

ACH:LL

62-32509-192

August 12, 1939

Mr. Frank H. Spuhler
1107 North 33rd Street
Camden, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Spuhler:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 27, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States, which has been referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

I wish to advise that the information contained in your letter is being referred to United States Attorney Rene A. Vioona at New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I
AUG 12 1 07 PM '39
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

(2 copies of this letter furnished to New Orleans office by _____ of _____ (even date)

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ AUG 12 1939 ★
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

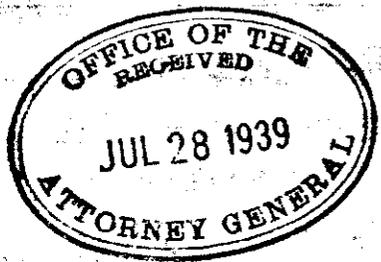
Spuhler

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Crowl _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Lawler _____
- Mr. McIntire _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Sears _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Q. Tamm _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Miss Gandy _____

c 1/3

1107 N. 31st St.
Camden N.J.
7/27/39

Mr. Atty. Gen. Frank Murphy
Washington D.C.



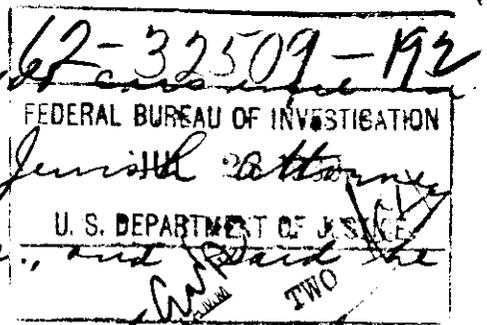
Political Situation Louisiana

Respected Sir:

I reported the following Louisiana affair to the Dept. of Justice during Homer Cummings time and was dissatisfied with the reply that the matter was outside his jurisdiction. Here are the facts:

I worked for the Tank Car Corp., Ireland Pa. which leases tank cars to the N. American Trading Co. operating these cars in Louisiana. The State of La. assessed the Tank Car Corp. so much for each car run into La. and this amount to quite a sum as over \$12/39 - Aug. & Sep. 11.6. involved. One day a young Jewish Attorney came to the Tank Car Corp. and said he could arrange to settle our taxes at quite

RECORDED & INDEXED



a saving on the payment to him of a fee of several hundred dollars. When we figured out how much he reduced the taxes we paid him his fee, plus costs, and as soon as he got the check, he phoned up a Tax Commissioner named K. K. Kennel in Louisiana and told him. "Let the Tank Car Corp. alone as I just made a settlement with them."

This young Jew had made a tour of the Northern States settling bills with Tank car owners for much less than the true amount and collected good fees.

I think this is nothing but part of Huey Pong's gang's machinations and I know several tank car owners who will not lease their cars to any one operating in Louisiana because of this racket. If this is legal then the best thing that can be said is that it "smells bad to an honest man."

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
F. B. I.
RECEIVED
APR 29 1962

115

This name, W. K. K. Kennedy may have been fictitious but the person so called was either the Tax Commissioner himself or one high up in his department.

This business offended my sense of decency so that is why I would like to put the facts before you to use or not to use, as you see fit.

Yours respectfully

Frank H. Spukler

Frank H. Spukler

ACH:ED

62-32509 -194

RECORDED

August 12, 1939

Mrs. Marie Hebert Holbrook
417 Hillary Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mrs. Holbrook:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 27, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States, concerning crime conditions in Louisiana, which letter has been referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

I wish to advise that the information contained in your letter is being referred to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca at New Orleans, and I would suggest that in the event you have any definite information regarding Federal violations, you may be desirous of communicating the same direct to Mr. Viosca.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Crowl _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Lowler _____
- Mr. McIntire _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Miss Gandy _____

(2 copies of this letter furnished N. O. office by COMMUNICATIONS SECTION)

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

★ AUG 12 1939 ★

F. B. I.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AUG 12 07 PM '39

Handwritten signature/initials

177

New Orleans, Louisiana.

July 27th. 1939.

Honorable Frank Murphy
Attorney General United States
Washington, D.C..



My dear sir:

Since your office is investigating the rotniness existing in the State Administration of Louisiana, I believe this is an opportune time to remind you that the people of our State are fast losing confidence in some Louisiana Courts, They distrust the Judges and in fact anyone else connected with the Courts. These men seem to be seeking only political advancement through their eloquence and cro tactics. This is particularly true in Iberville Parish or in the town of Plaquemine, Louisiana, where I have lived and where I have been treated as shabbily as any woman could possibly have been . I could recite to your Agents or Representatives a number of wrongdoings by this clique in Plaquemine, Louisiana and prove to you , that great injustice has been done to me by them.

I give you the above information, because I feel certain that you will be glad to have a thorough investigation made. I am at your service, and shall be extremely glad to co-operate with you.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Marie Robert Holbrook

417 Hillary Street

New Orleans

Louisiana.

RECEIVED
JUL 28 1939

7/27/39
[Handwritten notes and signatures]

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

JFS:DF

July 20, 1939
12 Noon

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM *eat*

I instructed Special Agent Shivers of the New Orleans Office to furnish a copy of the summary report of Special Agent C. E. Weeks, dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 14, 1939, in the case entitled "Monte E. Hart, et al, Mail Fraud", to Assistant Attorney General O. John Rogge; also the report of Special Agent C. W. Dunker, dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 18, 1939, in the case entitled "Louisiana State Officials, Information Concerning", which sets forth his interview with Mrs. Tharpe, former secretary to Huey Long.

Special Agent Shivers informed he received information from Special Agent Scott at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that it is rumored the State Grand Jury will return an indictment today against former Governor Leche for aiding Dr. James Monroe Smith in his bond manipulations. There is another rumor that Chief of Police Joseph Bates will be dismissed and will be replaced by E. O. Bauer, Jr., head of the Traffic Division of the Police Department, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a National Police Academy Graduate.

There is another rumor that General Louis S. Guerre, head of the Louisiana State Police is expected to be released momentarily.

Mr. Shivers advised he would immediately advise the Bureau by teletype if these contemplated rumors take place.

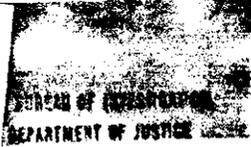
Respectfully,

J. F. Sears
J. F. Sears

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11
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

79



COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 20 1939

TELETYPE

- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. Nathan.....
- Mr. E. Tamm.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Egan.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Crowl.....
- Mr. Harbo.....
- Mr. Lester.....
- Mr. Lawler.....
- Mr. Nichols.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Sears.....
- Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Miss Gandy.....

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-20-39 4-34 PM WH

DIRECTOR

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-32509-189

MONTE E. HART ETAL MAIL FRAUD. LOUISIANA FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 INFORMATION CONCERNING. ATTORNEYS FOR J. M. SMITH FILED PETITION
 IN FEDERAL COURT NEW ORLEANS TODAY TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 TO LEAVE LOUISIANA JUNE TWENTY FIFTH AND DID NOT FILE TO AVOID
 PROSECUTION. BONDS SET IN STATE AND FEDERAL CASES WERE ACCEPTED
 BUT SMITH NOT PERMITTED TO MAKE BAIL UNDER FEDERAL HABEAS CORPUS
 AD PROSEQUENDUM. THAT SMITH WAS QUESTIONED AGAINST HIS WILL BY
 FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS, NAMING INVESTIGATOR INTELLIGENCE UNIT
 TREASURY DEPARTMENT. THAT ACTIONS OF OFFICIALS AND INVESTIGATORS
 OF US VIOLATED HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. FBI NOT MENTIONED.
 REQUESTS THAT COURT ORDER THAT NO ONE CAN SEE HIM EXCEPT COUNSEL AND
 THAT HE BE PERMITTED TO MAKE BAIL. NO DATE SET FOR HEARING THIS
 PETITION. USA IS CONTESTING SAME. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT ADVISED THAT
 ROBERT LEW, ATTORNEY AND PARTNER OF FRANK REED, WHO IS ATTORNEY
 FOR SEYMOUR WEISS, AND WHO WAS ATTORNEY FOR WEISS IN FORMER
 INCOME TAX CASE, ADVISED INFORMANT JURY WOULD BE HANDLED SAME
 WAY AS WEISS, THAT IS, BY LEAVING ROBERT LEW'S OFFICIAL INFORMATION
 THAT PART OF JURY WOULD BE DISCREETLY OF EACH MEMBERS, ALSO

JUL 24 1939
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 RECEIVED

Shaw to a. J. 7/21/39/2.

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-32509-189

COPIES DESTROYED

170 SEP 17 1964

80

PAGE TWO

HAVE BUSINESSES OPERATED BY MEMBERS FLOURISH. INFORMANT
ADVISED HE UNDERSTOOD THREE MEN WERE ACTUALLY PAID OFF IN
ABE SHUSHAN TRIAL AND WILL ATTEMPT OBTAIN AND FURNISH
NAMES.

BE SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC OEC

81

August 11, 1939

ACH:LL

RECORDED

62-32509 -188X 5-162-90X -86-1045-58

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photo-
static copies of a copy of a letter dated at
New Orleans, Louisiana, July 20, 1939, addressed
to The Times-Picayune Publishing Co., New Orleans,
by "A Puzzled Citizen," together with two photo-
static copies of the envelope in which it was
mailed to the Attorney General, which was referred
to the Bureau by the Department. It is desired
that one copy be furnished by your office to
United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New
Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Crowl _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Lawler _____
- Mr. McIntire _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Sears _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Q. Tamm _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 MAILED
 ★ AUG 11 1939 ★
 F. M.
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

50-162-407
86-1045-58

82

Orleans, Louisiana
July 20, 1939.

The Times-Picayune Publishing Co.
The New Orleans States Pub. Co.
New Orleans, Louisiana.

Attention - Managing Editor.

Dear Sir:

Now, this letter is not meant for publication nor is it meant to have my name put into print - all it is intended for, is to settle a few questions that have been running through my mind recently - in regard to the "Stink" in Louisiana Politics!

I would like to determine for my own personal satisfaction just how much you, (The Times Picayune and N.O. States) knew of this messy scandal, before you had the nerve to stand the stand of publishing the facts as you have and just what pressure, if any, was brought to bear upon you by the "enemy camp" to make you publish this news - or did you do it just for the purpose of increasing your circulation? And another question - Just how much more do you know and not disclosing?

Now your answer might be that you were collecting the evidence for months, or maybe years, for it is hardly possible to have all this evidence dumped into one's lap in one lump sum, and if you did have this information in your hands for any length of time, saying, as I expect you to - that you were collecting all of this evidence, piece by piece until you had a sufficient amount - then you, The Times-Picayune and The New Orleans States are as equally as guilty as President Smith and all others implicated in this modern crime of politics, and you might consider yourself, and you actually are, an accessory to the crime. For had you known of the very slightest discrepancy in the W.P.A. Funds or the State's funds - it was your rightful duty to your patrons, who support you and make it possible for you to exist, and also to the voters of the State of Louisiana, who should be posted at all times on the affairs of the State, to come out in the beginning and demand that an example be made of those implicated in the crime. A crime is a crime, whether it be the theft of a postage stamp or a Government Building and if you had any knowledge of it - then, it was your duty to expose the guilty parties. If you had done this in the beginning it would have meant the savings of many thousands of dollars of the public's funds and would have stopped in a great degree the general pilfering of the State's as well as the Federal Government's funds.

Now each day you list in your papers the various indictments issued by the Government, State and City, but are you able or willing to predict just how many indicted will be convicted? I'm willing to say that you and the rest of the general public, like myself dont expect to see one single conviction - because, of the fact that those "in power" will see to it that the indictments are quashed and also see to it that the public will be satisfied to the extent of believing "They wont do it again - they have learned their lesson!" Can you truthfully say that you believe they have or will ever learn their lesson?

170 SEP 17 1939

48

age No.2.

Trusting all my question will be answered to the satisfaction of
all, I beg to remain

Yours very truly,

"A PUZZLED CITIZEN"

George C. McDonald,
3507 Cleveland Avenue,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

ACH:LL

62-32509 -188

August 12, 1939

RECORDED

Mr. Lawrence G. Pugh
852 167
Crowley, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Pugh:

Your letter dated July 24, 1939, to the Attorney General of the United States, relative to crime conditions in Louisiana, has been referred to this Bureau for attention.

I wish to advise that the information contained in your letter is being referred to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans, and it is suggested that in the event you possess definite information concerning a Federal violation, you may be desirous of furnishing the same direct to Mr. Viosca.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Crowl _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Lawler _____
- Mr. McIntire _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Sells _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. C. Tamm _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Miss Gandy _____

(2 copies of this letter to New Orleans
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION (even date.)

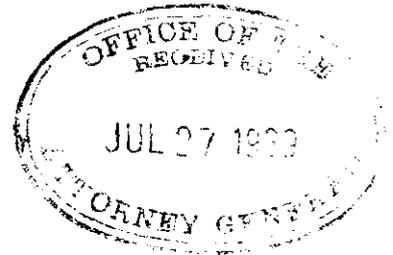
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 MAILED
 ★ AUG 12 1939 ★

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85

Crowley, Louisiana,

July 24th, 1939.



Hon. Frank Murphy,
Attorney General of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We hope that there will not be a third Louisiana purchase, and that you will continue your investigation until the entire gang of political rascals, now in office, are removed and jailed.

Louisiana is in such a terrible position that it is impossible to elect an honest man to a high office. Large amounts are spent to elect members of the legislature, judges, and even police jurors and school board members. The money comes from the State organization. Justice Fournet of the State Supreme Court was not legally elected, and takes an active part in politics and in the oil business. His conduct in office should be investigated, and the amount of his income should be determined. Judge Hugo Dore', of the Court of Appeal, is another judge who is an active politician and is said to have become rich in the past few years.

Robert
8/12/39

Hon. D. M. Ellison, the Attorney General of Louisiana, who is a Crowley boy, is reported to be doing everything possible to hinder your investigation, and cover up the acts of his political friends. He was secretary to Governor Leche, and was appointed to his present position a few months ago, I think, for the purpose of protecting Leche and the other political rascals.

-13

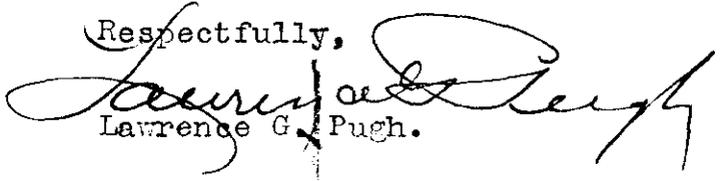
86

The facts already developed by your investigation show what we have known to be true for the past eight or ten years.

I am not in politics and have no influence whatever, but wish to join the good people of Louisiana in asking you to do what you did in Kansas City - clean up the political corruption here.

This letter is not written to harm anyone, but to ask that you investigate the activities of the persons named above, and to continue your good work.

Respectfully,


Lawrence G. Pugh.

21449

August 10, 1939

ACH:LL

62-32509 -187 86-1045-56 94-4-1785-24

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sirs:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of an anonymous letter received by the Attorney General on July 26, 1939, together with two photostatic copies of the envelope in which it was mailed, postmarked at Saint Francisville, Louisiana, July 23, 1939. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Vlosca, New Orleans.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Crowl _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Lawler _____
- Mr. McIntire _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Seale _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. L. Felt _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 MAILED
 AUG 11 1939

62-32509-56
 94-4-1785-24

88

Mr. Murphy, U.S. Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Rodde Viosea, U.S. District Attorney
New Orleans, La.

Dear Sirs

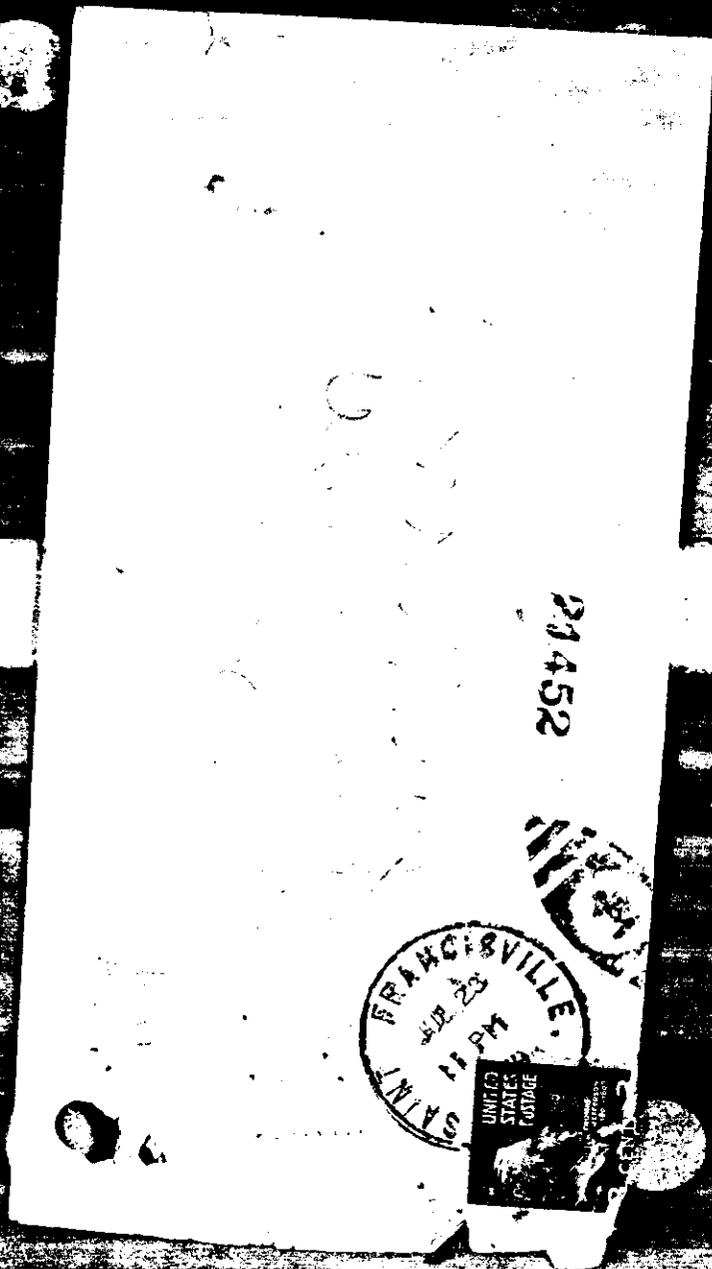
Please send some of your G Men here at once in West Feliciana Parish town of St. Francisville La. and make a thorough investigation for political corruption and graft in office here this has been reported several times but Gov. Locke no doubt squashed them.

(1) Resettlement Administrations office from beginning of same under T. D. Gilmore, a Mr. Miller, who had this in charge. The corruption in graft and politics was mixed up. There were grafts on the Government by charging outrageous prices to tenants for old half dead mules and horses and supplies. These poor tenant farmers were compelled to buy from the dealers of the office in charge. They could not get their checks and buy on open market. They had to buy where the big shots would get their graft. This was a regular racket. They had their committee to pass on loans which all got graft.

Man in charge of office T. D. Gilmore, Mr. Miller - forced to have politics grafters fill out. Committee on loans passed on loans who could not loan a copper cent of their own who let out Gov. and tax money like water. Committee for Govt. passed on Loan - J. F. Rutledge, Jas. Montgomery, G. E. Daniel - graft & corruption. Mule & supply dealers Joe Rosental; Joe Rinsuio, R. T. Harrell, A. W. Noland, Ignais Dequilla, Lee Robinson, Abe Stern, Thom. Butler, Robt. Fisher.

In order to get the truth and low down ask citizen of the parish about this graft, and white and negro tenants. They will show how you have stuck the Government and tax payers. Mules are old age and dead & loans are closed & never will pay off. Please investigate.

S/ A Tax Payer



21452

SAINT FRANCISVILLE, LA.
JUL 23 4 14 PM '64

UNITED STATES POSTAGE

COPY (car)

21454

West Feliciana Parish
Louisiana

Mr. Murphy U. S. Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Rene Vasson U. S. District Attorney
New Orleans, La.

Dear Sir:

Send a G Man please check up on the P.F.A. Corruption in West Feliciana Parish. PFA roads paving from Bains, La. to Anguily State Penitentiary. By T. H. Marten & ex governor R. W. Leche, who backed up the graft & politics on political hiring labor for political graft & corruption. This job was supposed to be contracted they built with gov. money and no record of same. Please investigate this part of PFA & all in this parish for graft & corruption. You can find out a lot if you look up at the bottom of this PFA in this Parish PFA San Vito Line Project in West Feliciana Parish St. Francisville, La. to Bains, La. All but tax owners wishes graft and corruption in this case. No permit from tax owners to San Vito San Vito further at expense of tax payers for grafters to make money. Committee on this G. M. Lester, Mr. Cambell, J. R. Matthew, Joe Rinaudo, Joe Rosental, Frank Spohn, Ed Robb, Jas. Kilbourne.

Please investigate these findings for the tax payers who pay taxes. Also investigate the public welfare of the Parish. Ask the citizens who pay taxes.

62-32559-187
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TAMM
NYC

93

RECORDED

ACH:AI
62-32509-1861

August 3, 1939

Mr. John Delagarsa, Jr.
Ponchatoula, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Delagarsa:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 20, 1939, addressed to the Honorable Frank Murphy, Attorney General, and which letter has been referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention.

It is noted in your letter that you request that an investigation be made of the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare. In this connection, I would suggest that in the event you have any information concerning violation of Federal law that you may be desirous of furnishing same direct to United States Attorney Rene Viosca, at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Crowl
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Lawler
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

cc - New Orleans

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 MAILED
 ★ AUG - 3 1939 ★
 P. M.
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SMT
ACH
 94

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Official Indicated Below by check mark

MEMORANDUM

Solicitor General Jackson
Assistant to the Attorney General
Assistant Attorney General Arnold
Assistant Attorney General Morris
Assistant Attorney General Whitaker
Assistant Attorney General Littell
Assistant Attorney General Rogge
Assistant Solicitor General Bell
Mr. Hoover, Dir., Bu. of Investigation
Mr. Bennett, Director of Prisons
Mr. Martin, Director of War Risk Bureau
Mr. Lawrence, Dir., Bond and Spirits Division
Mr. Quinn, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Kemp, Special Assistant
Mr. Holtzoff, Special Assistant
Board of Parole
Mr. Lyons, Pardon Attorney
Mr. McClure, General Agent
Mr. Donaldson, Chief Clerk
Mr. Hill, Appointment Clerk
Mr. Crain, Division of Records
Mr. Holland, Division of Supplies
Mr. McKavitt, Librarian
Mr. Williams
Mr. Mulcahy
Miss Bumgardner
Mr. Gates
Mr. Hedetniemi
Miss LaRue
Miss Watters
Mr. Euwer

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. E. A. Tamm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Clegg	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Glavin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Ladd	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nichols	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tracy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Carson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Egan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Gurnea	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Harbo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Hendon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Pennington	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Quinn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nease	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

95

Indictment of Matter to Louisiana Politician Seymour Weiss Faces New Charge, But Probably Isn't Much Disturbed

Mr. Weiss's column gives expression to his personal opinions, which frequently are at variance with the editorial policies of The Inquirer.

Seymour Weiss, the New Orleans innkeeper and politician, who has been indicted on a Federal charge in connection with the current Louisiana corruption, has enjoyed an interesting immunity up to now. He was indicted once before on income tax charges, but a settlement was accepted after the death of Huey Long in a political reconciliation between the heirs of the Long gang and the New Deal which has become famous, or infamous, as the Second Louisiana Purchase.

At the time of the compromise it was announced in explanation of the Federal Government's action that there had been "a change of atmosphere" in Louisiana, and Homer Cummings had to take the fall. He didn't peep.

Now the same department, under a new and younger Attorney General, Mr. Murphy, has indicted Mr. Weiss because certain documents were sent through the mails in the perpetration of a deal which is alleged to have been fraudulent.

The income tax case was much more fraudulent, but neither one involved such flagrant defiance of the United States as Mr. Weiss' conduct in a previous affair, the investigation of the election by fraud of United States Senator John W. Overton.

Boasts of Driving Senate Out

In that investigation Mr. Weiss defied a subcommittee of the United States Senate in hearings in New Orleans and taunted General Ansell, the Senate's counsel, to step outside the room, the suggestion being that he would punch the general's ears off. Huey Long was present, interrupting the proceedings and leading a packed gallery of political hoodlums, some of whom were armed, in disorderly demonstrations around the door. Huey was riding high at the time, and Weiss, who was his treasurer, had confidence that Huey's resourcefulness would pull him through any embarrassment with the Senate.

Long afterward, probably to this day, it has been Mr. Weiss' boast that he practically ran the United States Senate out of town, although now that there has been another "change of atmosphere" in New Orleans he may be somewhat more demure about his defiance of a body which has been known to defend its dignity with a terribly swift sword when challenged by less troublesome men than Huey Long.

Overton was elected as a Long stooge by the aid of a system of dummy candidates and fraud in the ballot boxes.

On the stand Mr. Weiss replied "None of your business," "Yes, I refuse to answer," and "You are ridiculous" to General Ansell as the Senate's legal counsel attempted to obtain information as to the source of campaign funds and their expenditure. When he said, "You are ridiculous," Huey interrupted to say, "He might invite you outside." At this suggestion Weiss, who sometimes acted as Huey's physical protector in small scuffles, challenged. "No, he has much better sense than to do that."

Weiss Contempt Overlooked

Somewhat later Senator Logan of Kentucky threatened contempt proceedings against Mrs. Hilda Phelps Hammond of New Orleans and other Louisiana women for insisting that Overton be thrown out of the Senate according to the law and several precedents. But Mr. Weiss' contempt was overlooked, and in the course of time he became again an intimate political friend of James A. Farley and a toiler for the Louisiana department of the New Deal under President Roosevelt.

His conduct and the conduct of the Long machine in the Overton election were condoned, if not indorsed, even though Senator Connally of Texas said in a report on the inquiry: "Such a device"—meaning the dummy candidate system used by Long to elect Overton—"is a fraud on the right of any free people, because it is absolutely impossible for the public to know whether all the ballots were put there by voters or by hand-picked political bushwackers. We find that in New Orleans there was fraud."

Senator Connally also said that the Long system of assessment and extortion of political funds, administered by Weiss, was "a vicious system under which helpless victims can be made the victims of extortion."

With such experiences in his past Mr. Weiss may feel little disturbed by the fluttering activities of Mr. Murphy in the new disturbance to date. The atmosphere of Louisiana, and particularly that of New Orleans, is subject to sharp, unpredictable

...their shotguns or rifles, ...
...about the grounds in little
...groups, but gradually even these
...left for their homes.

Chief of Police King Strengke,
who was in his office in the nearby
city police headquarters said that
he had no statement to make.

Songy Questioned

"A man by the name of Songy
was picked up last night by this de-
partment," he said. "There is nothing
unusual in that. He was driving
a car without license plates and at
a high rate of speed and was taken
to the jail as a matter of course. He
immediately got into touch with his
attorney, Roland Kizer, to whom he
was at once paroled, since Mr. Kizer
is a householder here in Baton
Rouge and well known. He was
asked to come in this morning at
9:30 o'clock and at that time he was
questioned by myself and by As-
sistant District Attorney Fred Le-
Blanc for about half an hour. He
is not under arrest, he was not un-
der arrest at any time today and
no charge has as yet been made
against him."

REEVES PROMOTED BY I. C. RAILROAD

Robert D. Reeves, formerly of
New Orleans, has been appointed
assistant traffic manager of the Il-
linois Central railroad system, it
was announced yesterday, succeed-
ing the late Martin L. Costley.

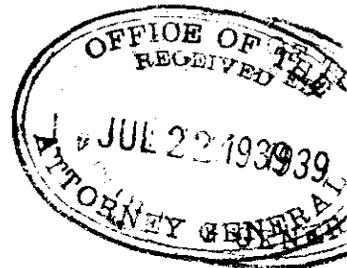
His appointment as head of the
Illinois Central traffic department
in New Orleans returns Mr. Reeves
here after an absence of three
years, during which time he has
been assistant traffic manager at
Memphis.

Mr. Reeves came to New Orleans
in 1912 as assistant general freight
agent and for three and a half
years he had charge of the freight
traffic work of the railroad in this
area under the supervision of Rob-
ert C. Perkins. In 1915 he re-
signed his Illinois Central connec-
tion to be managing director of the
De Bardeleben interests in New Or-
leans and continued to reside here
until 1931, when he went to Mem-
phis. Charles C. Cameron, vice-
president of the Illinois Central
system came to New Orleans to in-
stall Mr. Reeves in his new posi-
tion. John R. MacLeod, former

JOHN DELAGARZA, JR.

PONCHATOULA, LA.

20th of July
1 9 3 9



Hon. Frank Murphy, Attorney General
United States of America
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Since my resignation some months ago as editor of "The Farmers' Friend", one of the largest farm papers in the state of Louisiana, I have devoted the greatest part of my time to the study of the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare and its' connections with the political factions of this state.

As I have always been interested in governmental aid for the aged and the needy, I was disappointed to find that my study reveals the fact that funds that rightfully belong to unfortunate people, are being squandered by the political administration that are now in power here in Louisiana.

Owing to the fact that some of the funds required to maintain this department are furnished by the Federal Government, I call upon you to conduct an investigation of the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare at the earliest possible time. My office force will be ready at any time to assist you, if necessary, when the occasion demands it.

Trusting that you will give this matter your prompt attention, I remain

Yours very truly,

John Delagarza, Jr.
JOHN DELAGARZA, JR.

JSD:cwb

RECORDED
INDEXED

*add cc
m. a. r. p.
act*

62-2-1-150
JUL 22 1939
97

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

JUL 18 1939

TELETYPE

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Crowl
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Lawler
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sears
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

ms
y/

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-18-39 6-10 PM WH

DIRECTOR

MONTE E HART ETAL MAIL FRAUD. LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION

CONCERNING. MONTE E HART, SEYMOUR WEISS, LOUIS LESAGE RELEASED
TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR BOND EACH LATE YESTERDAY. J EMORY ADAMS
RELEASED SAME BOND TODAY. JAMES MONROE SMITH IN FEDERAL JAIL NEW
ORLEANS AWAITING ARRAIGNMENT. ALL SCHEDULED FOR ARRAIGNMENT NEW
ORLEANS JULY TWENTY FOURTH NINETEEN THIRTY NINE. TRIAL DATE NOT
SET BUT EXPECTED WILL BE BETWEEN AUGUST FIFTEENTH AND SEPTEMBER
FIRST THIS YEAR. L P ABERNATHY RESIGNED TODAY FROM POSITION
CHAIRMAN LOUISIANA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION. SOME CIVIC BODIES
DEMANDING RESIGNATION SEYMOUR WEISS FROM POSITION PRESIDENT NEW
ORLEANS DOCK BOARD. USA EXPECTS ANOTHER INDICTMENT THIS WEEK AGAINST
MONTE E HART AND JAMES MONROE SMITH FOR MAIL FRAUD CONNECTION

FOURTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY SIX DOLLARS SEVENTY CENTS
CHECK ISSUED BY LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY TO NATIONAL EQUIPMENT
COMPANY INCORPORATED IN FULL PAYMENT OF TAXES DUE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SALE OF LEE CIRCLE HOTEL WHICH TAXES UNDER PURCHASE CONTRACT 28 1939
WERE TO HAVE BEEN PRORATED BETWEEN VENDOR AND VENDEE.

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 5-162-93

RECORDED 62-3250-10
INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SACKETT

END

Shaw to A. G.
7/19/39 J.

TAMM TWO ONE *98*

62-32509

Section

9

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

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

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Crowl	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Lawler	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sears	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

EAT:DM

August 3, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

While in the Attorney General's Office on July 26th, Miss Bumgardner advised the Attorney General that Mr. Emil Hurja had called and advised that Richard W. Norton at the Raleigh Hotel might be in possession of information concerning the New Orleans situation which might be of interest to the Bureau. Subsequent efforts on the part of Bureau Agents to contact Mr. Norton indicated that he had checked out of the Raleigh Hotel.

EAT
EDWARD A. TAMM

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-30 1-223

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 5 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

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

ACH:AI

July 28, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. F. SEARS

In line with your instructions to contact Mr. Richard W. Norton at the Raleigh Hotel and to interview him concerning matters in New Orleans, I telephonically contacted the Raleigh Hotel, and was advised that Mr. R. W. Norton had checked out early that morning.

Respectfully,

A. C. Hayden

A. C. Hayden

RECORDED

62 - 32509 - 223
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 5 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
<i>LEAVY</i>

*Memo file
8-3-39 cut*

1508 Masonic Temple Building
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 2, 1939

Honorable Hans A. Viosca
United States Attorney
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS;
Information Concerning

Dear Sir:

In accordance with past procedure, there is being forwarded to you with this letter further information received by this office concerning the present irregularities in Louisiana.

W. S. LEWIS, Attorney of New Orleans, telephonically advised this office that a clerk in the Maison Blanche Department Store had told him that the Hospital Board had received some condemned X-ray equipment for the Charity Hospital and that the Charity Hospital used it just the same, after the equipment was repaired for them by an electrician from Algiers, Louisiana.

There is enclosed herewith a letter dated July 25, 1939 from CHESTER W. MARTIN, about whom your office has received previous communications.

Also enclosed is an unsigned letter from Laconbe, La., dated July 28, 1939.

Also enclosed is an anonymous communication addressed to the Grand Jury, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; copy of letter addressed to the Times-Picayune, Citizens Voluntary Committee of Louisiana, and Federal Bureau of Investigation; and copy of letter addressed to the Times-Picayune, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Very truly yours,

INDEXED

B. E. SAUNDERS
Special Agent in Charge

AUG 7 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CMD:ALS
62-978
Enclosures
cc-Bureau

62-3207-22

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TWO

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August 3, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Harry J. Costello, publicity man for the late Huey Long, and Ralph Alexis, who is engaged in private tax work in New Orleans, furnished the following information:

They advised that the chief purpose of their visit to the Attorney General was to get him to consider some system whereby the man on the street would talk to Federal investigators. They suggested that some Government official bring to the attention of the petty violator in New Orleans that if they would give information against such men as Abe Shusman, Monte Hart, Seymour Weiss and Robert Maesteri that they would not be prosecuted in the Federal Court in the event they had violated a Federal law; that to gather evidence against the political machine would be difficult as the persons who can furnish the information have undoubtedly violated some Federal law, and will not testify unless given some promise of immunity. They could furnish no specific information concerning Federal violations or persons who could furnish such information. Further they believed that this was necessary to successful Federal prosecution in New Orleans because of the strong power of the political machine headed by Maesteri and Seymour Weiss.

Mr. Costello and Mr. Alexis stated that the people in the street do not have confidence in the office of United States Attorney Robt Vlosca, as he is a known associate of Robert Maesteri, and that the following United States Attorneys are politically obligated to the Maesteri and Weiss machines:

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Crowl
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy

Hilary J. Gaudin
Herbert Christenberry
J. Skelly Wright

The concrete suggestion to improve the office of the United States Attorney was that the Attorney General needs a good young lawyer in New Orleans, who can furnish information concerning anyone with political connections. They recommended a Robert Amesworth, who could collaborate with Mr. Rogge. They further suggested that the Federal Grand Jury and petty juries be investigated to prevent a recurrence of acquittal in the event of trial, such as took place at the time Abe Shusman was tried for income tax violations.

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15 1939

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Memorandum for the
Attorney General

- 2 -

August 3, 1939

Mr. Costello advised that Huey Long, in his effort to defeat his impeachment as Governor, had to secure money from Robert Maesteri, and thus obligated himself to the political machine of Maesteri, Weiss, Hart and Shusman.

Further reference is made to my memorandum to you of June 17, 1939, forwarding information furnished by Harry Costello.

X Reference is made to the articles that have appeared in the Washington Merry-Go-Round, concerning the Louisiana political situation, and statements attributed to Mrs. W. A. Thorpe, former secretary to Huey Long, that the Attorney General came down to New Orleans and made a pious speech and did not do anything about it. Mrs. Thorpe, upon interview denied making the statements, and advised she had been interviewed by H. J. Costello, who claimed he was a scout for Pearson and Allen.

It is interesting to note that papers left with the representatives of this Bureau have notations to Bob Allen and to Drew, who undoubtedly are the editors of the Washington Merry-Go-Round.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

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summary to the Attorney General

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

JUL 31 1939

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Crowl	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Lawler	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Sears	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

TWO TELETYPES WILL FOLLOW

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-31-39 7-00 PM WH

DIRECTOR

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS, INFORMATION CONCERNING. COUNSEL FOR

SEYMOUR WEISS, J EMORY ADAMS, LOUIS C LESAGE, MONTE EHART AND JAMES MONROE SMITH TODAY FILED REQUEST FOR BILLS OF PARTICULARS AND DEMURRERS TO THE MAIL FRAUD INDICTMENT AGAINST SUBJECTS BEFORE THE US DISTRICT COURT NEW ORLEANS. ARGUMENTS WILL BE HEARD THIS FRIDAY, ON WHICH DATE THE FIVE SUBJECTS ARE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR FOR ARRAIGNMENT.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-32509-221

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH GRAND JURY JUST RETURNED AS FOLLOWS, AGAINST LEON WEISS, THE ARCHITECT, AND JAMES MONROE SMITH, CHARGING WEISS WITH EMBEZZLING FIVE THOUSAND AND FIFTY DOLLARS FROM LSU, AIDED BY SMITH. THE SECOND INDICTMENT CHARGES DR CHARLES LORIO, STATE SENATOR AND POLITICAL LEADER, GEORGE GRIFFON, OWNER OF A DRUG STORE IN BATON ROUGE AND D H ANDREWS, MANAGER OF THE DRUG STORE IN BATON ROUGE WITH OBTAINING NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS AND TWENTY CENTS BY FALSE PRETEXTS. THE OTHER INDICTMENT CHARGES THESE PERSONS WITH OBTAINING SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY ONE DOLLARS AND FORTY THREE CENTS BY FALSE PRETEXTS. THE GRAND JURY IN A SPECIAL REPORT RECOMMENDED THAT EVERY MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LSU WHO SERVED DURING PRESIDENCY OF JAMES MONROE SMITH TENDER THEIR RESIGNATIONS. THE PARISH GRAND

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 3 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

lu

AA

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PAGE TWO

JURY ADJOURNED WITHOUT PRESENTING ANY FURTHER REPORTS OR INDICTMENTS AND WILL CONVENE AUGUST FIFTEENTH NEXT.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGGE IS NOW HAVING A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED WITH OIL COMPANIES TESTIFY BEFORE FEDERAL GRAND JURY RELATIVE TO GRAFT PAYMENTS MADE TO STATE OFFICIALS WITH THE OBJECT OF UNCOVERING FEDERAL INCOME TAX VIOLATIONS.

HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THESE PERSONS ARE NOT BEING FRANK AND TRUTHFUL BEFORE THE GRAND JURY.

SEVERAL DAYS AGO A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS CALLING THEMSELVES THE CITIZENS VOLUNTARY COMMITTEE, OF WHICH JOSEPH A. AIREY IS CHAIRMAN, PROPOSED THAT ONE OF THREE PROMINENT LOUISIANA LAWYERS ACCEPTABLE TO THEM BE APPOINTED TO CONDUCT THE STATES INVESTIGATION INTO THE VARIOUS IRREGULARITIES. TODAY GOVERNOR EARL LONG IN A COMMUNICATION TO AIREY DECLINED TO APPOINT ANY OF THESE ATTORNEYS AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL J. FAIR HARDIN AND OTHERS NOW HANDLING THE INQUIRIES.

B. G.
SACKETT

END

17

RAT:GVO

August 1, 1939

Time: 8:00 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: LOUISIANA SITUATION

In connection with the attached teletype communication from New Orleans, dated July 31, 1939, asking authority to conduct an investigation with reference to William Hollis as to whether he registered his yacht before he became a citizen of this country, I called SAC Sackett and told him to tell Mr. Rogge the Bureau feels these matters should be handled by the people who are investigating the "hot oil" investigation as it appears that William Hollis is the owner of several oil companies involved in this investigation. I also told Mr. Sackett to turn over to Mr. Rogge all the complaints of the irregularities in the WPA, which were mentioned in this same teletype.

RECORDED & INDEXED

While talking to Mr. Sackett, and with reference to the attached teletype from New Orleans, dated July 31, 1939, pertaining to Shirley G. Wimberly, I informed Mr. Sackett that the Director wanted a very discreet investigation conducted of this man as to his background, associations, et cetera. Mr. Sackett said he had already started this investigation.

With reference to the attached teletype from New Orleans, dated July 31, 1939, relating to Monte E. Hart, Mail Fraud, I told Mr. Sackett the Director thinks this investigation as to whether B. J. Daly was retained on Dr. James M. Smith's own initiative, should be made by the Post Office Inspectors as this pertains to a Mail Fraud and in order that the Bureau shall avoid any friction with the Post Office Department. The same procedure should be carried out in connection with the suggested interview with J. Emory Adams.

In connection with the information furnished in the attached teletype from New Orleans, dated July 31, 1939, informing of the alleged tap on the United States Attorney's telephone, I told Mr. Sackett the Director had instructed he furnish this information to Mr. Rogge right away. Mr. Sackett replied that Mr. Rogge would probably want the FBI to do something about this and I told him to tell Mr. Rogge, if this occurred, that it appeared that the best thing

Louisiana

Shirley G. Wimberly

62-32509-220
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 AUG 1 1939
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FILES TWO

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MEMO FOR THE FILE

- 2 -

8-1-39

to do would be to contact the telephone company and ask for an immediate check of all the wires and a report on this and as far as the FBI is concerned, there should be no investigation made at this time.

Mr. Sackett said he had been trying to get the text of the radio address of Shirley G. Wimberly but as yet had not been successful. I told him that no official request should be made for this at this time and he said that in the future all such addresses that were made would be recorded if possible.

E. A. TAMM

9

TELETYPE

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-31-38

3-25- PM WH

AIR 0732

LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING. I CONFERRED WITH ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGGE AND U S ATTORNEY VIOSCA TODAY. THE PRESENT MOST IMPORTANT ANGLE BEFORE THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY INVOLVES AN OIL DEAL IN NINETEEN THIRTY SIX WHEREBY MAYOR ROBERT MAESTRI, THEN STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER, SEYMOUR WEISS AND EX GOVERNOR LECHE, ALLEGEDLY PERMITTED OIL COMPANIES TO EXCEED PRODUCTION QUOTA, RECEIVING CASH CONSIDERATION OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS. OF THIS SEYMOUR WEISS RECEIVED SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND LECHE SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS. LECHE APPARENTLY PAID INCOME TAX ON THIS SUM IN HIS FEDERAL RETURN, HOWEVER, WEISS APPARENTLY ILLEGALLY DEDUCTED THIS AMOUNT FROM HIS FEDERAL RETURN. ROGGE PRESENTLY CONSIDERING INDICTMENT WEISS FOR INCOME TAX EVASION THIS AMOUNT IN NINETEEN THIRTY SIX. ALSO PRESENTLY CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF INDICTING MAESTRI. WEISS AND LECHE IN HOT OIL DEAL INVOLVED, HOWEVER, LEGAL QUESTION EXISTS AS TO WHETHER THIS DEAL WAS IN VIOLATION OF FEDERAL AGREEMENT OR MERELY A STATE CRAFT ON PART OF THESE THREE PERSONS. MR ROGGE NOW DOING RESEARCH ON THIS QUESTION BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO RETURN THIS PARTICULAR INDICTMENT. EXPECTS FEDERAL GRAND JURY TO RETURN THE INCOME TAX INDICTMENT AGAINST WEISS AND POSSIBLY THIS HOT OIL INDICTMENT THIS FRIDAY. ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGGE NOW CONCENTRATING ON THESE TWO MATTERS AND FOR THE TIME BEING HAS DISCARDED THE WPA IRREGULARITY POSSIBILITIES AND OTHER POSSIBLE FEDERAL ANGLES, ALTHOUGH THE INVESTIGATIONS REGARDING THOSE ARE STILL BEING CONTINUED BY THE OTHER FEDERAL INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES.

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-320 9-211

I JUST RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM A PERSONAL CONTACT, A NEWSPAPER CITY EDITOR, WHO HAS IN THE PAST FURNISHED ME EXCELLENT AND RELIABLE INFORMATION, TO THE EFFECT THAT HE LEARNED LAST SATURDAY THROUGH A RELIABLE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE, WHICH HE BELIEVES IS ACCURATE, THAT THE PLEADINGS IN THE U S ATTORNEYS OFFICE HAVE BEEN DIPPED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY. I AM UNABLE TO OBTAIN ANY FURTHER DEFINITE INFORMATION AS

AUG 5
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED
FBI NEW ORLEANS

TO THE EXACT PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TAP OR THE MANNER IN WHICH THE TAP
HAS BEEN INSTITUTED, HOWEVER, HE IS CONFIDENT THAT HIS INFORMATION IS NOT IDLE
RUMOR AND THAT IT DOES HAVE FOUNDATION. I HAVE NOT FURNISHED THIS INFORMATION
TO ROGGE OR ANYONE ELSE AND HAVE TAKEN NO ACTION WHATSOEVER, BUT WILL BE GUIDED
BY YOUR INSTRUCTIONS RELATIVE THERETO.

SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC CLC

copy

(ed)

TELETYPE

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-31-59 AOARP AM ALS

DIRECTOR

MONTE E. HART ETAL MAIL FRAUD. G. JOHN ROGGE REQUESTED THAT JAMES
 MONROE SMITH BE INTERVIEWED TO DETERMINE IF B. J. DALY, SMITHS
 ATTORNEY, WAS RETAINED ON SMITHS OWN INITIATIVE OR BY SUBJECTS
 CONNECTED IN INVESTIGATION, AND SUGGEST TO SMITH POSSIBILITY OTHER
 SUBJECTS MIGHT BE USING DALY TO THEIR BENEFIT AND SMITHS DETRIMENT.
 ROGGE ALSO REQUESTED THAT J. EMORY ADAMS BY INTERVIEWED IN ATTEMPT
 TO GET ADAMS TO TALK AND THROUGH HIM GET SMITH TO TALK. ADVISE
 SACKETT

END

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC GDH

RECORDED

62-325-09-218

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 5 1959

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten initials]

Monte E. Hart et al. Louisiana

112-116

ACH'VIM

August 2, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Sir:

There are enclosed herewith two photostatic copies each of the following listed communications received at the Department, and it is desired that one copy of each be furnished United States Attorney Rene A. Vioacas

Postal card postmarked Shreveport, Louisiana, July 12, 1939, 12:30 P. M., signed "A Citizen";

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to Honorable Frank Murphy, signed L. J. Raphael, Sr., 244 S. Alexander Street, New Orleans, Louisiana;

Letter dated June 28, 1939, New Orleans, Louisiana, addressed to Mr. Eden Hardie, Jr., New Orleans, Louisiana;

Letter dated July 19, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, signed "Louisiana Democrats";

Letter dated July 19, 1939, Covington, Louisiana, addressed to the Attorney General;

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, from Mrs. Wm. A. West, Jr.;

Undated letter, addressed to the Attorney General, signed "American";

Letter dated July 16, 1939, signed "American";

Undated anonymous letter, addressed to the Attorney General, postmarked New Orleans, Louisiana, July 11, 1939, 7:30 P. M.;

Anonymous letter dated July 10, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General, together with newspaper clipping;

*Original communications
attached and
replied to*

ENCLOSURE BEHIND FILM

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 86-1045-65

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Crowl _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Lawler _____
- Mr. McIntire _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Sears _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Q. Tamm _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS
MAIL
AUG - 2 1939
F. B. I.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

12-32509-21
AUG 4 1939
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ACH

SAC, New Orleans

- 2 -

August 2, 1939

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to the
Attorney General, signed Frank H. Atwood;

Letter dated July 18, 1939, addressed to the
Attorney General, signed J. G. Corbin;

Newspaper clipping from The Times-Picayune,
June 23, 1939, New Orleans, Louisiana;

Letter dated July 14, 1939, addressed to the
Attorney General, signed "American";

Letter dated July 13, 1939, addressed to the
Attorney General, signed "A New Orleans Schoolgirl",
together with newspaper clipping.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

14

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 1, 1939

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

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

Dear Sir:

RE: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS -
Information Concerning

Handwritten: X 100 B Home Tribune + by 7-5-39

Last evening, July 31, 1939, I had a general conversation with Colonel James M. Thomson, publisher of the New Orleans Item and Tribune newspapers, during which Colonel Thomson expressed himself regarding the ruling of Federal Judge Wayne G. Borah at New Orleans prohibiting newspapers from publishing the names or disclosing the identity of any of the witnesses who testified before the Federal grand jury now inquiring into the Louisiana political situation for possible Federal violations.

Colonel Thomson stated that he is personally convinced that Judge Borah is honest, and that the Judge's intentions are of the best in connection with this ruling and, therefore, Colonel Thomson, although this is the first time in his forty years of newspaper experience that he has encountered such a situation, has up to now made no attempt to fight this ruling on the part of Judge Borah or disobeyed the court's instructions in any way. Colonel Thomson takes the position that Judge Borah's ruling is entirely without precedent and, in his opinion, technically is illegal.

Colonel Thomson stated that the thing he feared most as a result of this ruling is that it would create a precedent, especially in Louisiana, which would be followed by local and state courts in future inquiries of a similar nature into the state governmental activities; that, if so, crooked judges or courts controlled by the state machine could hide behind this ruling as a precedent in establishing similar rulings of their own in an effort to thwart honest and complete investigations. Colonel Thomson pointed out that in such situations it would not be possible for the newspapers to follow the proceedings to determine whether all witnesses who have knowledge of facts were called to testify, and it would enable the local courts to "quash" cases or investigations very easily following out the dictates of those in political power.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Handwritten: 62-3211-217

Colonel Thomson felt that the Attorney General should be acquainted with his views regarding this situation, although he did not ask me to directly inform the Attorney General.

Handwritten signature: [Signature]

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15-8-84-18-1964

To the Director, 8/1/39

As a matter of background, for your information, the New Orleans Item and Tribune newspapers, of which Colonel Thomson is the publisher, have not in the recent past fought the state administration and while I am of the belief that Colonel Thomson does not personally favor the tactics and activities of the state administration, he, nevertheless, has not, as a matter of policy, fought the administration. His papers have commonly been referred to in the past as pro state administration.

I have of course been in contact with Colonel Thomson's opposition papers in New Orleans, the Times-Picayune and the States, the managing editors of which are very close personal contacts of mine. The officers of these two papers have not at any time complained about Judge Borah's ruling preventing them from publishing the names of witnesses other than to say that it makes it a little harder for them to report all the facts.

I know it to be a fact that the United States Attorney's office, particularly United States Attorney Viosca, has been inclined to be more friendly with the Times-Picayune and States group and to give reporters of those newspapers somewhat more information than he has given to the Item-Tribune. It is perfectly possible, therefore, that the feeling of Colonel Thomson in this matter is probably the result of the fact that his papers have been somewhat "out of the picture" in the recent developments so far as close contact with the United States Attorney's office is concerned.

I thought that I would pass this information on to you as it is entirely probable that the Attorney General as well as yourself may be interested in Colonel Thomson's present attitude. Unless the situation becomes aggravated in some way, I do not believe that Thomson will start a newspaper campaign to fight the ruling of Judge Borah.

I am following this matter closely and shall keep you advised of any further complaints.

Very truly yours,



B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge

BES:sh
#62-978

16

EAT:HA

62-35509-216X4

August 9, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

There are transmitted herewith photostatic copies of an anonymous letter and envelope addressed to Assistant Attorney General O. John Rogge signed "Honest Workman" which relates to the alleged activities of Ralph Hitz, President of the National Hotel Management Company. Mr. Rogge has transmitted this communication to the Bureau and the copy enclosed herewith is being furnished to you for such action and attention as you deem necessary and desirable.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 MAILED
 ★ AUG 10 1939 ★
 P. M.
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

62-35509-162

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 21, 1939

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. Nathan ✓
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Crowl
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Lawler
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sears
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

There is transmitted herewith for such attention as may be deemed proper in connection with the pending W.P.A. investigation, an original anonymous communication, dated July 19, 1939, signed "Honest Workman", with accompanying envelope addressed to me, postmarked at New York, relating to the alleged activities of Ralph Hitz, the president of the National Hotel Management Company.

O. John Rogge

O. JOHN ROGGE,
Assistant Attorney General.

Enclosure: 103013

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INDEXED

62-32509-216X4

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 12 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON

Entr

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NY
8/9/39

Assistant Attorney General Rogge transmits original communication dated July 9, 1939, signed "Honest Workman" re alleged activities of Ralph Hitz, the President of the National Hotel Management Company, wherein it is suggested that the Director for his own good should keep away and not stop at Hitz owned hotels.

dls

Mr. C. John Royce, Gen'l. Attorney

Washington, D. C.

Investigating Seymour Weiss, better check up on his
pal Ralph Hitz, Pres. National Hotel Management Co.
(The Al Capone of the gang) plenty dough hidden in vaults
and Europe. Why did Hitz get away in Chaparral
smuggling case? Why?

Your agents can uncover plenty if they don't work
like taps, and fall for a lot of free ~~entertaining~~
entertaining. Edgar Hoover, for his own good should
keep away and not stop at Hitz owned hotels.
God bless you and Mr. Murphy for your your honesty
and effort to rid U.S. from ruffians in the
evening clothes. The gangster executives
Manufacturers Trust Co. should check up on the
hot entertainments given to executives of the
bank as the New York Herald.

Gangsters executives, Norway and Sweden was
a safe place for R. Hitz to hide valuables
on his last trip there. On the boat - he was robbed
of \$10,000. did not upset him, as easy come
easy go.

Armed with Roman

July 14 - 1939. 62-32509 16x1

NEW YORK, N.Y.
JUL 19
4-PM
7939

BUY U. S. SAVINGS
BONDS
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
1 CENT

Mr. C. John Rogge
Asst. General Attorney
Washington, D.C.

To U.S. Attorney General Office

... Personal

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170 SEP 17 1964

C
O
P
Y

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Gandy	.....

Mr. O. John Rogge, Asst. General Attorney.

Washington, D. C.

X Investigating Seymour Weiss, better check up on his pal Ralph Hitz, Pres. National Hotel Management Co. (the Al. Capone of the Gang) plenty dough hidden in vaults and Europe. Why did Hitz get away in Chaperau smuggling case Why?

Your agents can uncover plenty if they dont work like saps, and fall for a lot of free entertaining. Edgar Hoover, for his own good should keep away and not stop at Hitz owned hotels. God bless you and Mr. Murphy for your your honesty - and effort to rid U.S. from vultures in the evening clothes. The gangster Executives Manufactures Trust Co. should check up on the hot entertainments given to executives of the bank at the New Yorker Hotel.

Gangsters Executives, Norway and Sweden was a safe place for H. Hitz to hide valuables on his last trip there. On the boat - he was robbed of 12,000. did not upset him, as easy come easy go.

/s/ Honest Workman

July 18 - 1939.

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62-32509-216X3

ACH:LL

August 12, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

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Dear Sir:

There are transmitted herewith two photostatic copies of a letter dated July 24, 1939, addressed to the Attorney General of the United States by Mr. A. H. Perry, of Coushatta, Louisiana, and referred to the Bureau, together with two photostatic copies of the inclosure thereto. It is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans.

Mr. Perry's letter has not been acknowledged.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ AUG 12 1939 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED - DIRECTOR
F. B. I.
AUG 12 1 06 PM '39
S. J.

23

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Crowl _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Lawler _____
- Mr. McIntire _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Sears _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Q. Tamm _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Miss Gandy _____



A. Hazard Perry
Coushatta, La.

July 24, 1939.



Hon. Frank Murphy, Atty. General,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The inclosed paper with a marked article, written by me a month before Gov. Leche abdicated and refused publication by all Louisiana daily papers, might be of interest to your department.

Sincerely yours for justice,

A. H. Perry
A. H. (Ackey) Perry,
P. O. Box 226,
Coushatta, La.

8/12/39
Seb. M. G.
AC 16

RECORDED & INDEXED

67-32509-21-15
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 15 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

New Orleans, Louisiana
July 19, 1939

7/22

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS -
INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to report of Special Agent C. W. DUNKER, New Orleans, Louisiana, dated July 18, 1939, enclosed herewith, which covers an interview with MRS. W. A. THARP, nee ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, and her husband, W. A. THARP, which was conducted in Los Angeles, California.

The United States Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana, previously requested that ALICE LEE GROSJEAN be interviewed. It is requested that the Bureau advise this office by teletype whether or not a copy of the aforementioned report should be transmitted to the United States Attorney at New Orleans.

*S.A. Skinner
acknowledged by teletype
7-20-39
forwarded report
to Bureau
at N. Orleans 7/25*

Very truly yours,

B. E. Sackett
B. E. SACKETT,
Special Agent in Charge.

CWD
PMH
62-978
Enc.

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

1 ENCL. C

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&
INDEXED

62-3257-211X2
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 20 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TWO

25

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **New Orleans, Louisiana**

N. O. FILE NO. 52-978

REPORT MADE AT New Orleans, La.	DATE WHEN MADE July 18, 1939	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE July 11 & 14, 1939	REPORT MADE BY C. W. DUNKER
TITLE LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS		CHARACTER OF CASE INFORMATION CONCERNING	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

MRS. W. A. THARPE, nee ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, employed by HUEY LONG as Secretary in 1924 and continued in capacity when LONG became Governor of Louisiana. In 1929 was appointed Secretary of State to fill unexpired term and when office was filled by election 1932 was appointed to position of Supervisor of Public Accounts, name of which department changed to Collector of Internal Revenue. This department divided and W. A. COOPER placed in charge auditing department by Governor R. W. LECHE. GROSJEAN believed D. M. ELLISON and COOPER influenced LECHE in dismissing her, but advised LECHE gave no reason. Advised she collected five per cent contribution from employees her department which she submitted to J. M. FUSH, but no information Federal funds involved. Advised H. J. COSTELLO, scout for Washington Merry Go Round, contacted her. Denied making statements about President ROOSEVELT or Attorney General MURPHY which appeared in Merry Go Round column. Has scrapbook of newspaper clippings about Louisiana from beginning HUEY LONG regime and has photostatic copies of original clippings she gave to LONG'S widow after LONG'S death but denied having other documents. Denied any knowledge of Federal violations by State officials and associates, and denied being connected any irregularities. W. A. THARPE, former Secretary Louisiana State Tax Commission, advised collected five per cent contribution employees his department, claiming he gave same to ELLISON. THARPE advised he kept complete accounting these collections but no Federal funds involved. THARPE denied information irregularities Louisiana State University. Believed LECHE,

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

W. A. Tharpe

62-43250-1211 AUG 22 1939

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5 New Orleans **COPIES DESTROYED**

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N. O. #62-978

ELLISON, GEORGE CALDWELL and E. A. CONWAY, Secretary of State, principally involved in irregularities. THARPES intend returning Louisiana about August 1st.

P.

DETAILS:

On July 11, 1939, MR. SEARS, of the Bureau, telephonically contacted Special Agent in Charge B. E. SACKETT and advised that the Director had approved the suggestion of having an Agent of the New Orleans Office interview MRS. W. A. THARPE at Los Angeles and that the Agent from the New Orleans Office should fly to Los Angeles and return for this purpose.

The Los Angeles Office was telephonically contacted and requested to make arrangements whereby MRS. THARPE would be available for interview. A teletype was then received from the Los Angeles Office advising that MRS. THARPE would be available for interview on July 14, 1939.

At Los Angeles, California

Special Agent J. F. HYNES and the writer located Attorney CHARLES L. NICHOLS who was interviewed by the writer prior to the interview with MRS. W. A. THARPE, nee ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, and her husband, W. A. THARPE. NICHOLS requested information as to the purpose for the interview and was advised that the writer wished to ask the THARPES specific questions dealing with alleged irregularities in Louisiana in connection with the recent investigation there. NICHOLS, upon request, was advised that no Federal process was presently outstanding for the THARPES. However, he was advised that he could not be assured that a Federal process would never be issued for the THARPES in connection with this case. NICHOLS, however, advised that he wished to have MR. and MRS. THARPE interviewed and would urge them to give full details in connection with this case, as he believed that if facts did develop which implicated the THARPES it would be better for them to give complete information at this time than to wait until a later date.

Special Agent J. F. HYNES and the writer interviewed MRS. W. A. THARPE, nee ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, and W. A. THARPE, care of E. L. CORD, 811 Hillcrest Road, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, California. They were interviewed in the presence of Attorney CHARLES L. NICHOLS, at his office at 650 South Grand Avenue.

MRS. THARPE advised that she became secretary to the former Governor HUEY P. LONG in 1924 when LONG was practicing law at Shreveport, Louisiana; that when LONG became Governor in 1928 she continued as secretary

for him until 1929 and was then appointed to the position of Secretary of State for the State of Louisiana and held this position until 1932; that she was then appointed Supervisor of Public Accounts, which position she held from 1932 to February 1939. She advised, however, that the name of the department was changed from Supervisor of Public Accounts to Collector of Internal Revenue. MRS. THARPE advised that as Secretary of State she handled election ballots, insurance company records, and conducted the office of Secretary of State in accordance with constitutional provisions. She advised that while she was Secretary of State she also was on the Board of Liquidation and the Insurance Commission. She advised that the work of the Board of Liquidation was to recommend loans dependent on legislative approval. She advised that she did not remember any loans to the Louisiana State University in this connection. MRS. THARPE advised that her duties as Supervisor of Public Accounts were to collect special taxes, such as, tobacco tax, soft drink tax, income tax, gasoline tax, and chain-store severance tax. She advised that upon collection of the tax she turned the money over to the State Treasurer. MRS. THARPE advised that when the office of the Supervisor of Public Accounts had its name changed to the Office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, the office was split into two parts, and a man named WASHBURN was placed in charge of the auditing department, but that this department was later headed by W. A. COOPER. She advised that the division of the department was Governor LECHE'S idea; that the original law was that the head of the Supervisor of Public Accounts could not be removed except by impeachment by the State Senate; that LECHE, however, had a constitutional amendment enacted which made this position appointive. MRS. THARPE advised that with reference to her position as a member of the Board of Liquidation the name of this organization was changed to the Bond and Tax Board, which name it assumed in about 1932. She advised that she was Secretary of the Bond and Tax Board a short time after it was created, but did not remain in that capacity for more than several months after it was created. MRS. THARPE advised that the Bond and Tax Board was the State Board that had to approve all loans and bond issues of all political sub-divisions of the State, including the schools.

MRS. THARPE advised that she was transferred from the position of Secretary of State to Supervisor of Public Accounts because E. A. CONWAY was elected to the position of Secretary of State and she was, therefore, given the position of Supervisor of Public Accounts by the late HUEY P. LONG. MRS. THARPE advised that she did not know why she was dismissed from her position as Collector of Internal Revenue except that W. A. COOPER undermined her with LECHE and got her out. She advised that when COOPER was put in charge of part of the office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, he actually was getting her job. That when this trouble came up with COOPER over his getting her job, she talked with D. M. ELLISON, who said he would contact Governor LECHE and advised that he would call MRS. THARPE before he went to see Governor LECHE. She advised that ELLISON, however, slipped off to Covington, Louisiana, without telling her, as he had promised her he would do; that she telephoned the Governor at Covington and upon getting the Governor's

residence talked to ELLISON who had already arrived there; that ELLISON told her the Governor would see her Wednesday. MRS. THARPE advised that she and her husband did go to Covington, Louisiana; and talked to Governor LECHE; that Governor LECHE told her she was working too hard and that she was getting too many gray hairs. She advised that LECHE appeared dopey; that she could not get anything out of him and could not get a reason from him as to why he was making these statements. She advised that this was on February 14, 1939. MRS. THARPE advised that on February 17, 1939, ELLISON said he had a letter from the Governor for her. She advised that this was a letter of dismissal; that in the letter no reason was given by the Governor for her dismissal. MRS. THARPE advised she had attempted to obtain some reason for her dismissal but had been unable to do so.

MRS. THARPE advised that the five per cent salary contribution from employees in the State of Louisiana began under the administration of HUKY P. LONG when he was a Senator; that it began as a temporary measure for political purposes but became a permanent thing the day Governor R. W. LECHE was elected. She advised that W. A. COOPER was the collector^{for her} of the five per cent contribution in her department, but that she did not know any other collectors in other departments except her husband. She advised that this collection was turned over to J. M. FUSH but that she did not know where it was kept and did not know about any books kept about this collection. MRS. THARPE advised that she did not know the purpose for which the fund was used and could not estimate the amount of money taken in. However, she advised that the amount of money taken in by her department amounted to between three thousand, eight hundred and four thousand dollars per month. She advised that she did not know of any instances where Federal funds went to employees who paid the five per cent contribution. She advised that some did not pay the five per cent contribution but that they were such a few in number that the head of the department would not mention it. She advised that it was also necessary to take a subscription to "Progress", a newspaper supposedly owned by Governor LECHE; that this newspaper was considered the Administration newspaper. MRS. THARPE advised that she did not know the political set-up of the State at the present time. She advised that she did not know what connection DR. JOSEPH O'HARA had with the five per cent salary contribution. She advised that she did not know about the sale of the Bienville Hotel to the University of Louisiana. MRS. THARPE advised that she had no information as to the property purchased by State officials while they were in office; that she had no information as to the taxable income of State employees or their associates and did not know what businesses State employees were engaged in wherein they sold products of the business to the State of Louisiana.

MRS. THARPE advised that she had no information relative to the administration of the Louisiana State University; that she did know, however, that if the University would make any loan, it would be necessary for the State Bond and Tax Commission to approve the loan. She advised that she had no information relative to the irregularities of JAMES MONROE SMITH and barely knew him.

V

MRS. THARPE advised that she was unfamiliar with the set-up of the Works Progress Administration in the State of Louisiana but understood that JAMES CRUTCHER was the head of the Administration. She advised that she did not know CRUTCHER personally, however. She advised that she had no inside information as to contracts let by the State on which WPA labor was used or Government funds were used for payments on the contracts. MRS. THARPE advised that she had no inside information on how certain contractors seemed to get all the construction work; that she did not know of any particular irregularities in the letting of contracts. She advised that she did not know of instances where the contractors "kicked" back money to the State or State officials on contracts received. She advised that she did not know of any connection between JAMES CRUTCHER, ROBERT MAESTRI and R. W. LECHE. She advised that she did not know about the two per cent GEORGE CALDWELL was supposed to have received; that she had no information about where WPA materials were used on private property and no information as to roads built by WPA labor for political purposes. She had no information as to the use of WPA labor and materials on the home or property of R. W. LECHE; that she did not know the names of any WPA workers who worked on private property while receiving compensation from the WPA. MRS. THARPE was questioned as to her knowledge of any irregularities in the Social Security payments. She advised that she knew B. W. CASON, Commissioner of Labor, but that she had no dealings with him; that she had no information as to any methods used whereby funds were paid out of the Social Security to fictitious persons or to State officials. MRS. THARPE advised that she had no information relative to any graft on the new bridge being built at Eaton Rouge. She advised that she knew JAMES NOE, a friend of HILT LOND, but had no particular association with him; that she did remember, however, that during the time NOE was Governor for a few months in 1936 the five per cent contribution from State employees was discontinued.

MRS. THARPE advised that while she was still in Louisiana a reporter from the Washington Merry Go Round column called her and advised that he understood she was going to write a book. MRS. THARPE stated that she told the reporter this had been suggested to her as she had been so young at the time she had held high offices in the State of Louisiana. She advised that this reporter suggested that PEARSON and ALLEN of the Washington Merry Go Round act as collaborators with her in writing this book. She advised that the man who contacted her was E. J. COSTELLO, who claimed he was a scout for PEARSON and ALLEN. MRS. THARPE advised that she never mentioned Attorney General MURPHY or President ROOSEVELT to anyone and never said what was quoted in the newspaper about her; that she never said "E.D.P. has not practiced in Louisiana what he preached in other places", or that FRANK MURPHY came down here and made a pious speech but that was all. She advised that she read the statement she was supposed to have made in a Washington Merry Go Round column; that she was greatly incensed over it; that she, in talking to the writer, was quoting the statement from a newspaper clipping; that she wished to reiterate that she did not make any statement which in any way...

construed to the statement she read to the writer from a newspaper clipping. At this point Attorney NICHOLS suggested to MRS. THARPE that she write the Attorney General and advise him that she had never made the statement which appeared in the Washington Merry Go Round column.

MRS. THARPE advised she had a scrapbook of newspaper clippings which she started about the time HUEY P. LONG became Governor of Louisiana and maintained these newspaper clippings until after the death of LONG, and is continuing them to date. She advised that after HUEY P. LONG died, MRS. HUEY LONG requested that she be given the newspaper clippings about her husband up until the time he died. MRS. THARPE advised she gave MRS. LONG the original clippings, but made photostats of these clippings which she had kept in her scrapbook of newspaper clippings. She advised that she does this as a hobby. MRS. THARPE advised that she did not have any photostatic copies or any original records other than the newspaper clippings. She advised that the newspaper publicity about her having important documents was false; that it was common knowledge that she had the newspaper clippings and she at one time kept them in her office when she held a State position, where they were open for public inspection. MRS. THARPE advised that E. A. CONWAY, Secretary of State, also had newspaper clippings which he kept as a hobby. She advised that when she first started her hobby she borrowed some clippings from CONWAY for her first five volumes. She advised that she now has approximately forty volumes full of newspaper clippings; that these volumes are about three feet square and six inches thick. She advised that she had these in a safe place in Louisiana but would not advise the writer where she was keeping them. She advised, however, that upon her return to Louisiana she would be glad to permit the writer to examine any or all of her volumes containing these newspaper clippings. MRS. THARPE advised that while she was Secretary of State she made five thousand dollars per year which was augmented by an additional two thousand dollars per year from the Motor Vehicle Bureau; that when she became Supervisor of Public Accounts she received a salary of five thousand dollars per year which was later raised to seventy-five hundred dollars per year. She advised that MR. THARPE as Secretary of the State Tax Commission received four thousand, eight hundred dollars per year.

During this interview with MRS. THARPE, MR. THARPE from time to time interposed and gave some information. He advised that when W. A. COOPER got the position his wife had held he called COOPER a "skunk" and told him he was going to whip him; that he did not, however, have this opportunity. THARPE advised that he was fired about the same time his wife was fired. That the reason he was fired was because he talked too much. THARPE advised that after he was fired he received a letter from T. A. BARTNESS; that this letter requested certain information about his income. THARPE advised that he replied to the letter written to him by BARTNESS, answering all of BARTNESS' questions and advising BARTNESS that BARTNESS ought to know about his income because he prepared his income tax statement for him. THARPE advised that it was evident someone in the Administration was trying to pull a "squeeze" play on him, probably for the purpose of making him afraid to talk. He advised, however, that

he would not be afraid to give any information that came into his possession. THARPE advised that while he was Collector of the five per cent salary contribution at the time he was Secretary of the Louisiana Tax Commission he did not keep any of the money himself. He advised that all of the money he collected was turned over monthly to DAVID M. ELLISON; that this amounted to approximately four hundred dollars per month. He advised that he would put the money in an envelope with the date and the amount and hand it to ELLISON who would put it in a safe in the Governor's office. He advised that word would usually come to his department that J. M. FUSH was coming to town. THARPE advised that during the time he collected the five per cent contribution he collected personal checks and endorsed them and turned them over to ELLISON. He advised that he kept an accounting of every penny he had taken in and still had these books. He advised that they were in a safe place but that they would be open for inspection when he returned to Louisiana. THARPE advised that the payroll of the Louisiana Tax Commission amounted to about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars per year; that the most the Tax Commission could spend under ordinary circumstances would be thirty-five thousand dollars per year; therefore, the payroll was "padded" a great deal and checks were sent to persons who never came down to work; that he knew their names but had never seen any of them.

THARPE advised that the Standard Office and Supply Company, Monroe, Louisiana, furnished all the furniture for the new State offices, which was pro rated to the different offices. That there was not enough money to pay for this out of the legislative appropriation, so each department made up the difference. He advised that he did not know of any irregularities in connection with this. He advised that he understood that ABE SHUSHAN furnished all the window blinds for the State buildings in Louisiana. THARPE advised that he had to pay twenty or thirty dollars for the election of President Roosevelt, which he gave to MR. TUGWELL. He advised that this, however, might have been for the "Paralysis Campaign". He advised that it was rumored that the Louisiana Highway Department paved around the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute at Ruston, Louisiana, in return for a contract by the Office Supply Company to furnish all the furniture for the Polytechnic Institute. He advised that the Office Supply Company was reported to be owned by L. P. ABERNATHY, the Chairman of the Louisiana State Highway Commission. THARPE advised that DAVID M. ELLISON advised him several months ago that he had let a contract for six thousand dollars to GEORGE CALDWELL for CALDWELL to build a house. He advised that he knew the house cost more than six thousand dollars and that he knew there was some irregularity about this before the newspapers came out with all the publicity about the alleged irregularities in Louisiana. THARPE advised that although he understood the State Income Tax Collector was checking on his income he knew they had nothing on him. THARPE advised that it was rumored that CALDWELL BROTHERS and HART had made a statement to the effect that they paid for everything they got from the State, meaning that for the contracts they got from the State it was necessary for them to pay something to one of the State officials. THARPE advised that he believed that D. M. ELLISON and W. A. COOPER influenced R. W. LECHE in dismissing his wife. This was occurred in by MRS. THARPE.

He advised that E. A. CONWAY, D. M. ELLISON and R. W. LECHE appeared to be the ring-leaders in Louisiana; that CONWAY was a "gossiyy old woman" type of man and knew everything that went on; that CONWAY sponsored ELLISON who was close to the Governor, probably knowing more about the Governor than anyone in the State. THARPE advised that a MR. FRAZEL, of Monroe, Louisiana, was the only man to whom independent oil companies could sell natural gas. THARPE advised that he had a gas well around Rodessa, Louisiana, which was closed down by the pro-ration law; that he made a big fuss about this and talked about Governor LECHE trying to cut him out, so believed this might have had something to do with his dismissal. THARPE advised that when he was discharged he requested that he be given a month's salary but found that the State would only give him two weeks. He advised that he would not take this. He advised that at this time he had collected four hundred and six dollars from the employees in his department; that word came to him that J. M. FUSH wanted to see him. THARPE advised that he then made the statement that he would give the four hundred and six dollars to LECHE if LECHE would give him a receipt for it. He advised that LECHE would not give him a receipt and that no one had requested the four hundred and six dollars. THARPE advised that he still had this money and would perhaps have to pay income tax on it; that he would not, however, turn it over without receiving a receipt for it.

THARPE advised that it was rumored that HAMPTON REYNOLDS, the father-in-law of LECHE, has an asphalt company in Alabama from whom the State purchases asphalt for a price from fourteen to sixteen dollars per ton; that this asphalt can be purchased for six dollars a ton on the regular market. He advised that he understood that about forty thousand tons a month were used. THARPE advised that he understood that all the cement used by the State of Louisiana was purchased from one company but that he did not know the name of this company. He advised that when MRS. ROOSEVELT spoke at the Louisiana State University, orders came from LECHE that every State employee was to be present and that they should show unusual enthusiasm. THARPE advised that he was never around when any settlement was made in connection with any graft in the State. THARPE advised that he believed LECHE was a crook and believed that JAMES MONROE SMITH did not tell LECHE anything about his depredations for fear that LECHE would want to get in on it. THARPE advised that he believed that if LECHE knew anything crooked was going on he would not be satisfied unless he could get a part of the graft. THARPE made the statement that he believed Judge DORE of Ville Platte, and Judge J. B. FOURNET, who were on the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University, would not sell out for less than five dollars. THARPE advised that DON WELDON, who was the Editor of the Hammond Progress, the newspaper of Governor LECHE, gave orders around the State; that the orders of WELDON were the same as if they were given by LECHE, particularly in regard to subscriptions to the paper being required of State employees. THARPE was questioned as to the names of any persons he believed might be reliable to contact for information pertaining to irregularities in Louisiana. He advised that he believed A. R. JOHNSON, who was close to the Governor but a high type of man, might give some informa-

tion. He advised that he believed THEO S. LANNEY, the manager of the Louisiana State Penitentiary, was an honorable man, who showed no favoritism, and who might be able to give reliable information.

THARPE advised that shortly after MR. HOOVER and MR. MURPHY were at the Louisiana State University, a picture appeared in the paper showing MR. HOOVER, MR. MURPHY and JAMES MONROE SMITH together. He advised that he jokingly remarked that it looked as though MR. HOOVER and MR. MURPHY were sizing SMITH up for a suit. During the first part of the interview THARPE claimed that he and his wife had been planning a vacation for a long time and so after they were dismissed they decided to take the vacation. THARPE later on in the interview advised that they left Louisiana to keep from being annoyed by numerous reporters and investigators in connection with this investigation. He advised, however, that they had nothing to hide; that neither he nor MRS. THARPE was in any way connected with any of the irregularities in Louisiana.

Both the THARPES were questioned at length relative to the political organization in the State of Louisiana. They advised that when HUEY LONG was in power he organized the government in such a way that he would have complete control of all departments, and placed his friends and people he could trust in charge of these departments. However, he did run the departments as he saw fit himself. That after LONG'S death his policies were not continued in the way he had started them. During the interview it was determined that MRS. THARPE was thirty-four years of age, and that the THARPES had been married a year prior to the time of HUEY LONG'S death.

Both MR. and MRS. THARPE denied any knowledge of any Federal violations in connection with irregularities in Louisiana. They denied that they had information relative to the misuse of Federal funds, violations of income tax matters, violations of the misuse of WPA materials and violations which were alleged to have been committed by JAMES MONROE SMITH. The THARPES advised that they were not connected with any of the State officials in any irregularities, and that they were not afraid of anything that might come up. During this interview they were specifically asked a great many questions concerning Louisiana State officials and WPA irregularities. MRS. THARPE was not very talkative; however, MR. THARPE volunteered information which has been set out in this report. MR. and MRS. THARPE advised that they were returning to Louisiana about August 1, 1939, and would be available in Baton Rouge for interview after that date; that they would be willing to give all the cooperation possible in this case. They advised that although they could not furnish definite or specific information, they believed that R. W. LECHE, D. M. ELLISON, GEORGE CALDWELL and E. A. CONWAY, Secretary of State, were principally involved in any irregularities in Louisiana.

N. O. #62-978

During the entire interview Attorney NICHOLS did not object to any questions asked the THARPES. He, instead, urged them to answer all questions asked by the writer.

Upon the completion of this investigation a teletype was sent to the New Orleans Office and to the Bureau advising of the information obtained during this interview.

PENDING

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **New Orleans, Louisiana**

N.O. FILE NO. 62-972

REPORT MADE AT New Orleans, La.	DATE WHEN MADE July 19, 1939	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE July 11 & 14, 1939	REPORT MADE BY W. W. BUNKER
TITLE LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS		CHARACTER OF CASE INFORMATION CONCERNING	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

MRS. W. A. THARPE, nee ALICE LEE GROSJEAN, employed by HUEY LONG as Secretary in 1924 and continued in capacity when LONG became Governor of Louisiana. In 1929 was appointed Secretary of State to fill unexpired term and when office was filled by election 1932 was appointed to position of Supervisor of Public Accounts, name of which department changed to Collector of Internal Revenue. This department divided and W. A. COOPER placed in charge auditing department by Governor R. W. LECHE. GROSJEAN believed R. M. ELLISON and COOPER influenced LECHE in dismissing her, but advised LECHE gave no reason. Advised she collected five per cent contribution from employees her department which she submitted to J. M. FUSH, but no information Federal funds involved. Advised H. J. COSTELLO, scout for Washington Merry Co Round, contacted her. Denied making statements about President ROOSEVELT or Attorney General MURPHY which appeared in Merry Co Round column. Has scrapbook of newspaper clippings about Louisiana from beginning HUEY LONG regime and has photostatic copies of original clippings she gave to LONG'S widow after LONG'S death but denied having other documents. Denied any knowledge of Federal violations by State officials and associates, and denied being connected any irregularities. W. A. THARPE, former Secretary Louisiana State Tax Commission, advised collected five per cent contribution employees his department, claiming he gave same to ELLISON. THARPE advised he kept complete accounting these collections but no Federal funds involved. THARPE denied information irregularities Louisiana State University. Believed LECHE,

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

5 Bureau
5 New Orleans

36

RECORDED 62-32509-216K1

ACH:LL

August 10, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies each of the following correspondence between Mr. Vincent Moseley, of Opelousas, Louisiana, and the Department, which was referred to the Bureau, and it is desired that one copy be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Viosca, New Orleans:

Letter dated June 1, 1939, to the Attorney General from Mr. Moseley, together with the two newspaper clippings inclosed therewith.

Copy of letter dated June 7, 1939, to Mr. Moseley from Mr. McGuire.

Letter dated July 3, 1939, to Mr. McGuire from Mr. Moseley.

Letter dated July 14, 1939, to Mr. McGuire from Mr. Moseley.

Copy of letter dated July 18, 1939, to Mr. Moseley from Mr. McGuire.

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Crowl _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Lawler _____
- Mr. McIntire _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Sears _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Tamm _____

Very truly yours,

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 MAILED
 John Edgar Hoover
 AUG 10 1939
 P. M.
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SPORT
311

Department of Justice
Office of the Assistant to the Attorney General
Washington

July 24, 1939

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Lawler	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Sears	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Gandy	

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Hayden
act

Attached find correspondence from Vincent Moseley, Boagni Building, Opelousas, Louisiana, commenting upon the current situation in Louisiana. It was thought that you might desire to have this correspondence in your files in connection with the investigation which is now being conducted in that State.

9
Opelousas, Louisiana

Matthew F. McGuire

Matthew F. McGuire,
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General

8/10/39
Det. N.G.
AC 14

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-32509-216
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 15 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

June 7, 1959.

Vincent Moseley, Esquire,
Boagni Building,
Opelousas, Louisiana.

Dear Mr. Moseleys:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of June 1, addressed to the Attorney General, in which you offer your services without compensation to the Government.

The Attorney General has asked me to thank you for your generous offer but he regrets that there is no suitable opening at this time.

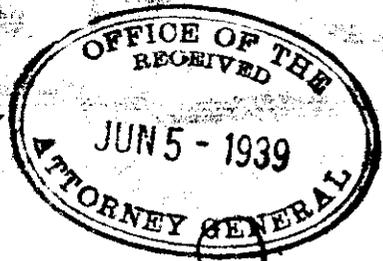
Very truly yours,

Matthew W. McGuire

Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General

2-J&H

VINCENT MOSELEY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
BOAGNI BUILDING
OPELOUSAS, LA.



1 June 1939.

U.S. Attorney General Murphy,
Washington, D. C.

RECORDED

62-32509-216
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 15
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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ONE

Dear Sir:

May I ask for my services, without compensation, to assist in any way possible to make this state of my birth a better place in which to live. I most respectfully cite you to Justice Frankfurter, to whom I earlier directed matter in line with the enclosed editorial. To quote the Justice from the class room - "to be concrete are must be personal etc" - I hope you will pardon the additional in closure to identify myself to him regardless of how remote the source may be from those of a good office. It may pardon my present environs if he recalls a proposed juvenile school prepared while practicing in Chattanooga of which he received a copy. Unfortunately, I sought therein to pacify a County Judge of the City Mayor as to financing the expense of the school - my sacrifice was consciously made to secure passage of the bill but the Legislature will hindered the job and unconstitutional fragment resulted.

Please be assured of my hearty approval of what you have said but let us have action.

Respectfully,

Vincent Moseley. 40

62-32509-21471

July 18, 1939

Vincent Moseley, Esquire
Boagni Building
Opelousas, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moseley:

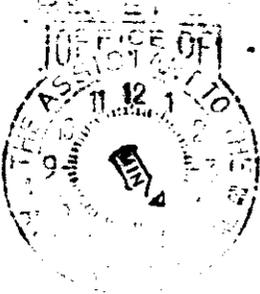
This acknowledges the receipt of your letter of recent date. Please be assured that your comments with respect to the subject matter contained therein have been carefully noted.

Very truly yours,

Matthew F. McGuire

Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General

2/yrj



7-7 m

LAW OFFICES
VINCENT MOSELEY
BOAGS BUILDING
OPELOUSAS, LA.

July 14, 1939.

JUL 17 1939

Mr. Mathew F. McGuire, Esq.
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

*Mr. F. M. has not
seen it.*

Dear Mr. McGuire:

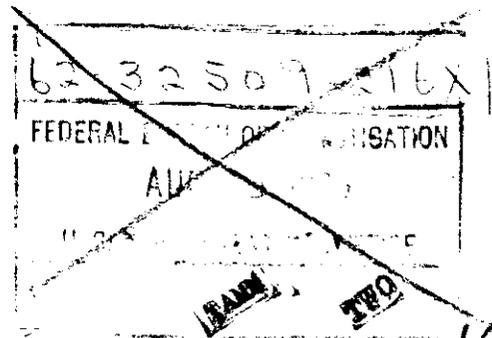
On July 3rd. I directed to you a
letter which I that day registered, returned re-
ceipt requested. Since receipt signed by you has
not reached me and I have not heard from you dur-
ing the past ten days I should appreciate learning
if you received letter mentioned.

Yours very truly,

Vincent Moseley

VM:dbh

RECORDED



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42

LAW OFFICES
VINCENT MOSELEY
BOAGNI BUILDING
OPELOUSAS, LA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
JUL 11 12 1
1937

3 July 1937

JUL - 6 1937

Mr. Matthew K. McGuire,
Acting Assistant to the Atty. General,
Dept. of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. McGuire:

I thank you for your letter of June 7th in reply to my earlier letter to Atty. Gen. Murphy, offering such humble assistance of my services as might be accepted to the end of ridding this state of corruption under the present administration. It seems now from the press that your department is actively interested. In passing, may I call to your attention the present slot machine method of governing this Parish. As you know, slot machines are forbidden in this state, however, in St. Landry Parish they are regularly "hi-jacked" by the collectors of the District Attorney, two of these collectors being Robert Preston Dumber, an ex meat cutter, + E. H. Dillon, an ex saw filer for Bonny Blanks Lbr. Co., the funds collected probably totaling fifty thousand a year. I understand that Dumber delivers his collections to Bryan Littell, Receiver (by appointment of L. Austin Fontenot, Dist. Atty) of the Parish Trusts & Sig. Bk. of Opelousas, where this cash is kept in their vault. If these funds be used for purely political purposes prior to an election time or be assumed, as stated to me, that one third of the vote in this Parish is purchasable, you will appreciate the meagre opportunity we have here for honest government. May I not ask that you verify through your Department the situation as presented? Frankly, I am fed-up with the local condition which probably reflects that of the State as a whole.

Yours truly,
Vincent Moseley

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&
INDEXED

62-32501-216

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 21 1937

James W. King
Director

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Y

Law Offices

VINCENT MOSELEY
Boagni Building
Opelousas, La.

July
3 ~~June~~ 1939

Mr. Matthew F. McGuire
Acting Assistant to the Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

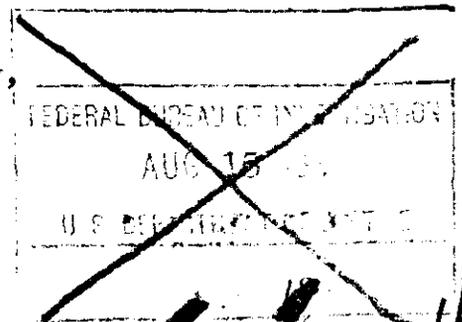
Dear Mr. McGuire:

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My best wishes for your success,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Vincent Moseley



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(ed)

TELETYPE

FBI NEW ORLEANS 7-21-39 5 PM ALS

DIRECTOR

MONTE HART ETAL MAIL FRAUD, LOUISIANA STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION CONCERNING.
 MONTE HART AND JAMES MONROE SMITH INDICTED FEDERAL GRAND JURY NEW ORLEANS
 TODAY ON FOURTEEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY SIX DOLLARS SEVEN CENTS MAIL
 FRAUD INDICTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH SALE OF BIENVILLE HOTEL, HART RELEASED
 ON FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR BOND TODAY. REQUESTS IN PETITION OF JAMES MONROE
 SMITH TO HAVE HABEAS CORPUS AD PROSEJUNDUM MODIFIED DENIED BY JUDGE BORAH
 TODAY. USA NEW ORLEANS CONTEMPLATING MAIL FRAUD INVESTIGATION IN CONNECTION
 WITH REISSUE OF ~~NEW ORLEANS~~ LEVEE BOARD BONDS, WHEREIN IT IS ALLEGED THAT
 CONTRACT WAS LET TO NEWMAN HARRIS COMPANY, NEW ORLEANS BROKERS, TO REISSUE
 BONDS WHICH CONTRACT WAS SUBLET TO PARTNERSHIP COMPOSED OF MORVIN HARRIS,
 ABE SHUSHAN, ROBERT NEWMAN AND HENRY J. MILLER, THE REISSUED BONDS MATURING FIVE
 YEARS EARLIER THAN OLD BONDS PURPORTEDLY SAVING LEVEE BOARD ONE HUNDRED
 NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS. PARTNERS ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED FOUR HUNDRED FORTY ONE
 THOUSAND DOLLARS COMMISSION ON BOND TRANSACTIONS. VOLUNTARY COMMITTEES OF
 CITIZENS OF LOUISIANA REPORTED MEETING THROUGHOUT STATE AND DEMANDING IM-
 PARTIAL PROBE BY STATE OFFICIALS OF ALLEGED CORRUPTION IN LOUISIANA. JOE
 BATES, CHIEF OF POLICE, BATON RUGE, DISCHARGED TODAY.

SACKETT

END

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13 210

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 8 1939

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WILSON

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RECEIVED IN 5-11

ACH:LL

August 16, 1939

62-32509 ~~154, 157, 208, 209, 210, 211,~~
~~212, 214, 215, and 216.~~

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge
New Orleans, Louisiana

Re: CRIME CONDITIONS - LOUISIANA

Dear Sir:

There are inclosed herewith two photostatic copies of the following described communications, which were received by the Attorney General and referred to the Bureau, and it is desired that one copy of each be furnished by your office to United States Attorney Rene A. Vibica, New Orleans:

Anonymous letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 13, 1939, together with its inclosure, from "A New Orleans Schoolgirl."

Letter dated at Crowley, Louisiana, July 18, 1939, from Frank M. Atwood.

Anonymous letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 10, 1939, together with newspaper editorial entitled "Darest Thou Then."

Anonymous letter on letterhead of Hotel Gardner, Shreveport, Louisiana, received in Office of the Attorney General on July 21, 1939, from "American."

Anonymous letter postmarked at New Orleans, July 11, 1939, beginning "Harry Jacobs, Levee Board Engineer 1937-38."

Anonymous letter dated at New Orleans, June 28, 1939, beginning "Congratulations on your desire to investigate."

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
AUG 17 1939
F. M.

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Nathan _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Crowl _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Lawler _____
- Mr. McIntire _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Miss Gandy _____

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S. H. T.

SAC
New Orleans

- 2 -

August 16, 1939

Letter dated at Winnfield, Louisiana, July 29, 1939,
from B. W. Bailey.

Anonymous letter dated at Shreveport, Louisiana,
July 16, 1939, from "American."

Letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 18,
1939, from Mrs. William A. West, Jr.

Letter dated at New York City, July 18, 1939, from
J. C. Corbin.

Letter dated at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 18, 1939,
from L. J. Raphael, Sr., together with its inclosure.

The letters from Mr. Atwood, Mr. Bailey, Mrs. West,
Mr. Corbin, and Mr. Raphael have not been acknowledged.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

ENCLOSURE

62-32509-216X1

ENCLOSURE

48