1966

Sonny Bono- FBI File

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/usjusticematls

http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/usjusticematls/27

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the U.S. Department of Justice at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in U.S. Department of Justice Publications and Materials by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: SONNY BONO

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

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI ATTN: FBI LABORATORY

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

SUBJECT: UNSUB-

SALVATORE BONO, aka
Sonny Bonzo VICTIM

POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING

OO: 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".
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 -
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 552</th>
<th>Section 552a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ (b)(1)</td>
<td>☐ (b)(7)(A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ (b)(2)</td>
<td>☐ (b)(7)(B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ (b)(3)</td>
<td>☐ (b)(7)(C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ (b)(7)(D)</td>
<td>☐ (k)(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ (b)(7)(E)</td>
<td>☐ (k)(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ (b)(7)(F)</td>
<td>☐ (k)(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ (b)(7)(G)</td>
<td>☐ (k)(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ (b)(8)</td>
<td>☐ (k)(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ (b)(9)</td>
<td>☐ (k)(6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ (b)(6)</td>
<td>☐ (k)(7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☒ Information pertaining 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:

\[\text{7-11343-1}\]
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.

**Section 552**

- ☐ (b)(1)
- ☐ (b)(2)
- ☐ (b)(3)
- ☐ (b)(4)
- ☐ (b)(5)
- ☐ (b)(6)
- ☐ (b)(7)(A)
- ☐ (b)(7)(B)
- ☐ (b)(7)(C)
- ☐ (b)(7)(D)
- ☐ (b)(7)(E)
- ☐ (b)(7)(F)
- ☐ (b)(7)(G)
- ☐ (b)(9)

**Section 552a**

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

☐ Information pertained 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.

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.

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

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

7-11343-1

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s)   X
X No Duplication Fee   X
X for this page   X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
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
Document
Date received: 2/28/66
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..."
Transmit the following in

TO

DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM

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

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 enclosed addressed "Federal Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles, California", postmarked Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 2/24/66; two xerox copies of following:

ENVELOPMENT

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 suspect in this case. It is requested handwriting in letters written by be compared with theAnonymous 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 address 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.
RECORDED
3/7/66
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Laboratory Work Sheet

File # 7-11343
Lab. # D-501014 JD

Airtel 3/1/66

Re: UNSUB. aka
Salvatore Bono, aka Sonny Bono - VICTIM;
POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING
(00: Los Angeles)
Examination requested by: FBI, Los Angeles (7-1000)
Examination requested: Document

Date received: 3/3/66
Examination by: Whitcomb

QC1 Photocopy of envelope postmarked "MILWAUKEE, WIS. 3B 1966
PM 23 FEB" 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..." signed

QC2 Photocopy of envelope postmarked "MILWAUKEE, WIS. 3A PM
1966 24 FEB" bearing handwritten address "Federal Bureau of
Investigation Los Angeles, California" and accompanying
one-page handwritten letter beginning "Of Importance, As I
have before..." signed

QC3 Photocopy of two-page handwritten letter dated 2/3/66,
first page beginning "Dear Sonny..." signed
and second page beginning "Just a line in my own..."

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 XXXX "not saying the last good-bye..." signed

Kc1 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

TO:    DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM:  SAC, MILWAUKEE (7-353) RUC
SUBJECT: UNSUB, aka
        SALVATORE BONO, aka - VICTIM;
        POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING

O0: 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)

Approved:  55 MAR 17 1966
Special Agent in Charge
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Los Angeles (7-1000)

Date: March 11, 1966

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

POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING

CO: Los Angeles

Examined requested by:

Los Angeles

Airtels 2/25/66, 3/1/66

Document

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
FBI LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Los Angeles (7-1000)
Re: UNSUB, aka SALVATORE BONO, aka Sonny Bono - VICTIM; POSSIBLE MURDER

FBI File No. D-500649 JD
Lab. No. D-501014 JD

Specimens 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...

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...

Qc5 Photocopy of two-page handwritten letter dated 2/3/66, first page beginning "Dear Sonny... signed..." 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...

Kc1 Photocopy of envelope postmarked "FEB 1 1966" bearing purported known handwriting of...
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 S 2 generation
Qc2 Fe 08
Qc5 Fe
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

FBI, Birmingham

Airtel 4/18/69

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.

7-11343-
NOT RECORDED
184 MAY 2 1959

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

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

(6) DUPLICATE YELLOW

MAY 9 1969    ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 552</th>
<th>Section 552a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(b)(1)</td>
<td>(d)(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)(2)</td>
<td>(i)(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)(3)</td>
<td>(k)(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)(4)</td>
<td>(k)(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)(5)</td>
<td>(k)(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)(6)</td>
<td>(k)(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)(7)</td>
<td>(k)(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b)(9)</td>
<td>(k)(7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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

- Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of

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

  7-113-43 - HOT RECORD, page 2 (4/30/69)
August 23, 1961

MADISON

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. Brown

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of References Requested:</th>
<th>Regular Request (Analytical Search)</th>
<th>All References (Subversive &amp; Nonsubversive)</th>
<th>Subversive References Only</th>
<th>Nonsubversive References Only</th>
<th>Main References Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type of Search Requested:</td>
<td>Restricted to Locality of Cal</td>
<td>Exact Name Only (On the Nose)</td>
<td>Buildup</td>
<td>Variations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subject: [Redacted]
Birthdate & Place
Address

Localities

DATE: 8-11-72
Searcher Initials: [Redacted]

FILE NUMBER: 11343

Signature: [Redacted]

AUG 11 1972