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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: GEORGE BURNS

	Mr. Might Mr. E. A. Trans. Mr. E. A. Trans. Mr. Creek
	Mr. Coffey Mr. Crowd Mr. Crowd Mr. Egan
Big Money for	Squeale tr. Marin
	wike Samm.
A CARDON AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN	
Federal Customs agents have seized clothing and jewelry owned by Mrs. James C.	
Ayer, socialite widow (pictured above with Ernest Simpson, former husband of the Duchess of Windstr.) Agents received a tip from an informer that the articles	CLIPPING FROM NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR DATE: USEN 1 1939
west sinuageted.	FORWARDLE BY NOW YORK DIVISION.
DNDEEED	54-0-148





HILDREN who "tattle" are ostracized by their playmaties; gangsters who "tat" on other gunmen meet certain death at the end of a one-way ride. But "squealers" who inform the United States Customs officials about smuggling activities get a bonus.

For more than 100 years, the Treasury Department has paid such rewards to "squealers." The practice of paying the rewards-nearly \$100,000 in the past two months-started as a bonus system to encourage informers. At present, the amount of the rewards are based upon the grand total of the fines and penalties assessed each convicted smuggles. The "squealers" get twenty-five per cent of the entire sum, providing that the reward be not more than \$50,000.

Latest to garner the bounty of the government in a smuggling case was the pro-Narimaid, Rose Weber, who supplied Customs agents with the information that led to the conviction of Mrs. Elma N. Lauer, wife of Supreme Court Justice Edgar J. Lauer, who resigned from the bench; Jackf Benny and George Burns, radio comedians; and Albert N. Chaperau (or Shapiro) for smuggling. Miss Weber will eventually be handed a government voucher for a sum amounting to approximately \$20,000 for her "services" in swearing out an affidavit and testifying to the effect that Mrs. Lauer had smuggled more than \$25,000 worth of jewelry and personal items into this country since 1933.

Personal prejudice on the part of the informer doesn't make any difference to the government. The fact that the "squealer" divulges information to the Customs agents to "get even" does not prevent payment of the reward, provided the victim is guilty of the charges. Miss Weber was the Lauer's maid. Shi "squealed" on Mrs. Lauer with malice affrethought.

A German citzen, Miss Weber was serving dinner at the Lauer's one night when some of the guests, includ-

dinner at the Lauer's one night when some of the guests, including Chaperau, made remmarks that the maid considered derogatory to Hitler. Interrupting the meal, Rose Weber shouted:

"I am a citizen of the Fatherland. I love Hitler and I won't serve any more of this dinner if you go on talking about him?"

When former Justice Lauer immediately discharged the girl, she

mediately discharged the girl, she

"I'll get even with you all for

She did. Another disgruntled employee who put her boss "on the spot" and collected "blood" money from the Treasury Department for smuggling information was Christine Drouadaine. She was employed formerly in the stock rooms of exclusive Marcel Rochas, Inc., Parisian dress importers. At work, Christine saw the trunks of lovely models, who had just returned from abroad, opened and emptied of smuggled, costly gowns. Another disgruntled employee gowns.

gowns.

Fired last year from her job.
Creictine didn't know that this
country pays informers in smuggling cases. Her whole attitude
was one of pique against Guy
Gracin de Font-Joyeuse, manager
of the dress importing firm, who
discharged her. When dismissed,

Christine lost no time in telling her story to agents of the U. S. Customs House. By furnishing agents and the United States Attorney's office with names of customers of the shop she en-abled them to obtain all the evi-

abled them to obtain all the evidence necessary for a conviction.

Duties owed by the dress firm amounted to \$30,000, the fines imposed, \$1,000; so Christine's cut, figured at 25 per cent, amounted to approximately \$7,750 for squealing on her former employeers

THE top reward of \$50,000 for information in a smuggling case has been paid out by the Treasury Department only once in recent years. That was in 1937, when the sum paid to "Mary Doe." the fictitious name behind which the "squealer" hid in a diamond-smuggling case. The identity of the informer was never divulged by the Customs agents who arrested and caught Mrs. Pearli Weinberg with \$286,-346 worth of smuggled diamonds as the Bronx housewife descended the gangplank of the liner Normandie.

mandie.
Acting upon information gained from the informant, Supervising Customs Agent John W. Robberts stumbled against Mrs. Weinbberg as she walked down the gangplank. When he bumped into her, he knocked from under her arm

an overnight bag, which fell, broke open and disclosed a faire bottom compartment wherein reposed the smuggled diamonds. In less than three days, forty pelsons connected with the smuggling ring were arrested.

Only last month, another unidentified "squealer" caused the penthouse anartment of Mrs. James C. Ayer, wealthy socialite widow of the noted surgeon and painter, to be searched. A squad of Customs agents trained to spot a gown designed by Molyneaux without seeing the label rummaged through the apartment and seized a large quantity of jewels. seized a large quantity of jewels, gowns and lingerie suspected of having been brought from abroad without payment of duty. The raid was made apparently on the

raid was made apparently on the tip on the informer, whose identity has been carefully guarded. The search warrant was based on a detailed affidavit signed in a small neat hand. The signature was merely "Mary Doe."

According to the affidavit, Mrs. Ayer's alleged contraband was tentatively assessed as worth between \$20,000 and \$20,000. Thus, if Mrs. Ayer is convicted on a smuggling charge, heremsis, the informer who "squealed" to the Customs agents, stands to receive at least \$5,000, a not insignificant sum for an act not insignificant sum for an act frowned upon by children and punisher by gangsters.



Three months' imprisonment and a fine of \$2,500 was the sentence on Mrs. Elma N. Lauer (above with her husband); Judge Lauer, a former Supreme Court Justice, resigned after a disgruntled maid "squealed" to Customs agents.



Faul Chaperau (above with his wife), hooked Mrs. Lauer, Jack senny and George Burns into participating in smuggling. He lid the smuggling; they bought the articles struggled. Chaperau was sentenced to jail for five years.



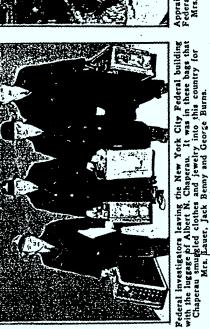
Camera shy, but not shy about "squealing," is Rose Weber, the German-born maid who informed Customs authorities about the shuggling carried on by Chaperau and Mrs. Liuer. Her share of the fines levied may amount to \$20,000.

Big Money for "Squealers" Who "Tell" On Smugglers





Appraiser Abraham Straus examining jewelry and furs taken by Federal agetts in the surprise raid on the penthouse apartment of Mrs. James C. Ayer. He set the valuation on the articles at between \$20,000 and \$30,000.



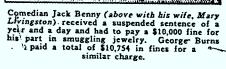
Jostlediby a Customs agent, Mrs. Pearl Weinberg dropped a suit-case with a false-bottom full of spruggled diamonds.



Angered because her employer fired her, Christine Drouadaine (above) informed officials that the Marcel Rochas, Inc., dress importing firm sold smuggled Parisian finery.









Lovely Allison Warner (left, above) and Ann Naylor Challe were models at the Marcel Rochas, Inc., Parisian gown shop in New York City. They testified that they didn't know the gowns they were modeling had been smuggled into America by other models from Paris.

New York City, N. Y. December 12, 1938

b1C.

Port of New York, Custon House, New York City, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

There is attached hereto, a copy of an anonymous letter received in this office, dated December 9th, 1958, relative to one with aliases, b7C who is allegedly associated with one who is under investigation by your Department.

Very truly yours,

DETCHT BRANTLEY, Special Agent in Charge.

Encl.

(CC) Bureau

RECORDED & INDEXED

13 1938
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

12 64-214-

(copy-cmcw)

Philadelphia, Ponnsylvania

February 20, 1939.

Special Agent in Charge,

new York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Recently while an agent of this office was at the United States

Penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pa.,

requested that he be allowed to see an agent of this Bureau. He was interviewed, when he informed that he had about seventy days longer to serve at the penitentiary and his home is in New York City. He stated he would like to be transferred to New York City immediately because his wife is ill.

who was recently involved with JACK BENNY and GEORGE BURNS in connection with smuggling activities; that he was of the opinion he possibly could assist in any further investigation being conducted in connection with this individual,

He stated that has been engaged in smuggling activities for a considerable period of time; that he possibly could be of assistance in connection with an investigation involving "LITTLE NATEY" who handles narcotics.

He also advised at the present time there is an indictment against him in New York county in connection with stolen bonds and a detainer is presently filed against him at the United States Penitentiary, Lewisourg, in connection with this matter; that he is of the opinion this indictment will be quashed at the time of his release.

He further informed he could be of assistance to the united States
Government in connection with an income tax investigation of New York City.

The above information is being furnished to your office in order that you may take the proper steps to transmit this information to the appropriate investigative agencies. In the event your office has any information to the appropriate this individual that may be connected with any Bureau case, it is desired that this be immediately furnished to the rhiladelphia Office in order that the carbot thoroughly interviewed before he is released.

very truly yours,

PAM:AVM 62-0 cc - Bureau

A. B. LECKIE Special Agent in Charge. h70

Hotel Huntizgton
incorporated
307 HUNTINGTON AVENUE
BOSTON, MASS.

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

BRADFORD T. KENDRICK

March1,1939.

Manager RECORDED INDEXED

U 8 Bureau, Federal Investigations, 54-717
Washington, D.C.

EDERAL BUREAU GE . LET GATIC

To the Chief of Bureau:

MAR 29 11

This I believe is a very important communication. This imformation, the writer believes, should be it your possession.

It refers to the diamond activities of the firm of

67C

Angeles.

7/39- Set Buil Customs JES

and his assistant make a trip to Europe every year about the month of April, ostensibly to purchase jewelry. Some time last spring, Mrs. Jack Benny, wife of the radio star, was supposed to have brought to the Sunset store, a large valuable diamond estimated at about \$16,000. It was placed in the safe and only

knew of its whereabouts. While

67C

were in Europe, the diamond was supposed to have been stolen from the safe, yet there were no evidences of an outside attempt to steal it. They reported it to the insurance Company, and some of the details to the local police. This was at the time that the newspapers were publishing the case of the jewelry smuggling of Jack Benny and Burns. It is also known that has brought back jewelry from Paris and Nice, Fr., but do not know whether he paid duty on it. The has not a good name with the Int. Rev Bureau on tax matters. At this time and altho business was making \$50,000.- a year

67C

assigned his property and home in Santa Barbara, and all contents, as per Los Angeles County records. While in Los Angeles during the week days he stays at a house he formerlowned and also assigned to at Whitely Heights.L.A.

-1-

v 1.0

PIC

'Hotel Huntington INCORPORATED 307 HUNTINGTON AVENUE BOSTON, MASS. BRADFORD T. KENDRICK

Manager

67C

107C

does not sign checks does this, has an account at the Citizens Natl Bank, Hollywood Blvd and McCad-

den Place.

The entire activity of the firm and is quite mysterious. Perhaps you care to investigate further.

Citizen.







Chief. U.S. Bederal Bureau of Investigation.

Washington. D.C.

سَا: سَكَا

54-717 -1X

April 7, 1939

The state of grant with the food of the state of the stat

Honorable James H. Moyle Commissioner Bureau of Customs Treasury Department Washington, D. C.

My dear Commissioner:

I am transmitting herewith a photostatic copy of an anonymous letter dated March 1, 1939, together with a photostatic copy of the envelope in which it was mailed, postmarked at Los Angeles, California, March 26, 1939, which may be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover Director

Inclosure

cc-Los Angeles (with inclosure)

COMMUNICATION SECTION A

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FEBRUAL CORRAD OF INVESTIGATION

U. B. COPARTMENT OF UNSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 15 1939

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NESCOPECK PENN MARCH 15 1939 615P

/ J EDGAR HOOVER

DIRECTOR FEDERAL BUREAU INVESTIGATION

IS JACK BENNY RADIO COMEDIAN STILL UNDER INDICTMENT

FOR SMUGGLING

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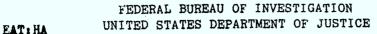
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54 - ALI GE HAVESTIGATION
PEOPLE OF THE STREET OF THE STRE

Mr. Toleon
Mr. Wathan
Mr. E. A. Torm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. McIntire
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy





MARCH 16 1939

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to:

NESCOPECK PENNSYLVANIA

REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAM YESTERDAY CONCERNING JACK BENNY MUST ADVISE THAT THIS MATTER WAS NOT HANDLED BY THIS BUREAU AND SUGGEST THAT YOU COMMUNICATE WITH UNITED STATES ATTORNEY AT NEWYORKCITY FOR INFORMATION YOU DESIRE

> JOHN EDGAR HOOVER FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SENT VIA



EI 10

3-16-39

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MESCOPECK PERHISYLYANIA

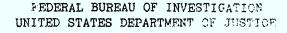
REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAN YESTERDAY CONCERNING JACK EEMMY THIST ADVISE THAT THIS MATTER WAS NOT MAIPLED BY THIS BUREAU ANXXX AND SUGGEST, THAT YOU CONTUNICATE WITH UNITED STATED ATTRIXXXX ATTORNEY AT HENYORMOITY FOR INTORNATION YOU DESIRE

MONIN HOOVER

DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION





EAT: HA

MARCH 16 1939

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

67C

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NESCOPECK PENNSYLVANIA

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER DIRECTOR FEDERAL BULEAU OF INVESTIGATION



SENT VIA M PEN

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER

Federal Bureau of Investigation United States Department of Iustice Washington, D. C.

EAT: COH

March 21, 1939

Time: 11:40 a.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

bu

In connection with your call to Inspector Foxworth last night regarding Jack Benny's case with respect to the allegation that Cahill is going to persecute the man rather than prosecute him, Mr. Foxworth telephoned me this morning after talking to Mr. Cahill.

Mr. Cahill said to tell you that the attorney had been in to see him and wanted him to dismiss the indictment; that when he refused to do this, the attorney wanted to enter a plea of nolle Woltre. Mr. Cahill is not familiar with this plea and informed the attorney that such pleas are not acceptable in that district. Cahill also told the attorney that he would not take a plea of nolo contendere.

Mr. Cahill wanted you informed of his appreciation for giving him the information and that he would like to discuss this with you some time and assure you that no personalities are coming into the case. Mr. Foxworth advised Mr. Cahill that you had no interest in the matter other than to furnish him the information and that you knew nothing about the merits of the case.

Respectfully,
E. A. TAMM

regorded L FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 22 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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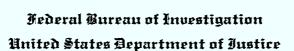
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INDEXED FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION MAR 98 193 9

U. S. DEPARTMENT & MOSTICE ONE



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA April 4, 1939

Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

PER ONAL AND CONF. CENTIAL

Dear Sir:

In a recent conversation with

National Broadcasting Company of Hollywood, California, he
being a director and producer of shows, he advised me that
JACK BENNY, radio comedian, who, according to today's press,
pled guilty to smuggling charges in New York City, has been
very worried as to the outcome of the trial.

The arranges
the program for BENNY and is intimately acquainted with him.
BENNY and his sponsors were very much afraid that he would receive a penitentiary sentence in connection with this case.

He advised me confidentially that EDDIE CANTOR, who has recently made a number of public remarks relative to his dislike for HITLER and things German in general, has had difficulty with his sponsors, the American Tobacco Company, and the sponsor actually endeavored to cancel his contract after a recent episode in Hollywood. They were not legally able to break this contract and the comedian has eight or nine weeks before it expires.

After the conclusion of a recent broadcast in Hollywood, CANTOR made some remarks about HITLER and an individual in the rear of the studio arose and left and was followed by two persons, who are reported to have attacked him after engaging in a verbal dispute outside the studio. There was some talk of filing charges against the attackers, one of whom was said to have been an individual on the program with CANTOR. Apparently the incident, as well as CANTOR'S remarks, were very disgusting to the broadcasting company officials and he is becoming increasingly unpopular in radio circles.

Very truly yours, 54 - 7/7 - 5

FEDERAL BURFAN OF INVESTIGATION

R. B. HOOD,

Special Agent in Charge.

U.S. DETART-ENT OF JUSTICE

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Marie Marie

ANOEYMOUS COMMUNICATION KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED RECORDED &
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 11 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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(cppy-cmcw)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

EAT: COH

Time: 2:05 P.M. April 1, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

	•	
	Inspector Foxworth called and furnished the following developments in connection within the Jack Benny called and furnished the following developments	ise; 67c,6
(has told Mr. Foxworth that he has been shaken down for ten or twelve thousand dollars by Morris Rosen, Oscar Moore,	b7c
,	New York City, and told went to was not going to stand any more	67C
•	that he, and "John Edgar Hoover were just like that" that you had sat at his table and exhibited to photograph from you signed "To my friend". states he did nothing further and that he is afraid of every one.	, b7c
	says that Gracie Allen was just as guilty in the smuggling case as George Burns; that in fact Gracie Allen jointly signed the checks with Burns; and that Mary Livingston is the real one involved in the Jack Benny case and that she had personally given him the jewelry he was to bring over. George Burns, according to deducted from his income tax the amount he paid for the Jewelry. Also that when the Customs officials raided Burns and Allen's apartment, certain narcotics were found. has been informed by an individual, presently in the Federal House of Detention from Alcatraz, that both Burns and Allen use narcotics and that this is the reason Gracie wears long sleaves all the time. The individual claims he has sold narcotics to George and Gracie.	67c,67D
•	also mentioned, a well-known bondsman in the Southern District, and stated is supposed to be a contact man of Assistant U. S. Attorney Delaney. He also stated he had been told that if he made certain payments to (mentioned in the Manton case) that would take care of his case for him. The payments were not made as he had a falling-out with also furnished Mr. Foxworth information concerning three other pay-off matters that is supposed to have originated but which did not go through. Mr. Foxworth is to send the details of these to the Bureau.	67C,690
	The records in the Director's Office Respectfully, show that a photograph was furnished E.A.TAMM.	
4	on 4/1/37 autographed, "With most cordial regards from	
	your friend."	

4/9/39

Dear Sir:

* 100mm 10

There ought be a law compelling the publication in daily press of the right name of criminals. Jack Benny's name is not Jack Benny (which is English American) also Burn's is the same. Benny's name is Kubelsky. Burn's is Birnbaum. It's outrageous to give to Foreign criminals Eng. American names and disgrace us, looks like an Irishman. With all the Irish Judges cops etc. I don't doubt but many Irish crooks are recorded & published under American

Bon Gan

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER DIRECTOR

Vederal Bureau of knuestigation United States Bepartment of Iustice

EAT:C

Time

COE	Washington, D. C.	Mr. Egan Mr. Foxworth
	2:05 p.m.	Mr. Glavin
	April 1, 1939	Mr. Harbo
· .		Mr. Lester
		Mr. Nichols
	MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR	Mr. Quinn Tamm
		Mr. Tracy
-		Miss Gandy
	and the following developments	
	Inspector Foxworth called and furnished the following developments in the Jack Benny c	ase: 67C,6D
	has told Mr. Foxworth that he has been shaken down for te	n or 57c
) 	twelve thousand dollars by Morris Nosen, Oscar Mayor pas these individuals having knowledge of pas	in 4
	these individuals having knowledge of criminal record. Went to who runs a night club who runs a night club new York City, and told he was not going to stand any more new York and was going to report to the authorities.	500
	New York City, and told to report to the authorities. to shake-downs and was going to report to the authorities.	old hat"; QC
	shake-tubile and MJohn Edgar Hoover were just like t	matri, 13 C. S.
Line	that he, that he, that you had sat at his table and exhibited to photograph from you signed "To my friend". States he did nothing further and that he is afraid of every one.	167C 55 35 F
	photograph from you signed "To my friend".	1925 4
	nothing further and that he is afraid of every one.	
	says that Gracie Allen was just as guilty in the smugglir	lg 2007
	says that Gracie Allen was just as garden jointly signed the case as George Burns; that in fact Gracie Allen jointly signed the	
	case as George Burns; that in fact Gracle Alich Johnson checks with Burns; and that Mary Livingston is the real one involve checks with Burns; and that she had personally given him the	
	in the Jack Benny case and that she have according to	
	jewelry he was to bring over. George banks, and for the jewelry.	Iso b C.F
1 C	deducted from his income tax the amount he paid and Allen's apartment, that when the Customs officials raided Burns and Allen's apartment,	,
	that when the Customs officials raided Burns and Allen's apartment that when has been informed by an certain narcotics were found. has been informed by an individual, presently in the Federal House of Detention from Alcating individual, presently in the reason	
	individual, presently in the Federal House of Detention from Arcan	
Carda	individual, presently in the rederal nouse of that this is the reason that both Burns and Allen use narcotics and that this is the reason that both Burns and Allen use narcotics and that this is the reason that both Burns and Allen use narcotics and that this is the reason that both Burns and Allen use narcotics. The individual claims he lightly are the contractions of the contraction of th	nas 🦼 🕏
	Gracie wears long sleeves all the time.	A vi e
	sold narcotics to George and Gracie.	7
9	also mentioned a well-known bondsman in the	
	District and stated 18 supposed to be	on biles
?	of Assistant U. SA ttorney Delaney. He diso	
	that if he made certain payment take care of his case for him.	
	William Andrews and the second of the second	[17] [17] [17] [18] [18] [18] [18] [18] [18] [18] [18
J)	also turnished mr. ruxiiut	
4	other pay off matters that is supposed to have originated but which did not go through. Mr. Foxworth is to send the details	
X	but which did not go through. Mr. Foxwor	Company of the State of the Sta

of these to the Bureau. RECORDED & INDEXED.

The records in the Director's office show that a photograph was furnished EDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

4/1/37 autographed, "With most cordial regards from your friend."

54-717-7

April 5, 1939

RECORDED

Wr. P. E. Forworth
Federal Eureau of Investigation
U. S. Separtment of Justice
607 U. S. Court House, Foley Square
New York, New York

Dear Stri

676,670

CETTS

with reference to your telephonic conversation with Ur. E. A. Tamm of the Bureau on April 1, 1939, pertaining to I desire that you bring all of the information furnished by him to the personal attention of United States Attorney Cahill in order that appropriate prosecutive action may be undertaken against any and all individuals who have violated any Federal Statute. It is noted that states that he was "shaken down" by several individuals, including "who is probably identical with While it is true

that I did several years ago furnish to
autographed photograph, I have of course furnished a
comparatively large number of people with such photographs
upon their request and I do not desire that this fact be
considered in connection with any decision made as to the
prosecution of this or any other individual. I desire that
you take particular care to impress upon Mr. Cahill the fact
that I have no more interest in
any other subject of a Bureau investigation.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 20 1939 AT

PEDERAL BURLON OF INVESTIGATION.

U. S. LEAL COLOR OF THE SECTION.

Yery truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

7 13 PM 38
EU-DIRECTUR
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F INF JUSTICE

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.c.

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EAT:DM

April 5, 1939

Mr. P. B. Forworth
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. B. Department of Justice
507 U. S. Court House, Foley Square
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

With reference to your telephonic conversation
with Mr. R. A. Tamp of the Bureau on April 1, 1939, pertaining to information received from

I desire
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the personal attention of United States Attorney Cahill in
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Statute idown by several individuals, including

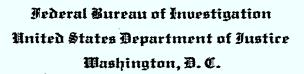
who is probably identical with

that I did several years ago furnish to an autographed photograph I have of course furnished a comparatively large number of people with such photographs upon their request and I do not desire that this fact be

comparatively large number of people with such photographs upon their request and I do not desire that this fact be considered in connection with any decision made as to the prosecution of this or any other individual. I desire that you take particular care to impress upon Mr. Canill the fact that I have no more interest in than I have in any other subject of a Bureau Investigation.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover Director



EAT: COH

April 4, 1939

Time: 4:30 p.m.

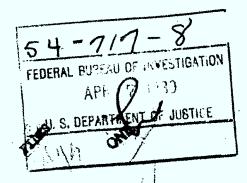
MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

While in telephonic communication with Inspector Foxworth at New York, I was advised that had informed Mr. Foxworth that a disbarred attorney in New York named had a lot of \$10,000.00 Gold Notes; that he had turned one of them in to the Federal Reserve Bank and upon finding out that the same was hot, it was dropped.

Mr. Foxworth stated he is going to turn this information over to Agents in connection with the hot bond case.

E. A. MAYER

RECORDED & INDEXED



CONDED CODY FILED IN

FEDERAL BURGAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, N.Y. April 6, 1939.

PEr:SKI

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

Dear Sir:

67C, 67P During an interview which I had with he informed me that on one of his trips to America a year or more ago, an effort which was successful had been made by MORRISTROSEN, OSCAH MOORE, to shake him down for a certain sum of money. Claims that, these individuals approached him and told him that they knew of his past criminal record and further that it was their intention to kidnap him and throw him in the river unless he paid to them the sum of . \$50,000. They stated they needed this money for LUCKY LUCIANO.

claims that he did pay them approximately \$12,000 and thereafter he contacted one Detective of the New York City Police Department, who made an investigation. According to thereafter wanted to know if he desired prosecution and he informed him that he did not as the resulting publicity would undoubtedly ruin him. then claims to have prepared a statement in which he outlined exactly what had happened so far as the individuals named above were concerned. After this had been done he approached and told him that he had prepared such a statement and copies of it were in his safety boxes both in America and Europe and that if anything happened to him the matter would immediately be known to the public.

4

At that time told that no one would believe any statements that he might leave and that he was friendly with many people prominent in public life. He stated that he was friendly with JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, the Director of the rederal Bureau of Investigation and that you ate at his table and further told he had a photograph of you which was autographed "To My Friend," and frequently entertainedyou at his club which is

Parlially Delnered This Serial Unity
Dupe With
12-43952-3X

RECORDIL 3 UNDEXUD

FEDERAL BUREAU C

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Letter to Director 4/6/39

attention et the time to remarks and that he personally felt that was all right and was successful. He claims to have approached on a number of occasions asking him why he did not sever his relations with the racketeers and at that time told him about being born on the lower test Side of New York and having known the racketeers all of his life for which reason he could not "shake them".

The information furnished by does not in any way indicate a violation of any Federal Statute. The violation, if any, would be of the State Laws. It is noted that says that a Detective of the New York City Police Department has investigated the matter and that he requested that there be no prosecution.

67C

In accordance with the Bursau's instructions, I have called the facts in this matter to the attention of Mr. John T. Cahill, U. S. Attorney, Southern District of New York, telling him that I was doing so at your request.

As the State authorities are already aware of this information and as there is no indication of any Federal violation, no further action whatever is being taken by the New lork Office.

very truly yours,

/s/ P. L. roxworth.

F. E. FOXWORTH. Inspector. PEF:SKL

New York, N. Y. April 8, 1939.

PERSONAL UD CONFIDENTIAL.

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

3.37

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of April 5, 1939, instructing that I personally furnished to United States Attorney John T. Cahill

several individuals including

concerning a "shakedown" by

67C

I have talked

I have talked with Mr. Cahill concerning this matter and furnished him with the details supplied by as outlined in my letter to you of April 6, 1939. I also informed Mr. Cahill that had in fact been furnished with an autographed photograph from you several years ago and that, of course, a large number of persons had received such photographs at their request. Mr. Cahill stated that from the facts which I had furnished there was no indication whatever of a violation of any Federal Statute and I particularly pointed out to him that you wanted to be sure that he thoroughly understood that you had no interest whatever in the other than you would have in the subject of any other bureau investigation. Mr. Cahill stated, to use his exact words, "I wouldn't pay any attention to that at all. It amounts to absolutely nothing."

670

Very truly yours,

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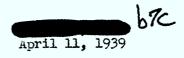
P. E. FOXWORTH, Inspector. and the second s

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wohn de Dear fire Level period topy of letter Short & Liverty I all sur hat in a few mount this scrall will be religated to the worth Basket. we () speak for the majorety of my frinas) feel that Justice is not done, with BURNS RECORDED & INDEXED FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (1) The Judges & Roman of their Regale for anything, 30 he Sure we have the a great many Similar Cases go by in the Bash. I Suppose primarily, Ricare we Thought we Could do nothing about it, Even now we as not know just how to Breezed, But ton interest to Bry. Culprite would no doubt like us a forget it But myself & founds. think it is about time the General Public began & take things into this own hands The have a general manage in the

Hiron of I Ejan Hoonen who is trying delyently & Cook brime in this Country But tohow hands and efforts are tud, anders the Ruple de their Port I and about 25 or 30 of my friends Can See very little differen between the acts of Benny Mann and those of halty. contackle, Except in the Catter law his act Reacted against himself and the motion Proture interests. For which he Bound The Renalty, while Burne & Burny Commented as Brime togains the government, and as we the Reoph are the governut, we are going to do Something about it We thought about chave letter though out the Country. Kurdly advise. In the mean time our Rashor and turned against any program upon which they Oppear your an at liberty to Publish item letter But I have very little hopen of it boy Druly your on Chipbren on sol example for



Mr. J. Edgar Hoover Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

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Enclosed find copy of letter sent to Liberty Magazine, N.Y.

and 670

Dear Sirs:

I expect that in a few moments this scrall will be relegated to the waste basket. We (I speak for the majority of my friends) feel that Justice is not done with reference to the cases of Jack Benny & Geo. Burns.

The Judges and Sponsors of these people must think, we gullible public will stand for anything. To be sure we have let a great many similar cases go by in the past. I suppose primarily because we thought we could do nothing about it, even now we do not know just how to proceed, but we intend to try.

They the culprits would no doubt like us to forget it but myself and friends think it is about time the general public began to take things into their own hands.

We have a general manager in the person of J. Edgar Hoover who is trying diligently to cut crime in this country, but whose hands and efforts are tied, unless the people do their part. I and about 25 or 30 of my friends can see very little difference between the acts of Benny and Burns and those of Fatty Arbuckle except in the latter case his act reacted against himself and the motion picture interests for which he paid the penalty, while Burns and Benny committed a crime against the Government and as we the people are the government, we are going to do something about it.

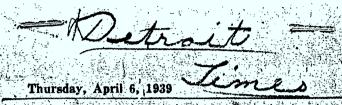
We thought about chain letters throughout the country, kindly advise. In the meantime our radios are turned against any program upon which they appear. You are at liberty to publish this letter, but I have very little hopes of it.

/s/ Very truly yours, 67C

P.S. We do not consider them a good example for our children.

De la fill de la fille de la f Crimma dock to fragi Wy Sewish neighbor has saved tamentem a-- acheping. Daultles this John Holling Land it and promoted for the lege of public en as PÉCORDED 5/1/3/14 INDEXED 54-717

JOHN STREET STREET BUREAU OF APR 9 I FINCL. T. W. S. DE ST. ONE Juil and will have



intl News Service Stan Correspondent Hitler and the conversers were NEW YORK, April 6 Rosa Mrs. Lauer, her husband, and Weber, a German househald with Albert No Chaperau.

Benny and others and today she stood to collect as much as \$5,000

The government pays tipsters who pass along information on smugglers, 25 per cent of the duties and penalties collected as a result of the tip and while Rosa hasn't received hers yet and no-body wants to talk about it officially, she is an off-the-record ficers, after taking an affidavit entry for a quarter of the cash handed over by the screen stars hand by Mrs. Elma Lauer.

Tom Rosa, after taking an affidavit from Rosa, went up to the justice's house to have a look-see.

From Rosa's complaint and that

TALK OF HITLER

Weber, a German housemaid with some degree of fondness for Adolf Hitler, emerged today as the only individual winner in division of the smuggling jackpot into which George Burns and Jack Benny, screen and radio stars, have tumbled almost \$15,000 in duties and penaltics.

It was Rosa who upset the applecart and brought, the federal men on the run to open the smuggling probe which involved Burns, Renny and others and today she

CONVICTED SMUGGLER

Without a thought of informer's stood to collect as much as \$5,000 Without a thought of informers in fees but only burned to a crisp because of the incident at her employer's home, Rosa dashed who pass along information on down to the customs office and smugglers, 25 per cent of the identified Mrs. Lauer as a smugdities and penalties collected as gler. Unfortunately for Mrs. a result of the tip and while Rosa Lauer, she had been caught smuggling previously and had paid a substantial fine so the customs of-

preliminary investigation stemmed TALK OF HITLER

Rosa never suspected when she before it ended with the sentencjoined in the conversation at the home of Mrs. Lauer, wife of a pleas and the anti-climax sentencSupreme Court justice, that she ing of Mrs. Lauer and Chaperauwas laying the groundwork for a small personal fortune.

The conversation on that eventful evening centered about Adolf

Prō-Nazi Maid Gets \$6,714 for Exposing Burns, Benny

NEW YORK, April 6.—(F)—The piracy which involved Jack Benny pro-Hitler huff that led Ross and George Burns will net her at

Weber, a German maid, to turn in-former against a segling con-ernment reward, it was disclosed today.

> The maid, employed in the household of State Supreme Court Justice Edgar Jalauer, quit her job, vowing "revenge," at the height of a dinner party at which the Lauers' guests

voiced anti-Nazi remarks.

"Ladies and gentlemen," the maid was quoted as telling the startled dinner guests, "I am a true German, I love Adolf Hitler If you don't stop to the startled dinner guests, and the startled dinner guests, "I am a true German, I love Adolf Hitler If you don't stop to the startled dinner gueste, him. I will ston. speaking against him, I will stop serving the dinner right now."

She went to Government authorities, with the result that customs agents later raided the Lauer apartment and afterwards arrested Albert N. Chaperau, confessed smuggler, who had been one of the dinner guests, thereby opening the trail that led to Benny and Burns. Mrs. Lauer, Chaperau and the two radio and screen comedians all pleaded guilty. Benny paid a \$10,000 fine and Burns \$8,000. In addition, \$8,816 worth of smuggled jewels and clothing were confiscated.

Under Treasury Department regulations, the maid will be rewarded lations, the maid will be rewarded for her role of informer by 25 per cent of the total fines and 25 per cent of the 100 per cent penalty imposed on the smuggled articles—of 25 per cent of the grand total of \$26,816.

Additional sums may be firth-coming next Thesday when Change.

coming next Tuesday when Claperau and Mrs. Lauer are scheluled to be sentenced.

INVESTIGATIV	F ISION - FBI	
	1939.	
Mr. E. A. Tamm Mr. Foxworth Mr. Glavin Files Section Mechanical Division	Identification Div. Technical Laboratory Crime Records Section Crime Statistics	
SUPER	RVISORS	
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Mary Edgar Hoaver

Department of Justice

Machington

LBN: AEM 54-717-10

BECORDEM

April 26, 1939

Lakewood, Ohio

67C

Dear 67C

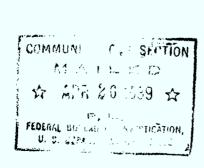
In Mr. Hoover's absence from Washington, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 11, 1939, and I know that the Director will appreciate your kind references to his efforts in combating crime. I shall of course call your letter to his attention upon his return.

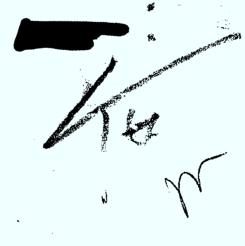
Sincerely yours,

Ar. E. A. Temm.

Mr. E. A. Temm.

Mr. Cleng





New York, N. Y.

PEF:EL

May 4, 1939

Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

informed me yesterday that at the time he was in difficulty with the New York County authorities he was

At that time, he was informed by he would be able to "fix" his case with the New York County authorities through an Assistant District Attorney by the name of for the sum of \$15,000. told (was the contact to be used in "fixing" any matters in the affice of the District Attorney of New York County. While didn't recall the exact date of this occurrence, he did remember that it was prior to the time that THOMAS E. LEWEY took office as District Attorney. was charged with grand

officer by the name of When he was arrested, claims that he felt great concern over the fact that he might possibly be beaten up, and at that time talked to endeavor to dissuade him from taking any such action, and as a result of his talk with he claims that he paid to him the sum of \$1,000 in cash in order to ensure that he would receive proper treatment from the police. was arrested and released on bond, claims that after he for \$7,500 to get the case off the record, claiming that he controlled further stated that at the time of his arrest, he had \$62,000 on deposit in one of the New York banks, and that that bank immediately notified the New York City Police of the money which he had on deposit there, and it was for this reason that he had been approached with suggestions that he fix his case. said that he was innocent of the charges preferred against

de indered. 1 GORDED 54-717-12



Director May 4, 1939

him, and for this reason refused to make any payments to anyone, and the charges were subsequently dismissed.

V)C

He further related that as far as the request of for \$7,500 was concerned, there were two persons, whose names he presently could not remember, operating a restaurant at 41st Street and Broadway, New York City, who could substantiate his story.

an interview on another matter, and is being submitted to you for your information, and no action is being taken thereon.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXFORTH, Inspector.





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ľ	Mr. Toison
	Mr. Within
1	Mr. A. Market
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١	Mr. Coffey
١	Mr. Crowl
l	Mr. Egan
į	Mr. For worth
ı	Mr. Glavin
	Mr. Harbo
-	Mr. Lester
	Mr. McIntire
į	Mr. Nichois
	Mr. Quinn Tamm
	Mr. Tracy
	Miss Gandy

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New York, hew York.

PEF : RG

May 24, 1939

PRASONAL AND CO PEDIFICAL

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

Dear Sir:

There has appeared in LEONARD MYCKS column upon several occasions reference to

67C, 674

LYONS has mentioned in his column that paid for his passport; that he accomply smuggled in property for GRACIFALLEN and HARM LIVINGSTO rether than GROSSICEURIS and JACK BERNY. Recently he neutioned that was involved in connection with the passing of a \$10,000.00 U.S. note by an attorney in town.

b7c

United States Attorney John To Cahill spoke to me about this and said he was very much concerned regarding the information appearing in LYOMS! column and wondered where the leak might be. I told Mr. Cahill that only one or two Agents of the Federal Sureau of Investigation knew of

67C,67D

other than myself and I was certain there had been no leak in the F.b.I.; that we furnished reports to him under Personal and Confidential cover and I did not know who in his office had access to these reports. I did tell Hr. Cahill that I thought that if he wanted to ascertain the source of LYONS' information he should call him down and ask him or else have him appear before the Grand Jury.

RECORDED a INDEXED

At that time Mr. Cahill stated that he did not think that any purpose would be served by interviewing LYONS because he did not believe that he would disclose his source of information; further that he felt that if LYONS were called before the Grand Jury he would still refuse to disclose the source of his information. Mr. Cahill also pointed out that to follow such a procedure might interfere with the pleasant relations now existing between his office and the press.

Letter to Director

5/24/39

I informed Assistant Director E. A. Tamm of Mr. Cahill's remarks in connection with this matter and Mr. Tamm later instructed that I tell Mr. Cahill that the matter had been discussed with you and you were of the opinion that it would be a very good idea to have LYONS before the Grand Jury in order to question him concerning his sources of information and further that you were also greatly concerned about the source of information of the who has been found from time to time to be in possession of a good bit of confidential information and that it was your suggestion that at the same time to be questioned as to his sources of information.

I informed Mr. Cahill of the above relians him that it was your suggestion. At that time Mr. Cahili grain stated that he did not feel that any purpose would be served by calling either of the individuals before the Crand Jury for the reason that they would undoubtedly refuse to disclose their sources of information and for the further reason that he felt that it would interfers with the present relationship existing with the representatives of the press.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXFORTH, Inspector. 607 U. S. Court House Foley Square New York, N. Y.

SJD:JPM 62-6419

PERSONAL VID CONFIDENTIAL

August 11, 1939

Hon. John T. Cahill United States Attorney U. S. Court House Foley Square New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

For your information, during a recent interview with a prisoner in the Federal House of Detention.

New York City, Special Agent was informed that a bondsman, was interested in a prisoner by the name of substance and was convicted early this year on a charge of counterfeiting and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary.

advised that was also being held at the House of Detention, New York City. However, it was subsequently ascertained that was transferred to the Atlanta penitentiary on July 14, 1939.

by Assistant U. S. Attorney JOSEPH L. DELANEY, and that and and are very close to MR. DELANEY and were working for a reduction in sentence.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH, Special Agent in Charge

cc-Bureau

INDEXED

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j.

Nederal Bureau of Investigation United States Department of Justice

New York, N. Y.

SJD₁EL 62-6419

July 25, 1939

PERSONAL

Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

For the Burgau's information, during a conference on July 6, 1939, a prisoner in the Federal House of Detention, New York City, advised Special Agent (A) that a bondsman, was interested in a prisoner by the name of who was convicted early this year on a charge of counterfeiting and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. advised that was being held at the House of Detention, New York City. It has been subsequently determined that was transferred to the Atlanta was being Penitentiary on July 14, 1939.

67 C further informed that handled by Assistant U. S. Attorney JOSEPH L. DELANEY, and that are very close to DELANEY and were working for a reduction in sentence.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH.

Special Agent in Charge.

WW - 8/3/34 UNDEXED

PEOPHAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AUG 7 1939

IS S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BALL. MIN

VCZ:RMB

August 3, 1939

RECORDED - 4-717-14

PERSONAL AD CONFIDENTIAL

Special Agent in Charge New York, New York

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of July 25, 1939, concerning

condense, was interested in a prisoner by the name those case was handled by Assistant

Dalked States Attorney Joseph L. Belaney, and that and the are very class to Delaney and were working for a reduction in sentence.

It is desired that the information related in your above-mentioned letter be brought to the attention of United States Attorney Cabill.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Roover Director

Mr. Tolnon
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Turcm
Mr. Clegif
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Rgan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Lawlor
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

★ AUG -3 1939

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

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COPY FILED IN 62

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Gem Smyggler

Albert N. Chapereau, who did a bit of smugging for Jack Benny, Mary Livingston, George Burns and Gracie Allen back in 1938, now wants the quartet to cough up with the \$7,682 he paid in fines, it became known yesterday.

Attorneys for the radio stars announced they'd move for dismissal of suits in Supreme Court at 10 A. M. today. Benny and Burns paid fines of \$10,000 and \$5,000, respectively, in connection with the amuggling.

In his suit against the Bennys—Jack and Mary—Chapereau seeks \$2,131 and interest, charging they sked him to carry diamond and gald clips and a bracelet from France.

63 MAR 17 1945

CLIFFING FROM THE N. Y. DAILY MEWS

DATED 2.25-40
FORWARDED BY M. Y. DIVISION

Prison Opens for Smuggler

Chaperau Sentence Is Commuted

NEW YORK, April 12.—(P)—The United States Attorney's Office here was advised today that President Roosevelt had commuted to the time already served the five-year sentence imposed last April on Albert N. Chaperau, central figure in a widespread smuggling plot.

Chaperau, a pseudo diplomat, was, convicted as the carrier of smuggled goods which wound up in the hands of such notables as Jack Benny and George Burns, the radio comedians, and Mrs. Edgar Lauer, wife of a former New York State Supreme Court justice.

Chaperau's sentence, while originally put at five years, already had been cut by Federal Judge Hulbert, on motion of the prosecution, to two years minus the time served while awaiting trial—which made the actual sentence about 18 months. His unpaid \$5,000 fine will repeat in tudgment against him.

repain in judgment against him Renny paid a \$10,000 fine; Buns \$8,000 Mrs. Lauer served a 3month jail term.

THE DETRUIT NAMES APRIL 12, 1940



157C

U S. Rewards Chaperau

Albert N. Chaperau, serving two years in Federal prison for jewel smuggling, today earned his reward for co-operating with the Government in the case involving Jack Benny and George Burns, radio comedians, and Mrs. Elma N. Lauer, wife of former Supreme Court Justice Edgar A. Lauer.

An indictment against his wife, Paula Chaperau, was nolle prossed under authorization of U. S. Attorney John T. Cahill on the plea of Chaperau that Mrs. Chaperau and their 16-year-old daughter were poverty stricken in France and would like to return here.

Burns and Benny were given a suspended sentence and Mrs. Layer was sentenced to three months in

54-717-A-

CLIFFING FROM THE N. Y. EVENTING FOURNAL AMERICAN

DATE. (FOR 7 - 10.33)
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

a fggler (<u>see</u> Ended Against Mrs. Chaperau

Cahill Drops Indictment as Reward to Husband for Manton Trial Testimony

The prosecution of later. Pauls Chaperau as a member let a jewelly smuggling ayundicate operated by her attaband. Afbert N. Chaperau and Mrs. Edgar J. Taunt, when all the former Justice of the Supreme Court, was dropped yesterday, when a three-count indictment drawn up against her on Dec. 9, 1933, was nolle prossed in United States Diatrict Court.

Joseph J. Delanes, Assistant United States Attorney, filled the government's intention to drop prosecution of Mrs. Chaperau, which was said to be the last legal action, taken in the case, which is; suited in guilty pleas is Jock Benny and George Burns, sersell and radio comedians, as receivers in smuggled goods. Chaperau laster is muggled goods. Chaperau laster is smuggled goods. Chaperau laster is smuggled goods. Chaperau laster is smuggled goods. Chaperau laster is sentence. Survey and a day and Burns sank. Section a day and Burns sank. Section and a captured sentence of series, and a day and addition, Benny was authorized by John T. Candil, United States Attorney, in consideration of the testimony offered by Chaperau as a government witness in the trial of Martin T. Mantage former sentor judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. The last followed the recent policy which Mr. Cahill has serveres for services, rendered to the government in its various prosecutions.

Chaperau had made many attentions which has services frindered to the government in its various prosecutions. ecutions.

ecutions.

Chiaperau had made many attempts since he was sentened on Jan. 10, 1939, for his part in the smuggling conspiracy, either to gain his release of quash the indictment against his wife, so that she and their sixteen year old daughter, who are at present in Paris, could come to the United States. Chaperau told authorities that his family was powerly-stricken

poverty-stricken Mrs. Chaperau's part in the operations of the jewelry smugglers, according to the indictment revolved around the smuggling into this country of a gold ring, studded with diamonds, valued at \$905. The document charged that Mrs. Chaperau brought in the ring at the suggestion of her husband, who posed as a commercial attache of the Nicaraguan government, to escape payment of, import duties. Besides smuggling the lewelry Mrs. Chapment was accused of making talse occurrences to the customs by sating that the ring was her personal phoperty, whereas it really was indicated to be sold to Burns, which was eventually done. Mrs. Chaperau's part in the opera-

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FORWARDED DE TOU YOUR LET SICK

Juany Bern Situr Sirae

New York Ismury 16, 1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Re: 670

Gentlemen:

HANDVER 2-7800

b7c

our client alleging that on or about November 9, 1940, it negli- b70 gently destroyed some of his personal property, contrary to his instructions.

We have some recollection of a man of a similar name being involved with the Department of Justice, due to violations of the Customs Laws. Our basis for believing that this is the same man is the fact that among the alleged property destroyed there is claimed to have been some correspondence from people of promintence in the theatrical and radio business.

We are interested in obtaining any useful information you may have in your files which will assist us in the defense of our case.

If convenient and agreeable to you, we shall be glad to have our representative confer with your representative in New York.
City to go over the matter in more detail.

Yours very truly,

By:

Managing Attorney

MC

JEC: GU

Mary Ar Services JAC:11C 54**-717-1**5

February 2, 1943

27 Gedar Street New York, New York

Dear 51C

I have for acknowledgment your letter dated January 16, 1943.

Please be advised that the matter referred to therein was handled by the Customs Service in New York City, and it is, therefore, suggested you may desire to communicate with the Customs Service or with the United States Attorney's Office in New York City, which prosecuted this case, for further details in this regard.

I regret advising that I am unable to render you any assistance in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

In &

×

June 25, 1964

JACK BENNY Born: February 14, 1894 Waukegan, Illinois

In response to your request for a check of the files of this Bureau concerning the captioned individual, you are advised that no investigation of him has been conducted by the FBI.

The files of this Bureau do reveal, however, that according to newspaper publicity appearing in late 1939 and early 1940 Benny was the subject of a swuggling investigation as a result of which he was convicted and paid a fine of \$10,000.

You may desire to check with the Customs Bureau, U. S. Treasury Department, for information concerning this matter. (54-717)

Original & 1 - CSC Request Received 6/23/64

13:nc/b

1 ENCLOSURE

TE JUN 30 1964

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI, and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This is in apswer to your request for a check of FBI files.



STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION BUREAU OF PERSONNEL INVESTIGATIONS WASHINGTON 25, D.C. ADDRESS REPLY TO
"CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION"
AND REFER TO

FILE

AND DATE OF THIS LETTER

Benny, Jack (stage name)
DOB: 2-14-94
POB: Waukegan, Ill.

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA, VOLUME 31, 1960-1961, page 222

Radio entertainer; b. Waukegan, Ill., Feb. 14, 1894; s. Meyer and Emma (Sachs) Kubelsky; ed. Waukegan (Ill.) High Sch.; m. Mary Livingstone (actress) Jan. 25, 1927; 1 dau., Joan Naomi (adopted). Began as violinist, 1912; featured player on vaudeville stage; star in motion pictures since 1929; radio entertainer since 1932 also on TV as guest artist and in own program; recent pictures: To Be or Not to Be, George Washington Slept Here, The Horn Blows at Midnight. Served in U. S. Navy, World War I; spent summers 1943, 14, 15, entertaining armed forces Overseas during World War II. Recipient award for best continuing performance by a male entertainer Nat. Acad. Television Arts and Sci., 1957, Spl. award. Home: 1002 North Roxbury Dr., Beverly Hills, Cal.

SII Check - No Record

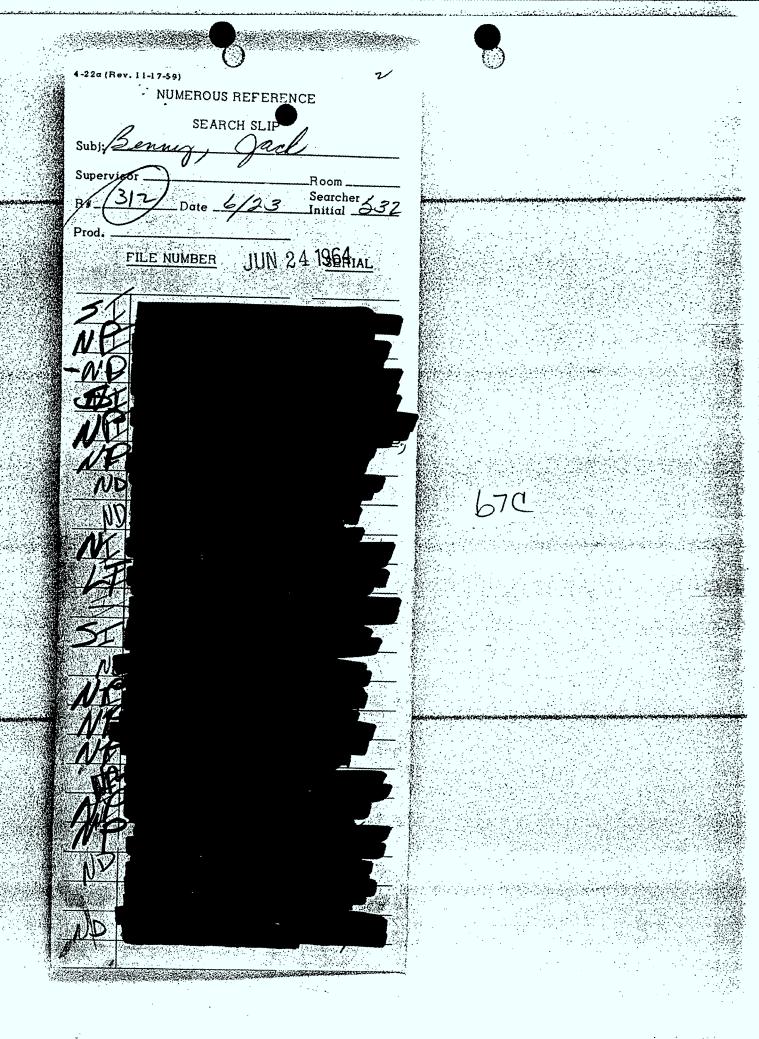
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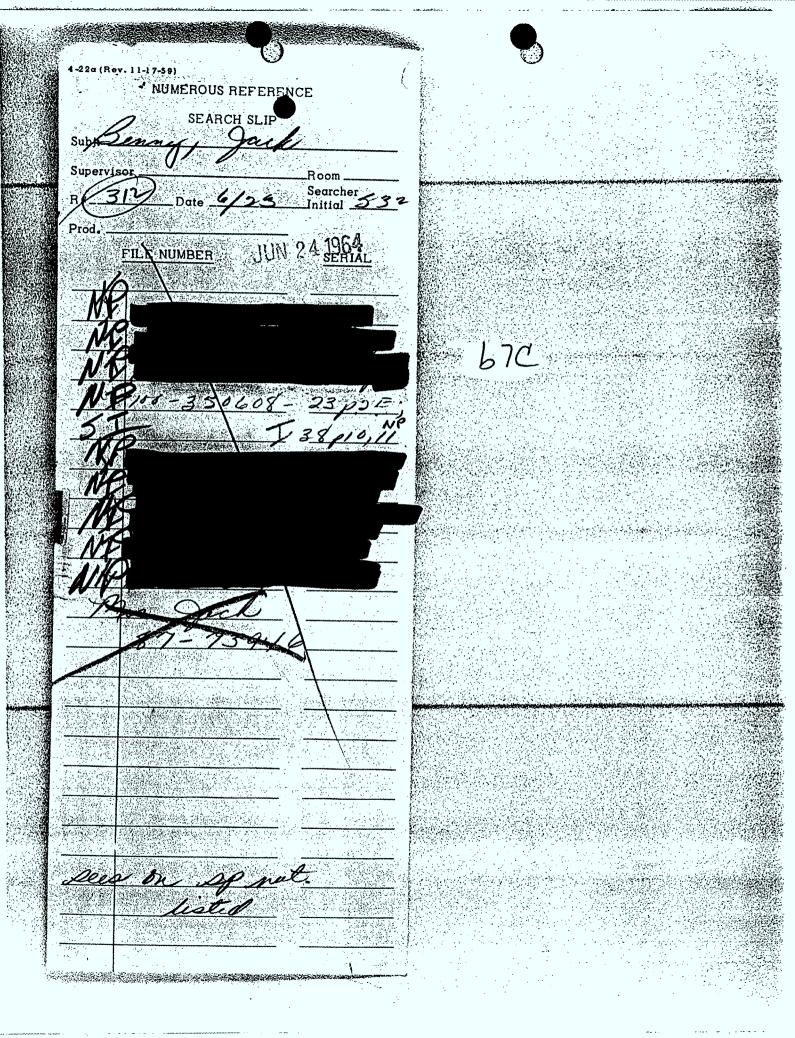
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August 12, 1984 as jack/benny BORN: FEBRUARY 14, 1894 WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS

Captioned individual has never been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBI.

The files of this Eureau do reveal, however, that according to newspaper publicity appearing in late 1939 and early 1940, Benny was the subject of a smuggling investigation as a result of which he was convicted and paid a fine of \$10,000.

As the files of the FBI contain no additional pertinent information concerning this matter, you may desire to check with the Custom's Bureau, U.S. Treasury Department for further information. (54-717)

Social Secretary, White House.)

Belmont _ Cospet Cortad DeLoach Gole

JMM:cmk (10)

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT Mr. DeLoach DATE: 8-13-64 FROM : M. A. Jones SUBJECT: NAME CHECK REQUESTS FOR WHITE HOUSE 107C , Social Secretary at the White House, requested a check of Bureau files concerning the following individuals: Dan Blocker, Nathan Birnbaum (George Burns), Alfred Gerald Caplin (Al Capp), Michael Landon, Raymond Massey, Richard Bernard Skelton (Red Skelton), Sam Jaffe There are attached 14 memoranda reflecting the results of these checks. RECOMMENDATION: That you, Mr. DeLoach, furnish the attached letterhead memoranda to MG AUG 25 364 Enclosures (14) NOLCOURS 1 - Mr. Pelmont - Enclosures 1 - M. Mohr - Enclosures 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosures Mr. Evans - Enclosures - Mr. Rosen - Enclosures

CRIMIN RESEARCH

34 AUG 28 1964

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ENCLOSUBE 7

August 13, 1964

NATHAN BIRNBAUM, ALSO KNOWN AS GEORGE BURNS BORN: JANUARY 20, 1896 NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Captioned individual has never been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBI.

The files of this Bureau do reveal, however, that according to newspaper publicity appearing in late 1939 and early 1940, Burns was the subject of a smuggling investigation as a result of which he was convicted and paid a fine of \$8,000.

As the files of the FBI contain no furthum pertinent information concerning this matter, you may desire to check with the Customs Bureau, U. S. Treasury Department, for further information. (54-717).

In 1943, Burns was reported to be a sponsor of the Committee for the Care of Children in Wartime, which organization allegedly had Communist Party affiliations and connections. Burns, however, was believed to be unaware of the true nature of the organization. (100-92879-24)

In the early 1940's, Burns was reported to be a member of the Hollywood Democratic Committee, cited as a communist front by the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee On Un-American Activities in a 1948 report. In June, 1945, Burns was also listed as a member of the executive council of the June, 1945, Burns was also listed as a member of the Arts, Sciences and Professions Hollywood Independent Citizens: Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions (HICCASP), successor to the Hollywood Democratic Committee. The HICCASP was also cited as a communist frent by the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee On Un-American Activities in its 1948 report. (100-197270-7, 21;100-152-52)-39).

Tolson ———— Belmont ———— Mohr ————————————————————————————————————	67c	ocial Secretar	, White H	louse.)
Contrad	fr.	GAL.	4	Jo

March 18, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

Reference is made to your name check request for a review of FBI files concerning the following individuals subsequent to the date of the previous name check request as noted following each name.

Benjamin Kubelsky (also known as Jack Benny) John Ernst Steinbeck

September 12, 1963 August 12, 1964 May 20, 1964

Our files contain no additional pertinent information oncerning Mr. Kubelsky.

In 1967, information was received that (

reference for an individual who was a delegate from the New York Guild of the American Newspaper Guild to its National Convention in 1945. The New York Newspaper Guild had been described as communist infiltrated and communist dominated. This same individual reportedly sent a communication to Governor Thomas Dewey in 1954 appealing for exacutive clemency for who was convicted on June 28, 1941, in General Sections Court, New York, and sentenced to State Prison on four counts of giving false testimony before the Rapp--Condert Joint Legislative Commissee. During his testimony had admitted membership in the Communist Party but had lied with respect to the number of individuals he knew to be members of the City

College of New York Unit of the Communist Party, ENCLOSURE

1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent dick

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126 MAR 21 1988

See note next pa

Mrs. Mildred Stegall

Information was received in 1966 that a Czechoslovakian citizen, who had been a member of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party since 1945, was to visit the United States on the cultural exchange program in 1966. He indicated an intention to visit friends in the United States included among whom was John Steinbeck.

The files of the Identification Division were checked and found to contain no additional pertinent data concerning the above individuals.

A copy of this communication has not been sent to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

wedsent by memorandum dated 9-12-63, rather

The additional information was developed subsequent to

NOTE: Our files reflect that the final results of our name check

the prior summary memorandum furnished in 1963.

concerning

than 9-4-63.

June 6, 1972

MR. AND MRS. JACK BENNY

Jack Benny, who you advised resides at 1400 Tower Grove Drive, Beverly Hills, California, has not been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBI. However, our files reveal that in late 1939 and early 1940, Benny was the subject of a smuggling investigation which was not investigated by this Bureau, and was subsequently convicted and paid a fine of \$10,000.

Attached is a copy of an FBI Record, Number 3 367 854, which may relate to Jack Benny. The central files of the FBI contain no additional pertinent information concerning captioned individuals based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

Enclosure

NOTE: Per request of Alexander P. Butterfield, Deputy Assistant to the President.

54-417-18

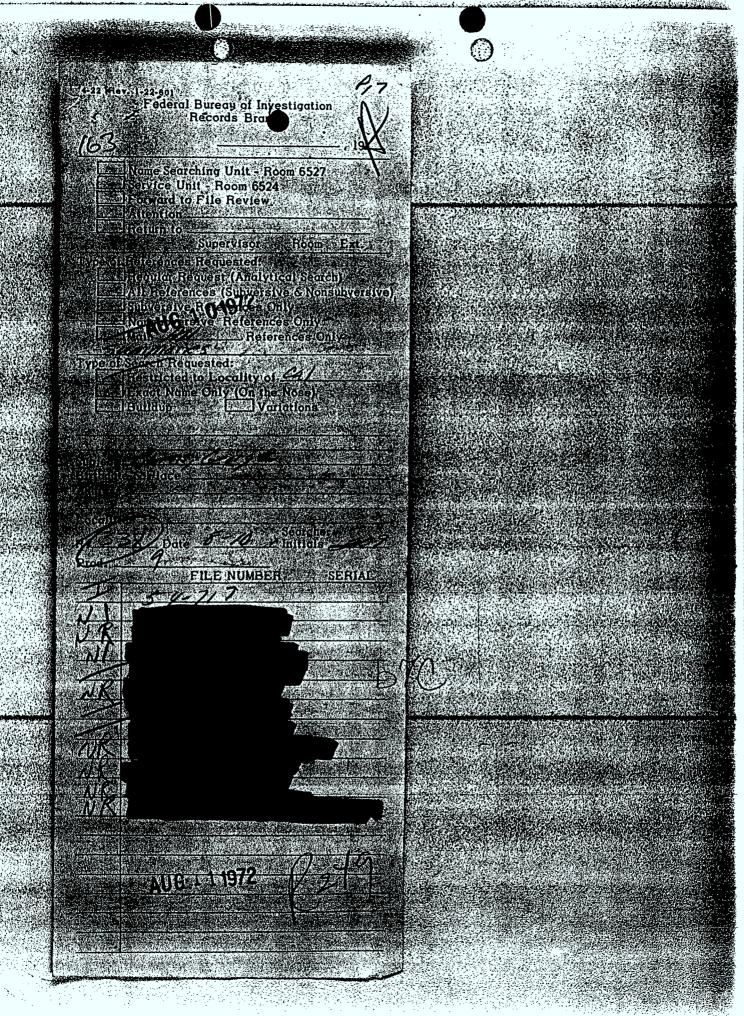
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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

11:02AM

June 8, 1971

The Tour Room advised that a special tour of the Bureau has been arranged for the daughter of Jack Denny, the famous comedian, Mr. Benny's grandson,

67C

for 10:30 a.m., tomorrow,
Wednesday, June 9th. They will be
conducted on tour by a Special Agent
of the Crime Records Division.

There was no request to meet the Director.

This tour was requested through the office of the Vice President.

MR. SULLIVAN
MR. MOHE
MR. BISHOF
MR. BRENNAN, C.D.
MR. CALL AH AN
MR. CASPER
MR. CONRAD
MR. DALLEY
MR. FELT
MR. GALE
MR. ROSEN
MR. TAVEL
MR. WALTERS
MR. SOYARS
MR. JONES
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ORIGINAL FILED IN

June 6, 1972 BY LIAISON Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield Deputy Assistant to the President The White House Washington, B. C. Dear Mr. Butterfield: Reference is made to your name check request concerning Mr. and Mrs. Jack Benny, Attached are separate memoranda concerning these individuals. Patrick Gray, III Acting Director Inclosures (4) 1 - Mr. Cleveland - Enclosures (sent direct) JCF:mcbinCD Campbell . Casper -Conrad RIO4 (1972 TELETYPE UNIT

August 22, 1972 BY LIAISON

Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield Deputy Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Butterfield:

Reference is made to your name check request concerning Jim Backus and some other individuals.

Attached are separate memoranda concerning the following individuals:



Jim Backus

Vince Edwards

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Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray, III Acting Director

Laclosures (10)

NOT RECORDED 184 AUG 28 1972

1 - Mr. Cleveland - Enclosures (sent direct)

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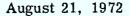
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4 AUG-24 1972

AS EOM 1972 ETYPE UNIT



GEORGE BURNS

Captioned individual, who you advised resides at 720 North Maple Drive, Beverly Hills, California, has not been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBL Summer

However, our files reveal that in late 1939 Burns, whose true name is Nathan irnbaum, was the subject of a smuggling (jewels and clothing, investigation which was not conducted by this Bureau. He was subsequently convicted, given a suspended sentance of one year and one day, and paid an \$8,000 fine. (54-717)

The central files of the FBI, including the files of the Identification Division, contain no additional pertinent information concerning captioned individual based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

NOTE: Per request of Alexander P. Butterfield, Deputy Assistant to the President.

EJK:csh/psr (5)

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