

W

November 27, 1933.

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

MEMORANDUM

Mr. Gridley, United Press, telephoned to obtain from me an expression with reference to the lynching in San Jose, California. I informed Mr. Gridley that I had no comment to make.

RECORDED & INDEXED

7-375-42
 DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
 DEC 1 1933

DEC 2 1933

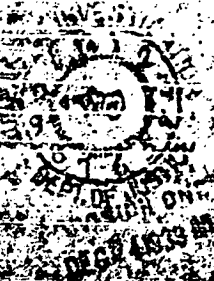
UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT: FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT San Francisco, Cal.	DATE WHEN MADE 11/27/33	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/27/33	REPORT MADE BY R. E. Wetzel-113
TITLE JOHN M. ... BROOKS L. HART - Victim.		CHARACTER OF CASE KIDNAPING	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Facts regarding extortion being suspended by the Federal Grand Jury at San Francisco, Cal. (1933).
 ... an individual returned ...
 ... one count charging conspiracy, three counts charging ...
 ... threatening bodily harm and ...
 ... H. H. Mills to ... of Victim Brooks L. Hart ...
 ... 26th ...
 ... California, ...
 ...



Report of Special Agent in Charge
R. E. Wetzel, San Francisco, Cal.

DETAILS:

The Federal Grand Jury at San Francisco, California, ...
 Grand Jury the facts in the ...
 by Subjects to Mr. Hart, ...

RECEIVED AND ...
 R. E. Wetzel
 Division
 115 Attorney, San Francisco
 San Francisco.

both Subjects, which included seven counts, one count charging conspiracy of both Subjects to violate the extortion statute of the recent kidnapping act, three counts charging the sending of threatening letters through the United States mails, threatening bodily harm, and three counts charging the sending of letters through the United States mails to extort money.

As soon as the Grand Jury returned a true bill, a wire was dispatched to the Division, informing them of this action.

Subjects, on the night of November 22nd, were both removed to San Jose, California, from the San Francisco County Jail, by Sheriff King and his forces, and were lodged in the custody of the State at San Jose, California. The Federal warrants were not served on Subjects, so that both Subjects have been continuously in possession and under the control of the State since their apprehension. Both Subjects were lodged for safe keeping in the County Jail at San Jose, California.

Complaints were filed by Sheriff King at San Jose, California, on November 23, 1933, charging murder and violation of the State Kidnaping Act, and preliminary hearing in State Court was set for sometime in the forepart of the week commencing November 27th.

On November 26, 1933, the body of Victim Brooke L. [Name obscured] Street, Redwood City, California, and Leonard L. Dalto, 623 Maple Street, Redwood City, California, whose two wives are out on hush-ducks, and at a point about one-half mile southeast of the San Mateo Bridge, on the Alameda side, they found the body of the victim. Positive identification was made by Lewis A. Koenig, who was a close personal friend of Mr. Hart, the father of Victim, and the manager of one of the departments in the Department Store. He made his identification from the clothing worn by the victim, and a knife and other items found in the pockets.

Mr. J. E. Conroy, a dentist at San Jose, California, identified the body as that of the victim from the teeth, while Dr. W. H. Koenig, the anthropologist who examined the body of the victim, identified the body as that of Victim Brooke L. Dalto by the bandage on the foot, so that positive identification was made that the body found was that of the Victim Brooke L. Dalto.

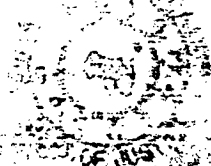
As soon as this information was published by the press, mobs began gathering at San Jose, California, and between 11 p.m. and midnight, Sunday, November 26th, a mob of over three thousand people stormed the County Jail at San Jose, broke into the jail in spite of being gas bombed, which was thrown by officers endeavoring to get their fire, and took possession

Thompson and Palmer were taken to a park directly across the street from the Court House at San Jose, California, where they were beaten and lynched. This ended the first real, legitimate kidnapping on the Pacific Coast.

Disposition sheets are attached hereto, with respect to the Federal indictment.

In a telephonic communication with United States Attorney Morize, this morning, he advised he desired to discuss one or two angles with this Agent, and accordingly, for the time being, the matter in question will be carried as pending.

PENDING



United States Federal Police
Kansas City

DEC 1933

November 15, 1933.

Special Agent in Charge,
Division of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
617 Federal Building,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your telegram to this office under date of November 14, 1933, wherein you request certain information concerning Jack Klutas and his associates in view of the fact unconfirmed rumors were received at that time that Klutas was believed to have been involved in the kidnaping plot in re. Justice George Harrison.

Since the above file has been received, it is noted that Klutas has been excluded from being a participant in this kidnaping; it is believed sufficient to state at this time that the information furnished telegraphically by this office to your office under date of November 14, 1933, was obtained thru Mr. George Harrison, County Attorney at Harrison, Iowa, Mr. Harrison being particularly interested in the apprehension of Klutas as he is wanted in that county as a suspect in a certain case.

An administrative copy of the case file of this office is being considered to be referred upon completion to the office of origin with this letter.

Very truly yours,
Special Agent in Charge

DEC 1 1933

RECEIVED

Division of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
318 Hewes Building
San Francisco, California.

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	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

REV/AP.
7-27

Nov. 27, 1933.

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

Dear Sir:

Re: THOMAS H. THURMOND
JOHN M. HOLMES
BROOKE L. HART - Victim
Kidnaping.

You have on hand at Washington, the original letters written by Subjects in the above captioned case, together with samples of printing. I also have in the San Francisco Office, in my file, the numerals 1 and 2, which were prepared by Special Agent Conroy, and the writer, which were placed in the Hart Department Store window, as requested by the kidnapers. In addition I have on hand the wallet or pocketbook of the Victim, Brooke L. Hart, which was retrieved from the San Francisco Bay.

If any of the foregoing will be of interest to you for any exhibit, will you please advise me.

Very truly yours,

R. E. Vetterli
R. E. Vetterli,
Special Agent in Charge.

7-16-13
7-15-13

DEC 8 1933

7-37-45
RECEIVED
DEC 12 1933
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 27767

7-275-45

DEC 8 1933

December 6, 1933.

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

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated November 27,
1933 in the case entitled THOMAS E. THURMOND; JOHN W. BOLLES;
BROOKS L. HART, Victim--KIDNAPING.

In this letter you advise that there are contained
in the files of the San Francisco office the numbers 1 and
2 which were placed in the Hart Department Store window as
requested by the kidnapers, and that you also have the wallet
or pocketbook of Brooks L. Hart which was retrieved from San
Francisco Bay.

It is not believed that these articles should be
included in the Division's exhibit at this time, inasmuch as
at present the exhibit is confined to firearms collected in
cases investigated by the Division.

Very truly yours,

Director.

FILED SECTION
DEC 4 1933

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

318 Hewes Building
San Francisco, California.

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. Pennington	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

REV/AP.

Nov. 27, 1933.

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

Dear Sir:

Re: THOMAS H. THURMOND
JOHN M. HOLMES
BROOKE L. HART - Victim
Kidnaping.

For your information I am attaching the newspaper articles dealing with the recovery of the body of Brooke Hart in San Francisco Bay, together with articles describing the lynching of both Subjects at San Jose, California, about midnight, Nov. 26, 1933.

Very truly yours,

R.E. Yetterli

R.E. Yetterli,
Special Agent in Charge.

Incls.

*F.W.
C.W.
C.C.*

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
DEC 5 1933

7-375-46
NOV 28 1933



Hon., John Edgar Hoover
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Handwritten: Bureau of Investigation

Handwritten: 7/16

The United States of America
 enjoyed better health and
 had a lower deathrate during
 the year 1932 and in 1933
[up to the time this message went to press]
 than ever before in its history

Keep up Momentum

WHEN you read that during many recent months, in spite of the financial depression, the American people enjoyed better health and had a lower deathrate than ever before, you may wonder why. One outstanding reason is that our people were well prepared, physically, to resist sickness.

In past decades, millions and millions of dollars were invested to prevent as well as to cure disease. They returned rich health dividends. The movement for healthier living conditions in all parts of the country had gained such momentum that temporary obstacles and difficulties failed to check its progress.

You know that the deathrate from tuberculosis has declined steadily. You know that smallpox, typhoid and diphtheria can be prevented. You hope to see the day when in this country whooping cough, measles and scarlet fever will disappear, as yellow fever and cholera did—thanks to scientific preventive methods. Scientists are faithfully working day and night for these victories.

The lower deathrate is due in no small measure to the present efficiency of hospital and nursing services that have

required years in which to develop. In assuring pure water, safe milk, clean food, swept streets and proper sewerage systems your Health and Sanitation Departments did their part in making health records in 1932 and 1933.

Some of the forces upon which the health of people depends are financed by state, county and local appropriations. But many of the forces which have contributed so greatly to general welfare—the Red Cross, the Tuberculosis Associations, the Cancer Societies and others—are largely dependent upon private contributions.

Today the forward health movement has been slowed down in some localities because of reduced appropriations and smaller contributions. In certain other communities much of the official health work has stopped.

While the people of our country are working shoulder to shoulder, collectively and individually, to restore material prosperity, no greater tragedy could befall them than to sacrifice their greatest wealth—their health. If you would have increasing health and decreasing disease, keep up the power and the momentum of the health movement.



Three Victims
 Frank Hart was the third
 November 25, 1933

The Toxicologist, a Modern Detective

Some of the Hundreds of Murder and Poison Mysteries Solved in the New York City Bellevue Laboratories of Dr. Alexander O. Gettler

By WAYNE B. PATTON

This is the second of two articles describing the toxicological laboratories at Bellevue Hospital in New York

THE popular notion of the old-fashioned detective stories was the sleuth who constructed his case from slight clues obtained by keen observation and deduction. But in this modern day there are many baffling mysteries that can be solved only with the aid of science. Among the branches of science most valuable to the authorities, chemistry stands highest. Last



Ashes of organs of a victim of radium poisoning, showing the presence of radium. No camera was used to make the original picture, the gamma rays penetrating lead plates to a photographic film placed in a dark room for ten days.

week the highly efficient department of chemical analysis, established fifteen years ago at Bellevue Hospital in New York, was described.

Dr. Alexander O. Gettler, New York's toxicologist, has put his Bellevue laboratory to work on hundreds of difficult murder and poison cases. The famous Starr Faithful, Vivian Gordon, Becker, Ruth Snyder-Judd Gray, and Costello cases, to mention a few that have flashed across the front pages of newspapers, have been tackled by Dr. Gettler's department. But of all the mysteries of the past fifteen years, the most baffling, he asserts, was one that occurred in 1922. This is the story of its solution weeks later:

An elderly, well-to-do couple was found dead in their suite of rooms in a first-class residential hotel in Brooklyn. They had returned the night before from a vacation in Palm Beach. No clue as to the manner of their deaths could be unearthed. Both were more than seventy years old; they had led quiet, unassuming, respectable lives. Murder seemed preposterous, since there appeared to be no motive and no robbery. Many curious theories were put forth by the investigating authorities, among them the belief that some one had injected some rare poison into some plum which they had eaten.

Autopsies of the two bodies revealed nothing specific as to the cause of death. Following his usual procedure, Dr. Gettler analyzed all the organs for all conceivable poisons, but found nothing. During an application of a series of the most sensitive tests, however, he did get a faint indication of a very small trace of cyanide. Taking up the lead, Dr. Gettler examined the bones

of the body without question that the death of both persons was due to hydrogen cyanide gas. Cyanide, when administered for murder or suicide, is easy to detect, in this case the traces were very small, and were in the lungs, brain and liver, indicating inhalation. No cyanid was found in the stomach.

The deduction from this finding was that the elderly couple had been killed by gas which had originated somewhere in the hotel. The solution of this mystery, which was not as simple at the time as the telling indicates, came about as follows: The elderly couple resided in the hotel annex adjoining the main building, and had returned to their rooms late at night from Florida unbeknown to the hotel manager. Carrying their own keys, the couple did not stop at the hotel office. At the time, no other suites in the annex were occupied. In the morning, the hotel manager, believing the annex to be unoccupied, set fumigators at work in the apartment directly below the one in which the couple was sleeping. Fumes seeped into the room above, sufficient to cause death.

Dr. Gettler points to this case as an outstanding example of the need of careful chemical analysis into the causes of deaths.

The Insurance Motive

Many murder and suicide cases are linked in some way to insurance policies. There was, for example, the well-planned case of a few years ago which Dr. Gettler was called upon to solve.



Bones of a woman who had absorbed radium, left as photographed by a camera, and right as the radium photographed itself on a photographic film plate through lead with out the use of camera lens.

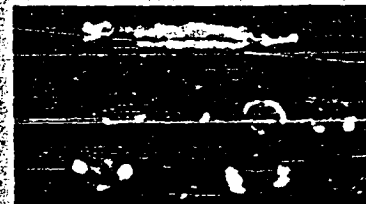
Two undertakers were partners in their business in a rural community. One of them took out a large life-insurance policy, with double indemnity for death due to accident, and made his partner the beneficiary.

Not many months later a hangover that they owned was burned to the ground. The burned body of a man was found in the ruins. The undertaker who was the beneficiary claimed that this body was that of his partner, and put in his claim for the insurance money for double indemnity on the ground of accidental burning to death.

of the body was completely burned off. The feet and part of one leg were burned off. No identification was possible. By measurement of the bones that were left, it was estimated that the deceased had been about two inches taller than the missing undertaker. Some parts of the internal organs were still in good shape; that is, they were not burned or leached. Examination of the lungs showed a well-developed case of pneumonia, while the undertaker in question was seen in apparently perfect health only two hours before the fire.

The possibility of suicide by poison was ruled out by toxicological analysis. Furthermore, the analysis revealed that the body found in the ruins was dead when the fire started. It also revealed something else. Formaldehyde was found present in sodium form. Strongly indicating that the body had been embalmed. Solution: The undertaker had planted in the house the body of a man who had died of pneumonia and who had been embalmed for burial. Then they had set fire to the house, and the insured undertaker disappeared.

Together with Dr. Harrison Martland, medical examiner of Essex County (Newark), New Jersey, Dr. Gettler succeeded a few years ago in isolating radium from human organs. By physical and chemical methods they were able to prove through traces found in bones and tissues that radium was the cause of death of a number of women who had been working with illuminating material in a New Jersey fac-



tory. The women had absorbed the radium by wetting brushes with their tongues. Dr. Gettler had also traced the cause of death of one person to drinking of a radium water. Some of radium was absorbed by three victims that the gamma rays photographed themselves on laboratory plates without the use of a camera.

The range of poisons used for murder is wide. On the basis of his analysis of 30,000 bodies, Dr. Gettler said the most commonly used poisons are strychnine, cyanid, arsenic, and phosphorus.

**Holmes' Father Says
His Son Was Innocent**

SAN JOSE, Calif., Nov. 27—In the tragedy-darkened home of John M. Holmes, lynched by a mob for the kidnap slaying of Brook L. Hart, his father and mother cling to faith in his innocence here today.

Maurice Holmes, the father, for 30 years a respected tailor in the community, said: "My son was innocent."

Haggard and near collapse the father disclosed that he visited Holmes in the county jail Sunday a few hours before the son was dragged out to his death by the hanging mob.

He stated his belief that his son was an aviator during the visit. "I swear to you, I had no part in this crime."

**HART'S FATHER GETS
MORE RANSOM NOTES**

Intimated Offer Made to Return Youth for \$40,000.

SAN JOSE, Calif., Nov. 27—A new series of telephonic calls and notes, have been received by Alex J. Hart, father of Brook Hart, missing 22-year-old youth. It was learned here today upon good authority that the father received a message, without name of Santa Clara County, requesting to direct attention to the fact that the message offered to return Hart alive for the ransom of \$40,000, amount which was demanded.

**DUCK HUNTERS FIND
BODY OF BROOK HART**

SAN JOSE, Calif., Nov. 26—The body of Brook L. Hart, kidnaped and slain 22-year-old son of Alex J. Hart, wealthy San Jose department store owner, was found in San Francisco Bay near Hayward today.

Although badly decomposed, identification of the body was made positively from clothing by friends and officials of the store.

Two duck hunters found it floating half a mile south of the San Mateo-Hayward bridge, crossing San Francisco Bay, the bridge from which Thomas H. Thurmond and Jack Holmes, have allegedly confessed they threw the youth last Nov. 9, after stunning him with a blow from a brick. A few minutes before the Thurmond-Holmes statements declared, they had kidnaped him as he drove his roadster from a parking lot. An hour later their confessions said, they telephoned the father from San Francisco and demanded \$40,000 ransom for "the safe return of your son."

Lawyer James G. Thompson of Redwood City, the hunters found the body in search of final identification of the body was made by Louis Hunt, manager of the men's department of the Hart store, who declared he had seen young Hart all of that evening which still clung to the body. This was the body of Brook Hart.

Mr. L...
Mr. L...
Mr. L...
7-375.

such specimens
and printing
on letters,
a San

49

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Report

Case: THOMAS W. THURMOND, et al; E. Hart, Victim;
Specimen: Kidnapping.

Handprinting of Thurmond and Holmes.

Examination requested by: San Francisco Office.

Date received: November 27, 1933. A teletype was forwarded for such specimens
Examination desired: before receipt of the letter.

Compare handprinting.

Date of Report: December 1, 1933.

Result of examination:

Examination by: C. J. [unclear]
CH

November 29. It is believed that the specimen of the handprinting
of Thurmond is identical with the handprinting on the extortion letters,
notwithstanding the admissions of the man in a letter from the San
Francisco office.

- 3 - Director ✓
- 2 - San Francisco.
- 2 - Laboratory.

7-375.

DEC 4 1933 AM

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

DIVISION ONE

7-375.

[Handwritten signature]

RECORDED

DEC 5 1933

7-375-49

DEC 4 1933

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
318 Hewes Building
San Francisco, California.

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	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

November 28, 1933.

REV:IS
Refer file
57-27.

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

Dear Sir: Re: THOMAS H. THURMAN
 JOHN M. HOLMES
 BROOKE L. HART - Victim.
 Kidnaping.

For your information, I am in receipt of a letter from Dr. J. E. Conner, the dentist of Victim Brooke L. Hart, in the above captioned matter, in which he supplies a chart, and encloses a letter stating that the teeth examined in the body which was found, tally completely as to fillings, etc., with the mouth of Brooke L. Hart, and is positive that the body found was that of the Victim.

The mouth work and fillings tally completely.

Very truly yours,

R. E. Vallari

R. E. VALLARI,
Special Agent in Charge.

RECORDED
DEC 7 1933

375-47

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

DEC 4 1933

SPC:LR

November 19, 1933.

W

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

Dear Sir:

During the recent conference of the Special Agents
in Charge at Washington it was recommended that a brief of
each important kidnaping and extortion case, together with
the modes operandi and methods of solution and investigation,
be prepared and forwarded to each field office.

Accordingly, it is requested that you prepare such
a report, and forward one copy of same to each field office,
in the MOORE L. EAST kidnaping case.

Very truly yours,

Director.

NOV 21 1933
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

7-975-47
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

ALL OFFICE 1-1000

W

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION
DEC 28 1933

b7c
General Delivery
Knoxville, Tenn.
Dec., 1, 1933

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Department of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Re: [redacted]
Not to discount the identity of the Hart body, but due
to reports on this case up to the finding of the body,
caused thought that this might be a trick case to revive
an old case.

Submitted for your notation;

1. Body identified by clothing
2. Confession of crime
 - A. By two men
 - B. No doubt true
 - (1) As far as part played
 - (2) [redacted]
3. Call sent before finding the body
 - A. Offering to return alive
4. Call came while men were in jail
5. Men lunched
6. If involved or connected in anyway
 - A. With others
 - B. This worst had not been

[redacted]

File
[redacted]

[redacted]

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
7-375-50
sincerely,
b7c
DEC 6 1933

Postal Telegraph

THE RECEIVED	DATE
CABLE	
TIME	
NO.	
CLASS	
REMARKS	



ALL AMERICA
CABLES

COMMERCIAL
CABLES

TO	
FROM	
REMARKS	

Following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

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

Hart Kidnaping Body Recovered Today near San Mateo Bridge
Identified by two employees of Hart store by jewelry found
on body.

Vetterli

Conv. Rate Collect
2:20 P.M.
11/26/33

7-375
DEC 2 1933



Handwritten: Vetterli
app 17
26/33

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

San Francisco, California

FILE NO. 7-23

REPORT MADE AT: Los Angeles, Calif.	DATE WHEN MADE: 12-2-33	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 11-11-33	REPORT MADE BY: W. H. Rott
TITLE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS BEDOLE HART - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE: UNKNOWN

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

In compliance with telephonic request of San Francisco office, Agents in this office assisted Special Agent Philbrick in searching SS Lurline at Wilmington, California. Search failed to disclose any information.

RUC

Upon receipt of telephonic request from the San Francisco Division Office, Special Agents Kneen and Rott of the Los Angeles Division Office proceeded to Wilmington, California, where the SS Lurline, ship belonging to the Matson Navigation Company, was located at berth 100.

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:

- 3 - Division
- 2 - San Francisco
- 2 - Los Angeles

DEC 8 1933 A.M. DEC 8 1933

Upon arrival of the ship, Agents found San Francisco Police Detectives and Special Agent Philbrick of the San Francisco office; and a thorough search of the ship was made, but no information was secured, pertaining to instant matter.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN