1-1-1966

Sonny Bono- FBI File

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SUBJECT: SONNY BONO

FILE 7-11343
FBI
Date: 2/25/66

Transmit the following in
(Type in plaintext or code)
Via AITEL AITMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (7-1000)(P)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; SALVATORE BONO, aka Sonny Bono - VICTIM

POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING

CC: Los Angeles

On February 23, 1966, the Los Angeles Office of the FBI received a letter addressed "Federal Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles, California", which contained an anonymous letter dated 2/12/66.

Two xerox copies of letter and envelope are being furnished the Bureau, and one each are being furnished the Milwaukee and Chicago Office for information, inasmuch as a suspect may reside in either Chicago or Milwaukee. One copy of FD 302s containing interview of SALVATORE BONO at Los Angeles, dated 2/24/66, is being furnished Chicago and Milwaukee.

Victims are commonly known as "SONNIE and whose rise to national prominence in the rock-n-roll medium has been rapid and off beat".

ENCL: 2
1. Letter (4 Encls.)
2. Chicago (Infot Encls. 2) MCT 18
3. Milwaukee (Info)(Encls. 2)
4. Los Angeles

Approved: 54 MAR 21 1966
Special Agent in Charge
Sent: 10 FEB 23 1966
LA 7-1000

Original letter and envelope is being furnished the Los Angeles Police Department. Upon receipt of letter from suspect, the Los Angeles Office will furnish the FBI Laboratory same for comparison purposes.

The FBI Laboratory is requested to search Anonymous Letter File for possible identification.

On 2/24/65 Assistant U.S. Attorney ROBERT L. BROSIO, Los Angeles, advised that no Federal violation exists. The Beverly Hills, California Police Department and the Los Angeles, California, Police Department have been advised. The Bureau and interested Offices will be furnished all pertinent information developed in this case.

The suspect furnished by SALVATORE BONO and on 2/4/65 was described as a possible "schizophrenic who is a fan of victims. BONO will attempt to identify this suspect and interested Offices will be advised.

It is noted BONO are aware of the U.S. Attorney's decision regarding this letter, and the Los Angeles Police Department's responsibility in this matter.

- 2 -
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

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Information pertains only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

7-11343-1
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**Section 552**

- (b)(1)
- (b)(2)
- (d)(5)
- (j)(2)
- (k)(1)
- (k)(2)
- (k)(3)
- (k)(4)
- (k)(5)
- (k)(6)
- (k)(7)

**Section 552a**

- (b)(7)(A)
- (b)(7)(B)
- (b)(7)(C)
- (b)(7)(D)
- (b)(7)(E)
- (b)(7)(F)
- (b)(8)
- (b)(9)

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2. Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of **7-11343-1**

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OPCA-20 (12-3-96)
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: UNSUB; SALVATORE BONO, aka Sonny Bono - VICTIM;

POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING (CO: Los Angeles)
Examination requested by: FBI, Los Angeles (7-1000) A. 2/25/66
Examination requested:
Document

Result of Examination:

Specimens submitted for examination

Qc1 Photocopy of front portion of envelope postmarked "MILWAUKEE, WIS. 1A FEB 13 1966 PM" bearing handwritten address "Federal Bureau of Investigation Los Angeles, California"

Qc2 Photocopy of one-page handwritten letter dated 2/12/66, beginning "Of Importance, This is...

1 - File 29-33810

File # 7-11343-
Lab. # D-500649 JD

2/28/66

Examination by: b7c

50/1014

3/11/66

TCW/63

Suspended IIIA (H) Max Minn. Brmm., N.Y., 1966

add 3-4-66
Transmit the following:

**Via AIRTEL**

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (7-1000)(F)

RE: CHANGED UNSUB; aka.

SALVATORE BONO; aka. Sonny Bono - VICTIM:

POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING
001 Los Angeles

Title marked changed to add name of

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau, 2/25/66.

Submitted as enclosures for the Bureau are the following:

Two xerox copies of one page letter, dated 2/22/66, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, signed and envelope address "Federal Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles, California", postmarked Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 2/23/66; one page letter dated 2/24/66, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, signed, enveloped addressed "Federal Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles, California", postmarked Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 2/24/66; two xerox copies of following:

ENVELOPE

MCT-22

ENCL. 2 - Chicago (Encls. 2)

JCK/11m

2 - Milwaukee (Encls. 2)

REC. 104

Approved: Special Agent in Charge

Sent:

Enclosed for Chicago and Milwaukee are one xerox copy each of above letters dated 2/22/66 and 2/24/66, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, addressed to the Los Angeles Office.

The FBI Laboratory is requested to compare handwriting of letters addressed to victims from (a suspect in this case). It is requested handwriting in letters written by be compared with the Anonymous Letter File and with the anonymous letter dated 2/12/66 furnished the FBI Laboratory in referenced Los Angeles airtel, to determine if subject in this case is identical with suspect.

The above letters written by were furnished this office by Los Angeles on 2/28/66. The above two letters postmarked Milwaukee, Wisconsin were received by the Los Angeles FBI Office on 2/28/66. It is noted that a carbon copy of the letter dated 2/24/66 was received by the Los Angeles FBI Office in letter addressed to this office, postmarked 2/25/66. This letter is not being furnished the FBI Laboratory since it is obviously a carbon copy of letter dated 2/24/66 (Envelope postmarked Milwaukee, 2/24/66). It would appear that is a fan of victims and possibly has mental problems.

The Chicago and Milwaukee Offices are requested to review indices for any information identifiable with a and a

The LAPD has been furnished with pertinent information in this case.

The Bureau and interested offices will be immediately advised upon receipt of additional pertinent information.
Of Importance: As I have before...

Page 1 (continued on next page)
Qc6 Photocopy of two-page handwritten letter, first page beginning "Sonny Thanks for the call..." and second page beginning "fun she never had...".

Qc7 Photocopy of six-page handwritten letter dated "Monday 9 AM" beginning on first page "Sonny The # pain has gone..., second page beginning "down the fever..., third page beginning "to get to know you..., fourth page beginning "fame or records..., fifth page beginning "a chair. He won't..." and sixth page beginning "not saying the last good-bye..." signed

Kc1 Photocopy of envelope postmarked "1 FEB 1966" bearing purported known handwriting of

Kc2 Photocopy of envelope postmarked "FEB 4 1966" bearing purported known handwriting of

Kc3 Photocopy of envelope postmarked "FEB 1" bearing purported known handwriting of

Kc4 Photocopy of envelope postmarked "FEB 6 1966" bearing purported known handwriting of

Kc5 Photocopy of two-page letter beginning "Sonny My wife is very sick..." bearing purported known handwriting of

Kc6 Photocopy of six-page letter beginning "Sonny is dead..." bearing purported known handwriting of

Kc7 Photocopy of five-page letter beginning "Sonny, I just can't stand it..." bearing purported known handwriting of
Transmit the following in
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via
AIRTEL

TO:
DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM:
SAC, MILWAUKEE (7-353) RUC

SUBJECT:
UNSUB. aka
SALVATORE BONO, aka - VICTIM;
POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING

OO: LOS ANGELES

Re: Los Angeles airtel to Bureau 3/1/66.

A review of the Milwaukee Office indices fails to contain any information identifiable with a

3-Bureau (AM)
2-Los Angeles (7-1000) (AM)
1-Milwaukee
JEO/Jah
(6)

Copy
(Rev. 5-22-64)

Approved: Special Agent in Charge
Sent: MAR 9 1966

55 MAR 17 1966
To: FBI, Los Angeles (7-1000)  
Date: March 11, 1966  

FBI, Los Angeles  

UNSUB, aka SALVATORE BONO, aka Sonny Bono - VICTIM; POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)  
1 - Chicago Enclosure (Lab report)  
1 - Milwaukee Enclosure (Lab report)  
1 - Bufile 29-33810  

John Edgar Hoover, Director
REPORT
of the
LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: L08
Re: UNSUB, aka SALVATORE BONO, aka Sonny Bono - VICTIM:

POSSIBLE MURDERING

Specimen received 2/28/66 and 3/3/66

Qc1 Photocopy of front portion of envelope postmarked "MILWAUKEE, WIS. 1A FEB 13 1966 PM" bearing handwritten address "Federal Bureau of Investigation Los Angeles, California"

Qc2 Photocopy of one-page handwritten letter dated 2/12/66, beginning "Of Importance, This is..."

Qc3 Photocopy of envelope postmarked "MILWAUKEE, WIS. 3B FEB 23 1966 PM" bearing handwritten address "Federal Bureau of Investigation Los Angeles, California," and photocopy of accompanying one-page handwritten letter dated 2/22/66 beginning "Of Importance: As I have before..." and signed [redacted]

Qc4 Photocopy of envelope postmarked "MILWAUKEE, WIS. 3A FEB 24 1966 PM" bearing handwritten address "Federal Bureau of Investigation Los Angeles, California," and accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "Of Importance: As I have before..." and signed [redacted]

Qc5 Photocopy of two-page handwritten letter dated 2/3/66, first page beginning "Dear Sonny..." and second page beginning "Just a line in my own..."

Qc6 Photocopy of two-page handwritten letter, first page beginning "Sonny...Thanks for the call..." and second page beginning "fun she never had..."

Qc7 Photocopy of six-page handwritten letter dated "Monday 9 AM" beginning on first page "Sonny... The pain has gone..." second page beginning "down the fever..." third page beginning "to get to know you..." fourth page beginning "fame or records... fifth page beginning "a chair. He won't..." and sixth page beginning "not saying the last good-bye..." and signed [redacted]

Qc8 Photocopy of envelope postmarked "FEB 1 1966" bearing purported known handwriting of [redacted]
Kc2 Photocopy of envelope postmarked "FEB 4 1966" bearing purported known handwriting of

Kc3 Photocopy of envelope postmarked "FEB 1" bearing purported known handwriting of

Kc4 Photocopy of envelope postmarked "FEB 6 1966" bearing purported known handwriting of

Kc5 Photocopy of two-page letter beginning "Sonny... My wife is very sick..." bearing purported known handwriting of

Kc6 Photocopy of six-page letter beginning "Sonny... is dead..." bearing purported known handwriting of

Kc7 Photocopy of five-page letter beginning "Sonny, I just can't stand it..." bearing purported known handwriting of

RESULT OF EXAMINATION:

The Anonymous Letter File disclosed no specimen identifiable with Qc1 through Qc7 and Kc1 through Kc7. Representative photographic portions of this material are being added to this file for future reference.

The writer or writers of the hand printing designated Kc1 through Kc7 wrote the hand printings on page one of Qc5 and the hand printing on the specimen numbered Qc6. There are too few significant differences to determine whether the hand printed portion of Qc2 was or was not written by the writer or writers of Kc1 through Kc7. Inasmuch as hand printing is not comparable with script handwriting, no conclusion was reached concerning whether the writer or writers of the hand printings may or may not have written the script handwritings.

The script handwritings designated Qc1 through Qc4 were written by one person. Due to too many unexplained variations, it was not possible to determine whether the script handwritings on page one of Qc5, page two of Qc5 or Qc7 and Kc2 were or were not written by the same person. However, a few handwriting peculiarities were noted in the script/ handwritings on page two of Qc5, Qc7 and Kc2 indicating this material may have been written by one person. The
different style of writings on Qc1 through Qc4 indicates the writings of a person not involved in writing the script handwritings appearing on other specimens in this case.

The material submitted is retained.
QC1 Federal 8 2 gradation
QC2 Fe 08
QC4
QC5


FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Birmingham (175-16)

Date: April 30, 1969

Re: THREAT AGAINST THE LIFE OF

FBI File No. 175-109
Lab. No. D-690422008 JD

Document - Fingerprint

The disposition of Q1 and Q2 will be furnished with the result of the latent fingerprint examination.

For your information, the 1966 evidence was submitted under the caption "UNSUB aka Salvatore Bono, aka - VICTIM, et al.; Possible Kidnapping." The Milwaukee file number in that matter is 7-353 and the Los Angeles number is 7-1000. It is noted the Q1 postmark as described in detail in the attached Laboratory report is similar to the postmark on the evidence in the 1966 case.

Enclosures (2) (3 Lab report)

- Milwaukee (175-11) Enclosure (Lab report)
- Bufile (7-11343)

MAY 9 1969 ADMIRISTRATIVE PAGE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
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Section 552a

☐ (d)(5)
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7/14/343 - HOT RECORD, PAGE 2 (4/30/69)
Dear Mr. Butterfield:

Reference is made to your name check request and some other individuals.

Attached are separate memoranda concerning the following individuals:

Mr. and Mrs. [Redacted]

This letter of transmittal may be declassified when the enclosures bearing a classification are removed.

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director

Enclosures (4)
August 23, 1972

MR. AND MRS. SONNY BONO

Captioned individuals, who you advised reside at 141 South Carolwood Drive, Los Angeles, California, have not been the subjects of an investigation conducted by the FBI.

The central files of the FBI, including the files of the Identification Division, contain no additional pertinent information concerning captioned individuals based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

NOTE: Per request of Alexander P. Butterfield, Deputy Assistant to the President.

EJK:cl 9 (5)