	None
Occupation:	Unemployed; he advised he has never worked, but has helped around home and farm.

Relatives:

[redacted] aunts
with whom RIGGINS resides on
Route 2, Molena, Georgia, for
past six years. Prior to this,
subject advised that he was in
Orphans Home from age 4 to 11
years of age at Hapeville, Ga.

Medical Condition: Subject advised he has diabetes
and is treated by [redacted]

[redacted] at Zebulon, Georgia
Characteristics: Has speech impediment mental
condition; Subject advised that
he was in State Hospital,
Milledgeville, Georgia, about
five years ago for "high temper".

Arrests

Admitted:

Subject advised that he was
arrested May 16, 1958, by
Sheriff's Office, Zebulon, Georgia,
for writing threatening letter to
Senator TALMADGE, and was released
from the Pike County, Georgia Jail,
May 21, 1958, on bond.

Draft Status:

Subject advised that he has
never registered for the draft

AT ZEBULON, GEORGIA

On May 22, 1958, [redacted] advised that he has treated subject in the past and that subject is "not mentally sound" and is "not responsible for his actions". [redacted] added that he had had no recent contact with the subject but that the subject has diabetes incipidus and may have a tumor of the pituitary gland.

b6
b7c

On May 22, 1958, [redacted] of Sheriff J. ASTOR RIGGINS, Pike County, Georgia, advised that BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS was arrested by [redacted] the sheriff, for writing a threatening letter to Senator TALMADGE, and that he was released on \$500 bond on May 21, 1958.

On the same day, Sheriff J. ASTOR RIGGINS advised that the subject would be tried in the Superior Court of Pike County, Georgia, on a charge of writing a threatening letter and that the punishment for that crime is a two to five year sentence.

AT MOLENA, GEORGIA

On May 22, 1958, [redacted] Route 2, advised that she is an aunt of the subject and that the subject has been residing with her for several years. She stated that the subject is emotionally disturbed and has congenital diabetes. She described subject as being a "good boy" who has been a great deal of help around the house. She added that she has no information as to his writing extortion letters.

Washington Field Office letter to Director dated May 26, 1958, reported that SA DONALD E. WALTER contacted Senator HERMAN TALMADGE of Georgia on the morning of May 26, 1958 and obtained from him letters dated April 5, 1958, May 10, 1958, and May 15, 1958, addressed to Senator TALMADGE from BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, whose address is shown as Molena, Georgia.

AT 9-1299

Accompanying the three above letters from RIGGINS was a copy of a letter from Senator TALMADGE to the Sheriff of Pike County, Georgia, wherein the Senator advised the sheriff of having received handwritten letter from the subject and drawing it to the sheriff's attention. The Senator's letter was dated May 13, 1958.

[redacted] advised that she and the following persons had personally handled the letters from RIGGINS to the Senator. [redacted]

[redacted] and Senator HERMAN TALMADGE. All of the above persons are attached to the office staff of Senator TALMADGE.

The above documents were delivered to SA GEORGE DINGLE of the FBI Laboratory the morning of May 26, 1958.

Los Angeles letter to Director dated May 27, 1958, stated that information concerning Subject RIGGINS was discussed with Assistant U. S. Attorney ROBERT D. HORNBAKER, Los Angeles, on May 26, 1958.

Assistant HORNBAKER declined prosecution in favor of prosecutive decision of U. S. Attorney, Atlanta, inasmuch as all letters originated within Georgia Judicial District.

Bureau letter to Atlanta dated May 23, 1958, reflected that Mr. ROBERT J. BOUCK, Special Agent in Charge, Protective Research Section, United States Secret Service, White House, Washington, D. C., on May 26, 1958, advised Bureau's liaison representative that they were in possession of the letter written by subject to Vice President NIXON. Mr. BOUCK stated Secret Service desired to retain this letter in view of the threat to Vice President NIXON. Mr. BOUCK advised that this letter would be made available to the Bureau if such was needed in any pending prosecution against the subject.

The following are Laboratory reports dated May 29, 1958, May 29, 1958, and June 12, 1958:

AT 9-1299

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Washington 25, D. C.
REPORT
OF THE
LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION
Identification Division

YOUR FILE NO.
FBI FILE NO.
LATENT CASE NO. 15633

May 29, 1958

TO: SAC, ATLANTA

RE: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION

Reference: Letter WFO dated 5/26/58

Examination Requested By: WFO

Specimens: Two envelopes and accompanying letter, Q1 through Q6
Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58 to "Honorable
J. Astor Riggins, Sheriff of Pike County, Zebulon,
Georgia"

No latent impressions developed on specimens
designated Q1 through Q6.

Q1 through Q6 and the carbon copy of letter
dated 5/13/58 are being forwarded with copies of this report
to WFO.

Laboratory report separate.

2-WFO (Enclosures 7)

REPORT
of the

F B I
LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TO: FBI, ATLANTA

RE: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON -
VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION

Date: May 29, 1958
FBI File No.
Lab. No. D-279895 DJ

Specimens received from FBI, Washington Field Office, 5/26/58

- Q1 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Talmadge State Capital Washington D C.," postmarked "MOLENA GA. MAY 9 1958 P.M."
- Q2 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Talmadge State Capital Washington D C.," postmarked "MOLENA GA. MAY 14 1958 P.M."
- Q3 One-page handwritten letter dated 4/5/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a white..." ending on reverse side "...do something very soon. Address Bennie James Riggins Molena Ga."
- Q4 One-page handwritten letter dated 5/10/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending on reverse side "...out of danger."
- Q5 Piece of paper bearing handwritten letter dated 5/10/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending "...army marine crop."
- Q6 One-page handwritten letter dated 5/15/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I wrote here a week..." ending on reverse side "...this address Bennie James Riggins Molena Ga R#2."

ALSO SUBMITTED: Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58, to "Honorable J. Astor Riggins Sheriff of Pike County, Zebulon, Georgia

AT 9-1299

Results of Examination:

Q1 through Q6 were compared with the appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letter File without effecting an identification.

Q1 through Q6 do not contain any watermarks or other identifying characteristics which would assist in determining the sources of the envelopes and paper.

You will be separately advised regarding the results of the latent fingerprint examination. You will be advised of the disposition of the evidence in the fingerprint report. Photographs are retained in the files of the Bureau.

AT 9-1299

REPORT
OF THE

F B I
LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Los Angeles

Date: June 12, 1958

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON -
VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION

FBI File No. 9-34483
Lab. No. D-280279 DJ

Specimens received 5/29/58

- Q7 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Art Linkletter
CBS Hollywood, California," postmarked "MOLENA GA.
MAY 12 1958 PM," bearing writing in the upper left-hand
corner.
- Q8 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning
"Monday May 12, 1958 this is..." ending on reverse
side "...don't fool around."

Results of Examination:

It was concluded that the handwriting on Q7 and Q8
was prepared by the writer of specimens Q1 through Q6,
previously submitted in connection with this case.

Q7 and Q8 are returned herewith. Photographs are
retained.

9 - 34483

9

AT 9-1299

By letter dated June 5, 1958, the Atlanta Division forwarded to the FBI Laboratory four pages of handwriting specimens of Subject RIGGINS.

The following is a Laboratory report concerning these four pages of handwriting specimens of Subject RIGGINS dated June 16, 1958:

9 34483 9

REPORT
OF THE

F B I
LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Atlanta

Date: June 16, 1958

FBI File No. 9-34483

Lab. No. D-280989 DJ

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M.
NIXON - VICTIM
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION

Specimens received 6/9/58

K1 Four sheets of ruled paper bearing known handwriting
of BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS.

Results of Examination:

It was concluded that Q1 through Q8 were
prepared by BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, whose known hand-
writing specimens are designated above as K1.

K1 is returned herewith. Photographs are
retained.

9

34483

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AT 9-1299

AT MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA

The following investigation was conducted by SA
JOHN P. O'BRIEN:

On May 29, 1958, [redacted]
[redacted] Milledgeville State Hospital, Milledgeville,
Georgia, advised that her records reflect BENNIE JAMES
RIGGINS was admitted to the hospital on August 7, 1953 under
hospital record #87446, and was furloughed from the hospital
on September 12, 1953. Subject's diagnosis was "Mental Defi-
ciency With Psychotic Reaction". Subject's condition at the
time of furlough was recorded as "improved". [redacted]
advised since subject did not return to the hospital after
being furloughed, he was discharged from the hospital one
year after furlough, on September 12, 1954.

b6
b7C

Petition For Commission of Lunacy for State of
Georgia, Pike County, is dated August 7, 1953, and signed
by [redacted]

The records reflect subject was born November 15,
1929, address listed as Molena, Georgia, and guardian listed
as [redacted] aunt. Subject's History Blank
reflects subject's mother is deceased, and that subject has
a 6th grade education. Subject, after his mother's death,
was placed in Georgia Baptist Home For Children, Hapeville,
Georgia, from March 30, 1944 to May 25, 1951. Subject has
father, two brothers, and one sister, no names shown on the
record.

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted]

On July 14, 1958, the facts of this case were
discussed with Assistant U. S. Attorney JOHN W. STOKES.
Mr. STOKES advised that he is declining prosecution in
this matter in view of the state prosecution pending
against subject.

- C -

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (9-34483)

DATE: 7/21/58

FROM : SAC, ATLANTA (9-1299)

SUBJECT: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
 ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
 VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON -
 VICTIM;
 SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
 EXTORTION
 (ATLANTA:OO)

Transmitted herewith is report of SA [REDACTED]
 dated 7/21/58 at Atlanta, Georgia.

b6
b7CREFERENCES:

Los Angeles airtels to Bureau dated May 16 and 27, 1958;
 Atlanta airtel to Director, May 22, 1958;
 WFO letter to Bureau dated May 26, 1958;
 Bureau letter to Atlanta dated May 28, 1958;
 FBI Laboratory reports dated May 29; June 12, 16, 1958;
 Atlanta letter to Bureau dated June 5, 1958;
 WFO letter to Atlanta, June 13, 1958.

LEADS:LOS ANGELES (INFORMATION)

A copy of this report is being designated for Los Angeles Office inasmuch as prosecutive opinion in this case was rendered by Assistant U. S. Attorney, Los Angeles.

9 34483 10
 (2) Bureau (Encl. 2)
 1-Los Angeles (Info.) (9-2142) (Encl. 2)
 1-Atlanta

JPG:rjb
 (4)

REC-1

14 JUL 24 1958

101-73

158 AUG 18 1958

AT 9-1299

ADMINISTRATIVE:

The Special Agent In Charge, U. S. Secret Service, Atlanta, Georgia, has been advised by letter of the decision of the U. S. Attorney in this matter.

34483

10

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office LOS ANGELES	Office of Origin ATLANTA	Date 7/29/58	Investigative Period 5/16, 25, 26, 27; 6/10, 17, 24;
TITLE OF CASE BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON - VICTIM SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM		Report made by <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>	Typed By jmf <small>b6 b7c</small>
		CHARACTER OF CASE EXTORTION	

Synopsis: Subject directed letter to victim ART LINKLETTER, May 12, 1958, threatening life of victim and victim's sons unless \$700 in cash remitted to subject at Route #2, Molena, Georgia. Investigation at Molena, Georgia disclosed letter authored by subject, an eighteen year old boy who admitted writing instant threatening letter. Subject also admitted writing similar letters to Vice President RICHARD M. NIXON and Senator HERMAN TALMADGE. Subject former inmate of Georgia Mental Hospital and presently suffering diabetic condition. Arrested by Pike County Sheriff's Office May 21, 1958 for writing threatening letter to Senator TALMADGE. Prosecution declined by Assistant United States Attorney, Los Angeles in favor of prosecutive action of United States Attorney, Atlanta, Georgia. Laboratory handwriting examination confirms subject as author of all letters.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

Approved <i>[Signature]</i>	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below		
Copies made: ① - Bureau (9-34483) 1 - USA, Los Angeles 2 - Atlanta (9-1299) 1 - WFO 1 - Los Angeles (9-2142) <i>1 pc Secret Service</i> <i>8-14-58</i> <i>Rel. for</i>		9-34483-11	REC-80	
		13 AUG 5 1958		

59 AUG 18 1958

1584483

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERVIEW REPORT

July 29, 1958

On May 16, 1958 [redacted] to ART LINKLETTER, prominent radio and television entertainer, 8381 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, California advised SA [redacted] that a threatening letter had been received in LINKLETTER's fan mail that day. This letter, which was handwritten in pencil on lined notebook paper, was enclosed in a plain white envelope and bore the address ART LINKLETTER, CBS, Hollywood, California. The following notation appeared on the face of the envelope "if not delivery 5 day return BENNIE RIGGINS, Molena, Ga. R #2." The letter was dispatched by Air Mail and was postmarked at Molena, Ga., PM, May 12, 1958. An unfired .22 caliber bullet was enclosed with the letter.

[redacted] made this letter available on May 16, 1958, and its contents are set forth as follows:

"Monday
May 12, 1958

"this is very important your boy
life is in danger no jokes at all

"Dear Art

"I wrote you a few weeks ago I am a young boy eighteen I have seen you give large sum of money away on your show people that don't even need it as bad as I need it I am a Gang leader now and mean business they are 15 boys in My Gang they are 6 of my boys in California states if you don't do what your told you will wish had my boys hang around some of the school The police FBI GBI or any other laws won't help any if you don't send me \$700.00 dollar at the date I said your boy ROBERT and JACK will be murder I send My Gang to a few States like New York Chic go ill. Your Houseparty show some Gang may come there if you don't send me the money \$700.00 dollar this date

"address BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS
Molena GA R #2
if you want your boy to live

May 17, or 19 or 20 so if you want your boy to live or well or your self send cash or check no mark bill know silp up your boy life is at stake it up to you if you want your boy to live we mean business you are getting first and last

Interview with [redacted] to
ART LINKLETTER
on 5/16/58 at CBS, Hollywood, California

File # LA 9-2142
Date Dictated: 7/24/58

by Special Agent [redacted] jmr

LA 9-2142

chance your boy ROBERT will be shot to death as well as JACK your own life is in danger don't you dare call my name we are part of the New York Gang Its up to you this no joke.

"Send the money or check for \$700.00 dollar to this address

Mr. BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS
Molena Ga R #2

"don't fool around"

[redacted] explained that Mr. LINKLETTER was aware of the letter's contents and was not concerned about its threats, as he felt that its author was a "nut" of some kind. According to [redacted] LINKLETTER is not acquainted with anyone in Molena, Georgia and has never heard of or recalls any previous correspondence being received from anyone by the name of RIGGINS. [redacted] described victim ART LINKLETTER as being age - forty-four, height - five feet ten inches, weight - one hundred sixty pounds, hair - light brown, eyes - blue, and complexion - fair. She described victim LINKLETTER's son, ROBERT, as being age - twelve, height - five feet eight inches, weight - one hundred forty pounds, hair - dark brown, and eyes - brown. LINKLETTER's son, JACK, is described as age - nineteen, height - six feet, weight - one hundred sixty pounds, hair - brown, and eyes - blue.

b6
b7C

LA 9-2142

The contents of this letter were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT D. HORNBAKER, Los Angeles, California on May 16, 1958, who requested that an inquiry be made at Molena, Georgia to establish the age and mental capacity of BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, before making a prosecutive decision.

On May 16, 1958 the Atlanta office was advised by Airtel of the contents of the threatening letter received by ART LINKLETTER from subject, and that office was requested to make inquiry at Molena, Georgia concerning BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS so that the Assistant United States Attorney at Los Angeles might be advised.

On May 22, 1958 the Atlanta office advised that BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS, when interviewed on May 22, 1958 at Molena, Georgia, admitted in signed statements directing letters within the past two weeks to victims demanding \$700 from LINKLETTER, \$200 from NIXON, and \$200 from TALMADGE. Each letter threatened to kill the victim if he failed to pay. RIGGINS, according to the Atlanta information, is an eighteen year old boy who has completed the seventh grade. Five years ago he was committed to the State Hospital, Milledgeville, Georgia for "high temper." A medical doctor who treated the subject in the past advised that he (subject), is not mentally sound and has diabetes incipidus.

The Atlanta Airtel further advised that BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS was arrested by the Sheriff's Office of Pike County, Georgia on May 21, 1958 for writing the threatening letter to Senator HERMAN TALMADGE. RIGGINS was released from the Pike County Jail on May 12, 1958 on \$500 bond.

The information concerning BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS as received from the Atlanta office was discussed with Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT D. HORNBAKER, Southern District of California, Los Angeles, on May 26, 1958. Mr. HORNBAKER declined prosecution of RIGGINS for a violation of the Federal Extortion Statute in favor of any prosecutive decision which might be made by United States Attorney at Atlanta, Georgia, inasmuch as the letter to LINKLETTER originated within the Georgia Judicial District and the subject resides in that territory.

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-24483

11

LA 9-2142

On May 27, 1958 the letter received by victim ART LINKLETTER from subject together with the envelope containing the same were submitted to the FBI Laboratory for handwriting comparisons with letters to the other victims, which were being submitted for a comparative examination by the Washington Field Division. Laboratory, by letter dated June 12, 1958, advised that the handwriting on the letter addressed to ART LINKLETTER was prepared by the author of the letters addressed to victims Vice President NIXON and Senator TALMADGE.

- RUC -

9

34483

11

- 5 -

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (9-34483)

DATE: July 29, 1958

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-2142)

SUBJECT: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
 ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
 VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M.
 NIXON - VICTIM
 SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE -
 VICTIM
 EXTORTION
 OO: Atlanta

Enclosed herewith is report of SA [REDACTED]
 dated as above at Los Angeles in the above captioned case.

REFERENCES

Los Angeles Airtel to the Director, May 16, 1958,
 with copy to Atlanta.
 Atlanta Airtel to the Director, dated May 22, 1958,
 with copy to Los Angeles.
 Los Angeles Airtel to the Director, dated May 27,
 1958, with copies for Atlanta and Washington Field
 Office.

REC-80

9 34483

12

- 1 - Bureau (Encl. -1)
 - 2 - Atlanta (Encls. -2) (9-1299)
 - 1 - WFO (Encl. -1)
 - 1 - Los Angeles
- JMC:jmf
 (5)

EX-105
REC-800

13 AUG 5 1958

59 AUG 18 1958

b6
b7C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : JOHN J. McGUIRE

DATE: 4-26-60

FROM : QUINN TAMM

SUBJECT: *Bennie James Riggins;*

*Art Linkletter, victim; Vice President Richard N.
Nixon, victim, Senator Herman Talmadge, victim
Extortion*

9-34483

There is enclosed the file which has been maintained in the Laboratory in connection with the above-captioned matter. It is desired that this file be maintained as an enclosure behind the main file in the Records Branch.

Enclosure

Tolson _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Belmont _____
Callahan _____
DeLoach _____
Malone _____
McGuire _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
W.C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

ENCL. ATTACHED

ENCLOSURE

51 APR 27 1960

9 34483
9-34483
NOT RECORDED

10 APR 27 1960

Recorded
5/28/58
PCC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NO LAB FILE

Laboratory Work Sheet

L A T E N T

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION

File #

9-34483

Lab. #

D-279896 DJ

Examination requested by: FBI, Washington Field Office Letter 5/26/58

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Date received: 5/26/58

(Personally delivered) ✓

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

b6
b7C

*No return or other ident char which would
assist in identifying the sources of the encls & papers.
No Id. ALF. (pb)*

5/29/58

Specimens submitted for examination

9 34483

Q1 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Talmadge
~~Talmadge~~ State Capital Washington D C., postmarked
"MOLENA GA. MAY 9 1958 ~~PM~~ P.M."

Q2 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman
Talmadge State Capital Washington D C., postmarked
MOLENA GA. MAY 14 1958 P.M."

Q3 One-page handwritten letter dated 4/5/58, beginning
"Hello Senator Talmadge I am a white..." ending on
reverse side "...do something very soon Address
Bennie James Riggins Molena Ga."

Q4 One-page handwritten letter dated 5/10/58, beginning
"Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending on
reverse side "...out of danger."

Q5 Piece of paper bearing handwritten letter dated 5/10/58,
beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending
"...army marine crop."

Q6 One-page handwritten letter dated 5/15/58, beginning
"Hello Senator Talmadge I wrote here a week..." ending
on reverse side "...this address Bennie James Riggins

SEND RPT.

ATLANTA/Molena Ga 5/23/58

Page 1

Continued next page

113-6- 5 hole lines 133 apart, 1.53 from top

Document - Engineering
Washington Field Office
Letter

Envelope bearing handwritten address
Washington Field Office
Letter dated 11/15/53, beginning
Hello... I am a young... ending on
reverted to... something very soon
enough... I am a young...

Envelope bearing handwritten address
Washington Field Office
Letter dated 11/15/53, beginning
Hello... I am a young... ending on
reverted to... something very soon
enough... I am a young...

One-page handwritten letter dated 11/15/53, beginning
Hello... I am a young... ending on
reverted to... something very soon
enough... I am a young...

One-page handwritten letter dated 11/15/53, beginning
Hello... I am a young... ending on
reverted to... something very soon
enough... I am a young...

Envelope of paper bearing handwritten address
Washington Field Office
Letter dated 11/15/53, beginning
Hello... I am a young... ending on
reverted to... something very soon
enough... I am a young...

Continued next page

surrounding states

Group III A - Neg.

9-24-83

ALSO SUBMITTED: Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58, to
"Honorable J. Astor Riggins ~~Sheriff~~ Sheriff of
Pike County Zebulon, Georgia."

Y.A.V. Subsequently State of Georgia III A- Neg.

page 2
D-279896 DJ

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34483

7-2
Recorded
5/28/58
PCC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

NO LAB FILE

Re: **L A T E N T**
BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION

File # **9-34483**
Lab. # **D-279896 DJ**

Examination requested by: **FBI, Washington Field Office Letter 5/26/58**
Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint** Date received: **5/26/58**
Result of Examination: **(Personally delivered)**
Examination by:

b6
b7C

Q1 + Q6 returned to WFO by L.F. 5/29/58
[Signature]
MAY 28 1958

Specimens submitted for examination

- Q1 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Talmadge
Talmadge State Capital Washington D C.," postmarked
MOLENA GA. MAY 9 1958 PM 4 P.M."**
- Q2 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman
Talmadge State Capital Washington D C.," postmarked
MOLENA GA. MAY 14 1958 P.M."**
- Q3 One-page handwritten letter dated 4/5/58, beginning
"Hello Senator Talmadge I am a white..." ending on
reverse side "...do something very soon Address
Bennie James Riggins Molena Ga."**
- Q4 One-page handwritten letter dated 5/10/58, beginning
"Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending on
reverse side "...out of danger."**
- Q5 Piece of paper bearing handwritten letter dated 5/10/58,
beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a young..." ending
"...army marine crop."**
- Q6 One-page handwritten letter dated 5/15/58, beginning
"Hello Senator Talmadge I wrote here a week..." ending
on reverse side "...this address Bennie James Riggins
70 ATLANTA/Molena Ga 302."**

1 ENCL

ALSO SUBMITTED: Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58, to
'Honorable J. Astor Riggins ~~Sherr~~ Sheriff of
Pike County Zebulon, Georgia."

page 2
D-279896 DJ

9

34483

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

recorded 6/6/58
ebk

Laboratory Work Sheet

LAB FILE....

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
Vice President RICHARD NIXON - VICTIM;
Senator HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION

File #
Lab. # D-280279 DJ

Examination requested: , Los Angeles (9-2142) 5/27/58

Examination requested: Document

Date received: 5/29/58

Result of Examination:

Examination by:



b6
b7C

1629
7607

856! 01 NDC

Recd
6/12/58

Specimens submitted for examination

- Q7 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Art Linkletter
CBS Hollywood, California," postmarked "MOLENA GA.
MAY 12 1958 PM," bearing writing in upper left-hand corner.
- Q8 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning
"Monday May 12, 1958 this is....," ending on reverse side
"....don't fool around."

9

34483

6-13-58

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

recorded 6/6/58

ebk

Laboratory Work Sheet

LAB FILE....

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
Vice President RICHARD NIXON - VICTIM;
Senator HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION

File # **9-34483**
Lab. # D-280279 DJ

Examination requested by: FBI, Los Angeles (9-2142) 5/27/58

Examination requested: Document

Date received: 5/29/58

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

Ident. Hw 47-8 → Hw 41-6 -

No rec. of K from Atlanta

6/6/58

Specimens submitted for examination

- Q7 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Art Linkletter
CBS Hollywood, California," postmarked "MOLENA GA.
MAY 12 1958 PM," bearing writing in upper left-hand corner.
- Q8 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning
"Monday May 12, 1958 this is....," ending on reverse side
"....don't fool around."

Atlanta

10-70 01-6-5726/58

9

34483

*U. S. Dept.
6/5/58
H. W. Tal*

4-7-8- Return Riggins
La California Dear I
you of wantt Rokert
part for this

4-6- D^r if Riggins La.
Lang I please you
Address the

3448

3448

Recorded 6/10/58 bp

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

LAB FILE OPENED...

Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER-VICTIM
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON-VICTIM
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE-VICTIM
EXTORTION

File # 9-34483
Lab. # D 280989 DJ

Examination requested by: FBI, Atlanta(9-1299)-Letter 6/5/58

Examination requested: Document

Date received: 6/9/58

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

b6
b7C

Ident K1 → Q1-8-

6/11/58

Specimens submitted for examination

<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>CHECK #</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYABLE TO</u>	<u>SIGNED BY</u>	<u>BANK</u>
-----------------	----------------	---------------	-------------	-------------------	------------------	-------------

K1 Four sheets of ruled paper bearing known handwriting of
BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS.

9 34488

W.F.O. Q1-6-1070 5/26/58
Lab Aug - Q728-5/27/58

Lab Report
J.J. 7/1/58
June 10, 1958

Roll 488 6/12
Fr. 597-600

41-8-
p. 0085 C

La Bennie Riggins
for you point
Dit I may
get will

La Bennie James Riggins
Molena leader you
self hirk

34483

Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO:
FROM:
SUBJECT:

DIRECTOR, FBI

SAC, LOS ANGELES (46-new)

DATE:

3/23/59

ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER,
aka Art Linkletter
OO: Los Angeles

San Diego, District Intelligence Office, 11th Naval District, of the Board of Directors of Cohu Electronics, Inc., San Diego, Calif., omitted entering information concerning Subject's arrest under Item 30 of PSQ which was submitted to the Inspector of Naval Material, Los Angeles, Calif. Subject's FBI identification record, on 12/10/42, on a charge of false USM, San Francisco, Calif. indicates he was arrested by the affidavit of citizenship, disposition: 1/19/43, \$500 fine or 6 months in jail - paid fine, released.

The PSQ indicates subject was born 7/17/12 at Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, has Social Security No. 546-18-5002, and FBI No. 3932314.

The above information is being furnished to the Bureau in view of LINKLETTER's national prominence in the television industry.

This matter will be immediately discussed with the USA, Los Angeles, for prosecutive opinion and the Bureau will be notified of the results thereof.

2 - Bureau
1 - Los Angeles
JFC:MK
(3)

MCT-10

REC-58

12 MAR 30 1959

0 APR 7 1959

46 36108

4-22 (Rev. 12-10-54)

Federal Bureau of
Records Branch

☐ Name Check Unit - Room 6523
☐ Service Unit - Room 6524
☒ Forward to File Room
☒ Attention: [Redacted]
☒ Return to [Redacted]

Supervisor: 3252
Room: 6

Type of References Requested:
☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)
☒ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Nonsubversive References Only
☐ Main References Only

Type of Search Requested:
☐ Restricted to Locality of
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations
☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

Subject: Arthur Gordon Linkletter
Birthdate & Place:
Address: 444 Oak

Localities:
R# Date Searcher Initials
FILE NUMBER SERIAL

46-36108	
39-6-14356	
Arthur G.	
nr	
Arthur	
61-7602-27-4753	
77-2660-6724	
A. Gordon	
nr	
A. G.	
nr	
Gordon	
36108	1
483	
69	
56-4	
8-3	
141	
1	

b6
b7C

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervis

Date

Room

Searcher

Initial

SERIAL

FILE NUMBER

100-146964-302 p11

100-3034-2

61-7663-819

62-104277-267

100-351585-325

60-4439-602020

100-347278-93

65-10658-53

9-21608-29

65-39469-6

63-0-157

94-1-32254-96

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Attached letter from Los Angeles advises of information received from the Navy at San Diego that Art Linkletter, the prominent radio and television personality, failed to disclose an arrest record in a statement submitted to the Navy. Los Angeles is immediately discussing this with the United States Attorney for a prosecutive opinion in view of the false statement made to the Navy by Linkletter.

Linkletter's FBI Identification Record reflects he was arrested by the United States Marshal at San Francisco on 12-10-42, on a charge of false affidavit of citizenship. On 1-19-43, Linkletter paid a \$500 fine on a sentence of a fine of that amount or six months in jail.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

The following FBI record NUMBER

J. Edgar Hoover
Director
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
UC, San Francisco, Calif.	Arthur Linkletter #49562	12-10-45	Falsu a f. Govt. of California	1-19-46, 500. fine or 5 mos. in jail, paid fine, released
Asst. War Dept.	Arthur Gordon Linkletter #100-212	1-10-46		
Richmond, Calif.	Arthur Gordon Linkletter #100-212	1-10-46		
Los Angeles, Calif.	Arthur Gordon Linkletter #6945823	1-10-46		

46-36146-36108
ENCLOSURE

EX-101

SAC, Los Angeles (44-1022)
REC-15
Director, FBI (44-36103) - 5

ARTHUR GORDON LINKLATER, aka.
FAG

4/7/59

Reurlet 3/31/59 indicating USA declined prosecution regarding this matter.
In order that the Bureau may discharge its responsibility of disseminating information to interested Government agency, you should promptly submit closing report.

KSU:ACB
(4)

APR 10 1959

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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36103

44-1022

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM :

SAC, LOS ANGELES (46-5032)

DATE: 3/31/59

SUBJECT:

ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER, aka
FAG
OO: Los Angeles

Re Los Angeles letter to Bureau, 3/23/59.

For the completion of the Bureau files, the facts of this case were discussed with the U. S. Attorney, Los Angeles, on 3/25/59, and the U. S. Attorney declined prosecution due to the nature of the offense.

ONL, San Diego, has been advised of final disposition by separate communication.

- ② - Bureau
- 1 - Los Angeles

JFC:bcl
(3)

REC-10

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APR 3 1959

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MSPE

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office
LOS ANGELES

Office of Origin
LOS ANGELES

TITLE OF CASE

**ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER, aka
Ant Linkletter**

Date
4/21/59

Investigation Period
3/23-31/59

Report Made By

CHARACTER OF CASE

FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

REFERENCE:

Los Angeles letters to Bureau, 3/23/59, and
3/31/59.
Bureau letter to Los Angeles, 4/7/59.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Copies of this report are not designated for
the United States Attorney, Los Angeles or ONI as they
were previously advised of the disposition in this matter
by the Los Angeles Division by letter dated 3/31/59.

CC TO

REQ. REC'D.

ANS. JUN 23 1961

BY:

Special Agent
in Charge

Do not write in spaces below

B APR 27 1959

REC-7

EX-113

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Bureau (46-36108)
Los Angeles (46-5032)

3 28 PM '59

MAILED
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7:07

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1958 O-544780

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of:
Date:

April 21, 1959

(A)

Office: Los Angeles, California

File Number:

Los Angeles 44-30106

Profile 44-30106

Title:

ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER

Character:

FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

Synopsis:

ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER, aka Art Linkletter, executed a Personnel Security Questionnaire (PSQ) in connection with position as member of Board of Directors of Cohn Electronics, Inc., San Diego, California, which PSQ was directed to Inspector of Naval Materiel, Los Angeles. LINKLETTER, on PSQ, indicated he had no prior arrests. LINKLETTER was arrested in 1942 by the United States Marshal, San Francisco, on charge of False Affidavit of Citizenship, and received \$500.00 fine or six months in jail. Fine was paid and LINKLETTER was released. AUSA, Los Angeles, declined prosecution due to nature of the offense.

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DETAILS:

This investigation was predicated upon receipt of a letter by the Los Angeles Division on March 20, 1959 from Captain [redacted] USN, District Intelligence Officer, 11th Naval District, San Diego, California, wherein it was indicated that ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER, aka Art Linkletter, had executed a Personnel Security Questionnaire (PSQ) wherein LINKLETTER indicated he had no prior arrests.

Captain [redacted] also made available a copy of a PSQ dated August 6, 1958, executed by ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER in

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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connection with his position as a Member of the Board of Directors, Cohn Electronics, Inc., 5725 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego, California, which PSQ was directed to the Inspector of Naval Material, 1206 Santee Street, Los Angeles.

It is noted that LINKLETTER indicated on this PSQ that he was born July 17, 1912 at Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, entered the United States in 1914 at Lowell, Massachusetts, and was naturalized as a United States citizen in United States District Court, Los Angeles, California, on May 9, 1957, Certificate No. 6641969.

LINKLETTER, under item No. 29 of this PSQ, indicated that he had no prior arrests.

The following is the FBI Identification Record for ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER, FBI No. 3932314, as submitted by the FBI Identification Division under date of October 21, 1958:

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or Received	Charge	Disposition
USM, San Francisco, Calif.	Arthur Linkletter #49562	12/10/42	false affidavit of citizenship	1/19/43, \$500 fine or 6 mos. in jail; paid fine, released
ASF, War Dept.	Arthur Gordon Linkletter #109-KAS	pub. rel. Mgr. 11/8/43		
PD, Richmond, Calif.	Arthur Gordon Linkletter #109-PRR-1	admin. asst. F. 1/31/44		
OSI and NS, Los Angeles, Calif.	Arthur Gordon Linkletter #5945358	alien reg. 1/22/43		

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The facts of this case were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney THOMAS R. SHERIDAN on March 25, 1950 by SAA [redacted] at which time Mr. SHERIDAN declined prosecution due to the nature of the offense.

The following is a description of ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER, aka, as obtained from his PSQ and FBI Identification Record:

Name	ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER, aka Art Linkletter
Sex	Male
Race	White
Citizenship	American (Naturalized USDC, Los Angeles, May 9, 1947)
Date of Birth	July 17, 1912
Place of Birth	Moosejaw Saskatchewan, Canada
Height	6'1"
Weight	215 lbs.
Hair	Blond
Eyes	Blue
Marital Status	Married
Social Security No.	546-18-5002
FBI No.	3932314
Military Service	None
Residence	219 South Mapleton Drive, Los Angeles
Wife	[redacted] same address
Sons	JACK LINKLETTER; ROBERT LINKLETTER, same address
Daughters	[redacted] DIANE LINKLETTER, same address

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