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FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS
RELEASE

SUBJECT: Bud Abbott
FILE: 100-HG-190833 + 145-HQ-1375

VOL: 2
PAGES REVIEWED: 7
PAGES RELEASED: 7

NOTES:

[Handwritten notes below]

140-HG-119035 57
RC-38543
FBI

Date: 3/5/58

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
From: SAG, LOS ANGELES (1155-new)
SUBJECT: BUD ABBOTT
ITEM: INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE MATTER
CC: Los Angeles

On 3/3/58 Officer [redacted], Administrative Vice Detail, Los Angeles PD, advised that a police informant furnished information to the effect that BUD ABBOTT, the well-known motion picture and TV star, is a collector of pornography and allegedly has 1,500 reels of obscene motion pictures which he shows in his home where he has a projector of his own. The police informant was approached by ABBOTT to furnish some girls for a private party he is having at an early date.

On 3/4/58 Officer [redacted] advised he had received no further specific date as to when the party is to be held but stated that Ad Vice intends raiding the party when and if it is held and will confiscate all films they are able to find in their search incidental to their arrests.

Although ABBOTT is an alleged collector and there is not an allegation of interstate transportation of this matter, a case is being opened in this office as a control file to follow and report to the Bureau information coming to the attention of this office through police liaison with Ad Vice, LAPD. Officer [redacted] is well aware of the Bureau's interest in this category and any films obtained will be submitted to the FBI Lab for examination and comparison purposes.

2 - Bureau
1 - Los Angeles

MCI: 43 M MAR 6 1958

KEY:

Approved by: Special Agent in Charge
Sent: [redacted] M Per: [redacted]
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March 8 1946

Mr. J. E. Hoover
The Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you so much for your letter and for the interest you take in our program.

We are to be in production for the next two months and, if you are in California during that time, it would give me great pleasure if you would visit our studio and be our guest for lunch.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Lou Costello
February 28, 1946

Messrs. Abbott and Costello
C/O Edward Sherman Agency
3950 Wilshire Boulevard
Beverly Hills, California

Dear Abbott and Costello:

Last Thursday night I had the pleasure of listening to your radio program and got a terrific kick out of your play on words on the meaning of FBI. I thought your explanation was excellent.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

[Date: MAR 15 1946]
March 4, 1943

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of February 23, 1943, wherein it is noted that the Illinois office furnished certain information to your office concerning the above captioned radio programs, requesting that a transcript be made for the purpose of decoding same. It is also noted that the respondent is very nervous and upset over the long illness and loss of her husband, indicating that her information may not be reliable. On the other hand, it is stated that through a discreet inquiry she is reported to be a leader in her community and very highly regarded by those who know her. The Bureau has drawn no conclusion from the information furnished concerning the reliability of respondent but it is noted that the full name of the person was not set out which would enable the Bureau to properly check the indices for the purpose of ascertaining whether she had previously furnished information of a similar nature.

It is further noted that the respondent claims to be a writer of radio script by profession and due to her knowledge of radio she claims to understand the use of key words in a radio program. Although she has furnished eighty-five key words, she has furnished definitions of only twelve of these words. From the information furnished the Bureau does not understand how she chose the words contained in the list, labeling them key words, and was only able to give definitions of a small fraction of these.

Inasmuch as the complaint set forth in the above reference letter from your office could be similarly applied to practically any radio program, no further action is being taken by the Bureau in this matter. The above is being called to your attention in order that in the future when complaints of this nature are received by your office, the complainant will be requested to append a list of reasons for their suspicion and be requested to supply all facts to substantiate their complaints in order that same may be properly evaluated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Postal Service of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Springfield, Illinois
February 25, 1945

Director, PSI
Attention: Technical Laboratory

Re: BUD ABOTT and LOU COSTELLO Radio Programs on February 4 and February 18, 1945.

Dear Sirs:

This is to advise that an agent of this office was recently contacted by an individual in Illinois, who advises that she is by profession a writer of radio script and an author, and due to the knowledge she has of radio, she would like to request that a transcript of the above mentioned programs be decoded. She states that she understands key words in a radio program due to her experiences as a radio script writer and wishes to submit a list of key words taken from these programs with a few of her interpretations of the meaning of the words, which are set out in parentheses following the words.

The following words were taken from the program on February 4, 1945:

Fog (artificial)
Cold or hot (any kind of weather?)
Kick in the Pants (instead of pants)
Boats (Brooklyn)
Fire (产品质量)
Which ocean (?)
Only one
South
Turn north quickly
Rocky coastline
Two weeks
High-powered boats
Dive bombers hit a rock (bomb)
Hole in boat
Both sides (submarine)
Two weeks
Eleven camps
Army and Navy
Camel Caravan

Copies destroyed 12/5/37
#36
The following words were taken from the February 18th program:

10,000 cattle
New York
Hollywood
Telegram
Important
Egg shortage
California
Gum
Clark Gable
Platoon
Parachute
Jim Wellington
American boy
Cartographer
Rand McNally
T-Jane - Test
Brooklyn Dodger
Scrap drive
Meat ration
Hollywood tonight
Anthony - Cleopatra
Fog horn
Nile
overflew
some places
Seven trails
Dead of night
Twenty miles of desert
Twenty miles
One trip
Wheaties
Song - "Time Goes By"
Sahara Desert
Egypt
Rommel
Camp (Cleopatra)
Sugar stamp
Julius Caesar - Mark Anthony (Alexandria?)
Sahara
Roman
Very drowsy
Sphinx
Radio drama
Depe
Side burns
Battle
Moonlight
River (Canoe)
More
Now
Heard
Dancing girl
Saleme
Guard
Man came into
Program (Tiddish)
Fall of lard
Killed me
Fan dancing
Wind mills
Green snake
Red Snake
Horses
To Betty Davis' frolic
52 years old
Eleven Camps (in one week)

A discreet inquiry reflected that [redacted] is very nervous and upset over the long illness and loss of her husband, although she is considered a leader in [redacted] and very highly regarded by those who know her. [redacted] claims she is acquainted with several Government officials in Washington, that she is distantly related to Mrs. ROOSEVELT and assisted in preparing material for the President's recent campaign.

In view of the possibility that [redacted] may write to the Bureau, the above is being submitted for your information and no further investigation is being conducted by this office.

Very truly yours,

ARTHUR H. GROWL
Special Agent in Charge

FIC/jj
65-0