MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.

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 foipaquuestions@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,

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 government 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 his 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.
Further request 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.

Snailshide (2)

26 New York
Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: UNSUB ART LINKLETTER — VICTIM EXTORTION

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

Date of reference communication: 2-26-54

Examination requested: Document — Fingerprint

Result of Examination: Specimens submitted for examination

Q4 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 NEXT RAT."

The latent prints developed.

9-25669

Dick 3-9-54
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-1618)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; ART-LINKLETTER - Victim

EXTORTION

DATE: 2/26/54

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 next. Rat".

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

Victim's secretary, [redacted] 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.

[redacted] 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.

[redacted] 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 - REC.
Encl.

GDW/Pms
cc: New York (AM)(Encl.)
March 10, 1954

SAC, Los Angeles

Director, FBI (D-25669) - 2

RECORDED - 93

10% UNSUB:

ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

Further report 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

MAR 1 1954

COMM - FBI

MARCH 10 1954

MAR 16 1954
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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

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

Recorded 3-2-54

gob

UNSUB:
Re: ART LUNKLETT ER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

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

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

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Result of Examination: Examination by:

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 Envelope bearing the hand printed address in pencil and red ink "ART LUNKLETT ER C/O C. TELEVISION HOLLY GALEN"
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 LUNKLETT ER C/O C. TELEVISION HOLLY GALEN" postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 10 1954 6:30 PM."

Q4 Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning "Hat This It's....." ending "MAHUNI."

Q5 7 photo - grid, on rear side 2 match tips
Q3 4 6 photo after calumny 1 3 5

1 Lab slot noted under match tips 73 42
2 Lab slot der on Q4
1 Lab slot der on Q3.

End returned - Lab rep rep.)
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

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
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 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.

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)

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.

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.

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.

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.
FBI, LOS ANGELES  2-25-54  8-36 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 SCOTCH TAPE 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 SCOTCH TAPE 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
MARCH 2, 1954
SAC, LOS ANGELES AIR MAIL

AIRTEL
G.I.R.-6

9-25669-3

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

HOOVER

EHH: js
REPORT
of the

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D.C.

March 5, 1954

SAC, Los Angeles

Report

UNSUSPECTED
ART LINKErLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

Examination requested by: Los Angeles
Reference: Letter 2/25/54
Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

1. Envelope bearing the hand printed address in pencil and red ink "ART LINKErLETTER C.B.S. TELEVISION HOLLY CALIF." postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 10 1954.''

2. Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning "...so want you...." ending on reverse side "you Trumph."

3. Envelope bearing the hand printed address "ART LINKErLETTER C.B.S. TELEVISION, HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA" postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 10 1954 5:30 PM."

4. Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning "It's..." ending "WARNING."

Results of examination: MAR 8, 1954

Specimens 1 through 4 were searched through the appropricate sections of the Anonymous Letter 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 1 through 4 were taken and are being maintained in the Laboratory for future reference.

Specimens 1 through 4 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.

John Edgar Hoover, Director
REPORT of the
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D.C.

March 9, 1954

To: SAC, Los Angeles

Re: UNSUB

ART-LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

Addresses

Reference:
Letter dated 2-26-54

Examination requested:
Document - Fingerprint

Specimen:

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 CHANGE YOUR CHILDREN ARE NEXT 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 5 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

Yours truly,
John Edgar Hoover, Director
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.
Remylet 2/25/54.

Contact has been maintained with the victim's secretary. 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." again advised that the victim can furnish no information regarding the identity of the unknown suspect. 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.

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. 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.
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Victim is nationally known TV and radio personality. FBI received 3 anonymous threatening letters postmarked 2/7/54, 2/10/54 and 2/16/54, at Jamaica, New York. Letter of 2/7/54 demanded victim set 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. But." 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 "fan" and expresses lack of concern for safety of himself and family. Los Angeles Police Department notified.

DETAILS: AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

By letter dated February 17, 1954, [redacted] 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), 1924, at Jamaica, New York. The envelope was addressed "ART LINKLETTER, CHC 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

RECORDED-67

EX-129
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 [redacted] 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, [redacted] had an employee in Mr. LINKLETTERS' 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, [redacted] 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.

[Redacted] secretary to ART LINKLETTERS, and who is employed by the John Guedels Agency, 8321 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, telephonically advised SA [redacted] on February 25, 1954, that the two letters which she had just sent to the Los Angeles Office.
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 [REDACTED] by both SA [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] made several attempts to arrange an appointment to interview victim LINKLETTER about the matter, but [REDACTED] advised he was extremely busy in that he followed a "tight" schedule due to his radio and television activities. Upon receiving no additional letters [REDACTED] 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, [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] from victim's secretary:
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: JACK, 16 years
Children: ROBERT, 9 years
DIANE, 5 years
Residence: 219 South Mapleton Drive, Los Angeles
Office Address: 8321 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, telephone York 6291
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.
REPORT
of the
FBI
LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D.C.

9-25669-8

WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 15, 1954

John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR FILE NO. 9-1995
FBI FILE NO. 9-25669
LAB. NO. D-182562 AX

Re: UNSUB.

ART LINKLETTER
VICKY

Examination requested by: New York

Reference: Letter 3/30/54

Examination requested: Document

Specimen:

KL - 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 KL through K1030 but nothing of particular interest or significance was noted which would suggest the desirability of obtaining any further known handwriting specimens from any of the individuals represented in KL through K1030.

Specimens KL 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)
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

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:

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. (1,899)
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.
REPORT of the
LABORATORY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D.C.

To: SAC, New York 9-25669-9 April 16, 1954

From: UNK

Ex. 104

U.S. LENTER - VICTIM

Examination requested by: New York

Reference: Letter 4/5/54

Examination requested: Document


Results of Examination:

The questioned handwriting appearing on the envelopes Q1, Q3 and Q5, previously submitted with Los Angeles letters of February 25, 1954, was compared with the known handwriting 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 handwriting 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.

Los Angeles (9-1618)
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.

Encs. (1682)

1 - Los Angeles
REPORT
of the

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D. C.

RECORDED - 90
To: SAC, BILLY XIK 9 - 25669 - 10 April 16, 1954

Examination requested by: New York
Reference: Letter L/7/54
Examination requested: Document
Specimen:
K2713 - K3516 Known specimens obtained from 804 students of Shimer Junior High School.

Results of examination:

The questioned hand printing appearing on the envelopes 21, 33 and 35, previously submitted with Los Angeles letters of February 25, 1951, 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)

Mailed 7
APR 1 - 6/1954
COMM - FBI

APR 26/1954
Director, FBI
ATT: FBI Laboratory
FROM: SAC, New York (9-1995)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

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

Submitted herewith under separate cover are 804 specimens of hand­
printing 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)
TO: Director, FBI (9-25669)  
(ATT: FBI Laboratory)  
SAC, New York (9-1995)  

DATE: 1/19/54

SUBJECT: UNSUB: ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM EXTORTION

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: 9-25669-11

REPORT of the
FBI LABORATORY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D.C.

To: SAC, New York

May 4, 1954

Examination requested by: New York
Reference: Letter 4/19/54
Specimen requested: Document

Specimen:

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)

 unavoidable

b6 57c
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.

DETAILS:

At Jamaica, Long Island, New York

T-l, 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-l 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...
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 going 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 Art Department, Jamaica High School, 157-01 Gothic Drive, Jamaica, Long Island, New York, specimens from 1,682 students in art courses.

2. Through 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.
NY 9-1995

3. Through [Woodrow Wilson High School, 156-10 Baisley Boulevard, Jamaica, Long Island, New York, specimens from 30 students in art classes.]

4. Through [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 [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.]

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 = 256669 12
INFORMANTS

T-1

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 (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 5/1/54.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRTEL
Transmit the following TWI 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 INVESTI-
GATION AND SUREP IMMEDIATELY.

MALONE

GDH:ndr
?-1618

cc: NEW YORK CITY (9-1995)

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

KELLY

Mr. Rosen

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

EES: PAP (#5)
NY 9-1995

Approved: Special Agent in Charge

Sent: 9-25669-14

JUN 9 1954
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Victim has received no additional threatening communications. Logical investigation has failed to produce suspect.

DETAILS:

At Los Angeles, California:

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.
Office Memorandum  •  UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :  L. B. NICHOLS
FROM :  D. J. PARSONS

SUBJECT :  UNSUB
Art Linkletter
VIKEX
9-25669

DATE:  4-11-56

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

9-25-47
NOT RECORDED
1 APR 12 1956

9 250 9
16

Jenin
16
LATENT

Re: UNSUB
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTORTION

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:

Specimens submitted for examination

5 Envelope bearing hp address "ART. LINKLETTER C.B.S.
HELVICH HOLLYWOOD CALIF," postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y.
FEB 15 1954 9-PM."

6 Accompanying note consisting of cut-outs from newspaper
clippings reading "THIS IS IT YOUR LAST CHANCE YOUR
CHILDREN ARE NEXT RAT."

Also submitted: Photostats Q5, Q6.

Q5 - ART LINKLETTER
HOLLYWOOD

Q HPO, Q3
ART LINKLETTERS
HOLLYWOOD

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

Recorded
3-4-54
VWS

LAB FILE
Laboratory Work Sheet

Recorded 4/2/54 bdf  LAB FILE

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

Re: UNSUB.
   ART LINKLETTER
   VIKEX

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:

Specimens submitted for examination:

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

Examination by:

K1 - K1030 nothing of interest or sign of work which would suggest desirability of getting any further exam.

3, 5 ART. LINKLETTER

C.B.S. TELEVISION
HOLLYWOOD
CALIFORNIA

9 - 25668 - 16
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimens submitted for examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K1031 - K2712 Handwriting from 1682 students of Jamaica High School, Long Island, New York.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examination requested by: SAC, New York (9-1951)

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

Examination requested: Doc.

Result of Examination:

Examination by

Specimens submitted for examination

K1031 - K2712 Handwriting from 1682 students of Jamaica High School, Long Island, New York.
Examined requested by: SAC, New York 9-1995
Date of reference communication: Let. 4-7-54
Examination requested: Doc.
Result of Examination:

Specimens submitted for examination

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

9-25669 - 16
Examination requested by: SAC, NY 9-1995
Date of reference communication: 1st. 4/19/54 Date received: 4/21/54
Examination requested: Document
Result of Examination:

K3517-4779 mostly sig with Q1, 5, 5

Specimens submitted for examination

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

ce Los Angeles (9-1618)
UNSUS;
Re: A.T. LINKLETTER - VICTIM
EXTENSION

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

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

Date received: 3-1-54

Examination by: Specimens submitted for examination

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Result of Examination:
Q1 -> Q4 No IL A.F. copy added.
Phy. char. other separate rgt in latent. End to S.F.P.

Specimens submitted for examination:

1. Envelope bearing the hand printed address in pencil and red ink "A.T.
   LINKLETTER 0-1, S. TELEVISION "OLLY" CALIF." postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y.
   FEB 10 1954."

2. Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning
   "He went you....." ending on reverse side "you Tramp."

3. Envelope bearing the hand printed address "A.T. LINKLETTER 0-1 S.
   TELEVISION "OLLY" CALIF." postmarked "JAMAICA, N.Y. FEB 10 1954.
   CALIF.

4. Accompanying note made of letters and words cut from newspaper beginning
   "It's This It's....." ending "NARRATE."

Sp. Q1, Q3 searched A.S.D., UC EFF. (N.Y. + Calif.)
Nothing similar found.

3/3/54

9 = 25668 16
Q5
Plain white envelope which measures
4.17" x 4.00" x 0.0052" - 0.0054".
No wm.

Q4.
Message made up of 9 letters or 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 0.0025".
"Riverside Bond" Riverside Paper Corp.
"Made in U. S. A. 8. 25669-16, Appleton, Wis."
Light buff envelope which measures 5.78" x 3.79" - 3.80" x 0.0056" - 0.0059"

Q1. Words clipped from newspaper attached to piece of black paper (3.98" x 5.85") with transparent adhesive tape.

Q2. Similar to Q1.

Q4. Letter-size words clipped from newspaper attached to sheet of white paper (10.96" x 8.53" x 0.0036") with transparent adhesive tape.

9 = 256009 - 16
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.
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 prospective decision.

Letter being forwarded to Bureau.

Request Atlanta through inquiry at Molema, 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

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)
To: FBI, Atlanta

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

EXTORTION

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.

Continued next page
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.
LATENT
Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGNOES;
ART LINKE iterator - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION

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

Result of Examination:

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Tamadge
Talmadge State Capital Washington D C.," postmarked
"MOLENA GA. MAY 9 1958 RRX 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 Molema 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/Molema GA RED."
ALSO SUBMITTED: Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58, to "Honorable J. Astor Riggins Sheriff of Pike County Zebulon, Georgia."
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 Molen, 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 text]

advised that she and the following persons had personally handled the letters from RIGGINS to the Senator. 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. Reu.
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[s] 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.
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 [ ] WFO, was advised to have an SA immediately proceed to Senator Talmadge’s Office and obtain the letter written by subject from Mr. Turner.

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 Office and endeavor to locate instant letter.
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

OO: ATLANTA

Date: 5/22/58

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.

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

To: FBI, Los Angeles (9-2142)

Date: June 12, 1958

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

Bennie James Riggins;
Art Linkletter - Victim;
Vice President Richard Nixon - Victim;
Senator Herman Talmadge - Victim
Extortion

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)

John Edgar Hoover, Director
REPORT
of the
FBI LABORATORY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Los Angeles
Re: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
   ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
   VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON -
   VICTIM;
   SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
   EXTORTION

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)
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.
Monday
May 12, 1957
This is very unimportant
Your boy like you
Danger no joke at all

Dear Art,
I wrote you a few weeks ago,
dated May 18.
I have seen your name large
At money near you. How can you show
people that don't even need
an Bass and need it. I am a
gang leader now and mean
business. There are 15 boys in
My gang. They are 6 of my boys
in California. I will tell you,
I don't believe you told you
will wish that I go hang
Around some of the school.
The police FBI are after me.
Other law won't help anything
if you don't send me $700.00.

Dollar at the date. Said
Your boys Robert and Jack
will be in trouble. Send
My gang to a few states like,
New York, Chicago, etc., your
Honeymoon. Show some thing
may come there if you
Don't send me the
Money $700.00 dollars the day
If you want your boy to live and well a - your self send Cash or Check no mark Bill Know will up your boy let itself take it up to you if you want your boy to live we mean you are telling fust and last change your boy in 4000 will be duel to death as well as Jake your more like his dam in law your dare call my name we are part of the new park gang it up to you this noble send the money or check for 700.00 dollars to their address Mr. Bennie James ziggy Malena Ga xth 2 don't fool around
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (9-2142)
RE: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART/LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON - VICTIM; SENATOR HERMAN ALMADGE - 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.

Bureau
Atlanta (9-1299)
Washington Field
Los Angeles
JMC/lah (6)

AIRTEL

Approved: Special Agent in Charge
Sent: M Per
Art Finkletter
C B S Hollywood
California
SAC, Atlanta (9-1299) 5/28/58

Director, FBI

BENJAMIN 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.
REPORT
of the
LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION
Identification Division

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 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.

2 - WFO (Enclosures 7)

Original report sent to Atlanta Office per request
of relet.

John Edgar Hoover, Director

MAIL ROOM [ ] THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

For: FBI, Atlanta (9-1299)  Date: June 16, 1958

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

Examination requested by: FBI, Atlanta

Examination requested: Document

Remarks:
Q1 through Q6 were submitted by Washington Field Office under date of May 26, 1958. Q7 and Q9 were submitted by the Los Angeles Office under date of May 27, 1958.

Enclosures (4) (KL, 3 Lab report)
1 - Washington Field Enclosure (Lab report)
1 - Los Angeles Enclosure (Lab report)

MAIL ROOM  5 9  JUN  18, 1958

(6)
To: FBI, Atlanta

From: Feinstein, Robert

Date: June 16, 1958

Subject: FBI File

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 K1 through G8 were prepared by Bennie James Riggins, whose known handwriting specimens are designated above as Kl.

K1 is returned herewith. Photographs are retained.

GFM:bo 20

(7)

34483 8
Office Memorandum

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

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

DATE: 6/5/58

280989

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 letter.

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

Examination requested by: PHIL, Atlanta (9-1299) - Letter 6/5/58
Examination requested: Document
Result of Examination: Evid. Ret'd
6/11/58 Bcep

Specimens submitted for examination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIMEN</th>
<th>CHECK #</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PAYABLE TO</th>
<th>SIGNED BY</th>
<th>BANK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kl</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>34483</td>
<td>6/9/58</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

LAB FILE OPENED...
File # 9-34483 - 8
Lab. # 280939 DJ

Recorded 6/10/58 bp
I am going to steal and I have
1000 in my bank in California
state. If you don't do what you
are told you will wish you had
that house sold or FBI or any
other law won't help if you
don't send $700.00 dollars
this date & send your Boy
Robert or Jack. Will the
horse car sold me money
seven hundred at 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. Bessie Jane Rigler
Molena 2 yo 7-11-2
I am a Yang Leader. I have fix 3,000 Boy in my Yang. I am in California State. If you send what you made take you will think you had if you don't send 8,000 dollars this date I said you. Boy Roderick of Jack will be in Western as told send me money $700. 00 dollars this date May 17th 1914 or so if you want Boy to live as well as you. If he must can be check no mark Bill it up to you and money to check to me. Ronnie James, Rugby's Make a Day.
I am a gang leader
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 seven hundred
dollars this date I avoid your
Boy Robert af jake will be
involved or total send me
money seven hundred dollars this
date 17 May 1701 1902 20 so
if you want my boy to live or
well or your self send
cash or check no mark Bills up
to you send money 2 check
to Mr Bennie James Riggins
Madera N.H 745 2
I Bennie James Higgins
Give the following specimen of my
Hand writing voluntarily
The quick brown fox jumps over
The lazy dog

Melena Sa
May 22, 1958

I Bennie James Higgins
The quick brown fox jumps over
The lazy dog

Melena Sa
May 22, 1958
Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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

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

SUBJECT: Kit Shankland, 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.

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

Period

TITLE OF CASE

VICKI JAMES RIGGINS; LINCOLN - VICTIM;
' PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM;
' VICTOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM

EXTORTION

DETAILS:

Investigation in this matter is predicated upon receipt of copy of communication from Los Angeles to the Director dated May 10, 1953, which communication reflected that BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS

Wrote in signed statements admitted sending letters to Victims LINCOLN, NIXON, and TALMADGE demanding $700 from LINCOLN, $10 from NIXON, and $200 from TALMADGE, and threatened to have them killed in their failure to pay. Subject, 18 years of age, denied that he completed 7th Grade, and that about five years ago he was committed to State Hospital at Milledgeville, Georgia. He was arrested by Sheriff's Office, Pike County, Georgia, and released from Pike County Jail May 21, 1953, 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 -

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1958 0-344780
directed partially incoherent handwritten air mail letter postmarked Molen, Georgia, May 12, 1952, to victim, CBS, Hollywood, California, which is as follows:

"I am a gang leader and I have 15 boys in my gang, 9 of us 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 May 17 or 19 or 20 so if you want boys to live as well as you can then cash or check. No marked bills. It is up to you. Send money or check to Mr. BENNIE JACK RIGGINS, Molen, Georgia, Route Number 1."  

An unfired .22 caliber bullet was enclosed in the letter. In letter, subject refers to self as 16 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 on May 16, 1952, by [Name].

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: 5'
- 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
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.
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 [name 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
read above statement and I have 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:

"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
have Read the above Statement and I have 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."
"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: [Name] Special Agent, F.B.I., Atlanta, Ga."

Additionally RIGGINS furnished four pages of handwriting 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.
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.
AT 9-1299

Relatives: 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 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, _______ advised that he has treated subject in the past and that subject is "not mentally sound" and is "not responsible for his actions". _______ 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.

On May 22, 1958, _______ of Sheriff J. ASTOR RIGGINS, Pike County, Georgia, advised that BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS was arrested by _______ 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 _______ 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. WAITE 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.
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.

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 22, 1953, 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, 1953, 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, 1953, and June 12, 1953:
AT N-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

TO: SAC, ATLANTA

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

May 29, 1958

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
FBI LABORATORY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

TO: FBI, ATLANTA

RE: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS; ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON - Lab. No. D-279396 DJ
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION

Specimens received from FBI, Washington Field Office, 5/25/58

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

Page 1 Continued next page
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.
REPORT OF THE
FBI LABORATORY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Los Angeles

Date: June 12, 1953

FBI File No. 2-34483

Lab. No. D-230279 D5

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

Specimens received 5/29/53

C7 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Art Linkletter
CBS Hollywood, California," postmarked "MOLENA GA.
MAY 12 1953 FM," bearing writing in the upper left-hand
corner.

C8 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning
"Monday May 12, 1953 this is...," ending on reverse
side""...don't fool around."

Results of Examination:

It was concluded that the handwriting on C7 and C8
was prepared by the writer of specimens C1 through C6,
previously submitted in connection with this case.

C7 and C8 are returned herewith. Photographs are
retained.
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:
REPORT OF THE
FBI 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

Specimens received 6/9/53

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.
AT MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA

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

On May 29, 1953, 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 #37445, and was furloughed from the hospital on September 12, 1953. Subject's diagnosis was "Mental Deficiency With Psychotic Reaction". Subject's condition at the time of furlough was recorded as "improved". 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.

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

The records reflect subject was born November 15, 1939, address listed as Molena, Georgia, and guardian listed as [name] 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

In July 14, 1953, 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.
Office Memorandum - UNITED S. GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (9-34483)
FROM : SAC, ATLANTA (9-1299)

SUBJECT: BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM;
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD N. NIXON - VICTIM;
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - VICTIM
EXTORTION
(ATLANTA: 00)

Transmitted herewith is report of SA dated 7/21/53 at Atlanta, Georgia.

REFERENCES:

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 23, 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.
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.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office          Office of Origin  Date    Investigative Period

TITLE OF CASE
CHARLES JAMES RIGGINS;
ART LINKLETTER - VICTIM
VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD M. 
NIXON - VICTIM
SENATOR HERMAN TALMADGE - 
VICTIM

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 
decided by Assistant United States Attorney, Los Angeles in 
favor of persecutive action of United States Attorney, Atlanta, 
Georgia. Laboratory handwriting examination confirms subject as 
author of all letters.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

Approved
Org Code

1 - Bureau (9-34483)
1 - USA, Los Angeles
2 - Atlanta (9-1299)
1 - WFO
1 - Los Angeles (9-2142)

Do not write in spaces below

US

13 AUG 58

59 AUG 18 1958
On May 16, 1958 to ART LINKLETTER, prominent radio and television entertainer, 8821 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, advised 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 delivered 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.

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 ills. 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 slip 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 ART LINKLETTER to
File # LA 9-2142
5/16/58 at CBS, Hollywood, California

Date Dictated: 7/4/58

Special Agent

Property of FBI - This document is property of the FBI and its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.
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. BENJIE JAMES RIGGINS
Molina Ga R #2

"don't fool around"

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 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, 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.
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.
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.
Office Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (9-34453)

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
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.

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

TO: JOHN J. McGUIRE

FROM: QUINN TAMM

DATE: 4-26-60

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

ENCLOSURE

51 APR 27 1960
Laboratory Work Sheet

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Recorded 5/28/58

Laboratory Work Sheet

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

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

Specimens submitted for examination:

Q1 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Talmadge
Talmadge State Capital Washington D C.," postmarked
"MOLENA GA. MAY 9 1958 11PM."

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."

NO LAB FILE

File # 9-34483
Lab. # D-279896 DJ
surrounding states of

Fig. 3.

Ref.

9-34-18
ALSO SUBMITTED: Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58, to "Honorable J. Astor Riggins Sheriff of Pike County Zebulon, Georgia."
Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 Envelope bearing handwritten address "Senator Herman Talmadge

Q2 Envelope bearing handwritten address: "Senator Herman Talmadge

Q3 One-page handwritten letter dated 4/5/58, beginning "Hello Senator Talmadge I am a white..." ending on reverse side "...go something very soon Address Bennie James Riggins HOLENA 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 hero a week..." ending on reverse side "...this address Bennie James Riggins No ATLANTA/HOLENA GA WS."
ALSO SUBMITTED: Carbon copy of letter dated 5/13/58, to
"Honorable J. Astor Riggins Sheriff of
Pike County Zebulon, Georgia."
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."
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

recorded 6/6/58

Laboratory Work Sheet

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

Examination requested by: FBI, Los Angeles (9-2142) 5/27/58
Examination requested: Document
Date received: 5/29/58
Result of Examination:

Examination by: [Signature]

Specimens submitted for examination


Q8 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "Monday May 12, 1958 this is...," ending on reverse side "....don't fool around."

Atlanta

20-70 01-6 5/16/58

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

3 34483
12-8 - Returck Raggio
Ga California Dear I
you of want Robert
part for this

11-6 - Dit Raggio Ga
Sang 8 please you
Address the
Laboratory Work Sheet

Recorded 6/10/58 bp

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LAB FILE OPENED...

File # 9-34483
Lab. # D 280989 DJ

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

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

\[ z = \Phi_1 \cdot 8 \]

\[ 6/11/58 \]

Specimens submitted for examination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIMEN</th>
<th>CHECK #</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PAYABLE TO</th>
<th>SIGNED BY</th>
<th>BANK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KI Four sheets of ruled paper bearing known handwriting of BENNIE JAMES RIGGINS.</td>
<td>9 34483</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ja Bennieegi
for you point
let it may
get will

Ja Bennie James Riggins
Meleno master you
self work
Director, FBI

SAC, Los Angeles


San Diego, Calif., by letter advised that subject, a member of the Board of Directors of Cohu Electronics, Inc., a member of Cohu Electronics, Inc., under item 30 of PSO which was submitted to the PBI, identification number 30 of PSO, was arrested and charged with the theft of material of the San Francisco Board of Directors of Cohu Electronics, Inc., on 3/10/68. He was arraigned on the charge of false identification and was released on bail of $500.00 on 3/10/69. He was released from jail on 4/5/69.

Mr. Linkleter, the PSO indicates subject was born 7/4/1912 at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, has Social Security No. 566-12-5002, and PBI No. 393234.

Bureau in view of LINELTTER's national prominence in the television industry, the above information is being furnished to the Bureau in view of LINELTTER's national prominence in the television industry. This matter will be immediately discussed with the Bureau of Los Angeles, for prosecution and the Bureau of Los Angeles will be notified of the results thereof.
Attached letter from Los Angeles advises of information received 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 prosecution 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 $500.00 fine on a sentence of a fine of that amount or six months in jail.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTRIBUTION OF FINGERPRINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAME AND NUMBER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haio: White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex: Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height: 6' 1&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight: 210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair: Blond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes: Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complexion: Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 7-17-13 at Moosejaw, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scars and Marks: Scar above left knee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence: 195 San Anselmo, San Francisco, California (in 1843)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| ANDESTED ON |
| PRESERVED |

| CHARGE |

| DISPOSITION |

| No. 36108 |
EX-101

SAC, Los Angeles (1-333)
REC-15
Director, PII (1-3-333) -

ARTHUR GORDON LIMEL LEE, aka.

PAG

4/7/59

Re: Re: 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 agencies, you should promptly submit closing report.
Office Memorandum  UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: AGSAO, LOS ANGELES (46-5032)

DATE: 3/31/59

SUBJECT: ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER, AKA FAM
          O01: Los Angeles


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
(4) Los Angeles

JPG: bel
(3)
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

File Number: Lee Angel 46-50.5
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 Material, 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 $50.00 fine or six months in jail. Fine was paid and LINKLETTER was released. USA, Los Angeles, declined prosecution due to nature of the offense.

DETAILS:

This investigation was predicated upon receipt of a letter by the Los Angeles Division on March 20, 1956 from Captain, USNH, 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 also made available a copy of a PSQ dated August 6, 1956, executed by ARTHUR GORDON LINKLETTER in 46 30 103.
connection with his position as a member of the Board of Directors, Cohu 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, 1947.

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, 1959:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributor of Fingerprint</th>
<th>Name and Number</th>
<th>Arrested or Received</th>
<th>Charge</th>
<th>Disposition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USM, San Francisco, Calif.</td>
<td>Arthur Linkletter #49562</td>
<td>12/10/42</td>
<td>false affidavit of citizenship in jail</td>
<td>1/19/43, paid fine, released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD, Richmond, Calif.</td>
<td>Arthur Linkletter #109-PRR-1</td>
<td>1/31/44</td>
<td>admin.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSI and NS, Los Angeles, Calif.</td>
<td>Gordon Linkletter #5945358</td>
<td>1/22/43</td>
<td>alien reg.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The facts of this case were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney THOMAS R. SHERIDAN on March 25, 1955, by SAA, 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 FBI and FBI Identification Record:

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