FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: GEORGE BURNS
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 Windsor.) Agents received a tip from an informer that the articles were smuggled.
CHILDREN who "tattle" are ostracized by their playmates; gangsters who "rat" on other gangsters 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 penalties assessed each convicted smuggler. The "squealers" get twenty-five percent of the entire sum, providing that the reward be not more than $25,000.

Latest to garner the bounty of the government in a smuggling case was the pro-Nazi maid, Rose Weber, who supplied Customs agents with the information that led to the conviction of Mrs. Ellis Lauer, wife of Supreme Court Justice Edgar Lauer, who resigned from the bench; Jack Benny and George Burns, radio comedians; and Albert N. Shapiro, for smuggling. Miss Weber was the Lauer's maid. She "squealed" Mrs. Lauer with malice aforethought.

A German citizen, Miss Weber was serving dinner at the Lauer's one night when some of the guests, including Chaperau, made remarks 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 cried: "I'll get even with you all for this!"

She didn't. Another disgruntled employee who put her boss "on the spot" and collected "blood" money from the Treasury Department for smuggling information was Christine Drouadaine, who had just returned from abroad, opened and examined smuggled, costly gowns.

Fired last year from her job, 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 enabled them to obtain all the evidence necessary for a conviction. Duties owed by the dress firm amounted to $10,000, the fines imposed, $1,000, so Christine's cut figured at 25 cents amounted to approximately $1,750 for squealing on her former employers.

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. Pearl Weinberg with $300,000 worth of smuggled diamonds as the Bronx housewife descended the gangplank of the liner Normandie.

Acting upon information gained from the informant, Supervising Customs Agent John W. Robberts stumped against Mrs. Weinberg 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 false bottom compartment wherein appeared the smuggled diamonds. In less than three days, forty persons connected with the smuggling ring were arrested.

Only last month, another unidentified "squealer" caused the penthouse apartment of Mrs. James C. Ayer, wealthy socialite wife of the noted surgeon and painter, to be searched. A squad of Customs agents trained to spot gangsters who rat on their fellow criminals, and to seize 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 tip of 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 $25,000 and $50,000. Thus, if Mrs. Ayer is convicted on a smuggling charge, her nemesis, the informer who "squealed" to the Customs agents, stands to receive at least $5,000, a not insignificant sum for an act frowned upon by children and punished 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.

Paul Chaperau (above with his wife), hooked Mrs. Lauer, Jack Benny and George Burns into participating in smuggling. He did the smuggling; they bought the articles smuggled. 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 smuggling carried on by Chaperau and Mrs. Lauer. Her share of the fines levied may amount to $20,000.
Dig money for "Snugglez" Who "Tell On Smugglers"
Comedian Jack Benny (above with his wife, Mary Livingston) received a suspended sentence of a year and a day and had to pay a $10,000 fine for his part in smuggling jewelry. George Burns paid a total of $10,754 in fines for a similar charge.

Lovely Allison Warner (left, above) and Ann Naylor Chaffe 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, 1958

Fort of New York,
Custom 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 [redacted], with aliases, who is allegedly associated with one [redacted], who is under investigation by your Department.

Very truly yours,

Dwight Bradberry,
Special Agent in Charge.

Encl.

(CC) Bureau

RECORDED & INDEED

N 54-717-X

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Dec. 17 1938
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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.

With this in mind he stated he was acquainted with who was recently involved with, and , 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, Lewisburg, 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 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 concerning this individual that may be connected with any Bureau case, it is desired that this be immediately furnished to the Philadelphia Office in order that he may be thoroughly interviewed before he is released.

Very truly yours,

A. B. LECKIE
Special Agent in Charge.
To the Chief of Bureau:

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

It refers to the diamond activities of the firm of [Redacted] both in Los Angeles. During 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 [Redacted] and his assistant [Redacted] knew of its whereabouts. While they 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 [Redacted] brought back jewelry from Paris and Nice, but do not know whether he paid duty on it. [Redacted] has not a good name with the Int. Rev Bureau on tax matters. At this time and although business was making $50,000 a year, [Redacted] 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 formerly owned and also assigned to [Redacted] at Whitely Heights, L.A.
Hotel Huntington
INCORPORATED
307 HUNTINGTON AVENUE
BOSTON, MASS.
BRADFORD T. KENDRICK
Manager

does not sign checks, does this, has an account at the Citizens Natl Bank, Hollywood Blvd and McCadden Place.

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

Citizen.
Chief, U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Washington, D.C.
April 7, 1939

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)
OK
WH19 10
NESCOPECK PENN MARCH 15 1939 615P
/J EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR FEDERAL BUREAU INVESTIGATION
IS JACK BENNY RADIO COMEDIAN Still UNDER INDICTMENT
FOR SMUGGLING

NO RECORD
FILE SECTION

RECORDED & INDEXED
To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to: NESCOECK 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 NEW YORK CITY FOR INFORMATION YOU DESIRE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
HI 10 3-16-39 41571 TOYF PSXX PD

MESCOPCH PENNSYLVANIA

REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAM YESTERDAY CONCERNING JACK HENRY
JUST ADVICE THAT THIS MATTER WAS NOT HANDLED BY THIS
BUREAU PSXX AND SUGGEST THAT YOU COMMUNICATE WITH UNITED
STATES ATTORNEY AT NEW YORK CITY FOR
INFORMATION YOU DESIRE.

JOHN HOOVER
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO: NESCOPECK PENNSYLVANIA

REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAPH 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 NEW YORK CITY FOR INFORMATION YOU DESIRE.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MARCH 16 1939
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

In connection with your call to Inspector Foxworth last night regarding Jackenny'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 prosequi. 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
Why all the delay on the
embassy trip? What about the women
who are here now? Could you send the men
backing aliens and how to look for them. Perhaps
them. The only problem is that the only
Those who can stay in the Hamburg house and pick them up as they go to Europe.
Crooks that have all the joy in the U.S. can only
Laugh at our own errors and aliens escape?
Best from what is the first day of a coming World War.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
April 4, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In a recent conversation with [redacted], 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. [redacted] 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,

[Signature]

R. B. Hood,
Special Agent in Charge

RBH:MO
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Inspector Foxworth called and furnished the following developments in connection with the Jack Benny case.

has told Mr. Foxworth that he has been shaken down for ten or twelve thousand dollars by Morris Rosen, Oscar Moore, and these individuals having knowledge of past criminal record. went to who runs a night club in New York City, and told he was not going to stand any more shake-downs and was going to report to the authorities. told that he, and "John Edgar Hoover were just like that"; that you had sat at his table and exhibited a photograph from you signed "To my friend". states he did nothing further and that he is afraid of every one.

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 sleeves all the time. The individual claims he has sold narcotics to George and Gracie.

also mentioned, a well-known bondman in the Southern District, and stated he 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.

The records in the Director's Office show that a photograph was furnished on 4/1/37 autographed, "With most cordial regards from your friend."

Respectfully,

E.A. Taam.
4/9/39

Dear Sir:

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 names.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Inspector Foxworth called and furnished the following developments in connection with the Jack Benny case:

Mr. Foxworth has told me that he has been shaken down for ten or twelve thousand dollars by Morris Rosen, Oscar Moore, and these individuals having knowledge of past criminal record. Mr. Foxworth went to a man who runs a night club in New York City, and told him he was not going to stand any more shake-downs and was going to report to the authorities. Mr. Foxworth told him that he, Mr. Foxworth, and "John Edgar Hoover were just like that"; that he had sat at his table and exhibited to him a photograph from you signed "To my friend." Mr. Foxworth states he did nothing further and that he is afraid of every one.

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 what 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 sleeves all the time. The individual claims he has sold narcotics to George and Gracie.

Mr. Crowl also mentioned a well-known bondsman in the Southern District, and stated that he 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 Mr. Foxworth (mentioned in the Manton case) that Mr. Foxworth would take care of his case for him. The payments were not made as he had a falling-out with Mr. Foxworth also furnished Mr. Foxworth information concerning three other pay-off matters that he is supposed to have originated but which did not go through. Mr. Foxworth is to send the details of these to the Bureau.

The records in the Director's office show that a photograph was furnished 4/1/37 autographed, "With most cordial regards from your friend."
April 5, 1939

Mr. P. E. Foxworth
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
607 U. S. Court House, Foley Square
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

With reference to your telephonic conversation with Mr. E. A. Tamm of the Bureau on April 1, 1939, pertaining to 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 Mr. Cahill states that he was "shaken down" 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 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 than I have in any other subject of Bureau investigation.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
April 5, 1939

Mr. F. B. Foxworth
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
607 U. S. Court House, Foley Square
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

With reference to your telephonic conversation with Mr. E. A. Tanat of the Bureau on April 1, 1939, pertaining to information received from [redacted] I desire you to 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 statutes. It is noted that [redacted] states that he was "shaken down" by several individuals, including [redacted], who is probably identical with [redacted]. While it is true that I did several years ago furnish to [redacted] 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 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 [redacted] than I have in any other subject of a Bureau investigation.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
While in telephonic communication with Inspector Foxworth at New York, I was advised that a disbarred attorney in New York named [redacted] 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 [redacted] in connection with the hot bond case.

E. A. Mayer
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, N.Y.
April 6, 1959.

PER: SKL

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Dear Sir:

During an interview which I had with [redacted], 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 [redacted] and [redacted] to shake him down for a certain sum of money. [redacted] 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 them the sum of $50,000. They stated they needed this money for [redacted].

[redacted] claims that he did pay them approximately $12,000 and thereafter he contacted one [redacted], Detective of the New York City Police Department, who made an investigation. According to [redacted], thereafter wanted to know if he desired prosecution and he informed him that he did not as the resulting publicity would undoubtedly ruin him. [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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.

At that time [redacted] told [redacted] that no one would believe any statements that he might leave and that he was friendly with many prominent in public life. He stated that he was friendly with John Edgar Hoover, the Director of the federal Bureau of Investigation and that you ate at his table and further told [redacted] he had a photograph of you which was autographed "To My Friend," and frequently entertained you at his club which is [redacted] claims that he said no.

Partial Serial Only

54-717-X

RECORDED
INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APR 28 1930
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

54-717-X

DUP. 12-43982-3

4/14/59
Letter to Director
4/6/39

attention at 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 East 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.

In accordance with the Bureau'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 York Office.

Very truly yours,

/s/ P. E. Roxworth.

T. E. ROXWORTH
Inspector.
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of April 5, 1939, instructing that I personally furnished to United States Attorney John T. Cahill concerning a "shakedown" by several individuals including

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 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."

Very truly yours,

P. E. Foxworth,
Inspector.
Mr. F. Edgar Hume.

Wishing to

Dear Sir,

Enclosed print copy of letter dated to Liberty
Magazine 8.3.

Im. B.B.

and

Dear Sir,

I expect that in a few moments this shall
will be delivered to the waste basket.

I (I speak for the majority of my
people) feel that Justice is not alone, with
reference to the case of Jack Burns & Geo

Burns

The Judges & Governors of these People
must think, we gullible North American
for anything, to be sure we have had a great
many similar cases go by in the Past.

I suppose primarily, because we thought we
could do anything about it. Even now we
do not know just how to proceed, better
intend to try.

They the Culpable would no doubt like
me to forget it. But myself & friends, think it
is about time the General Public began to

take things into their own hands.

We have a general Mange in the
2) Again of I hear stories who is trying
diligently to curb crime in this country.
But their hands and efforts are tied.
Unless the people do their part.

And about 25 or 30 of my friends
Can see very little difference between the
acts of Benny and any other.

Except in the latter case, his
act reacted against himself and the
motion picture industry. For which he paid
the penalty. While Burn's was 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. Finally a decision,
In the meantime our religion are turned
against any program upon which they appear.
You are at liberty to publish this letter.
But I have very little hope of it.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

[Postscript]

O.K. we are putting them as a good example for
our children.
April 11, 1939

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

Dear Sir:

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

and

Dear Sirs:

I expect that in a few moments this scroll 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.

Very truly yours, b7c

P.S. We do not consider them a good example for our children.
Maid Informer to Get Slice of Benny's Fine

HITLER and the conversers were Mrs. Lauer, her husband, and Albert N. Chaperau. Rosa was serving the soup and she got so angry at what the diners were saying about the German leader that she put down her tray and waded right into the conversation. That was the end of Rosa's soup-serving career at the Lauer's and the beginning of a large headache for most of the film colony and the Broadway crowd—people who never had heard of Rosa.

CONVICTED SMUGGLER

Without a thought of informer's fees but only burned to a crisp because of the incident at her employer's home, Rosa dashed down to the customs office and identified Mrs. Lauer as a smuggler. Unfortunately for Mrs. Lauer, she had been caught smuggling previously and had paid a substantial fine so the customs officers, after taking an affidavit from Rosa, went up to the Justice's house to have a look-see.

From Rosa's complaint and that preliminary investigation stemmed the major smuggling probe which, before it ended with the sentencing of Burns and Benny on guilty pleas and the anti-climax sentencing of Mrs. Lauer and Chaperau—identified as Shapiro—involved a considerable number of names found more often in lights than

TALK OF HITLER

Rosa never suspected when she joined in the conversation at the home of Mrs. Lauer, wife of a Supreme Court Justice, that she was laying the groundwork for a small personal fortune.

The conversation on that eventful evening centered about Adolf Hitler and the conversers were Mrs. Lauer, her husband, and Albert N. Chaperau. Rosa was serving the soup and she got so angry at what the diners were saying about the German leader that she put down her tray and waded right into the conversation. That was the end of Rosa's soup-serving career at the Lauer's and the beginning of a large headache for most of the film colony and the Broadway crowd—people who never had heard of Rosa.

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From Rosa's complaint and that preliminary investigation stemmed the major smuggling probe which, before it ended with the sentencing of Burns and Benny on guilty pleas and the anti-climax sentencing of Mrs. Lauer and Chaperau—identified as Shapiro—involved a considerable number of names found more often in lights than
Pro-Nazi Maid Gets $6,714 for Exposing Burns, Benny

NEW YORK, April 6—(AP) — The pro-Hitler huff that led Rosa Weber, a German maid, to turn informer against a smuggling conspiracy which involved Jack Benny and George Burns will net her at least $6,714 in United States Government reward, it was disclosed today.

The maid, employed in the household of state Supreme Court Justice Edgar J. Lauer, 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 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 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—a sum of 25 per cent of the grand total of $25,816.

Additional sums may be forthcoming next Tuesday when Chaperau and Mrs. Lauer are scheduled to be sentenced.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.
April 26, 1939

Lakewood, Ohio

Dear [Name] 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,

[Signature]

COMMISSIONERS

[Stamp] APR 26 1939

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. GOVERNMENT
May 4, 1939

New York, N. Y.

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I informed me yesterday that at the time he was in difficulty with the New York County authorities, he was associating with one [redacted] and was at

At that time, he was informed by [redacted] that he would be able to "fix" his case with the New York County authorities through an Assistant District Attorney by the name of [redacted]. [Redacted] told [redacted] that was the contact to be used in "fixing" any matters in the office of the District Attorney of New York County. While he didn't recall the exact date of this occurrence, he did remember that it was prior to the time that THOMAS F. LEWIS took office as District Attorney. [Redacted] was charged with grand larceny.

He states that his case was investigated by a police officer by the name of [redacted]. When he was arrested, [redacted] claims that he felt great concern over the fact that he might possibly be beaten up, and at that time talked to [redacted] in an endeavor to dissuade him from taking any such action, and as a result of his talk with [redacted] 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. [Redacted] claims that after he was arrested and released on bond, [redacted] came to him and asked for $7,500 to get the case off the record, claiming that he controlled the prosecution. [Redacted] further stated that at the time of his arrest, he had $62,000 on deposit in one of the New York banks, and 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. [Redacted] said that he was innocent of the charges preferred against him.
Director
May 4, 1939

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

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.

The above information was secured from during 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. FOXWORTH,
Inspector.
New York, New York.

May 24, 1939

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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

Dear Sir:

There has appeared in LEONARD LYONS' column upon several occasions reference to

LYONS has mentioned in his column that

paid for his passport that he actually smuggled in property for GRACIE ALLEN and HARRY BAVIER rather than GRADY SMITH and JACOBURY. Recently he mentioned that he was involved in connection with the passing of a $10,000.00 T. & T. note by an attorney in town.

United States Attorney John T. Cahill spoke to me about this and said he was very much concerned regarding the information appearing in LYONS' column and wondered where the leak might be. I told Mr. Cahill that only one or two Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation know of 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 Mr. 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.

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 [redacted] 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 he be questioned as to his sources of information.

I informed Mr. Cahill of the above and told him that it was your suggestion. At that time Mr. Cahill again stated that he did not feel that any purpose would be served by calling either of the individuals before the Grand 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 interfere with the present relationship existing with the representatives of the press.

Very truly yours,

F. E. Foxworth, Inspector.
607 U. S. Court House
Foley Square
New York, N. Y.

SJD:J.P.
62-6419

PERSONAL AND 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 ________, who 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.

Further informed that ________ case was handled by Assistant U. S. Attorney JOSEPH L. DELANEY, and that ________ 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

INDEXED
54-717-13X
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, N. Y.

SJD4EL
62-6419

July 25, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

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

[redacted] further informed that [redacted] case was handled by Assistant U. S. Attorney JOSEPH L. DELANEY, and that [redacted] and [redacted] are very close to DELANEY and were working for a reduction in sentence.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH
Special Agent in Charge.
VCZ:RMB August 3, 1939

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of July 25, 1939, concerning [redacted] to the effect that a [redacted] was interested in a prisoner by the name of [redacted] whose case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph L. Delaney, and that [redacted] and [redacted] are very close 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 Cahill.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Gem Smuggler

Suing Benny

[Text obscured]
Prison Opens for Smuggler

Chaperau Sentence Is Commuted

NEW YORK, April 12.—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 remain in judgment against him.

Benny paid a $10,000 fine; Burns $8,000, Mrs. Lauer served a 3-month jail term.

THE DETROIT NEWS
APRIL 12, 1940
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 noile 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. Lauer was sentenced to three months in jail.

U. S. Rewards Chaperau

CLIPPING FROM THE N. Y. EVENING JOURNAL AMERICAN

DATE: 12/17/44
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.
Smuggler Case Ended Against Mrs. Chaperau

Cahill Drops Indictment as Reward to Husband for Manton Trial Testimony

The prosecution of Mrs. Paul Chaperau as a member of a jewelry smuggling syndicate operated by her husband, Albert N. Chaperau, and Mrs. Louis J. Manton, retired Justice of the Supreme Court, was dropped yesterday when a three-count indictment drawn up against her on Dec. 7, 1933, was nolle prossed in United States District Court.

Joseph H. Johnson, former United States Attorney, said the government's intention to drop prosecution of Mrs. Chaperau, which was said to be the last legal action taken in the case, resulted in guilty pleas by Jack Benny and George Burns, though radio comedians as receivers of smuggled goods. Chaperau is serving a two-year term and Mrs. Jackie, who has completed a three-month sentence, Benny and Burns have received a suspended sentence of three years and a day. In addition, Benny paid $10,000 and Burns $9,000.

The dropping of the indictment, in which Mrs. Chaperau, also named as "Paula Ghayekhe," was authorized by John T. Cahill, United States Attorney, in consideration of the testimony offered by Changrau as a government witness in the trial of Martin T. Manton, former senior judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. The act followed the recent policy which Mr. Cahill has adopted of "rewarding" confessed prisoners for services rendered to the government in its various prosecutions.

Chaperau had made many attempts since he was sentenced on Jan. 10, 1939, for his part in the smuggling conspiracy, either to gain his release or 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 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 $500. The document charged that Mrs. Chaperau brought in the ring at the suggestion of her husband, who posed as a "commercial attaché" of the Nicaraguan government to escape payment of import duties. Besides smuggling the jewelry, Mrs. Chaperau was accused of making false declarations to the customs by stating that the ring was her personal property, whereas it really was intended to be sold to Burns, which was eventually done.
Gentlemen:

Our client alleging that on or about November 9, 1940, it negligently 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 prominence 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,

Managing Attorney

54-717-15
February 2, 1943

27 Cedar Street
New York, New York

Dear [Name]

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,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
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 smuggling 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

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 answer to your request for a check of FBI files.

58 JUL 8 1964
UNIVERSAL STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
BUREAU OF PERSONNEL INVESTIGATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Benny, Jack (stage name)
DOB: 2-11-94
POB: Waukegan, Ill.

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

Radio entertainer; b. Waukegan, Ill., Feb. 11, 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, 44, 45, 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

In response to your request there are attached...
Search Slip

SUB: Benny Jack

Date: 6/25

File Number: JUN 24 1964

Serial: 67C

Due on: N/P
August 12, 1934

BENJAMIN KUBELSKY, ALSO KNOWN
AS JACO BENNY
BORN: FEBRUARY 14, 1894
WAUKESHA, ILLINOIS

Captained individual has never been the subject of an investigation conducted by the F.B.I.

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 smuggling investigation as a result of which he was convicted and paid a fine of $10,000.

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

(Request per [redacted] Social Secretary, White House.)
Memorandum

TO: Mr. DeLoach
FROM: M. A. Jones
DATE: 8-13-64

SUBJECT: NAME CHECK REQUESTS FOR WHITE HOUSE

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...

Enclosures (14)

1 - Mr. Belmont - Enclosures
1 - Mr. Mohr - Enclosures
1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosures
1 - Mr. Evans - Enclosures
1 - Mr. Rosen - Enclosures...
**Federal Bureau of Investigation Records Branch**

- Name Searching Unit - Room 6527
- Service Unit - Room 6524
- Forward to File Review
- Attention: [Redacted]
- Return to: [Redacted]

**Type of References Requested:**
- Regular Request (Analytical Search)
- All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
- Subversive References Only
- Nonsubversive References Only
- Main References Only
- Subs References from 1942

**Type of Search Requested:**
- Restricted to Locality of
- Exact Name Only (On)
- Variations

**Subject:** Zubelsky, Benjamin

**Birthdate & Place**

**Address**

**Locality**

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**FILE NUMBER**

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**Remarks:**

- 62-5-26208
  - Benny, Jack [Redacted]
- 61-711-16 sum 6/26/44
- 137-10352-1
- 872-3946

** Signed: **

- [Redacted]

**Date:** MAR 13 1968
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 further pertinent information concerning this matter, you may desire to check with the Customs Bureau, U. S. Treasury Department, for further information. (54-717)

In 1948, 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, 1946, Burns was also listed as a member of the executive council of the 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 front by the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee On Un-American Activities in its 1948 report. (100-197270-7, 21;100-15252-39).

(request per __________, Social Secretary, White House.)
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 concerning Mr. Kubelsky.

In 1937, information was received that was a reference for an individual who was a delegate from the New York Guild of the American Newspaper Guild to its National Convention in 1935. 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 executive clemency for a [redacted] who was convicted on June 28, 1941, in General Sessions Court, New York, and sentenced to State Prison on four counts of giving false testimony before the Rapp-Coudert Joint Legislative Committee. During his testimony he 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 direct)

See note next page...
Mrs. Mildred Stogall

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,

NOTE: Our files reflect that the final results of our name check concerning [redacted] were sent by memorandum dated 9-12-63, rather than 9-4-63. The additional information was developed subsequent to the prior summary memorandum furnished in 1963.
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. (54-714)

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.
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DO-D
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
11:02 AM
June 8, 1971

The Tour Room advised that a special tour of the Bureau has been arranged for the daughter of Jack Benny, the famous comedian, Mr. Benny's grandson, and his guest, 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.
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 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Benny, [redacted].

Attached are separate memoranda concerning these individuals.

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director

Enclosures (4)

1 - Mr. Cleveland - Enclosures (sent direct)
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 [redacted] Jim Backus and some other individuals.

Attached are separate memoranda concerning the following individuals:

Jim Backus
George Burns
Vince Edwards

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director

Inclosures (10)

NOT RECORDED
184 AUG 22 1972

1 - Mr. Cleveland - Enclosures (sent direct)
August 21, 1972

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 FBI.

However, our files reveal that in late 1939 Burns, whose true name is Nathaniel Roman, was the subject of a smuggling (jewels and clothing) investigation which was not conducted by this Bureau. He was subsequently convicted, given a suspended sentence 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.