FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: GRACIE ALLEN

CROSS REFERENCE
THE BEST COPY OBTAINABLE IS INCLUDED IN THE REPRODUCTION OF THESE DOCUMENTS. PAGES INCLUDED THAT ARE BLURRED, LIGHT, OR OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO READ ARE THE RESULT OF THE CONDITION OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT. NO BETTER COPY CAN BE REPRODUCED.
New York City, N. Y.
December 12, 1938

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

Dear Sir:

There is attached hereto a copy of an anonymous letter received in this office, dated December 9th, 1938, relative to one with aliases, who is allegedly associated with one who is under investigation by your Department.

Very truly yours,

Dwight Brantley,
Special Agent in Charge.

Encl.

CC Bureau

RECORDED & INDEXED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

February 20, 1939.

Special Agent in Charge,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

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

With this in mind he stated he was acquainted with [redacted] who was recently involved with JACK BENNY and GEORGE BURNS in connection with smuggling activities; that he was of the opinion he possibly could assist in any further investigation being conducted in connection with this individual, [redacted]. He stated that [redacted] has been engaged in smuggling activities for a considerable period of time; that he possibly could be of assistance in connection with an investigation involving "LITTLE NATEY" who handles narcotics.

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

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

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

Very truly yours,

A. B. Leckie
Special Agent in Charge.

PAM:AVM
62-0
cc - Bureau
Hotel Huntington
INCORPORATED
307 HUNTINGTON AVENUE
BOSTON, MASS.
BRADFORD T. KENDRICK
Manager

March 1, 1939.

U & E Bureaus, Federal Investigations,
Washington, D.C.

To the Chief of Bureau:

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

It refers to the diamond activities of the firm of [redacted], both in Los Angeles, and his assistant make a trip to Europe every year about the month of April, ostensibly to purchase jewelry. Some time last spring, Mrs. Jack Benny, wife of the radio star, was supposed to have brought to the Sunset store, a large valuable diamond estimated at about $16,000. It was placed in the safe and only [redacted] and his assistant knew of its whereabouts. While they were in Europe, the diamond was supposed to have been stolen from the safe, yet there were no evidences of an outside attempt to steal it. They reported it to the insurance company, and some of the details to the local police. This was at the time that the newspapers were publishing the case of the jewelry smuggling of Jack Benny and Burns. It is also known that [redacted] brought back jewelry from Paris and Nice, Fr., but do not know whether he paid duty on it. [redacted] has not a good name with the Int. Rev Bureau on tax matters. At this time and although business was making $50,000, a year, he assigned his property and home in Santa Barbara, and all contents, as per Los Angeles County records. While in Los Angeles during the week days he stays at a house he formerly owned and also assigned to [redacted] at Whitsley Heights, L.A.
Hotel Huntington
INCORPORATED
307 HUNTINGTON AVENUE
BOSTON, MASS.
BRADFORD T. KENDRICK
Manager

Does not sign checks. Has an account at the Citizens Natl Bank, Hollywood Blvd and McCadden Place.

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

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

Washington, D.C.
April 7, 1939

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

My dear Commissioner:

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

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

cc-Los Angeles (with inclosure)
OK
WH19 10
NESCOPECK PENN MARCH 15 1939 615P
/J EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR FEDERAL BUREAU INVESTIGATION
IS JACK BENNY RADIO COMEDIAN STILL UNDER INDICTMENT
FOR SMUGGLING

67C

RECORDED & INDEXED

54-717-2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 15 1939

WESERN UNION
F Edward
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MARCH 16 1939

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to: WESCOPECK PENNSYLVANIA

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

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SENT VIA ________________ M Per __________
HI 10 3-16-39 415PM GOUT PSXX PD

NESCOPIE PENNSYLVANIA

REFERENCE YOUR TELEGRAM YESTERDAY CONCERNING JACK BENNY.

MUST ADVISE THAT THIS MATTER WAS NOT HANDLED BY THIS

BUREAU XXXX AND SUGGEST THAT YOU COMMUNICATE WITH UNITED

STATES ATTORNEY ATTORNEY AT NEW YORK CITY FOR

INFORMATION YOU DESIRE.

G.

JOHN HOOVER

DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BEST COPY AVAILABLE
To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to: Nescopeck Pennsylvania

REFERENCE YOUR TELERAC DELAYED YESTERDAY CONCERNING JACK BENNY MUST ADVISE THAT THIS MATTER WAS NOT HANDLED BY THIS BUREAU AND SUGGEST THAT YOU COMMUNICATE WITH UNITED STATES ATTORNEY AT NEW YORK CITY FOR INFORMATION YOU DESIRE.

JOHN ELGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

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

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

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

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM
We all delay on the

progress trials, what to tell the

men. We have come to meet the 9 men

flocking aliens and have to look to their condition of

them pick up their Bibles and see them

with me or crooked and the others as the others do.

Just a tip for you can stand in front of white

house and pull them up as they go in Europe

cross that have all the say in the

U.S. and what

launched our own courts for alien court

See if it what in the good for U.S. coming to...
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
April 4, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sir:

In a recent conversation with [redacted], he being a director and producer of shows, he advised me that 
JACK BENNY, radio comedian, who, according to today's press, 
Pled guilty to smuggling charges in New York City, has been 
very worried as to the outcome of the trial. [redacted] 
arranges the program for BENNY and is intimately acquainted with him. 
BENNY and his sponsors were very much afraid that he would 
receive a penitentiary sentence in connection with this case.

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

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

Very truly yours,

R. B. HOOD,
Special Agent in Charge.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
APR 10 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

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

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

says that Gracie Allen was just as guilty in the smuggling case as George Burns; that in fact Gracie Allen jointly signed the checks with Burns; and that Mary Livingston is the real one involved in the Jack Benny case and that she had personally given him the jewelry he was to bring over. George Burns, according to deducted from his income tax the amount he paid for the Jewelry. Also that when the Customs officials raided Burns and Allen's apartment, certain narcotics were found. has been informed by an individual, presently in the Federal House of Detention from Alcatraz, that both Burns and Allen use narcotics and that this is the reason Gracie wears long sleeves all the time. The individual claims he has sold narcotics to George and Gracie.

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

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

Respectfully,

E.A.TAKM.
Dear Sir:

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

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

Mr. Foxworth says that Gracie Allen was just as guilty in the smuggling case as George Burns; that in fact Gracie Allen jointly signed the checks with Burns; and that Mary Livingston is the real one involved in the Jack Benny case and that she had personally given him the jewelry he was to bring over. George Burns, according to Mr. Foxworth, deducted from his income tax the amount he paid for the jewelry. Also, that when the Customs officials raided Burns and Allen's apartment, certain narcotics were found. Mr. Foxworth has been informed by an individual, presently in the Federal House of Detention from Alcatraz, that both Burns and Allen use narcotics and that this is the reason Gracie wears long sleeves all the time. The individual claims he has sold narcotics to George and Gracie.

Mr. Foxworth also mentioned, a well-known bondsman in the Southern District, and stated he is supposed to be a contact man of Assistant U. S. Attorney Delaney. He also stated he had been told that if he made certain payments to (mentioned in the canton case) that he would take care of his case for him. The payments were not made as he had a falling-out with.

Mr. Foxworth furnished Mr. Foxworth information concerning three other pay-off matters that is supposed to have originated, but which did not go through. Mr. Foxworth is to send the details of these to the Bureau.

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

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

Dear Sirs:

With reference to your telephonic conversation with Mr. E. A. Tonn of the Bureau on April 1, 1939, pertaining to [redacted], I desire that you bring all of the information furnished by him to the personal attention of United States Attorney Cahill in order that appropriate prosecutive action may be undertaken against any and all individuals who have violated any Federal statute. It is noted that [redacted] states that he was "shaken down" by several individuals, including [redacted], who is probably identical with [redacted]. While it is true that I did several years ago furnish to [redacted] an autographed photograph, I have of course furnished a comparatively large number of people with such photographs upon their request and I do not desire that this fact be considered in connection with any decision made as to the prosecution of this or any other individual. I desire that you take particular care to impress upon Mr. Cahill the fact that I have no more interest in [redacted] than I have in any other subject of a Bureau investigation.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

APR 20 1939
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
April 5, 1939

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

Dear Sir:

With reference to your telephonic conversation with Mr. E. A. Tans of the Bureau on April 1, 1939, pertaining to information received from [redacted] I desire that you bring all of the information furnished by him to the personal attention of United States Attorney Cahill in order that appropriate prosecutive action may be undertaken against any and all individuals who have violated any Federal statute. It is noted that [redacted] states that he was "shaken down" by several individuals, including [redacted] who is probably identical with [redacted] While it is true that I did several years ago furnish to [redacted] an authorized photograph I have of course furnished a comparatively large number of people with such photographs upon their request and I do not desire that this fact be considered in connection with any decision made as to the prosecution of this or any other individual. I desire that you take particular care to impress upon Mr. Cahill the fact that I have no more interest in [redacted] than I have in any other subject of a Bureau Investigation.

Very truly yours,

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

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

E. A. WAMM

[Signature]
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

PER: SKL

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Dear Sir:

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

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

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

Partially Declassified
This Section Only
Duty with
62-4396-3X
54-717-8X
Letter to Director
4/6/39

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

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

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

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

very truly yours,

/s/ F. L. Foxworth.

F. L. Foxworth
Inspector.
Personal and Confidential.

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

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

Dear Sir:

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

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

Very truly yours,

P. E. Foxworth,
Inspector.
I heard of a man from New York who is trying
diligently to curb crime in this country.
But whose hands and efforts are tied,
when the people do their part.

In about 25 or 30 of my friends
I can see very little difference between the
acts of Bannerman and those of Tony
Amato. Except in the latter case, his
act reacted against himself and the
motion picture industry, for which he paid
the penalty. While Bannerman
committed a crime against the government, and as we
the people are the government, we are going to
or something about it
we thought about chains, alms, though out
the country, finally advice.

In the mean time, our radios are tuned
against any program upon which they appear.
You are at liberty to publish this letter
but I have very little hope of it.

Very truly yours

O.S. we do not want them as good example for
our children.
April 11, 1939

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

Dear Sir:

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

and 67c

Dear Sirs:

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

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

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

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

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

Very truly yours, 67c

/6/ 67c

P.S. We do not consider then a good example for our children.
Don't give in.

Crime doesn't pay.

My Jewish neighbors have saved some items as a clipping. Doubtless this mound will be shrunken.

Dear Jack,

Jim and his wife are granted a release of public honor from the Civilian Defense government.

They confess to making them guilty and will pay.

John W. [Signature]

[Handwritten note:]

Inc. T. W.
Maid Informer to Get Slice of Benny's Fine

NEW YORK, April 6.—Rosa Weber, a German housemaid with a degree of fondness for Adolf Hitler, emerged today as the only individual winner in division of the smuggling jackpot into which George Burns and Jack Benny, screen and radio stars, have tumbled almost $15,000 in duties and penalties.

It was Rosa who upset the applecart and brought to a halt the federal men on the run to open the smuggling probe which involved Burns, Benny and others and today she stood to collect as much as $5,000 for the role of government informer.

The government pays tipsters who pass along information on smugglers, 25 per cent of the duties and penalties collected as a result of the tip and while Rosa hasn't received hers yet and nobody wants to talk about it officially, she is an off-the-record entry for a quarter of the cash handed over by the screen stars and by Mrs. Elma Lauer.

TALK OF HITLER

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

The conversation on that eventful evening centered about Adolf Hitler and the conversers were Mrs. Lauer, her husband, and Albert N. Chaperau.

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

CONVICTED SMUGGLER

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

From Rosa's complaint and that preliminary investigation stemmed the major smuggling probe which, before it ended with the sentencing of Burns and Benny on guilty pleas and the anti-climax sentencing of Mrs. Lauer and Chaperau—identified as Shapiro—involved a considerable number of names found more often in lights than on grand jury records.
PRÓ-NAZI MAID GETS $6,714 FOR EXPOSING BURNS, BENNY

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

The maid, employed in the household of State Supreme Court Justice Edgar J. Lauer, quit her job, vowing "revenge," at the height of a dinner party at which the Lauers' guests voiced anti-Nazi remarks.

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

She went to Government authorities, with the result that customs agents later raided the Lauer apartment and afterwards arrested Albert N. Chaperau, confessed smuggler, who had been one of the dinner guests, thereby opening the trail that led to Benny and Burns.

Mrs. Lauer, Chaperau, and the two radio and screen comedians all pleaded guilty. Benny paid a $10,000 fine and Burns $5,000. In addition, $4,816 worth of smuggled jewels and clothing were confiscated.

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

Additional sums may be forthcoming next Tuesday when Chaperau and Mrs. Lauer are scheduled to be sentenced.
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION - FBI

Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Files Section
Mechanical Division

Identification Div.
Technical Laboratory
Crime Records Section
Crime Statistics

SUPERVISORS

Typists 5236
Send File
Correct
Bring file up to date
Re-date
Record, search,
serialize and route
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SUPERVISOR
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.
April 26, 1939

Lakewood, Ohio

Dear [Name]

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

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
New York, N. Y.

May 4, 1939

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Informed me yesterday that at the time he was in difficulty with the New York County authorities he was associating with one ________ at ________.

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

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

54-717-12