

U. S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Investigation
318 News Building
San Francisco, California.

REV: 12
Refer file
#7-27.

November 26, 1933.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Re: THOMAS W. CHAPMAN
JOHN M. HOLMES
ERNEST L. BART - Victim.
Kidnaping.

Dear Sir:

Kindly furnish the known criminal record of the following:

Name (inc. aliases)	City, Police Arrest, or Other Number.	Approximate Date Fingerprints for- warded Bureau of Investigation.	Fingerprint Classification.
JOHN M. HOLMES	San Francisco, California, Police No. 50390	11/18/33	1 An 3 1 An 3

Very truly yours,

R. E. Vetterli

R. E. VETTERLI
Special Agent in Charge

*Reply
11-28-33*

7-375-270
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

LCS:DMV
Div. File #7-376-20

RECORDED

DEC 4 - 1933

November 28, 1933.

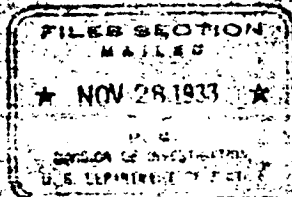
Special Agent in Charge,
Division of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
316 News Building,
San Francisco, California.

Re: THOMAS E. THURBERG,
JOHN H. HELMES,
BROCKE L. KATZ - Victim,
Kidnapping.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of November 20, 1933,
regarding JOHN H. HELMES, please be advised that the
following is the criminal record of this individual as
reflected by the Division's fingerprint files:

Subject as JOHN H. HELMES, #30081, arrested Police
Department, San Francisco, California, November 15, 1933,
charge kidnapping and murder (en route to San Jose,
California).



U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
318 Hayes Building
San Francisco, California.

REY: 21
Refer file
77-27.

November 20, 1933.

Director,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Re: THOMAS E. THURMUND
JOHN M. POLLES
BROOKS L. HART - Victim.
Kidnaping.

Dear Sir:

Kindly furnish the known criminal record of the following:

Name (inc. aliases)	City, Police Arrest, or Other Number.	Approximate Date Fingerprints forwarded Bureau of Investigation.	Fingerprint Classification.
THOMAS E. THURMUND	San Francisco, California Police No. 30391.	11/13/33	I R B I R - Ref. I R

Handwritten:
11/20/33

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature: R. E. Vetterli
R. E. VETTERLI
Special Agent in Charge

Handwritten:
Reply
11-28-33

DEC 4 1933

7-375-21
RECEIVED

LCB:DKW
Div: file #7-575-21

RECORDED

November 28, 1933.

DEC 4 - 1933

Special Agent in Charge,
Division of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
318 Texas Building,
San Francisco, California.

Re: THOMAS E. THURGOOD,
JOHN M. HOLMES,
BROOKS L. RABT - Victim,
Kidnaping.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of November 20, 1933,
regarding THOMAS E. THURGOOD, please be advised that the
following is the criminal record of this individual as
reflected by the Division's fingerprint files:

Subject as Donald Thurmond, #50000, arrested Police
Department, San Francisco, California, November 18, 1933,
charge kidnaping and murder (en route to San Jose,
California).

Very truly yours,

Director.

12/1
12/2

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 29 1933

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

November 17, 1933.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR.

Agent in Charge Vetterli called me on the telephone last night at 11 o'clock and stated that they had not found the body of the Hart boy but that they had secured a complete confession from Koles, the second kidnaper. Agent in Charge Vetterli stated that inasmuch as he, Agent in Charge Conroy and Agent Andersen had been up for two nights he felt that they would all take a rest last night inasmuch as there is nothing more to be done excepting the finding of the body and the police were taking care of that. He stated that they proposed, that is Conroy, Vetterli and Andersen, proposed to return to San Francisco. They would leave an Agent, however, at San Jose in touch with the police. I told him I felt that this was entirely satisfactory and that they ought to get some rest.

Respectfully,

V. W. Hughes

V. W. Hughes

*As soon as possible
Conroy & Andersen
should be returned
to Kansas City*

11/17/33

RECORDED
NOV 22 1933
J. E. [unclear]

7-375-22

NOV 21 1933

RECEIVED IN 66-3574

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

November 18, 1933

Mr. Nathan	_____
Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Edwards	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Mumford	_____
Mr. Quinn	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Lester	_____
Mr. Long	_____

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

I called Agent in Charge Vetterli at San Francisco to inquire if there is any reason why Conroy and Andersen should remain there. He stated "no", excepting they had a conference scheduled this morning with the United States Attorney to determine whether the United States Attorney would present the extortion case in the Hart murder and kidnaping to the Grand Jury on Monday; that if the United States Attorney does go forward with this action both Conroy and Andersen will be needed before the Grand Jury, but if the United States Attorney decides that he will not take this action, in view of the fact that both men are held by the state for murder and kidnaping, then Conroy and Andersen will leave this afternoon for Kansas City.

I inquired relative to reports and fingerprints. He stated that the one preliminary report had been sent forward and he would endeavor to finish the complete report today and send it by air mail. He stated that he understood the Police Department had sent in the fingerprints. I told him to inquire of the Police Department this morning and if they had not sent them in for him to arrange to immediately send them by air mail.

I inquired relative to the newspaper reports concerning a woman being involved in the case. Agent in Charge Vetterli stated there was absolutely nothing to such a report; that there had been some marital difficulties prior to the kidnaping but they had no connection at all with the kidnaping.

Respectfully,

[Handwritten Signature]

V. E. Hughes

RECORDED

NOV 22 1933

7-375-213
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 21 1933
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

112

WOMAN QUESTIONED IN HART MURDER

Admits Holmes Asked Her to
Elope, but She Refused—
Not Held by Authorities.

WITH HIM ON DEATH NIGHT

Married Couples Went to a Show
—Hunt for Body Goes On After
Finding of Concrete Block.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 18 (AP).—Guarded closely against lynching, Thomas H. Thurmond was taken today from the city prison to San Mateo Bridge to point out the place where he and John M. Holmes threw into San Francisco Bay the trussed and unconscious Brooks Hart, whom they confessed they kidnapped for ransom.

Two divers and an airplane were added to the forces searching for the body of the 22-year-old son of a wealthy San Jose merchant.

The divers were sent into the water where investigators found a bloodstain on the bridge rail and near where police found a concrete block like those Thurmond had said were used to make sure that Hart's body would stay at the bottom of the bay.

In San Jose Sheriff Emig made public a statement given to him and two deputies by a young married woman who said that she "kept company" with Holmes when they were 16 or 17 years old, and that Holmes had recently asked her to go away with him. She had not taken the proposal seriously, she added. She was not held. Questioned by newspaper men, she denied that there had been any romance between herself and Holmes. She and her husband and Mr. and Mrs. Holmes had played bridge and gone to shows together, she said.

Admitted Attachment for Mrs.

Sheriff Emig expressed the opinion that Holmes had plotted the kidnapping to get money for his

proposed elopement. He said that Holmes had admitted being in love with the woman.

Her statement said that she had never discussed money matters with Holmes, that she did not know him well enough. Mrs. questioners insisted that money must have been mentioned when Holmes suggested an elopement, but she denied it.

"There was no intention on my part of doing any such thing," she said according to the Sheriff, "as I would not be interested in any money matters. I had no intention of leaving my husband or going with Holmes."

The statement added she had discussed the situation with Mrs. Holmes, telling her that I had no intention of going away with her husband or leaving my husband. I told her I did not want to take her husband, I never tried," she added. "So we parted very good friends."

Went to Theatre That Night.

Investigators paid particular attention to part of the statement saying that the woman and her husband and Mr. and Mrs. Holmes had gone to a motion picture show the night of the kidnapping. She fixed the time as "between 7:30 and 8, possibly a quarter to 8."

Young Hart was kidnapped about 6 o'clock, and about 7:25 P. M. two men collecting firewood near the San Mateo Bridge heard calls for help. It previously had been thought that they had actually heard Hart, since Thurmond's purported confession said that Hart had been knocked unconscious when he cried for help.

The Sheriff declines to comment on the implied discrepancy in the two bits of evidence.

Relatives of Holmes and Thurmond indicated today that the two would enter insanity pleas. District Attorney Fred Thomas of Santa Clara County, deciding not to take the time for a grand jury investigation, asked Sheriff Emig to sign kidnapping complaints that the men might be brought to trial on a capital charge as soon as possible.

Cries of "lynch him" were shouted last night by persons in a crowd gathered outside the San Francisco jailment of police headquarters as Thurmond, who had been taken there for questioning, was brought out to be returned to his cell.

Despite the cries, guards easily cleared a path through the crowd and Thurmond was hustled into an automobile and driven away. To ward against possible mob action the two men were brought to San Francisco from San Jose after arrest.

File with

*New York Times
Nov 18, 1933*

NOT RECORDED

7-375-24

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NOT RECORDED

7-5

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

Room 318

11/20

1935

- To: Director
- ___ Mr. Nathan
- ___ Mr. Edwards
- ___ Mr. Jlegg
- ___ Mr. Lester
- ___ Miss Gandy
- ___ Miss Finnell
- ___ Chief Clerk
- ___ Chief, Unit
- ___ Personnel Files
- ___ Files
- ___ Printing Section
- ___ Supervisor, Steno. Pool
- ___ Inspector
- ___ Miss Sheaff

Mr. Nathan	
Mr. Edwards	
Mr. Jlegg	
Mr. Lester	
Miss Gandy	
Miss Finnell	
Chief Clerk	
Chief, Unit	
Personnel Files	
Files	
Printing Section	
Supervisor, Steno. Pool	
Inspector	
Miss Sheaff	

*I think they should
be very careful
in the regard*

*Please call Vetterli at
once & tell him to stop
taking these two criminals
out of jail. If they should
be hatched while in our
custody it would be
terrible.*

Clyde G. ...

Bank ...

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

November 20, 1933.

VH:DSH

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

WFO

WFO
PC

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

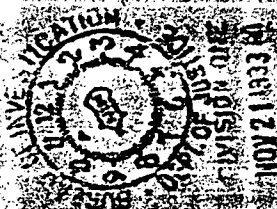
Promptly upon receipt of the attached newspaper clipping with your memorandum, I called Agent in Charge Vetterli, who stated that they had taken Thurmond and Holmes, the murderers of young Hart at San Francisco, to the local office on one occasion only, that that was last Saturday when, because of the numerous people around the jail, both he and Conroy felt that they could interrogate them more satisfactorily at the local office. Mr. Vetterli stated that contrary to the newspaper observation there was no crowd outside; that there were a few people around and there was no indication or evidence of any possible violence. He stated that they would have no further occasion to carry these men to the local office and any further interrogation would be conducted at the jail. I told him that under no circumstances should they be taken out of the jail for us or in our custody. I inquired whether there had been any further developments. He stated there had not been; that the United States Attorney was in another division of the district and would return tomorrow. In the meantime the state is planning to indict them for murder, if the body can be found, and if not, then to indict them for kidnaping, which carries capital punishment.

Remind

Respectfully,

W. F. Hughes
W. F. Hughes

Remind
WFO
11/20/33



NOV 22 1933

7-375-24

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

NOV 22 1933

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

INVESTMENT BLDG
15th & K STS., N.W.
Phone National 5500 BR

Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM



The following Telegram Columns or Extensions, unless otherwise indicated, are applied to the message in the address.

CA	Country Telegram
CC	Country Code
CC-1	Country Code 1
CC-2	Country Code 2
CC-3	Country Code 3
CC-4	Country Code 4
CC-5	Country Code 5
CC-6	Country Code 6
CC-7	Country Code 7
CC-8	Country Code 8
CC-9	Country Code 9
CC-10	Country Code 10
CC-11	Country Code 11
CC-12	Country Code 12
CC-13	Country Code 13
CC-14	Country Code 14
CC-15	Country Code 15
CC-16	Country Code 16
CC-17	Country Code 17
CC-18	Country Code 18
CC-19	Country Code 19
CC-20	Country Code 20
CC-21	Country Code 21
CC-22	Country Code 22
CC-23	Country Code 23
CC-24	Country Code 24
CC-25	Country Code 25
CC-26	Country Code 26
CC-27	Country Code 27
CC-28	Country Code 28
CC-29	Country Code 29
CC-30	Country Code 30
CC-31	Country Code 31
CC-32	Country Code 32
CC-33	Country Code 33
CC-34	Country Code 34
CC-35	Country Code 35
CC-36	Country Code 36
CC-37	Country Code 37
CC-38	Country Code 38
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CC-96	Country Code 96
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CC-100	Country Code 100

NOV 23 1933

DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
DEPT. OF JUSTICE

CHART KIDNAPING EXTORTION ANGLE
PRESENTED FEDERAL GRAND JURY

RECORDED
NOV 23 1933

7-375-25
NOV 23 1933

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols

Telephone Your Telegrams to **Postal Telegraph**

JER:SCB

November 21, 1933.

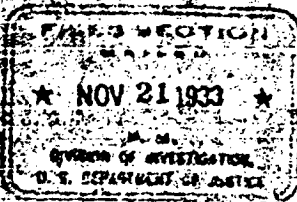
Mr. John T. Vance,
Law Librarian,
Library of Congress,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Vance:

I was sorry I was not in the office last week when you called by phone to express your kindly sentiments concerning the work which our Division performed in the Hart kidnaping case at San Jose, California. While the case is closed in so far as the identity and apprehension of the perpetrators of this crime is concerned, yet it will no doubt go down in history as one of the most vicious of murders.

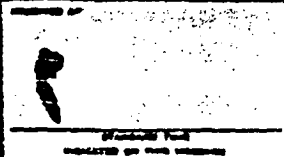
I want to thank you sincerely for being so thoughtful as to call up and express your commenda-
tion.

With best regards, I am



Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM



Commercial
Cables



All America
Cables

Mail

Radio

Name of Addressee, Customer or Substation	
No.	Name
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W
RXCB 32 28 GOVT COLLECT

1933 NOV 22 PM 5 52

GA SAN FRANCISCO CALIF 22 238P

DIRECTOR DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

07 US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WASHN DC

HART KIDNAPPING HOLMES AND THURMOND INDICTED FEDERAL GRAND JURY

TODAY SEVEN COUNTS ONE CONSPIRACY THREE COUNTS SENDING

THREATENING LETTERS THROUGH MAIL THREATENING BODILY HARM THREE

COUNTS EXTORTION

RECORDED

1-375-27

D.V. GCH of INVESTIGATION

NOV 22 1933 P.M.

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FILE

VETTERLI.

NOV 25 1933

Mr. Nathan	_____
Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Edwards	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Quinn	_____
Mr. Lester	_____
Mr. Locke	_____

Handwritten notes:
1/24/34
1/24/34

Handwritten initials:
MM
JAC

SPCL

November 23, 1933.

RECORDED

7-375-27

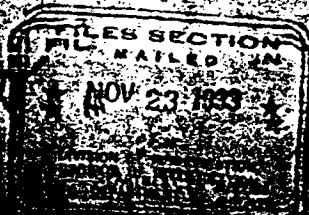
MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

NOV 23 1933

In connection with the kidnaping and murder of Brockton
Hart at San Jose, California on November 9, 1933, I wish to
advise that an indictment containing seven counts, three of
which charge the sending of threatening letters through the
mails, three charging extortion and one charging conspiracy,
was returned at San Francisco, California on November 22,
1933, against Harold T. Tharmond and John M. Holman who have
been arrested and confessed to committing this crime.

Respectfully,

Director.



K
W

CAL:CH November 25, 1935.

R E VETTIERI
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
318 HENES BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA

THOMAS H THURMAN KIDNAPING EXTORTION LETTER SPECIMENS ALL WRITTEN ONE PAGE
SPECIMENS AND FORWARD IMMEDIATELY SPECIMENS PENCIL PRINTING TWO SUBJECTS FOR
IDENTIFICATION INCLUDE SEVERAL PAGES DICTATION IN WHICH SOME WORDS EXTORTION
LETTERS APPEAR INCLUDING THE WORDS HECKE AND COOTE IRRESPECTIVE COOTE

BOOYAN

DAY LETTER

DO NOT UNDERLINE WORDS.

7-375-28

RECORDED	INDEXED
NOV 26 1935	

WESTERN UNION

Cardinal

IPC:LC

November 23, 1935.

~~MEMORANDUM~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
MR. WILLIAM STANLEY.

For your information, I am forwarding herewith a copy
of a memorandum directed to the Attorney General in the
kidnaping case of Brooks Hart.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. #364872

7-375-27

RECEIVED SECTION
MAILED
NOV 25 1935
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

7-375-29
NOV 25 1935
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EPC:LC

November 23, 1933.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT H. GATES,
PUBLICITY OFFICER.

For your information, I am forwarding herewith a copy
of a memorandum directed to the Attorney General in the
kidnaping case of Brooke Hart.

Very truly yours,

Encl. #354673

Director



UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

FILE NO. **7-43**

REPORT MADE AT Chicago, Illinois	REPORT MADE ON 11/23/33	REPORT MADE BY 11/14/33	REPORT MADE BY K. R. Melstire
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS, BROOKS HART, VICTIM		CHARACTER OF CASE KIDNAPING	

SYNOPSIS: Office of prosecuting attorney, Cook County, Illinois, has no information that Jack Klutas and gang are responsible for the kidnaping of Brooks Hart.

B.J.C.

REFERENCE:

Telegram from the San Francisco Office, 11/12/33.

DETAILS:

On November 12, 1933, this office received a telegram from the San Francisco office informing that that office had secured information from the Associated Press that the prosecuting attorney, Cook County, Illinois, had information that Jack Klutas and gang were responsible for the kidnaping of Brooks Hart. This requires that pertinent inquiries be made.

The subject mentioned in the above paragraph is a Chicago attorney who is handling the Jack Klutas case for the State of Illinois and who is otherwise interested in kidnaping cases advised, that his office has no direct information that Jack Klutas had anything to do either directly or indirectly with the kidnaping of Brooks Hart. It is noted that he has his complete list of Klutas' gang and that some suspicious persons might have been the ones who had been running the Klutas case in Chicago.

The results of this investigation were telegraphed to the San Francisco Office on November 14, 1933.

and the case is closed.

REPORTED UPON SUBMISSION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

<p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">NOV 25 1933</p> <p style="text-align: right;">NOV 25 1933</p>
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11-20-50

UNITED STATES
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO
AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300

47
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

Case:
Specimen:

Harold W. Kidnaping
Thomas H. Hammond Number: *7-375232*
Handwriting of Hammond and
Sam M. Holmes

Examination requested by:

San Francisco

Date received:

11/28/37, after wire request.

Examination desired:

Compare handwriting

Date of Report:

11/29/37

Result of examination:

Examination by:

Wm. Oliver Hammond wrote the
Extortion letters.

U. S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
318 News Building
San Francisco, California.

REV:IC
Refer File
#7-27.

November 21, 1933.

Director,
Division of Investigation,
U.S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir: Re: THOMAS E. ~~BERNARD~~
 JOHN M. HOLMES
 BROCKE L. HAET - Victim.
 Kidnaping.

I am attaching hereto two samples of printing, one sample each printed by Subject Thurmond and Subject Holmes, in the above captioned matter.

Will you please compare the printing on these yellow sheets, to which the signatures of each Subject has been affixed, with the original ransom letters which have been forwarded to you, and advise whether the printing as contained on the yellow sheets, in your opinion, is the same as that contained in the ransom notes, submitting your opinion, and returning the yellow printed sheets to this office as soon as you are through.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten notes:
C/S
returned in file
11/27/33

Signature of R. E. Vetterli

R. E. VETTERLI,
Special Agent in Charge.

Encs. - 2.

RECORDED

DEC 1 1933

7-375-32
NOV 27 1933

Handwritten:
W
48