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Louie Louie (The Song)- FBI File

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Louie Louie (The Song)

— filed under: [Popular Culture](#)

In 1963, a rock group named the Kingsmen recorded the song “Louie, Louie.” The popularity of the song and difficulty in discerning the lyrics led some people to suspect the song was obscene. The FBI was asked to investigate whether or not those involved with the song violated laws against the interstate transportation of obscene material. The limited investigation lasted from February to May 1964 and discovered no evidence of obscenity.

<http://vault.fbi.gov/louie-louie-the-song>

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION
COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: LOUIE, LOUIE
(THE 60's SONG)

DESCRIPTION OF FOLLOWING FILE MATERIAL

Louie Louie The 60's song

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

DATE: 2/17/64

FROM : SAC, TAMPA (145-New) (P)

443153

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PHONOGRAPH RECORD
"LOUIE LOUIE" DISTRIBUTED
BY LIMAX MUSIC, NYC, N.Y.
FROM
(OO: MIAMI)
TAMPA (see serial 2)

Transmitted herewith are the following items for examination by the FBI Laboratory:

Lyrics of "Louie Louie" as published by Limax Music.

Record "Louie Louie" (under obscene cover).

Reported obscene lyrics for "Louie Louie." (Under obscene cover).

On 2/10/64, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised SA [REDACTED] his department received complaint from [REDACTED] Sarasota High School, advising that captioned record is very popular with the high school students, and he has been furnished lyrics for the song, which are very obscene.

[REDACTED] he determined that this record is very popular, is a best seller in the area, and is played by the local radio stations. He said the record is a calypso-type song, and the words are hard to recognize. However, with a copy of the obscene words to refer to, it sounds like the lyrics are identical with the enclosed obscene lyrics.

[REDACTED] said [REDACTED] Radio Station WKXY, furnished what Limax Music Company claims to be the actual lyrics of the song, which is Enclosure #1. However, [REDACTED] said the lyrics of the song do not seem to be the same.

REC-23 MCT-9

Enclosures were furnished to SA [REDACTED] by [REDACTED]

EX-117

- Bureau (Encs. 3)
- Tampa

ENCLOSURE

FEB 18

3 31 PM

FBI - TAMPA
FEB 18 1964

190-49342-4

TP 145-New

Laboratory is requested to determine if enclosed record, "Louie Louie", can be considered obscene for purposes of prosecution under ITOM statute.

The three enclosures may be retained by the Laboratory or destroyed, if, after examination, it appears they will be of no further use.

SAC, Tampa

2/28/64

Director, FBI

145-2961-1

REC-23

UNKNOWN SUBJECT

EX-117

PHONOGRAPH RECORD

"LOUIE LOUIE" DISTRIBUTED

BY LINAX MUSIC, NYC.

ITOM

(OO:MM)

Reurlet 2/17/64.

The following items are being returned to the Tampa Office under separate cover by the Bureau Laboratory.

Lyrics of "Louie Louie" as published by Linax Music.

Record of "Louie Louie" (under obscene cover).

Reported obscene lyrics for "Louie Louie" (under obscene cover).

b7C
b7D
You should determine from whom [redacted] of Sarasota High School, obtained the lyrics for instant song, which was allegedly considered very obscene and which he made available to [redacted]. Following an interview with [redacted] you should discuss this matter with the appropriate USA to determine if he considers the material obscene for the purpose of prosecution under ITOM Statute.

For your information, the Department recently received a copy of the record "Louie Louie" from [redacted] with a request that it be reviewed to determine if it was of an obscene nature. The Department advised that they were unable to interpret any of the wording in the record and therefore could not make any decision concerning the matter and so advised the individual who made the record available to them for review.

MAILED 6
FEB 28 1964
DOMIN-FBI
b7C
Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

2 - Miami

FBI Laboratory, Room 7612

(7)
SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO.

59 MAR 9 1964

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Letter to SAC, Tampa
RE: UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD "LOUIE LOUIE"

For further information, an FBI release dated 2/12/64 indicated that the "Government" has dropped investigations it had been conducting into complaints that a popular rock-and-roll record has obscene lyrics.

"The complaints charged that the record "Louie Louie" as recorded on the Wane label by the Kingmen, had off-color lyrics which could be detected when the 45 r.p.m. platter was played at 33-1/3 rpm."

"Investigations of the record were started by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Post Office and Justice Departments after complaints were received from about a half dozen persons, including Indiana Governor Matthew E. Welsh."

"All three Governmental agencies dropped their investigations because they were unable to determine what the lyrics of the song were, even after listening to the records at speeds ranging from 16 rpm to 78 rpm."

Following completion of your investigation of this matter, the obscene material should be made available to the FBI Laboratory for appropriate disposition and you should advise the Bureau results of your investigation.

NOTE:

TP by letter 2/17/64 made available above mentioned items concerning a record named "Louie Louie" and requested that Lab determine if enclosed record could be considered obscene for purposes of prosecution under ITOM Statute. Mr. Edward J. Pasco of the Department advised on 2/26/64 that his office had received a copy of the "Louie Louie" record from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7c [REDACTED] for examination to determine if they considered the record obscene. He stated that their office was unable to interpret the wording on this record since same was very garbled and they advised [REDACTED] Office of same. He stated that at this time they were taking no action concerning this record.

Belmont ☒
 Mohr ☐
 Casper ☐
 Callahan ☐
 Conrad ☐
 DeLoach ☒
 Evans ☐
 Gale ☒
 Rosen ☒
 Sullivan ☐
 Tavel ☐
 Trotter ☐
 Tele. Room ☐
 Holmes ☐
 Gandy ☐

67K

Discovered with one file per

(K) C-7

UPI-132

(RECORD)

WASHINGTON--THE GOVERNMENT HAS DROPPED INVESTIGATIONS IT HAD BEEN CONDUCTING INTO COMPLAINTS THAT A POPULAR ROCK-AND-ROLL RECORD HAS OBSCENE LYRICS.

THE COMPLAINTS CHARGED THAT THE RECORD "LOUIE LOUIE," AS RECORDED ON THE WANE LABEL BY THE KINGSMEN, HAD OFF-COLOR LYRICS WHICH COULD BE DETECTED WHEN THE 45 R.P.M. PLATTER WAS PLAYED AT 33-1/3 RPM.

INVESTIGATIONS OF THE RECORD WERE STARTED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC), THE POST OFFICE AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS AFTER COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED FROM ABOUT A HALF DOZEN PERSONS, INCLUDING INDIANA GOVERNOR MATTHEW E. WELSH.

ALL THREE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES DROPPED THEIR INVESTIGATIONS BECAUSE THEY WERE UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT THE LYRICS OF THE SONG WERE, EVEN AFTER LISTENING TO THE RECORDS AT SPEEDS RANGING FROM 16 RPM TO 78 RPM.

2/12--3415PES

*Limax Music
 N.Y., N.Y. - 145*

1145-2961-A
 NOT RECORDED
 170 MAR 4 1964

57 MAR 5 1964

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 3/4/64

FROM : SAC, TAMPA (145-84)(P)

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PHONOGRAPH RECORD
"LOUIE LOUIE" DISTRIBUTED
BY LIMAX MUSIC, NYC.
ITOM

huf

ReTPlet 2/17/64 and Bulet 2/28/64.

Please note Miami incorrectly carried as office of origin,
Tampa letter of reference.

There is nothing of pertinent interest to Miami in this
case. Miami disregard.

2 - Bureau
1 - Miami (Info)
1 - Tampa

(4)

b7c

REC-34

145-2961-2

12 MAR 6 1964

EX-103

recy
72 MAR 16 1964

Consolidation



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Tampa (145-New)

Date: March 4, 1964

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PHONOGRAPH RECORD
"LOUIE LOUIE" DISTRIBUTED
BY LIMAX MUSIC, NYC.
ITOM
OO: MIAMI

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No.
Lab. No. D-443153 AV

Examination requested by: Tampa

Reference: Letter 2/17/64 and Bureau letter to Tampa 2/28/64

Examination requested: Document

Remarks:

Enclosures (4) (Q1, ALSO SUBMITTED, 2 Lab report)

1 - Miami - Enclosure (Lab report)

MAILED 25

MAR 5 - 1964

COMM-FBI

EX-115

REC-56

145-2961-3
MAR 6 1964

ALL
b7C

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

1 - [REDACTED] (Room 5714) (Sent Direct)
[REDACTED] (6)
RECEIVED
59 MAR 12 1964
ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

5714

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.To: **FBI, Tampa (145-New)**Date: **March 4, 1964**Re: **UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PHONOGRAPH RECORD
"LOUIE LOUIE" DISTRIBUTED
BY LIMAX MUSIC, NYC.
ITOM**FBI File No.
Lab. No. **D-443153 AV**

Specimens received

from **FBI, Tampa, 2/18/64**Q1 **WAND Record entitled "LOUIE LOUIE (Richard Berry)
THE KINGSMEN" on one side and "HAUNTED CASTLE (LYNN EASTON)
THE KINGSMEN" on the other side****ALSO SUBMITTED: Xerox copy of obscene words to record
"LOUIE LOUIE" and Xerox copy of published
lyrics to record "LOUIE LOUIE"****Result of examination:****The recording on Q1 was not associated with material
of a similar nature which has been forwarded previously to the
Laboratory.****The lyrics of the song on the record, Q1, was not
definitely determined in the Laboratory examination.****Specimen Q1 and the "ALSO SUBMITTED" material are
returned herewith.**

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Recorded 2/24/64

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NO LAB FILE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PHONOGRAPH RECORD
"LOUIE LOUIE" DISTRIBUTED
BY LIMAX MUSIC, NYC.
ITOM

File # 145-29613
Lab. # D-443153 AV

(OO: Miami)
Examination requested by:

Tampa (145-New)

Examination requested:

Document

Re: Tampa Lt. 2/17/64
Bulet 2/18/64
Date received: 2/18/64
2/23/64

Result of Examination:

Examination by: [REDACTED]

1. N.I. Q1 in O.F.

2. Not determined whether wording on Q1
same as published lyrics for "Louie Louie"
or whether same as obscene wording of lyrics
listed as Also Submitted material -

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 WAND Record entitled "LOUIE LOUIE (Richard Berry) THE KINGSMEN"
on one side and "HAUNTED CASTLE (LYNN EASTON) THE KINGSMEN" on
the other side

ALSO SUBMITTED: Xerox copy of obscene words to record "LOUIE LOUIE"
and xerox copy of published lyrics to record
"LOUIE LOUIE"

ALL
b7C

Lab Ret 3/18/64
CWB:mc
1-Miami
1-[REDACTED] (Rm. 5714)

Supl of Q1 & copies of
Also Submitted retained
in Electronics Section
Temporarily & will be destroyed
Per destruction
section 5/10/64

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: March 13 1964

Herbert J. Miller, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

HJM:EJP:ls
97-26S-0

SUBJECT: Obscenity, Wand Record No. 143-A.
"Louie, Louie"

Photograph record

Enclosed is a copy of a citizen complaint concerning the subject record. It is requested that you arrange an interview of _____ to verify his finding that the record lyrics are obscene.

We request that you advise us of your findings from your current investigation of a complaint originating from Florida alleging that the record has obscene lyrics.

Enclosure

EXP. PROC.
31 MAR 13 1964

Complaint

*6,7C
(PER DOS)*

re

re
ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

and I PTP
SF M: 553-16-64

EX-103

REC-11

145-2961-4

3 MAR 13 1964

Handwritten signature/initials

~~RECEIVED~~
R- January 30, 1964

FEB 7 1964

Mr. Robert F. Kennedy
Attorney General USA
Washington, D.C.

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Who do you turn to when your 'teen age daughter buys and brings home pornographic or obscene materials being sold along with objects directed and aimed at the 'teen age market in every City, Village and Record shop in this Nation?

My daughter brought home a record of "LOUIE LOUIE" and I, after reading that the record had been banned from being played on the air because it was obscene, proceeded to try to decipher the jumble of words, The lyrics are so filthy that I can-not enclose them in this letter.

This record is on the WAND label # 143-A and recorded by The KINGSMEN "a Jerden Production by Ken Chase and Jerry Dennon" and there is an address 1650 Broadway New York, N.Y.

I would like to see these people, The "artists", the Record company and the promoters prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

We all know there is obscene materials available for those who seek it, but when they start sneaking in this material in the guise of the latest 'teen age rock & roll hit record these morons have gone too far.

This land of ours is headed for an extreme state of moral degradation what with this record, the biggest hit movies and the sex and violence exploited on T.V.

How can we stamp out this menace? ? ? ?

Yours very truly,

[REDACTED]

ALL

67C

67D

145-2961-4

97-2180
FEB 4 1964
RECORD: 30
CRIMINAL-GEN. CRIME SEC. 12

Lou-ai Lou-ai Oh, no. Grab her way down low.
(Repeat) This line least clear.

There is a fine little girl waiting for me.
She is just a girl across the way.
When I take her all alone,
She's never the girl I lay at home..

(Chorus)

Tonight at ten I'll lay her again
We'll fuck your girl and by the way
And ... on that chair I'll lay her there.
I felt my bone .. ah.. in her hair.

(Chorus)

She had a rag on, I moved above.
It won't be long she'll slip it off.
I held her in my arms and then
And I told her I'd rather lay her again.

Chorus.

3/16/64

Airtel

REC-11

145 7761-4

To: SACs, Indianapolis (Enclosures 4)
Tampa (Enclosures 4)

EX-103

From: Director, FBI

UNSUB;
PHONOGRAPH RECORD
RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN
ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"
ITOM

Enclosed herewith for information of Indianapolis and Tampa are two copies each of a self-explanatory letter received at the Bureau from the Department wherein they request that [REDACTED] be interviewed concerning a letter he wrote to the Department on 1/30/64 indicating that he had examined a phonograph record that had been purchased by his daughter entitled, "Louie Louie" and found same to be obscene. Two copies of [REDACTED] letter to the Department are also enclosed for information.

The Department has requested that they be advised of results of current investigation being conducted in Florida where a similar record was reported as being obscene by [REDACTED] at Sarasota, Florida, Tampa case entitled "Unsub; Phonograph Record 'Louie Louie' Distributed by Linax Music, NYC, ITOM."

Indianapolis at [REDACTED] interview [REDACTED] and obtain any evidence he might have that would indicate the record "Louie Louie" to be obscene and thereafter present facts to local USA to determine if he would entertain prosecution for violation of the ITOM Statute.

Tampa expedite investigation at Sarasota, Florida, concerning the record "Louie Louie" and make extra copy

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Airtel to SACs, Indianapolis
Tampa
Re: UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD

b7D
of your report available to Bureau for dissemination to the Department. For information of Indianapolis, the Department recently received a copy of the record "Louie Louie" from [REDACTED] with a request that it be reviewed to determine if it was of an obscene nature. The Department advised that they were unable to interpret any of the wording in the record and, therefore, could not make any decision concerning the matter and were so advising the individual who made the record available to them for review.

For further information, an UPI release dated 2/12/64 indicated that the "Government had dropped investigations it had been conducting into complaints that a popular rock-and-roll record has obscene lyrics.

"The complaints charged that the record "Louie Louie," as recorded on the Wane Label by the Kingsmen, had off-color lyrics which could be detected when the 45 r.p.m. platter was played at 33-1/3 r.p.m.

Investigations of the record were started by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Post Office and Justice Departments after complaints were received from about a half dozen persons, including Indiana Governor Matthew E. Welsh.

"All three Governmental agencies dropped their investigations because they were unable to determine what the lyrics of the song were, even after listening to the records at speeds ranging from 16 rpm to 78 rpm."

b7C
b7D
NOTE: Department in receipt of letter from [REDACTED] complaining that record "Louie Louie" being sold locally and believed to be obscene. Department desires [REDACTED] interviewed to verify that record lyrics are obscene. Department also requested that they be advised of results of investigation being conducted by the Tampa Office regarding similar record where [REDACTED] Sarasota, Florida turned over copy of record to local authorities with obscene lyrics for same. Investigation being conducted by Tampa and Indianapolis Offices to determine if ITOM violation exists.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: **FBI, San Diego (145-New)**

Date: **April 2, 1964**

Re:

**WAIB
1650 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
ITOM**

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **145-2972**
Lab. No. **D-445327 AV**

Examination requested by: **San Diego**

Reference: **Letter 3/17/64**

Examination requested: **Document**

Remarks:

**Unless advised to the contrary within sixty days,
specimen Q1 will be disposed of in the Laboratory.**

145-2961
NOT RECORDED
183 APR 6 1964

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

1 - Tampa (145-New) Enclosure (Lab report)
1 - 80-662 (obscene Material)
① - 145-2961

DUPLICATE YELLOW

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

59 APR 9 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

b7c



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, San Diego (145-New)

Date: April 2, 1964
FBI File No. 145-2972
Lab. No. D-445527 AV

Re: WAND
1650 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
ITOM

Specimens received

3/19/64

Q1 One 45 rpm WAND phonograph record entitled "LOUIE LOUIE
(Richard Berry) THE KINGSMEN" on one side and "HAUNTED
CASTLE (Lynn Easton) THE KINGSMEN" on the other side.

ALSO SUBMITTED: Photocopy of reported lyrics to record
"LOUIE LOUIE"

Result of examination:

An additional copy of the phonograph record described
above as specimen Q1 was submitted by the Tampa Office with a
letter dated 2/17/64 and captioned "Unknown Subject; Phonograph
Record 'LOUIE LOUIE' Distributed by Linax Music, NYC.; ITOM."

Because the lyrics of the song on the record, Q1,
could not be definitely determined in the Laboratory examination,
it could not be determined whether Q1 is an obscene record.

Specimen Q1 and the ALSO SUBMITTED material are
retained in the Bureau's Files.

ason _____
mont _____
ar _____
per _____
ahan _____
ad _____
ach _____
s _____
n _____
an _____
r _____
Room _____
s _____

b7C

(7)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
Attn: FBI Laboratory

DATE: 3/27/64

FROM : SAC, INDIANAPOLIS (145-335) (P)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD
RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN
ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"
ITOM

443112

OO: IP

ReBuairtel, 3/16/64.

Enclosed for the Bureau, under obscene cover, one wand record entitled "LOUIE LOUIE," and one sheet typed lyrics allegedly transcribed from record "LOUIE LOUIE".

On 3/24/64, [redacted] age [redacted] daughter of [redacted] advised about November, 1963, she purchased a record under Wand label at Blanchard's, a record shop in Crown Point, Indiana.

Record is entitled "LOUIE LOUIE" and is a 45 rpm. Other wording on record is as follows:

1650 Broadway, New York, N.Y.

143-A
50083
Limax Music BMI
Time 2:24

Louie Louie
(Richard Berry)
The Kingsmen
A Jerden Production by KEN CHASE and JERRY DENNON.

Record was publicly displayed, was routinely priced, and was not suspected of being obscene when purchased.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2) (RM)
1 - Indianapolis

(3)

ENCLOSURE

REC-11 145-2961-5

MCT-10

MAR 30 1964

4/17/64

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

Sometime after buying the record, [REDACTED] heard from various acquaintances the record had obscene lyrics if the "LOUIE LOUIE" side were played at a speed of 33 1/3 instead of the normal 45 rpm. About 1/29/64, a coworker gave [REDACTED] a typed sheet of lyrics which were allegedly transcribed from the record when played in this manner, and which appear obscene.

She said the record was widely played in the area and was once ranked first on the WLS Radio (Chicago) record survey.

She said she played the record in the manner described above and the lyrics seem to follow very closely to the words on the typewritten sheet. She said the typed page was a transcription by some unknown person in Crown Point area and was not furnished with the record.

FBI Laboratory requested to examine enclosed record and determine its obscene character when played at 33 1/3 rpm instead of 45 rpm. Typed alleged translation enclosed for assistance.

Although complete release obtained, record should not be destroyed until final opinion of the USA is obtained.

On 3/24/64, AUSA LESTER R. IRVIN, NDI, Hammond, Indiana, advised facts to date indicate possible violation: Section 1465, Title 18, if records lyrics are obscene, and he would consider prosecution whenever that determination is made.

Furnish Indianapolis results of examination into obscene character of this record so AUSA IRVIN may be advised.

RECORDED

1/3/64

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICELaboratory Work Sheet

No Lab File

File # 145-2961

Lab. # D-446412 AV

Re: UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD
RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN
ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"
JTON

Examination requested by: Indianapolis (145-335)

Let. 2/27/64

Examination requested: Document

Date received: 3/30/64

Result of Examination:

Examination by: [REDACTED]

b7C

Specimens submitted for examination

Q2 Ward record entitled "Louie Louie (Richard Berry) the Kingsmen" on one side and "Haunted Castle (Lynn Easton) the Kingsmen" on the other side

ALSO SUBMITTED: Typewritten lyrics to record "Louie Louie"

1 ENCL

louie-louie

Chorus: Oh, Louie, Louie, Oh, No,
Get her way down low.

Oh, Louie, Louie, Oh, Baby,
Get her down low.

A fine little girl awaiting for me
she's just a girl across the way
Well I'll take her and park all alone
She's never a girl I'd lay at home.

(Chorus Repeat)

At night at 10 I lay her again
Fuck you girl, Oh, all the way
Oh, my bed and I lay her there
I meet a rose in her hair.

(Chorus Repeat)

Ok Lets give it to them, right now!

She's got a rag on I'll move above
It won't be long she'll slip it off
I'll take her in my arms again
I'll tell her I'll never leave again.

(Chorus Repeat)

Get that Broad out of here!



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: **FBI, Indianapolis (145-335)**

Date: **April 17, 1964**

Re: **UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD
RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN
ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"
ITOM**

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

REC-11

FBI File No.
Lab. No. **145-2961-5**
D-446412 AV

Examination requested by: **Indianapolis**
Reference: **Letter 3/27/64**
Examination requested: **Document**

EX-103

gr

Remarks: **For your information, the record, Q2, was played
at various speeds but none of the speeds assisted in deter-
mining the words of the song on the record.**

**The Laboratory should be advised when the record,
Q2, is no longer needed in connection with captioned case
and may be disposed of in the Laboratory.**

MAILED 5
APR 16 1964
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
1 - [redacted] Room 5714
1 - Bufile (80-662)

b7c
Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

[redacted] (6)

b7c

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

56 APR 22 1964 ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

[redacted]

b7c

22

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 81-6662

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.To: **FBI, Indianapolis (145-335)**Date: **April 17, 1964**Re: **UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD
RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN
ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"
ITOM**FBI File No. **145-2961**
Lab. No. **D-446412 AV**Specimens received **2/30/64**

*Q2 destroyed
"Also Submitted" retained
in Bufile 5/24/64
LWP*

Q2 Wand record entitled "Louie Louie (Richard Barry) the
Kingsmen" on one side and "Haunted Castle (Lynn Easton)
the Kingsmen" on the other side

ALSO SUBMITTED: Typewritten lyrics to record "Louie Louie"

Result of examination:

Two additional copies of the phonograph record described above as specimen Q2 have been submitted to the Laboratory. One of the previous records was submitted by the Tampa Office with a letter dated 2/17/64, and captioned "Unknown Subject; Phonograph Record 'LOUIE LOUIE' Distributed By Linax Music, NYC; ITOM." The other record was submitted by the San Diego Office with a letter dated 3/17/64 and captioned "WAND, 650 Broadway, New York, New York; ITOM."

Because the lyrics of the song on the record, Q2, could not be definitely determined in the Laboratory examination, it could not be determined whether Q2 is an obscene record.

Specimen Q2 and the **ALSO SUBMITTED** material are retained in the Bureau's files.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

(6) MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

RECORDED

4/3/64

b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICELaboratory Work Sheet

No Lab File

Re: UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD
RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN
ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"
ITOMFile # 145-2961-5
Lab. # D-446412 AV

Examination requested by: Indianapolis (145-335)

Let. 3/27/64

Examination requested: Document

Date received: 3/30/64

Result of Examination:

Examination by: [REDACTED]

1. Add. Copies QV Sub prev b7C
1. Sub. Tampa let 2/17/64, Re: Unsub, Phonograph Record "Louie Louie" Distributed By Savoy Music, NYC; ITOM
- 1 - Sub San Diego let 3/17/64, Re: WAND, 1650 Broadway, New York, New York; ITOM
2. Not possible to determine words in recording at various speeds.
- Specimens submitted for examination

QV
Ward record entitled "Louie Louie (Richard Berry) the Kingsmen" on one side and "Haunted Castle (Lynn Easton) the Kingsmen" on the other side

ALSO SUBMITTED: Typewritten lyrics to record "Louie Louie"

Lab. [REDACTED]
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE TAMPA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN TAMPA	DATE 4/14/64	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 2/10/64-3/23/64
TITLE OF CASE UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD "LOUIE LOUIE", Distributed by Limax Music, NYC		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED]	TYPED BY [REDACTED]
		CHARACTER OF CASE ITOM	

REFERENCES:

Tampa letter to Director, 2/17/64.
Bureau letter to Tampa, 2/28/64.
FBI Laboratory report to Tampa, 3/4/64.

-C-

ENCLOSURES:

TO BUREAU

ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

- (1) Original copy of obscene words to Record "Louie Louie" (under obscene cover).
- (2) Reported obscene lyrics for "Louie Louie" (Under obscene cover).

ADMINISTRATIVE:

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: (2) - Bureau (Encls 2) 1 - USA, Tampa 1 - Tampa (145-84)		145-2961-6 17 APR 15 1964	REC 36
		ENCLOSURE ENCLOSURE ATTACHED	
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT			
AGENCY.....	ICC to RAs - attn Edward J. Rescoe		
REQUEST RECD.....	4-15-64		
DATE FWD.....	4-6-64		
HOW FWD.....	[REDACTED]		
BY.....	[REDACTED]		

APR 17 1964

TP 145-84

The two obscene enclosures are being returned to the FBI Laboratory for appropriate disposal, according to Bureau instructions.

An extra copy of this report is being furnished the Bureau for dissemination to the Department of Justice, as instructed by the Bureau.

B*
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Tampa

Report of: b7C SA [REDACTED]

Office: Tampa

Date:

April 14, 1964

Field Office File No.:

145-84

Bureau File No.:

Title:

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PHONOGRAPH RECORD "LOUIE LOUIE", DISTRIBUTED
BY LIMAX MUSIC, NEW YORK CITY

Character:

INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE MATTER

Synopsis:

b7C
b7D
L

[REDACTED] advised that phonograph record "Louie Louie" recorded by the ~~Kingsmen~~ was very popular among Sarasota students as of February 10, 1964, and allegedly has obscene lyrics. Portions of the lyrics on this record are slurred and not recognizable. [REDACTED] furnished [REDACTED] a copy of obscene lyrics which are allegedly lyrics to the song, "Louie Louie." The obscene portions of the written lyrics correspond to the slurred portion of the record. Department of Justice and FBI Laboratory advised the lyrics on the record, "Louie Louie" could not be clearly interpreted. No evidence developed indicating commercialization or interstate transportation of the obscene lyrics. AUSA, Tampa, Florida, advised there is no apparent Federal violation involving the obscene lyrics.

- C -

DETAILS

On February 10, 1964, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised SA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] received a complaint from [REDACTED] Sarasota Junior High School, advising that obscene

TP 145-84

lyrics for a popular phonograph record are being freely distributed among the students of his school.

AT SARASOTA, FLORIDA

b7C
b7D
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] advised SA [REDACTED] on February 10, 1964, that inquiries by his department determined that a phonograph record, recorded by the Kingsmen, and distributed by Limax Music Company, New York City, New York, is presently very popular among local students. He said one side of this record, which is recorded at a speed of 45 revolutions per minute, is entitled, "Louie Louie." He said this is a calypso type song and most of the words are very hard to recognize. In fact, it is impossible to identify some of the words in this song listening to the record normally.

[REDACTED] Sarasota Junior High School, furnished him a hand written copy of what is supposed to be the lyrics for the "Louie Louie" record.

he found the lyrics at the Junior High School and has determined that many of the students have copies of these lyrics and that all of the students know about them.

[REDACTED] he played the record, "Louie Louie" and found that these hand written lyrics appeared to be the actual lyrics of the song, and where the words in the record are slurred, the words in the written lyrics are very obscene.

[REDACTED] WKXY, Sarasota, furnished him what the Limax Music Company claims to be the actual lyrics of the song, "Louie Louie". He said these printed lyrics, furnished by Limax Music Company, are certainly not the same as the obscene lyrics he received from the Junior High School and do not appear to be the lyrics being sung in the record.

b7C
On February 28, 1964, the Bureau advised that the Department of Justice recently received a copy of the record "Louie Louie" from [REDACTED] with a request that it be reviewed to determine

TP 145-84

if it was of an obscene nature. The Department advised that they were unable to interpret any of the wording in the record and, therefore, could not make a decision concerning the matter.

On February 17, 1964, the following items were submitted to the FBI Laboratory:

Lyrics of "Louie Louie" as published by Limax Music.

Record "Louie Louie" (under obscene cover).

Reported obscene lyrics for "Louie Louie." (Under obscene cover).

On March 4, 1964, the FBI Laboratory reported as follows:

REPORT
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Tampa (145-New)

Date: March 4, 1964

FBI File No.

Lab. No.

D-443153 AV

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
PHONOGRAPH RECORD
"LOUIE LOUIE" DISTRIBUTED
BY LIMAX MUSIC, NYC.
TTON

Specimens received

from FBI, Tampa, 2/18/64

Q1 WAND Record entitled "LOUIE LOUIE (Richard Berry)
THE KINGSMEN" on one side and "HAUNTED CASTLE (LYNN EASTON)
THE KINGSMEN" on the other side.

ALSO SUBMITTED: Xerox copy of obscene words to record
"LOUIE LOUIE" and Xerox copy of published
lyrics to record "LOUIE LOUIE"

Result of examination:

The recording on Q1 was not associated with material
of a similar nature which has been forwarded previously to the
Laboratory.

The lyrics of the song on the record, Q1, was not
definitely determined in the Laboratory examination.

Specimen Q1 and the "ALSO SUBMITTED" material are
returned herewith.

TP 145-84

On March 2, 1964, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised SA [REDACTED] the "Louie Louie" record is no longer popular in the Sarasota area and apparently is of no further interest to the teen-agers. They said the obscene lyrics for this record that were distributed by the students at the local high school and junior high school are no longer being distributed or even discussed. They added there was never an indication that the obscene lyrics were being distributed commercially.

On March 4, 1964, [REDACTED] Sarasota Junior High School, advised SA [REDACTED] he obtained a hand written copy of the obscene lyrics from one of his students who came to him voluntarily, stating he had found the lyrics on school property. He said his inquiry then determined that the obscene lyrics were "all over the school." He said he and his staff found several handwritten and typed copies of the obscene lyrics in the possession of junior high school students. However, the lyrics were never mimeographed or printed, or in any way indicated they were being commercially distributed.

He said he heard from students that the obscene lyrics originated in a college somewhere and were being passed verbally and by handwritten copy from friend to friend. He said there is absolutely no evidence of any commercial distribution of the obscene lyrics and apparently the matter is of no further interest of the local students, since he has heard nothing about it, nor have any copies of the lyrics been found for some time.

AT TAMPA, FLORIDA

On March 23, 1964, this matter was discussed with Assistant United States Attorney JOE H. MOUNT by SA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Concerning the obscene lyrics, obtained at the Sarasota, Florida, Junior High School, Mr. MOUNT stated he would decline any prosecutive action inasmuch as there is no evidence of any commercialization or interstate transportation in connection with these obscene lyrics.

TP 145-84

He further advised that inasmuch as no one had been able to decipher the complete lyrics on the record "Louie Louie," he is stating no opinion as pertains to the record itself.

17-62)

File No.

145-335

Date Received

3/23/64

From

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

b7C

b7D

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

b7C

By

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned

Yes

☐

No

☒

Description:

OBSCENE Typed
Lyrics Allegedly on
Record "Louie Louie".

OBSCENE

LOUIE LOUIE

Fine little girl waits for me get your thrills
across the way girl I dream about is all alone
she never could get away from home

Every night and day I play with my thing I
fuck your girl all kinds of ways. In all
night now meet me there I feel her low I give
her hell

Hey you bitch. Hey lewemaker now hold my
bone, it won't take long to leave in alone.
Hey Sanerita I'm hot as hell I told her I'd
never lay here again.

Handwritten notes at the bottom left of the page, including "L. 10/10/68" and "first hand".

File No. 143-84-1A2

Date Received 2/10/64

From [redacted]

(Name of contributor)

(Address of contributor)

By [redacted]

(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes ()

Description: No (X)

b7c
b7D

OBXLINE

Original Copy of
Published Lyrics

1 "Love Love"
2/13/64
1 "Love Love" made
2/16/64
1 "Love Love" destroyed
2/16/64

The lyrics, as published by Max Music:

Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
A fine little girl, she wait for me -
Me catch the ship across the sea -
I sailed the ship all alone -
I never think I'll make it home.
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Three nights and days we sailed the sea -
Me think of girl constantly -
On the ship I dream she there -
I smell the rose in her hair.
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Me see Jamaica moon above -
It won't be long me see me love -
Me take her in my arms and then -
I tell her I never leave again.
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -
Louie Louie, Me gotta go -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE INDIANAPOLIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN INDIANAPOLIS	DATE 5/20/64	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 3/23 - 5/13/64
TITLE OF CASE UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE" <u>OLIMAX Music</u>		REPORT MADE BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em;"></div>	TYPED BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em;"></div>
		CHARACTER OF CASE ITOM	

REFERENCE: Bureau airtel, dated 3/16/64.

- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

Extra copy furnished to Bureau for dissemination to Department.

ALL 67C

<p>APPROVED: </p> <p>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p> <p>COPIES MADE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 - Bureau (145-2961) 1 - USA, Fort Wayne 1 - Indianapolis (145-335) 	<p style="text-align: center;">DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW</p> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">145-2961-7</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">REC-28</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>● MAY 22 1964</p> </div>																									
<p style="text-align: center;">DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">AGENCY</td> <td style="width: 20%;">1001 & 1002 - Bureau</td> <td style="width: 20%;">1003 - Fort Wayne</td> <td style="width: 20%;">1004 - Indianapolis</td> <td style="width: 20%;">1005 - Other</td> </tr> <tr> <td>REQUEST REC'D</td> <td>6-1-64</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DATE FWD.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HOW FWD.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>BY</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		AGENCY	1001 & 1002 - Bureau	1003 - Fort Wayne	1004 - Indianapolis	1005 - Other	REQUEST REC'D	6-1-64				DATE FWD.					HOW FWD.					BY				
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REQUEST REC'D	6-1-64																									
DATE FWD.																										
HOW FWD.																										
BY																										
<p style="text-align: center;">NOTATIONS</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>STAT. SECT.</p> </div>																										

58 JUN 2 1964

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-76324-1

A* (COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Fort Wayne (Attn: AUSA LESTER R. IRVIN
Hammond, Indiana)

Report of:

Date:

5/20/64

Office:

Indianapolis

Field Office File No.:

IP 145-335

Bureau File No.:

145-2961

Title:

UNKNOWN SUBJECT; PHONOGRAPH RECORD RECORDED
BY THE KINGSMEN ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"

Character:

INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE MATTER

Synopsis:

Wand record by Kingsmen entitled "LOUIE LOUIE"
purchased Crown Point, Indiana, alleged to have
obscene lyrics. FBI Laboratory unable to determine
words of lyrics and cannot determine it to be
obscene. AUSA, Hammond, declines prosecution.

- C -

DETAILS:

On March 13, 1964, HERBERT J. MILLER, JR., Assistant
Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice
enclosed a copy of letter of a citizen's complaint from [REDACTED]

Date 4/2/641

b7c
b7D [redacted] furnished a Wand
45 rpm record entitled "Louie Louie" which he said had been
purchased by his daughter, [redacted] at a Crown Point, Indiana
record shop. Wording on the record is as follows:

"1650 Broadway
New York, New York

143-A
50083
Linax Music BMI
Time 2:24

Louie Louie
(Richard Berry)
The Kingsmen
A Jerden Production by
Ken Chase and Jerry Dennon"

[redacted] his daughter had turned this record
over to him after learning it allegedly had obscene lyrics.

On 3/23/64 at Munster, Indiana File # IP 145-335

b7c
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/27/64

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date 4/2/641

b7C

b7D

[redacted] age [redacted] daughter of [redacted] advised about November, 1963, she purchased a phonograph record under Wand Label at Blanchard's, a record shop in Crown Point, Indiana.

B. APPROX 1946

The record is entitled "Louie Louie" and is a 45 rpm.

She said this record was publicly displayed, was routinely priced, and was not suspected of being obscene when purchased. Sometime after buying the record, she heard from various acquaintances the record had obscene lyrics, if the "Louie Louie" side were played at a speed of 33 1/3rd instead of the normal 45 rpm. About January 29, 1964, a co-worker gave her a typed sheet of lyrics which were already transcribed from the record when played in this manner. She described these words as obscene and furnished a typed sheet of paper bearing these alleged words.

She said the record was widely played in the area and was once ranked first on the WLS Radio (Chicago) Record Survey.

She said she played the record in the manner described above and the lyrics seemed to follow very closely the words on the typewritten sheet. She said the typed page was a transcription by some unknown person in the Crown Point area and was not furnished with the record.

On 3/24/64 at [redacted] File # IP 145-335
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 3/27/64

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

IP 145-335

On March 24, 1964, Assistant United States Attorney LESTER R. IRVIN, Hammond, Indiana, advised facts to date indicate possible violation of Section 1465, Title 18, if the record lyrics are found to be obscene. He stated he would consider prosecution whenever that determination is made.

On March 27, 1964, the record and typewritten sheet of lyrics was forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for examination.

On April 17, 1964, the FBI Laboratory advised the record was played at various speeds but none of the speeds assisted in determining the words of the song on the record.

On May 13, 1964, Assistant United States Attorney LESTER R. IRVIN advised he would decline prosecution in this case since the FBI Laboratory is unable to determine this record is obscene.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (145-2961)
(Attn: FBI LABORATORY)

FROM : SAC, INDIANAPOLIS (145-335)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; PHONOGRAPH RECORD
RECORDED BY THE KINGSMEN
ENTITLED "LOUIE LOUIE"
ITOM

DATE: 5/20/64

Reurlet, 4/17/64.

On 5/13/64, AUSA LESTER R. IRVIN, Hammond, Indiana, said he would decline prosecution since FBI Laboratory unable to determine this record is obscene.

Record no longer needed in connection with case and may be disposed of in the Laboratory.

- 2 - Bureau
1 - Indianapolis

(3)

*6-7 routing slip sent to Sp
5-21-64 appropriate
make certain report is
submitted to Bureau
concerning this matter for
dissemination to Dept.
Sp. Adv.*

REC-17

145-2961-8

MAY 26 1964

JUN 1 1964

curry
SECRET

53 JUN 1 1964

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO :

DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/22/65

FROM :

SAC, DETROIT (145-420) (P)

478135

SUBJECT:

① UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording
"Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITOM
(OO: DETROIT)

Enclosed herewith for the FBI Laboratory is one 45 r.p.m. recording entitled "Louie Louie" (RICHARD BERRY) sung by the "Kingsmen". This is a Wand recording labeled 145-A 50083; on the other side of the recording is a recording entitled "Haunted Castle" sung by the "Kingsmen", labeled 143-B 50084. Also enclosed for the FBI Laboratory is an envelope marked obscene containing the type written words believed to be heard during the singing of "Louie Louie", when this record is played on 33 r.p.m.

Enclosed for the New York Office is an envelope marked obscene containing the words, several of which are obscene, as believed to be heard when the recording "Louie Louie" is played on 33 r.p.m.

For the information of the FBI Laboratory and the New York Office, AUSA ROBERT J. GRACE, EDM, 839 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, on 3/30/65, contacted both the Detroit FBI Office and the Federal Communications Commission, located in the Federal Building, Detroit, regarding a 45 r.p.m. record entitled "Louie Louie" (RICHARD BERRY) and sung by the "Kingsmen". This record is a Wand recording with the address of 1650 Broadway, New York, New York. The one side of this record contains the song "Louie Louie" and the other side of the record "Haunted Castle" (LYNN EASTON) and both are sung by the "Kingsmen". "Louie Louie" is numbered 143-A 50083 and "Haunted Castle" is numbered 143-B 50084. Both recordings are listed as being a Jerden Production by KEN CHASE and JERRY BENNON.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc.-2) (RM)
2 - New York (Enc.-1) (RM)
2 - Detroit

REC 27

145-2961-9

EX-101

10 APR 28 1965

ATTACHED

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

1 Xerox

INDEXED LAB FILES COPY & SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB FOR LAB ACTION & REPORT



68 APR 26 1965

EX-101



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

To: **FBI, Detroit (145-420)**

Date: **May 17, 1965**

**UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording
Re: "Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITOM**

OO: Detroit

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

**REC-99 145-2961-9
FBI File No. D-478135 AV
Lab. No.**

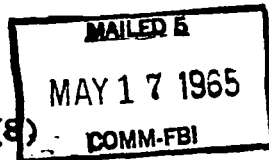
Examination requested by: **Detroit**
Reference: **Letter 4/22/65**
Examination requested: **Document**
Remarks:

For your information, the Department of Justice has previously received a copy of the record "Louie Louie" from [REDACTED] with a request that it be reviewed to determine if it was of an obscene nature. The Department advised that they were unable to interpret any of the wording in the record and, therefore, could not make a decision concerning the matter.

For your information, the AUSA's at Tampa, Florida, and Hammond, Indiana, have declined prosecution.

**Enclosures (3) (Q3, 2 Lab report)
1 - Indianapolis (145-335) Enclosure (Lab report)
1 - Tampa (145-84) Enclosure (Lab report)
1 - San Diego Enclosure (Lab report)
1 - 80-662 (Obscene material)**

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____



ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 80-662

44

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.To: **FBI, Detroit (145-420)**Date: **May 17, 1965**Re: **UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording
"Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITOM**FBI File No. **145-2961**Lab. No. **D-478135 AV**Specimens received **4/26/65****Q3 One WAND 45 r.p.m. recording bearing on one side the
title "Louie Louie (Richard Berry) THE KINGSMEN"****ALSO SUBMITTED: Sheet of paper bearing typewritten words****Result of examination:**

Three additional copies of the phonograph record described above as specimen Q3 have been submitted to the Laboratory. One of the previous records was submitted by the Tampa Office with a letter dated 2/17/64 and captioned "UNSUB; Phonograph Record 'Louie Louie' Distributed By Limax Music, NYC; ITOM"; one record was submitted by the San Diego Office with a letter dated 3/17/64 and captioned "WAND, 1650 Broadway, New York, New York; ITOM"; and one of the previous records was submitted by the Indianapolis Office with a letter dated 3/27/64 and captioned "UNSUB; Phonograph Record Recorded By The Kingsmen Entitled 'Louie Louie'; ITOM."

Because the lyrics of the recording "Louie Louie" could not be definitely determined in the Laboratory examination, it was not possible to determine whether this recording, Q3, is obscene.

In accordance with your request, specimen Q3 is returned herewith. The "ALSO SUBMITTED" material is retained.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

(8)

b7c

7-5
RECORDED
4/29/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NO LAB FILE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording
"Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITOM

File # 145-2961-9
Lab. # D-478135 AV

OO: Detroit

Examination requested by: FBI, Detroit (145-420) 4/22/65

Examination requested: Document

Date received: 4/26/65

Result of Examination:

Examination by: [redacted]

1. Add. copies Q3 such Tampa let 2/17/64 Re: Unsub
Phonograph Record "Louie Louie" Distributed by
Limax Music, NYC; ITOM 145-2961-3; San Diego
let 2/17/64 Re: Wank, 1650 Broadway, New York, New York;
ITOM, Bufile 145-2972; Indianapolis let 3/27/64
Re: Unsub, Phonograph Record, Recorded by The
Kingsmen Entitled "Louie Louie" ITOM Bufile 145-2961

Specimens submitted for examination

Q3 Q2 One WAND 45 r.p.m. recording bearing on one side the
title "Louie Louie (Richard Berry) THE KINGSMEN"

ALSO SUBMITTED: Sheet of paper bearing typewritten words

1 - Indianapolis (145-335)
1 - San Diego
1 - Tampa (145-84)

RETURN Q2

Lab report
5/17/65
[redacted] b7C
80-662 (Obscene material)

F B I

Date: 5/25/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (145-2961)

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (145-420) (P)

BC
UNSUB; 45 r.p.m.
Recording "Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITOM
(OO: DETROIT)

Re FBI Laboratory letter to Detroit dated 5/17/65, and Detroit letter to Bureau dated 4/22/65.

For the information of the New York Office, the FBI Laboratory advised Detroit by referenced letter that the Department of Justice has previously received a copy of the record, "Louie Louie" from [REDACTED] with a request that it be reviewed to determine if it was an obscene matter. The Department advised that they were unable to interpret any of the wording in the record and, therefore, could not make a decision concerning the matter. Also, that the AUSA at Tampa, Fla. and Hammond, Indiana, have declined prosecution.

Also, for the information of the New York Office, the FBI Laboratory advised that because the lyrics of the recording, "Louie Louie" could not be definitely determined in the Laboratory examination, it was not possible to determine whether this recording is obscene. H

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b7C
Referenced Detroit letter requested New York to contact the Wand Co. regarding "Louie Louie" record in an effort to obtain the lyrics in this recording. New York is requested to expedite this investigation.

SA [REDACTED] of the Detroit Office discussed the case with AUSA ROBERT J. GRACE, EDM 839 Federal Bldg., Detroit, as to the Laboratory report in this matter. He stated he would defer his prosecutive opinion in this case regarding the recording "Louie Louie" until completion of investigation by the New York Office.

58 JUN 7 1965
3 - Bureau
2 - New York
1 - Detroit

(6) Special Agent in Charge

Sent

REC 27 145-2961-10

MAY 28 1965

EX-10

M

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <div style="text-align: center;">DETROIT</div>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <div style="text-align: center;">DETROIT</div>	DATE <div style="text-align: center;">6/18/65</div>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <div style="text-align: center;">3/29 - 6/11/65</div>
TITLE OF CASE <div style="text-align: center;">UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording "Louie Louie"</div>		REPORT MADE BY <div style="text-align: center;">SA [REDACTED]</div>	
TYPED BY <div style="text-align: center;">[REDACTED]</div>		CHARACTER OF CASE <div style="text-align: center;">b7C POSSIBLE ITOM</div>	

REFERENCES: Detroit letter to the Bureau, dated 4/22/65.
 Bureau letters to Detroit (two), dated 5/17/65.
 Detroit letter to the Bureau, dated 5/25/65.
 New York letter to Detroit, dated 5/26/65
 (Interoffice).

- P -

ENCLOSURES

TO BUREAU

One (1) recording of "Louie Louie", and one (1) Xerox copy of words to song "Louie Louie" as interpreted by [REDACTED] mentioned in instant report. The lyrics contain obscene language.

EXP. PROC.

APPROVED <div style="text-align: center;">[Signature]</div> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW <div style="text-align: center;">145-2961-11</div> <div style="text-align: right;">REC 44</div> <div style="text-align: center;">18 JUN 21 1965</div> <div style="text-align: center;">[REDACTED] b7C</div> <div style="text-align: center;">[REDACTED] SECT.</div>																				
COPIES MADE: 2 - Bureau (145-2961) (Enc.2) (AMSD) 1 - USA, Detroit 1 - Federal Communications Commission, Detroit 1 - New York (145-2338) (Info) 2 - Detroit (145-420)	NOTATIONS <div style="text-align: center;">[REDACTED]</div>																				
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>AGENCY</th> <th>REQUEST RECD.</th> <th>DATE FWD.</th> <th>HOW FWD.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. C.C. to [REDACTED]</td> <td>1. [REDACTED]</td> <td>6/22/65</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		AGENCY	REQUEST RECD.	DATE FWD.	HOW FWD.	1. C.C. to [REDACTED]	1. [REDACTED]	6/22/65													
AGENCY	REQUEST RECD.	DATE FWD.	HOW FWD.																		
1. C.C. to [REDACTED]	1. [REDACTED]	6/22/65																			

LEAD

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Will maintain contact with Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT J. GRACE, Eastern District of Michigan, 839 Federal Building, for prosecutive action that his office may take in this case.

ADMINISTRATIVE

One copy of this report is being furnished for the information of the New York Office inasmuch as that office has conducted investigation and may be requested to conduct additional investigation at a later date.

One copy of this report is being furnished the Federal Communications Commission, 1029 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, inasmuch as this recording of the song, "Louie Louie" was played over local radio stations in the Detroit area, and the Federal Communications Commission authorities had received a complaint regarding this recording.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Copy to: 1 - USA, Detroit
1 - Federal Communications Commission, Detroit

Report of: SA [REDACTED] Office: Detroit, Michigan
Date: June 18, 1965

Field Office File #: 145-420 Bureau File #: 145-2961

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
45 r.p.m. Recording "Louie Louie"

Character: POSSIBLE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF OBSCENE MATTER

Synopsis: USA's Office, EDM, Federal Building, Detroit, Mich., advised receiving complaints concerning recording "Louie Louie", sung by the "Kingsmen". Claims were made to AUSA's Office, and SAC Office, Detroit, that obscene language was contained in this recording. The record was produced by the Wand Management Corporation, NYC, NY. FBI Laboratory, Washington, D. C., advised it was not possible to determine whether this recording is obscene. Complainants advised that when this record is played on 33 r.p.m. some teenagers claim they detect obscene language. AUSA ROBERT J. GRACE, EDM, Federal Building, Detroit, Mich., advised he is awaiting opinion from Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., regarding what action should be taken in regard to this recording.

- P -

DETAILS:

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The following investigation is predicated upon information received from Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) JAMES F. FINN, Chief, Criminal Division, Eastern District of Michigan, 809 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, on March 29, 1965, in that he advised he had received a telephone

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call from [REDACTED] Fuhrmann Junior High School, Warren, Michigan, advising him that a recording known as "Louie Louie" contains obscene language. According to Mr. FINN [REDACTED] advised that this is a 45 r.p.m. recording, which is being played on local Detroit area radio stations. [REDACTED] indicated to Mr. FINN that when this record is played as a 45 r.p.m. it is unintelligible, however, when played at the speed of 33 r.p.m., the language in the record is clear and undoubtedly obscene. [REDACTED] advised Mr. FINN that the recording is being played as a 45 r.p.m. by local disc jockeys, but youngsters are playing the recording on a 33 r.p.m. speed so that they can discern the alleged obscene language in this recording.

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On March 30, 1965, AUSA ROBERT J. GRACE, Eastern District of Michigan, 839 Federal Building, also contacted the Detroit Office of the FBI, and the Federal Communications Commission, 1029 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, regarding the record entitled "Louie Louie", sung by the "Kingsmen".

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On March 30, 1965, SA [REDACTED] and Field Supervisor [REDACTED] contacted AUSA GRACE at his office. [REDACTED] Assistant Engineer in Charge, Federal Communications Commission, 1029 Federal Building, Detroit, also was invited by Mr. GRACE to appear in his office to listen to this recording. The record was made available to Mr. GRACE by [REDACTED] Michigan, and [REDACTED] on March 30, 1965, who also appeared at Mr. GRACE's office concerning the recording.

[REDACTED] stated that they had the record with them and claimed that this record is a 45 r.p.m. recording of the song, "Louie Louie". They stated that this record has become very popular over the radio stations which cater to the teenage "rock and roll" fans in the greater Detroit area, and is considered to be "a best seller".

b7c They stated that when this record is played on 33 r.p.m. speed, obscene and suggestive words can be interpreted in this song. They made available a copy of the words to this song as they interpreted the song after listening to it played numerous times on the 33 r.p.m. speed. When this record was played in the Office of AUSA GRACE on March 30, 1965, the aforementioned individuals listened to it being played numerous times both on a 45 r.p.m. speed and a 33 r.p.m. speed. Mr. GRACE and [REDACTED] advised they were not able to discern any of the obscene language and found the record played on both speeds as being quite unintelligible.

b7c [On March 31, 1965, [REDACTED]
b7D John C. Fuhrmann Junior High School, 5155 14 Mile Road, Warren, Michigan, telephonically contacted the Detroit FBI Office to advise that he had found a sheet of paper on a student at this school which contained obscene words to the song, "Louie Louie". He stated he questioned the student and the student told him that this is a popular song, and when played on a 33 r.p.m. speed, the obscene and suggestive words can be fairly interpreted in the song "Louie Louie". He stated that he found out that many teenagers in the Warren, Michigan area are buying this record and playing it on the 33 r.p.m. speed.

b7c Mr. GRACE advised on March 30, 1965, that he contacted the Dearborn, Michigan Radio Station WKNR, which caters to teenagers and plays mostly "rock and roll" records. The station manager advised Mr. GRACE he would telegraph the record company in New York City to obtain the lyrics to "Louis Louis". The Radio Station WKNR received a telegram from [REDACTED] Septer Records, New York City, New York, giving the correct copyrighted lyrics to "Louis Louis" and they are as follows:

"LOUIS LOUIS OH YEA AWAY WE GO
YEA YEA YEA YEA YEA LOUIS LOUIS OH BABY AWAY FINE LITTLE GIRL
SHE WAITS FOR ME ME CATCH THE SHIP ACROSS THE SHIP SEA I
SAILED THE SHIP ALL ALONE I NEVER THINK ILL MAKE IT HOME
LOUIS LOUIS AWAY WE GO THREE NIGHTS AND DAYS WE SAIL THE
SEA ME THINK OF GIRL CONSTANTLY ON THE SHIP DREAM SHE
THERE I SMELL THE ROSE IN HER HAIR LOUIS LOUIS OH BABY
AWAY WE GO ME SEE JAMAICA MOON ABOVE IT WONT BE LONG ME
SEE ME LOVE ME TAKE HER IN ARMS AND THEN I TELL HER I
NEVER LEAVE AGAIN LOUIS LOUIS OH YEA AWAY WE GO"

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The record that [REDACTED] made available to the Detroit FBI Office is a 45 r.p.m. recording entitled, "Louie Louie", (RICHARD BERRY), sung by the "Kingsmen". This is a Wand recording labeled 143-A 50083; on the other side of the record is a recording entitled, "Haunted Castle" (LYNN EASTON), sung by the "Kingsmen", labeled 143-B 50084. The address on the record for the Wand Management Corporation is 1650 Broadway, New York, New York. The songs "Louie Louie" and "Haunted Castle" are both sung by the "Kingsmen". Both recordings are listed as being a Jerden Production by KEN CHASE and JERRY DENNON.

The Detroit FBI Office submitted the record to the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D. C.. The FBI Laboratory in a communication to the Detroit FBI dated May 17, 1965, advised that three additional copies of the phonograph record have been submitted to the Laboratory. One of the previous records was submitted by the Tampa FBI Office, and this recording was distributed by Limax Music, New York City, New York. Another record was submitted by the San Diego FBI Office, produced by Wand, 1650 Broadway, New York, New York. The third record was submitted by the Indianapolis FBI Office, which was recorded by the "Kingsmen" entitled "Louie Louie".

The FBI Laboratory advised that because the lyrics of the recording "Louie Louie" could not be definitely determined in the Laboratory examination, it was not possible to determine whether the recording is obscene.

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The New York FBI Office by communication dated May 26, 1965, advised the Detroit FBI Office that on May 19, 1965, [REDACTED] Wand Management Corporation, 254 West 54th Street, New York City, New York, made available to the New York Office one 45 r.p.m. recording entitled "Louie Louie", (RICHARD BERRY), sung by the "Kingsmen", Wand recording 143-A 50083; reverse side "Haunted Castle" (LYNN EASTON) sung by the "Kingsmen", Wand recording 143-B 50084.

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[REDACTED] made available autostat copies of the following:

1. The words to the song "Louie Louie".
2. A letter to the President of Wand Records dated February 13, 1964, from the Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C., concerning complaints received by the Federal Communications Commission concerning the broadcasting of the record "Louie Louie".
3. A letter from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C., dated February 14, 1964, setting forth the complete background concerning the production of the record "Louie Louie".
4. A letter from the National Association of Broadcasters Code Authority, Washington, D. C., dated January 28, 1964, concerning the broadcasting of the record "Louie Louie".

b7D [REDACTED] the Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C., subsequently granted a clearance to the record "Louie Louie". She explained that for approximately two years her company has been receiving unfounded complaints concerning the recording "Louie Louie". She advised that to the best of her knowledge, the trouble was started by an unidentified college student, who made up a series of obscene verses for "Louie Louie" and then sold them to fellow students. [REDACTED] stated, that it is her opinion that a person can take any 45 r.p.m. recording and reduce its speed to 33 r.p.m. and imagine obscene words, depending upon the imagination of the listener.

The words to the song, "Louie Louie" as furnished by [REDACTED] are as follows:

"LOUIE - LOUIE"

**"LOUIE, LOUIE...OH YEA, A-WAY WE GO
YEA, YEA, YEA, YEA. YEA
LOUIE, LOUIE...OH BABY, A-WAY WE GO**

**"A FINE LITTLE GIRL - SHE WAIT FOR ME
ME CATCH THE SHIP - A-CROSS THE SEA
I SAILED THE SHIP - ALL A-LONE
I NEVER THINK - I'LL MAKE IT HOME**

"LOUIE, LOUIE....A-WAY WE GO

**"THREE NIGHTS AND DAYS WE SAILED THE SEA
ME THINK OF GIRL CONSTANT-LY
ON THE SHIP - DREAM SHE THERE
I SMELL THE ROSE - IN HER HAIR**

"LOUIE, LOUIE....OH BABY, A-WAY WE GO

**"ME SEE JA-MAI-CA - MOON A-BOVE
IT WON'T BE LONG - ME SEE ME LOVE
ME TAKE HER IN ARMS AND THEN
I TELL HER I NEVER LEAVE A-GAIN**

"LOUIE, LOUIE....OH YEA, A-WAY WE GO"

b7C
b7D The letter to the President of Wand Records,
dated February 13, 1964, from the Federal Communications
Commission, Washington, D. C., which was made available by
[REDACTED] is set forth as follows:

**"President
Wand Records
1650 Broadway
New York, New York**

Dear Sir:

**"The Commission has received complaints to the
effect that certain radio stations have, by playing one of
your records titled 'Louie Louie', featuring The Kingsmen,**

DE 145-420

"violated the federal statute which prohibits the broadcast of obscene, indecent or profane language.

"The staff has conducted an inquiry into these complaints. Before terminating its inquiry the Commission would appreciate receiving, as promptly as possible, your comments on this matter, including any information in your possession which might throw light upon either the source or the validity of allegations that the lyrics as sung by the Kingsmen were in any way obscene. We also should appreciate your comment on whether, even though unobjectionable lyrics were used in recording the song, there was improper motivation on the part of the singers or anyone associated with the production of the record in making the recorded lyrics so unintelligible as to give rise to reports that they were obscene.

"Very truly yours,

/s/Ben F. Waple

"Ben F. Waple
"Secretary"

b7C
The letter from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C., dated February 14, 1964, is set forth as follows:

[REDACTED]
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D. C.

"RE: 8300

"Dear [REDACTED]

"In reference to our telephone conversation today, I am enclosing two copies of the lyrics, and also two records of 'Louie Louie'. We are sure that upon listening to the record and comparing it to the enclosed lyrics you will find them one and the same.

"Scepter Music, Inc., purchased this master (finished recording) from [REDACTED] Craig Corporation - 1021 East Pine Street, Seattle, Washington. We understand that these five young male performers are students at the University of Washington, information concerning them is available from [REDACTED]. The Publisher of the song, who would be responsible for the lyrics is Limax Music, [REDACTED] 618 Ridgely Drive, Los Angeles, California. b7C

"All the people connected with the making and the sales of this record are highly reputable business people who are as vitally concerned with this matter as you are and wish to bring to justice anyone connected with the dissemination of libelous information.

"I will appreciate your comparing the enclosed record with any record you may have received. This is the only record we have distributed for sale, and our sale figures do not indicate any infringement by any outside source.

"Our record was made from a two track recording. We will be happy to play the vocal track for any of your representatives who would call on us, and this should clear any misunderstanding as to the lyrics on our record. They will find them to be exactly as on the enclosed lyric sheet.

"May I express our appreciation to you for your fair handling of this matter.

"Sincerely,

b7C [REDACTED]

The letter from the National Association of Broadcasters Code Authority, Washington, D. C., dated January 28, 1964, is set forth as follows:

"LOUIE, LOUIE"

"NAB's Code Authority has received a number of inquiries and complaints from member stations on the recording 'Louie, Louie' being circulated with a WAND label.

"Here are the facts as we understand them:

"The Code staff has listened to the record on all standard RPM's and has found nothing objectionable in it. In the Code staff's opinion, the lines, delivered in rock and roll and Calypso style, would be unintelligible to the average listener.

"NAB has received from the music publishers copies of the lyrics and has found nothing objectionable in them. However, it also has received from another source a purported set of lyrics which are unfit for broadcast.

"The phonetic qualities of this recording are such that a listener possessing the 'phony' lyrics could imagine them to be genuine."

On June 11, 1965, AUSA GRACE, Eastern District of Michigan, Federal Building, Detroit, stated he would defer his prosecutive opinion in this case regarding the recording "Louie Louie" until he receives an opinion in this case from the United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

wand

Raid
3/30/65
CHX

143-A
8883

United Artists
(RM) - 224
A Jolson Production
by Leo Chase &
Jerry Gerson



1650 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, N.Y.

LOUIE LOUIE
(Richard Berry)
THE KINGSMEN

OBSCENC

DE 145-420

W. F. C. B. L.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (145-2961)

DATE: 6/21/65

FROM : *PHS* SAC, DETROIT (145-420) (P)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; 45 rpm
Recording "Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITOM
OO: DE

Re Detroit letter to the Bureau dated 5/25/65,
and New York letter to Detroit dated 5/26/65 (interoffice).

On 6/11/65, Assistant United States Attorney
ROBERT J. GRACE, Eastern District of Michigan, 839 Federal
Building, Detroit, Michigan, advised that he will defer his
prosecutive opinion in this case pending advice of the
Department of Justice.

Assistant United States Attorney GRACE was advised
of the investigation conducted by the New York Office contained
in referenced New York letter to Detroit.

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b7D
For the information of the Bureau, referenced New
York letter disclosed that [REDACTED]
Wand Management Corporation, 254 West 54th Street, New York,
New York, made available words to the song called "Louie
Louie" and a letter to the President of Wand Records dated
2/13/64, from the Federal Communications Commission, Washington,
D.C., concerning complaints received by the Federal Communications
Commission concerning the broadcasting of the record "Louie
Louie".

L
[REDACTED] the New York Office that the
FCC, Washington, D. C., subsequently granted a clearance to
the record "Louie Louie". She explained that for approximately
two years her company has been receiving unfounded complaints
concerning the recording. She advised that, to the best of
her knowledge, the trouble was started by an unidentified college
student who made up a series of obscene verses for this recording
and sold them to fellow students. She further stated that
it was her opinion that a person can take any 45 rpm recording
and reduce its speed to 33 rpm and imagine obscene words,
depending upon the imagination of the listener.

2 - Bureau
2 - Detroit

REC-55 145-2961-12

3 JUN 23 1965

X 109

8 JUN 29 1965

61

DE 145-420

Detroit will maintain contact with Assistant United States Attorney GRACE and ascertain what advise his office receives from the Department of Justice in this matter.

[REDACTED]
June 18, 1965

b7C

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Having admired your work and your life for so many years, it is with trepidation that I write to you. But being a mother and a teacher, I have been disturbed by the alarming increase in pornography and abjectly implore your advice.

As a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, dedicated in the fight against pornography, this is how we --specifically the Flint Junior Woman's Club --became involved in a war of legal semantics. It all began this winter when a group of vocalists called the "Kingsmen" appeared at a local hall. They plugged their million dollar record, "Louie, Louie." In a matter of weeks the record was selling like hot cakes and rising on the "Top 40 Show." We became aware of the dual set of lyrics and that without a doubt, someone had masterminded an "auditory illusion." Our prosecuting attorney with whom we consulted said, in his opinion, there was nothing legally that can be done since he believed you cannot prove which set of lyrics they are singing. This seemed rather irrelevant since they were capitalizing on its obscenity, and when every teenager in the county "heard" the obscene not the copywritten lyric.

Our attempts to have something done about the record were met with frustration. But that is all prologue. We realize the damage is done and the "Louie, Louie" purveyors are getting away with setting a new precedence. That along with the movies, the magazines, the paperbacks -- our kids will now be hit with a fourth front -- records.

We have also been in contact with Mr. Lawrence Gubow, U. S. Attorney in Detroit, and he informed us that your bureau was investigating the record in question. He wasn't too explicit, however. Can you tell us what is being done? What can we do to help? Mr. Hoover, do you think more of these type records are inevitable? Is there perhaps a subliminal type of perversion involved?

In Mr. Gubow's answer to us, he stated that in order for matter to be declared obscene, it must be "objectively obscene." I am confused. How can anything be objectively obscene? Obscenity is not indifferent -- but has definite goals. It is not impersonal and unemotional -- how can it possibly be? By its very nature, obscenity is SUBJECTIVE.

REC 8

145-2961-13

JUN 23 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

63

June 18, 1965

What are the ground rules in this ridiculous legal game that benefits the pornographers? When does obscenity become pornography? And pornography -- perversion?

We do not conclude that curtailment of Freedom of the Press or that strong legislation is the only alternative. But how do you begin to reverse this trend? Can it ever be done? Is the Miller Bill S.173 a good one? Is it worth petitioning for?

Our club would like to do something positive. Do you think a questionnaire to high school students would be of value? Finding out what a cross-section of students reads - buys - thinks about the flood of obscene materials? Do you think such answers could be valuable or would it be superfluous? If you do think it has some merit, would you be willing to help us to construct such a questionnaire?

Perhaps I have asked all too many impertinent questions, but they are as genuine as is our concern at the alarming rise in venereal disease, perversion, promiscuity and illegitimate births in the teen groups. Is there a correlation to the alarming rise in the access to obscene materials by this same group?

Please, Mr. Hoover, let us know if and when we should take what course of action. We would appreciate any help and information you can give us.

Until I hear from you, I remain, ,

Most Humbly yours,



b7c

214

64

June 25, 1965

REC 8

145-3961 13

Informant

b7c

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter dated June 18th has been received.

Your interest in writing me is very much appreciated, and I share the concern you feel in the alarming increase in pornography. I strongly believe that the easy accessibility of such material cannot help but divert the minds of young people into unhealthy channels and negate the wholesome training they have already been afforded by their parents. With reference to the record you described, I am unable to make any comment concerning current investigations being conducted by the FBI. You may be assured, however, that this Bureau is continuing to make every effort to discharge its responsibilities with the highest degree of thoroughness and dispatch.

I am enclosing publications which set forth this Bureau's jurisdiction in connection with obscene matter and which contain my further views and suggestions relating to this problem.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 25

JUN 25 1965

COMM-FBI

Enclosures (2)

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

30 JUN 6 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

(See Enclosures and Note next page.)

JUN 25 3 10 54 PM '65

RECEIVED DIRECTOR

REC'D-READING ROOM

JUN 25 2 46 PM '65

FBI

b7c

[REDACTED]

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. The record "Louie, Louie," is subject of investigation under character of Interstate Transportation of Obscene Matter. Bufiles 145-2961 and 145-2972 contain complaints from numerous individuals, including [REDACTED] b7C regarding this record recorded on the Wand label by the Kingsmen. It has copyrighted lyrics but off-color lyrics are being circulated, which allegedly can be detected when the 45 r.p.m. platter is played at 33 1/3 r.p.m. It has become very popular in certain areas including the Detroit area, and Detroit airtel 5-25-65 advises that the AUSA in Detroit has deferred his prosecutive opinion in this case until completion of investigation by the New York Office, where Wand is located. The AUSAs at Tampa, Florida, and Hammond, Indiana, have declined prosecution and when the field presented to the Department in early 1964, the Department advised that they were unable to interpret any of the alleged obscene wording in the record.

Enclosures (2) *it was*

Poison for our Youth

Combating Merchants of Filth: The Role of the FBI

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office DETROIT	Office of Origin DETROIT	Date 7/30/65	Investigative Period 7/12/65
TITLE OF CASE UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording "Louie Louie"		Report made by SA [REDACTED]	Typed By:
		CHARACTER OF CASE b7C POSSIBLE ITOM	

Synopsis:

REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED] at Detroit,
dated 6/18/65.

- P -

ENCLOSURESTO LOS ANGELES AND SEATTLE

One Xerox copy of referenced report of SA [REDACTED]
dated June 18, 1965.

LEADSNEW YORKAT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

1. Will reinterview [REDACTED]
of Wand Management Corporation of New York City, 254 West 54th
Street, to ascertain if she will make available the vocal track

Approved <i>PAS</i>	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made: 2 - Bureau (145-2961) 1 - USA, Detroit 1 - FCC, Detroit 2 - Los Angeles (Enc.-1) 2 - New York (145-2338) 2 - Seattle (Enc.-1) 2 - Detroit (145-420)		145-2961-14	REC-55
		EX-110	
		10 AUG 2 1965	

ice cum Dept
Mr. Pasce
8/9/65 gaffig
b7

STAT SECT.

57 AUG 10 1965

recording of the Wand record of "Louie Louie" to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for referral to the Laboratory for examination and comparison with the finished record.

If [REDACTED] refuses to release the vocal track specimen, the Agents should seek her agreement to permit them to make a recording of it or, at least, to listen to it themselves, reporting what they perceive.

2. Attempt to locate the singing team, "The Kingsmen", and interview regarding lyrics they recorded in song "Louie Louie".

SEATTLE

AT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Interview [REDACTED] Craig Corporation, Seattle, regarding the recording of "Louie Louie". [REDACTED] interviewed as to his dealings in the recording and with the performers, "The Kingsmen" and his knowledge of the origin of the product.

It is noted that [REDACTED] Wand Management Corporation, New York City, stated that Scepter Music, Incorporated, purchased the finished recording from [REDACTED] Craig Corporation, Seattle.

LOS ANGELES

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Interview [REDACTED] Linax Music, Los Angeles, or who ever has knowledge of "Louie Louie" at Linax Music for all information obtainable on the lyrics of this song.

It is noted that [REDACTED] Wand Management Corporation, New York City, had advised that Linax Music of Los Angeles is the purchaser of "Louie Louie" and responsible for the lyrics.

- B -

Cover Page

ALL
b7C
b7D

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Will report results of above investigation conducted by Los Angeles, New York and Seattle Offices to Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT J. GRACE, Eastern District of Michigan, 839 Federal Building, Detroit.

ADMINISTRATIVE

One copy of this report is being furnished the Federal Communications Commission, 1029 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, inasmuch as this recording of the song "Louie Louie" was played over local radio stations in the Detroit area, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authorities at Detroit had received a complaint regarding this record.

For the information of all offices conducting investigation in this case, according to the letter received by the United States Attorney's Office from the Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Washington, D.C., the following course of action was recommended by the Office of the Assistant Attorney General:

This request of the Office of the Assistant Attorney General is basically intended to accomplish a definitive investigation on which the Department of Justice can satisfactorily close this case and meet anticipated complaints and inquiries. This perspective will change if these leads (set out above) indicate a basis to consider prosecution. The Department of Justice recommended maximum discretion should be exercised by FBI investigators both to minimize any appearances of an intended full-scale criminal action and to avoid any public notoriety or attention as to the performers and their related businesses.

- C* -

Cover Page

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MENT OF JUSTICE
INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Detroit
1 - FCC, Detroit

Report of: SA [REDACTED] Office: Detroit, Michigan
Date: 7/30/65 b7C

File Number: 145-420 Bufile: 145-2961

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
45 r.p.m. Recording
"Louie Louie"

Character: POSSIBLE ITOM

Synopsis: AUSA ROBERT J. GRACE, EDM, Federal Building, Detroit, Mich., advised U.S. Dept. of Justice, Washington, D.C., requested additional investigation regarding lyrics to song "Louie Louie" as sung by "The Kingsmen", a vocal singing team in order to formulate prosecutive decision in this matter.

- P -

DETAILS:

At Detroit, Michigan

On July 12, 1965, Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) ROBERT J. GRACE, Eastern District of Michigan, 839 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, advised that the United States Department of Justice, Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Washington, D.C., requested the United States Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Michigan, to conduct additional investigation.

Mr. GRACE advised that his office received a letter dated July 2, 1965, from FRED M. VINSON, JR., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., which disclosed the following:

After a study of investigation conducted by the Detroit Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Office regarding the recording "Louie Louie" by "The Kingsmen", that additional investigation should be conducted in order to bring the case to a logical conclusion.

According to the Office of the Assistant Attorney General, citizen complaints have been frequent from several geographic areas concerning the recording "Louie Louie" by "The Kingsmen" and that these complaints will probably reoccur due to the apparent popularity of this song among youngsters.

Also, more congressional inquiries are likely and other United States Attorneys' Offices may become involved in the complaints.

The Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, recommended that [REDACTED] Wand Management Corporation, 254 West 54th Street, New York, New York, be reinterviewed to ascertain if she will make available the vocal track recording of the Wand record to the FBI for referral to the FBI Laboratory for examination in comparison with the finished recording. The purpose of doing this is to confirm that the vocal track recording is consistent with the vocal sounds of the finished product.] b7c b7D

Also, if [REDACTED] refuses to release the vocal track specimen, FBI Agents should seek her agreement to permit them to make a recording of it or, at least, listen to it themselves and report what they perceive according to the letter issued by the Office of the Assistant Attorney General.

The Department of Justice had received information whereby [REDACTED] stated that Scepter Music, Incorporated, had purchased the finished recording from [REDACTED] Craig Corporation, Seattle, Washington.] b7c

Also, that [REDACTED] stated Linax Music of Los Angeles, California, is the publisher of the song "Louie Louie" and responsible for the lyrics and that [REDACTED] or who ever has knowledge of "Louie Louie" at Linax Music, should be interviewed for all information obtainable on the lyrics of the song.] b7c, b7D b7c

On July 12, 1965, AUSA Grace requested the Detroit FBI Office that after additional investigation has been conducted, that his office be advised accordingly so that the Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Washington, D.C., can be fully apprised of the facts in this case to effect a prosecutive opinion.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

July 14, 1965

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you so much for your reply to my letter of June 18.

After reading your two enclosed publications ("Combating Merchants of Filth," and "Poison For Our Youth"), I feel more enlightened. The frustrations which you must encounter daily, make the ones which we have met seem rudimentary. If it is possible, may we have fifty each of the aforementioned publications for distribution to the members of our club?

Getting back to our mutual friend - "Louie, Louie," I can realize that you are unable to comment on your current investigations. But dauntless we are, and we now have in our possession a recording that was made directly from the Wand release of the Kingsmen's "Louie, Louie." The 45 RPM "Louie" was played at 78 RPM, taped at twice the regular speed and then slowed down so that it now plays somewhere between 45 and 33½ RPM. At this speed the obscene articulation is clearer.

The second part of our tape was made from the Kingsmen's recent personal appearance on "Shindig" on Nationwide TV on June 23, 1965, when they sang "Louie, Louie" -- the copywritten lyric -- intelligibly. The comparison is quite interesting since by no stretch of the imagination is the obscene lyric audible.

In your reply you didn't comment on the value of a high school questionnaire. Could you please let us know your thoughts on this?

Sincerely yours,

MAILED 11
JUL 20 1965
COMM-FBI

Return to

ST-117 REC 32/45-2961-1

18 JUL 26 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

in absence and
form. antil to Soc, Detroit
7-0 AUG 13 1965 DFC:rep
3xerox 7-19-65
Buad 7-26-65

EXP. PROC.
33 JUL 18 1965

FBI

Date: 7/24/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (92-1368) (C)

CHANGED *

aka...

nee

RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

ReBuairtel to Detroit, 7/20/65.

Title of this case is marked changed in order to
set forth the full name of [REDACTED][REDACTED] Flint, Mich., advised SA [REDACTED] on 7/22/65 that
[REDACTED] Mich.,
had been known [REDACTED] since 1955. At that time, he
was [REDACTED]On 7/14/65, [REDACTED] who
[REDACTED] Mich. At the time [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] years
of age and they resided at [REDACTED][REDACTED] was born [REDACTED] and is employed
by [REDACTED]
Michigan, since [REDACTED] The records of [REDACTED]
contain no derogatory information concerning either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED](3) - Bureau
1 - Detroit

(4)

G.C. Wick

7-27-65

DFC/ma

REC-32

EX-103

45-2961-16

14 JUL 26 1965

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

Per _____

ALL
b7C

b7D [On 7/23/65, [redacted] advised that the records of his department contain no arrest record for either [redacted] or [redacted]

b7D [On 7/23/65, [redacted] advised that they had received a complaint through the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office concerning the record "Louis Louie" and that this complaint had originated from [redacted]
b7D [[redacted] advised he knew of no derogatory information concerning [redacted]

b7D [On 7/24/65, [redacted] advised that he knew of no derogatory information concerning the [redacted]

Detroit indices contain no information identifiable with [redacted] or [redacted]

It is recommended that the Bureau should comply with the request of [redacted]

REC-32

July 27, 1965

EX-103

Dear [REDACTED]

I read your letter of July 14th upon my return to the city and want to thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing.

In response to your request, I am forwarding, under separate cover, 25 copies each of the publications you desire. I regret, however, that budgetary limitations preclude furnishing the number for which you asked.

With respect to the value of a high school questionnaire, I have always refrained, as a matter of long-standing policy, from commenting as you suggested. I regret I cannot be of help in this instance but trust you understand.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 11
JUL 27 1965
COMM-FBI

- 1 - Detroit (92-1368)
Reurairtel 7-24-65
- 1 - [REDACTED] - Room 4724 (sent direct)
USC Material - 25 copies each of
Combating Merchants of Filth: The Role of the FBI
Poison for our Youth

Sent 8-2-65
F.B.I.

Reg. #2818

NOTE: Bufiles contain nothing derogatory concerning correspondent. A field check by the Detroit Office determined there is no information to preclude furnishing the reprint material she requested.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

(5)
AUG 17 1965
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

JUL 27 3 22 PM '65
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (145-2961)
(ATTN: FBI LABORATORY)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (145-2338)(RUC)

DATE: 8/23/65

SUBJECT: UNSUB; 45 rpm Recording
"Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITOM
(OO: DETROIT) **b7C**

486786

Rerep of SA [REDACTED] at Detroit,
7/30/65.

There is enclosed herewith for the FBI Lab a copy of a tape recording of the song "Louie Louie" by "The Kingsmen" for examination in comparison with the finished recording previously furnished to the FBI Lab. The purpose of doing this is to confirm that the vocal recording furnished herewith is consistent with the vocal sounds of the finished product.

It is requested that the FBI Lab retain the enclosed recording until the conclusion of this case, after which it is to be returned to the NYO so that it may be returned to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Wand Management Corp.,
254 W. 54th St., NYC.

On 8/23/65, [REDACTED] Wand Management Corp., 254 W. 54th St., NYC, declined to make available to the FBI Lab, without a court order, the sound track from which the Wand record, "Louie Louie" was recorded.

On 8/23/65, [REDACTED] had no objection to making a copy of the original recording from which the record "Louie Louie" 143-A was made and the enclosed recording was made in the studios of Wand Management Corp., 254 W. 54th St., NYC, in the presence of [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] and other officials and technicians of the above corporation. [REDACTED] made available a mimeographed copy of the words to "Louie Louie" so that they could be followed when listening to the enclosed recording.

- 3 - Bureau (Encl. 1)
(1 - FBI LAB)
2 - Detroit (145-420)
1 - New York

REC-51

EX 110

24
AUG 24 1965

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

b7C
b7D [REDACTED] explained that she had been mistaken when she had previously advised that the record "Louie Louie" had been made from a two track recording. She stated it had not been made from a two track recording but from a one track monaural recording. Subsequently, her sound engineers had simulated a stereo version and this had led her to believe that she had a two track recording of the original "Louie Louie."

[REDACTED] stated that there is no separate voice track recording for the record "Louie Louie" and that the enclosed sound track is a copy of the sound recording from which the Wand record "Louie Louie" 143-A was made. She further explained that to aid the listener in listening to this sound track, her sound engineers had made the enclosed recording with the intent of bringing out the voice sounds to the best of their ability.

RECORDED
8/26/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

NO LAB FIEL

Re: UNSUB; 45 rpm Recording
"Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITOM
OO: DETROIT

File # 145-2961
Lab. # D-486786 AV

Examination requested by: SAC, NEW YORK (145-2338)

L 8/23/65

Examination requested: Document

Date received: 8/24/65

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

Tape recording
disc recording
A comparison of (K) with (Q) disclosed no
audible differences

ALL
b7c

Specimens submitted for examination

K1 Tape made from the original recording from which
the record "Louie Louie" 143-A was made in the
studios of Wand Management Corp., 254 W. 54th St.,
NYC

ALSO SUBMITTED: Mimeographed copy of the words to
"Louie Louie"

2 = DE (145-420)

Last report
9/11/65
C. W. [illegible]



1 - Mr. [redacted]
 1 - Mr. [redacted]
 Rm. 5714

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON, D. C.**

To: **FBI, New York (145-2338)**

Date: **September 16, 1965**

Re: **UNSUB; 45 rpm Recording
 "Louie Louie"
 POSSIBLE ITOM
 OO: Detroit**

J. Edgar Hoover
 John Edgar Hoover, Director

EX-100 REG-134
 Lab. No.

**145-2961-17
 D-486786 AV**

Examination requested by: **New York**

Reference: **Letter 8/23/65**

Examination requested: **Document**

Remarks:

*ALL
 b7C*

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

2 - Detroit (145-420) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

*P. H. De
 10/21/65
 58/1/65*

**MAILED 5
 SEP 16 1965
 COMM-FBI**

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- DeLoach _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

69 SEP 22 1965

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

**U S DEPT OF JUSTICE
 FBI**

SEP 16 5 28 PM '65

RECEIVED



5714



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

To: **FBI, New York**

Date:

September 16, 1965

Re: **UNSUB; 45 rpm Recording
"Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITOM**

FBI File No.

145-2961

Lab. No.

D-486786 AV

Specimens received **8/24/65**

*K1 & Also Sub
returned to N.Y.
10/10/66 wjh*

**K1 Tape made from the original recording from which the record
"Louie Louie" 143-A was made in the studios of Wand Management
Corp., 254 W. 54th St., NYC**

ALSO SUBMITTED: Mimeographed copy of the words to "Louie Louie"

Result of examination:

A comparison was made of the recording on the tape described above as specimen K1 with the recording on the disk, submitted by the Detroit Office and described as specimen Q3 in this case and no audible differences were noted.

Specimen K1 and the "ALSO SUBMITTED" material are retained.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

b7c

(7)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

INFORMANT

Mr. GRACE stated that he had received a telephone call from [REDACTED]

b7C

b7D

[REDACTED] Michigan, regarding this record.

She appeared on 3/30/65, at the office of ROBERT J. GRACE

with [REDACTED]

Michigan.

b7C

Both [REDACTED] were in the office of Mr. GRACE along with SA [REDACTED] and Supervisor [REDACTED] Detroit, and [REDACTED] Assistant Engineer in Charge, Federal Communications Commission, 1029 Federal Building, Detroit.

They stated that they had the above-mentioned record with them and that this record is a 45 r.p.m. recording of the song "Louie Louie". They stated that this record has become very popular over the radio stations which cater to the teenage "rockin roll" fans in the greater Detroit area and is considered to be "a best seller". They stated that when this record ("Louie Louie") is played on 33 r.p.m. speed, obscene and suggestive words can be interpreted in this song. They made available a copy of the words to this song as they interpreted the song after listening to it played numerous times on the 33 r.p.m. speed.

b7C

b7D

Also on 3/31/65, [REDACTED] John C. Fuhrmann Junior High School, 5155 14 Mile Road, Warren, Michigan, telephonically contacted the Detroit FBI Office to advise that he had found a sheet of paper on a student at this school which contained obscene words to the song "Louie Louie". He stated he questioned the student and the student told him that this is a popular song and when played on a 33 r.p.m. speed, the obscene and suggestive words can be fairly interpreted in the song "Louie Louie".

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] all stated that teenagers are "buying up" the record "Louie Louie" and believed by them to be playing it on 33 r.p.m. speed.

DE 145-420

b7c Mr. GRACE on 3/30/65, contacted Dearborn, Michigan, Radio Station WKNR which caters to teenagers and plays mostly "rockin roll" records. [REDACTED] stated he would telegraph the record company in New York City to obtain the lyrics to "Louis Louis". The Radio Station WKNR received a telegram from [REDACTED] SEPTER Records giving the correct copyrighted lyrics to "Louis Louis" and they are as follows:

"LOUIS LOUIS OH YEA AWAY WE GO
YEA YEA YEA YEA YEA LOUIS LOUIS OH BABY AWAY FINE LITTLE GIRL
SHE WAITS FOR ME ME CATCH THE SHIP ACROSS THE SHIP SEA I
SAILED THE SHIP ALL ALONE I NEVER THINK ILL MAKE IT HOME
LOUIS LOUIS AWAY WE GO THREE NIGHTS AND DAYS WE SAIL THE
SEA ME THINK OF GIRL CONSTANTLY ON THE SHIP DREAM SHE
THERE I SMELL THE ROSE IN HER HAIR LOUIS LOUIS OH BABY
AWAY WE GO ME SEE JAMAICA MOON ABOVE IT WONT BE LONG ME
SEE ME LOVE ME TAKE HER IN ARMS AND THEN I TELL HER I
NEVER LEAVE AGAIN LOUIS LOUIS OH YEA AWAY WE GO"

The FBI Laboratory is requested to examine this record in a effort to discern any obscene words and suggestive overtones that may be contained in this recording when played on 33 r.p.m. speed. It is noted that when this record was played in the Assistant United States Attorney's Office on 3/30/65, it was difficult to get all the words in this song.

It is requested that the FBI Laboratory return this record to the Detroit Office after examination has been completed.

LEAD

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK:

Will contact Wand Company, 1650 Broadway, New York, regarding the recording "Louie Louie" in an effort to obtain the lyrics contained in this record.

RECORDED
4/29/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

ED LAB FILE

Re: UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording
"Louis Louis"
POSSIBLE ITOM

File # 145-2961
Lab. # D-478135 AV

OO: Detroit

Examination requested by: FBI, Detroit (145-420)

4/22/65

Examination requested: Document

Date received: 4/26/65

Result of Examination:

Examination by: [REDACTED]

Specimens submitted for examination

(Q3) One WAND 45 r.p.m. recording bearing on one side the
title "Louis Louis (Richard Berry) THE KINGSMEN"

ALSO SUBMITTED: Sheet of paper bearing typewritten words of lyrics

1 ENCL

RETURN Q2

DE/45-420

Unsub; 45 a.p.m.
Recording "Louie Louie"
Possible ITOM
OO: DE

Enclosure for
Bureau: FBI Laboratory

OBSCENE

Lou-Ai Lou-Ai Oh, no. Grab her way down low.
(Repeat) This line least clear.

There is a fine little girl waiting for me.
She is just a girl across the way.
When I take her all alone,
She's never the girl I lay at home..

(Chorus)

Tonight at ten I'll lay her again
We'll fuck your girl and by the way
And ... on that chair I'll lay her there.
I felt my bone .. ah.. in her hair.

(Chorus)

She had a rag on, I moved above.
It won't be long she'll slip it off.
I held her in my arms and then
And I told her I'd rather lay her again.

Chorus.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE DETROIT	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DETROIT	DATE 10/29/65	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/18-10/26/65
TITLE OF CASE UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording "Louie Louie"		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED]	TYPED BY [REDACTED]
		CHARACTER OF CASE POSSIBLE ITOM b7C	

REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED] at Detroit,
dated 7/30/65.

- P -

LEAD

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN:

Will maintain contact with Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT J. GRACE and obtain and report his decision as to prosecutive action in captioned matter.

Pending Prosecution Over 6 Months NO
Pending Over One Year NO

APPROVED <i>PBS</i> <i>ph</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW																					
COPIES MADE: ② - Bureau (145-2961) 1 - USA, Detroit 1 - FCC, Detroit 3 - Detroit (145-420)		145-2961-18	REC-10																				
		18 NOV 1 1965	EX-109																				
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">AGENCY.....</td> <td style="width: 25%;">100 [unclear] Dept.</td> <td style="width: 25%;">[unclear]</td> <td style="width: 25%;">[unclear]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>REQUEST RECD.....</td> <td>7/16/65</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DATE FWD.....</td> <td>11/5/65</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HOW FWD.....</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>BY.....</td> <td>[unclear]</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		AGENCY.....	100 [unclear] Dept.	[unclear]	[unclear]	REQUEST RECD.....	7/16/65			DATE FWD.....	11/5/65			HOW FWD.....				BY.....	[unclear]			NOTATIONS <div style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-15deg); display: inline-block;"> STAT SECT. </div>	
AGENCY.....	100 [unclear] Dept.	[unclear]	[unclear]																				
REQUEST RECD.....	7/16/65																						
DATE FWD.....	11/5/65																						
HOW FWD.....																							
BY.....	[unclear]																						

ADMINISTRATIVE

One copy of this report is being furnished the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Detroit, Michigan, inasmuch as this recording of the song "Louie Louie" was played over local radio stations in the Detroit area, and the FCC authorities at Detroit had received a complaint regarding this record.

Three copies of instant report have been designated for the Detroit Office in view of the fact it is anticipated that other offices having received inquiries concerning "Louie Louie" ~~may~~ be requested to be furnished with the results of investigation as set forth in instant report.

- B* -

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Detroit
1 - FCC, Detroit

Report of: SA [REDACTED]
Date: 10/29/65

Office: Detroit, Michigan

Field Office File #: 145-420

Bureau File #: 145-2961

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
45 r.p.m. Recording
"Louie Louie"

Character: POSSIBLE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF
OBSCENE MATTER

Synopsis:

b7C
b7D

FBI Lab. determined, on 9/16/65, that a tape made from original recording of "Louie Louie", supplied by [REDACTED] Wand Management Corporation, when compared with a disc submitted previously by the Detroit FBI Office, contained no audible differences. [REDACTED] Jerden Music, Inc., furnished information regarding the history of recordings of "Louie Louie" and advised the present controversial 45 r.p.m. recording was [REDACTED] by "The Kingsmen", in 1963. [REDACTED] leases the record to Wand Management, which distributes it under the Scepter label, and that the recording was hurriedly produced and the technique was poor but the record definitely was not obscene. [REDACTED] Limax Music Co., [REDACTED] published original version of "Louie Louie", in 1957, and presently receives royalties from recording made by "The Kingsmen." [REDACTED] furnished original lyrics submitted for copywriting, on 3/22/57, and noted they are definitely not obscene and are identical to those published for "The Kingsmen" version. [REDACTED] furnished editorial published by radio station KEEL, Shreveport, Louisiana, which [REDACTED] said expressed his views on the alleged obscenity of "Louie Louie." [REDACTED] members of "The Kingsmen", who recorded the controversial version of "Louie Louie", upon interview reported it definitely contained no obscenity.

- P -

DETAILS:

By communication dated August 23, 1965, the New York Office advised as follows:

On August 23, 1965, [REDACTED] Wand Management Corporation, New York City, declined to make available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, without a court order, the sound track from which the Wand record "Louie Louie" was recorded.

b7C
b7D
She had no objection to making a copy of the original recording from which the record "Louie Louie" 143-A was made and the recording was made in the studios of Wand Management Corporation, 254 West 54th Street, New York City, in the presence of [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] and other officials and technicians of the above corporation. [REDACTED] made available a mimeographed copy of the words to "Louie Louie" so that they could be followed when listening to the recording.

[REDACTED] explained that she had been mistaken when she had previously advised that the record "Louie Louie" had been made from a two-track recording. She stated it had not been made from a two-track recording but from a one-track monaural recording. Subsequently, her sound engineers had simulated a stereo version and this had led her to believe that she had a two-track recording of the original "Louie Louie."

[REDACTED] stated that there is no separate voice track recording for the record "Louie Louie" and that the sound track is a copy of the sound recording from which the Wand record "Louie Louie" 143-A was made. She further explained that to aid the listener in listening to this sound track, her sound engineers had made the recording with the intent of bringing out the voice sounds to the best of their ability.

The aforementioned recording, made in the studios of the Wand Management Corporation, on August 23, 1965, was forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory for the purpose of comparing this recording with the disc which had been previously furnished to the Laboratory by the Detroit Office.

By report, dated September 16, 1965, the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory advised as follows:

DE 145-420

"K1 Tape made from the original recording from which the record "Louie Louie" 143-A was made in the studios of Wand Management Corp., 254 W. 54th St., NYC

"ALSO SUBMITTED: Mimeographed copy of the words to "Louie Louie"

"Result of examination:

"A comparison was made of the recording on the tape described above as specimen K1 with the recording on the disk, submitted by the Detroit Office and described as specimen Q3 in this case and no audible differences were noted."

Date 9/22/65

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Jerden Music Inc.,
2227 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, Washington. He advised as follows:

RICHARD BERRY was the original writer and artist of the song, "Louie Louie." It was originally recorded under the Flip record label in 1956 in Los Angeles, California. However, it was not successful.

In 1961 a Seattle group known as the Wailers made a recording under the Etiquette record label. This recording became the #1 hit in the Seattle area. It was distributed nationally, but it was not a hit on the national level.

In 1963 the Wailer's record was being played a great deal by station KGON in Portland, Oregon. The competing station, KISN, was not authorized to play it. KISN prevailed upon the Kingmen to make a recording of "Louie Louie" which they did. KEN CHASE, the Program Director of KISN sent the tape of the Kingmen's recording [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], and in 1963 this record became the #1 hit in the nation.

[REDACTED] aware of the charges that the Kingmen's record was obscene if played at different speeds. He stated the record is not obscene. He pointed out that the Kingmen did not know all of the lyrics and in some instances their recording technique was poor from a professional standpoint. However, he stated definitely it is not obscene. He stated that possibly the rumor that the record was obscene contributed to its sales record; however, he pointed out that if this were true, it was entirely unintentional.

He was advised by the Seattle "Post Intelligence" that the Governor of Indiana had banned the record, and he heard that the management of the Kingmen were planning a law suit against the state of Michigan because of its being banned.

[REDACTED]

On 9/21/65 at [REDACTED] File # SE 145-262

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/21/65

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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



Deleted under exemption(s) b7c, b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.



Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.



Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.



Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

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



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

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92

Do 8/31/65

[REDACTED] Limax Music Company, Inc., 618 Ridgely Drive, Los Angeles, California, telephone 934-4033, voluntarily appeared at the Los Angeles Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in response to a telephonic request for an appointment to see him concerning the song "Louie Louie."

b7C
b7D
"Louie Louie," which was originally published in 1957. At that time, [REDACTED] RICHARD BERRY, who was a singer and performer. BERRY is no longer [REDACTED] is believed to be working in a night club in the Gardena, California area. When BERRY wrote this song, [REDACTED] under the "Flip" label. He said Flip Records, Inc. is still in operation [REDACTED] RICHARD BERRY was accompanied by various studio musicians in the original recording of the song "Louie Louie."

[REDACTED] exhibited the original lyrics to this song which had been submitted for copyrighting to Washington, D. C. on March 22, 1957. The copyright registration number was observed to be E Bu 471125. [REDACTED] furnished a copy of the sheet music for "Louie Louie" which was compared to the original lyrics and found to be identical. The lyrics of "Louie Louie" as noted in the sheet music are as follows:

Chorus

"LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTTA GO _____
LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTTA GO _____

Verse 1

"A FINE LITTLE GIRL, SHE WAIT FOR ME _____
ME CATCH THE SHIP _____
ACROSS THE SEA _____
I SAILED THE SHIP _____
ALL ALONE _____
I NEVER THINK _____
I'LL MAKE IT HOME. _____

Detroit 145-420

On 8/25/65 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 145-755

SA's [REDACTED] b7C
by [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/25/65

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2
LA 145-755

Chorus

"LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTTA GO _____
LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTTA GO _____

Verse 2

"THREE NIGHTS AND _____
DAYS WE SAILED THE SEA _____
ME THINK OF GIRL _____
CONSTANTLY _____
ON THE SHIP _____
I DREAM SHE THERE _____
I SMELL THE ROSE _____
IN HER HAIR. _____

Chorus

"LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTTA GO _____
LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTTA GO _____

Verse 3

"ME SEE JAMAICA MOON ABOVE _____
IT WON'T BE LONG _____
ME SEE ME LOVE _____
ME TAKE HER IN _____
MY ARMS AND THEN _____
I TELL HER I _____
NEVER LEAVE AGAIN. _____

Chorus

"LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTTA GO _____
LOUIE LOUIE, ME GOTTA GO _____"

b7c
b7D [REDACTED] it is obvious the lyrics to this
record are not pornographic or objectionable in any way. He
said the song was distributed nationally and was fairly

LA 145-755

successful. About 1962 it was recorded by The Kingsmen for [redacted] Jerden Records. This recording under the Jerden label occurred in Seattle, Washington and was done with the permission [redacted]

b7C
b7D

[redacted] Following this particular version of the song, the record became very successful so that it was also recorded under Decca, Mercury and Columbia labels, among others. Wand Record Company of New York subsequently leased or purchased The Kingsmen version of this record [redacted]. The Kingsmen version of "Louie Louie" as produced by Wand Record Company, New York City, is the release in issue and there has been some confusion over it. The first indication [redacted] received that anything was wrong was in January, 1964, when a question arose in Shreveport, Louisiana about the lyrics being pornographic. The radio station in Shreveport requested a copy of the lyrics and indicated they would not play this record over the air without verifying what words were being sung. He said they had received some complaints from listeners and other individuals who claimed the lyrics were pornographic.

[redacted] has subsequently received several communications in this regard and hoped the matter could be straightened out. He noted the music is sung in a calypso style, which makes it very difficult to understand. He received complaints that when this record is played at 33 RPM instead of the normal 45 RPM, the pornographic language is obvious. Playing a record at a slower speed would slow the music and speaking pattern down to such an extent that it would be very difficult to understand. He had never heard of such a procedure being done in the past.

Because of his desire to solve this riddle, he obtained a copy of The Kingsmen version of "Louie Louie." He listened to this record on 45 RPM and said it definitely followed the lyrics as they had been originally prepared in 1957. At 33 RPM, he found the language used to be unintelligible. He noted that if a listener had a script to go by which claimed to have the words being sung, the listener might receive the impression he had

LA 145-755

b7C
b7D
actually heard that language being used. [REDACTED] understood there was such a script but had never seen it or obtained a copy of it. He would like to see a copy of the script which some people thought indicated what the lyrics were in the song "Louie Louie."

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] is very happy over the success of this record. He does not approve of pornography and would have nothing to do with involvement in such a matter.

b7C
b7D
On September 13, 1965, [REDACTED] furnished the Los Angeles Office with a copy of an editorial on "Louie Louie" by VERN STIERMAN, Radio Station KEEL, Shreveport, Louisiana. [REDACTED] this editorial, which is being set forth immediately hereinafter, was in accordance with his views concerning allegations of obscenity in "Louie Louie.":

COMMUNITY SERVICES • EDITORIAL

RADIO # 710 ON THE DIAL

KEEL

February 2-6, 1957

1500 North Market Street • Shreveport, La.

Editorial of "Louie, Louie"
by: Vern Sherman

KEEL has, for the past seven years, been the top-rated radio station in Shreveport. We have maintained this position by furnishing the KEEL listening area with tops in entertainment and information. We have lent our support to every worthwhile public service, and we have, at all times, been aware of our responsibility to our audience. An essential part of that responsibility is to make sure that every record, every commercial, every newscast, is in good taste... We can censor the material we put on the air, but we cannot censor the minds of people.... little minds think little thoughts, and unfortunately, dirty minds think dirty thoughts.... Which leads me to the currently popular record, "Louie, Louie".

Someone, somewhere, with an obscene imagination decided to write lyrics, that in his opinion sounded like the sounds on the recording by the Kingsmen. Then he took it upon himself to object to the lyrics, which didn't exist until he wrote them. He sent these lyrics with the record to the Governor of Indiana. This story was relayed across the country by the news services and little minds all over began to write their own lyrics to the song.... lyrics which do not exist on the recording of "Louie, Louie" by the Kingsmen. These are the actual lyrics. Not Shakespeare admittedly, but not obscene by any stretch of the imagination.

Louie, Louie, me gotta go
Louie, Louie, me gotta go

A fine little girl, she wait for me
Me catch the ship across the sea
I sailed the ship all alone
I never think I make it home.

Three nights and days we sailed the sea
Me think of girl constantly
On the ship I dream she there
I smell the rose in her hair.
Me see Jamaica moon above
It won't be long me see me love
Me take her in my arms and then
I tell her I never leave again.
Louie, Louie, me gotta go

by pennishe... THE Music, Inc.-Copyright 1957

COMMUNITY SERVICES • EDITORIAL

RADIO # 710 ON THE DIAL 428-611

KEEL

"Louis, Louis" - Kent

1500 North Market Street • Shreveport, La.

And, those are the actual lyrics as recorded by the Kingsmen and played by K Double E L. We feel it is unjust to listeners with clean minds, as well as the publisher of the song and producer of the record to take this song off the air. Obscene records are not played on KEEL, and if someone decides to write nasty lyrics to "Stardust".....we won't have the original "Stardust" for this reason.

Date 9/7/65

[REDACTED]

Portland, Oregon, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent. He was advised that he could consult an attorney before making any statement, that he did not have to make any statement, and that any statement he did make could be used against him in court.

[REDACTED] volunteered the following information:

b7c
b7D

He identified himself as a member of the vocal group, the "Kingsmen". He said he has been aware for over a year that certain persons profess to hear obscene words in the group's recording of the song, "Louie Louie" but so far as he is concerned the words they claim to hear simply do not exist on that record. He said the recording was originally done on the west coast over a year ago and the group simply selected a standard version of the lyrics. With a short practice session and certainly no deliberate attempt to include any obscene or suggested wording the initial tape recording was made.

The original recording sold poorly for several months on the west coast and was later recorded on the Wand label in New York. Some months after that label went on sale, the talk of obscenity in the recording arose. He said to put an end to this and to establish their own position, the Wand Corporation forwarded a record to the Federal Communications Commission at Washington, D.C., and it is his belief that the Commission replied they observed no obscenity in the unintelligible wording. The Corporation later offered a \$1000 reward to anyone who could substantiate the reported obscenity.

[REDACTED] there was no deliberate attempt to include any obscenity in the recording and it is his belief only those who want to hear such things can read it into the vocal. He said he has heard others point out where the suggested obscenity exists in the recording but cannot make out what they suggest appears.

On 8/25/65 at Chicopee, Massachusetts File # Detroit 145-420
Boston 145-385
by b7c SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/1/65

Date 9/7/65

b7C
b7D
[redacted] Washington, was advised as to the identity of the interviewing agent, that he could consult with an attorney before making any statement, that he did not have to make any statement, and that any statement he did make could be used against him in court.

[redacted] identified himself as a member of the "Kingsmen", a vocal group under the management of [redacted] Seattle, Washington, [redacted] New York. He said he was aware of the widespread complaint that the "Kingsmen" had spoken obscene words in their recording of the song "Louie Louie". [redacted] he would swear that this was not deliberately true and that he and the others selected a standard lyric for recording, changed it not at all, and after short practice recorded it at Seattle, Washington around January 1963. He said the record sold on the west coast primarily for several months without criticism and was later put on the Wand label in New York in an exact duplication of the earlier record since it was recorded only once.

For several months on the Wand label nothing was said of the obscenity which some claim to hear, or at least nothing of the complaint had come to their attention, until it was banned from radio and public performance by the Governor of Indiana. He said the "Kingsmen" and their management have attempted to counter the charge but apparently the more said about it the more the talk of the obscenity spreads.

[redacted] he does not admit to complainants that the words exist even accidentally because he does not believe they do and contended that those who want to hear such things have apparently interpreted an unintelligible sounding of words which were honestly inserted for harmony.

On 8/25/65 at Chicopee, Massachusetts File # Detroit 145-420
Boston 145-385

b7C
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 9/1/65

Date 9/7/65

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] Oregon, was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent, that he could consult with an attorney before making any statement, that he did not have to make any statement and that if he did make any statement it could be used against him in court.

b7C
b7D [redacted] he is a member of the vocal group, the "Kingsmen", and that he, with the other members of that group have been aware for over a year that certain people contend their recording of "Louie Louie" contains obscene wording. He said he does not believe this is so since he cannot make out the obscene words in the recording that others suggest are there. He had been told the obscene wording is more understandable at 33 1/3 RPM than the proper 45 RPM speed, but considers this ridiculous because to play the record at a speed other than was intended is to distort the vocal and if any wording thus became an obscenity it would be entirely accidental.

[redacted] he is certain there was no deliberate intent on his part or that of the others to utter an obscenity in the one and only recording they made of the song and he believes such obscenities are actually non-existent.

On 8/25/65 at Chicopee, Massachusetts File # Detroit 145-420
Boston 145-385
by b7C [redacted] Date dictated 9/1/65

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1.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/7/65

b7C
b7D
[redacted]
Oregon, was advised as to the identity of the interviewing agent, that he could consult with an attorney before making any statement, that he did not have to make any statement, and that any statement he made could be used against him in court.

[redacted] volunteered to furnish the following information and identified himself as a member of a vocal group known as the "Kingsmen". He said that group consisting [redacted]

* [redacted] who is no longer a member of the group, recorded the song "Louie Louie" on April 13, 1963, at the Northwest Recording Studios, 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon. The "Kingsmen" are under the management of [redacted] Seattle, Washington, and the recording was done for themselves under the label "JERDEN".

He said the song and lyrics had been written about nine years before and those used by the "Kingsmen" were the standard sold at any music publisher. The song was quickly recorded with one or two run-throughs and no change in the standard lyrics was made by any of the vocal group. He said there was certainly no attempt made to inject obscene wording and that he and the others do not believe any such wording exists on the record in spite of those whose minds profess they exist.

[redacted] the record sold few copies under the "JERDEN" label in the northwest and about five months later it was pressed on the "Wand" label although it was not re-recorded but the original tape was used.

Around January 15, 1964, the "Kingsmen" received an inquiry from one of the wire services concerning the suggested obscene wording and were told that the Governor of Indiana had banned the playing of the record on the air or in any public performance. A month or so before that an individual unknown to them put through a call to a hotel where they were staying and said he had detected obscenity when the record was played at a rate of 33 1/3 RPM rather than the 45RPM for which it was intended.

On 8/25/65 at Chicopee, Massachusetts File # Detroit 145-420
Boston 145-385

b7C
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 9/1/65

He said they considered this caller had a dirty mind particularly since anything spoken at the lesser RPM could not have been recorded for that speed and would be accidental.

Except for that call the suggestion of obscene wording had never been made although the song as originally recorded had been on sale then for eight months.

announces now at each of the appearances of the group that if anyone in the audience is a part of that minority which thinks they will hear dirty songs from the "Kingsmen" they are mistaken but he said it has little effect since those who want to believe the words are in the song apparently will continue to do so.

b7c
b7D

He said there are unintelligible words or sounds in their vocal where those who want to apparently find the obscenity, but these were honest vocal effects without thought of intended obscenity and that neither he nor the others in the group can hear the suggested obscenity today. He said the result of the action taken by the Governor of Indiana, and similar publicity, has been to spur sales of the record but this the group does not welcome because of its possible long range effect on their careers. The record sold well initially and then fell off until the obscene wording rumor spread when sales again soared. The record to date has sold about 2,000,000 copies.

an interesting development has been that those who hear the obscenity contend it exists only on the 45 RPM version of the song and not on a 33 1/3 album when as a matter of fact the recording is one and the same, both made from the original tape.

The facts of instant case were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT J. GRACE, Detroit, who advised that he desired to review instant report reflecting the most recent investigation of captioned matter prior to rendering his decision as to prosecutive action.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE DETROIT	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DETROIT	DATE 11/30/65	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 11/2 - 29/65
TITLE OF CASE UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording "Louie Louie"		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED]	TYPED BY [REDACTED]
		CHARACTER OF CASE POSSIBLE ITOM b7c	

REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED] Detroit, 10/29/65.

- P -

LEAD

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Will maintain contact with Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT J. GRACE and obtain and report his decision as to prosecutive action in captioned matter.

Pending Prosecution Over Six Months No
 Pending Over One Year No

APPROVED <i>PHS</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE COPIES MADE: <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> ② - Bureau (145-2961) 1 - USA, Detroit 1 - FCC, Detroit 3 - Detroit (145-420) </div>	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">145-2961-19</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> 14 DEC 2 1965 DEC 2 3 21 PM </div> <div style="float: right; text-align: center;"> REC-12 EX-117 </div>															
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">AGENCY.....</td> <td style="width: 30%;">145-2961-19</td> <td style="width: 30%;">DATE FWD.....</td> <td style="width: 10%;">HOW FWD.....</td> <td style="width: 10%;">BY.....</td> </tr> <tr> <td>REQUEST RECD.....</td> <td>12/2/65</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		AGENCY.....	145-2961-19	DATE FWD.....	HOW FWD.....	BY.....	REQUEST RECD.....	12/2/65								
AGENCY.....	145-2961-19	DATE FWD.....	HOW FWD.....	BY.....												
REQUEST RECD.....	12/2/65															
NOTATIONS <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <i>JOE</i> SPAT. SEC. </div>																

ADMINISTRATIVE

One copy of this report is being furnished the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Detroit, Michigan, inasmuch as this recording of the song "Louie Louie" was played over local radio stations in the Detroit area, and the FCC authorities at Detroit had received a complaint regarding this record.

Three copies of instant report have been designated for the Detroit Office in view of the fact it is anticipated that other offices having received inquiries concerning "Louie Louie" may request to be furnished with the results of investigation as set forth in instant report.

- B* -
Cover Page

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

1 - USA, Detroit
1 - FCC, Detroit

Report of:

SA [REDACTED]

Office:

Detroit, Michigan

Date:

11/30/65

b7c

Field Office File #:

145-420

Bureau File #:

145-2961

Title:

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
45 r.p.m. Recording
"Louie Louie"

Character:

POSSIBLE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF
OBSCENE MATTER

Synopsis:

b7c
b7D

[REDACTED]
"Louie Louie", [REDACTED] This song became a major hit with the Kingsmen version [REDACTED] said with this type of rock and roll music, a listener might think he heard anything being said that he imagined. [REDACTED] the song [REDACTED] did not contain any obscenity.

- P -

DETAILS:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 11/8/65

b7c
b7D [redacted] Los Angeles, California, telephone [redacted] voluntarily appeared at the Los Angeles Office of the FBI in connection "Louie Louie." [redacted] he was not required to say anything, that anything he said could be used against him in a court of law, and that he had the right to consult an attorney of his choice before saying anything. [redacted] currently employed [redacted] California.

[redacted] "Louie Louie" which became a major hit with the Kingsmen version in 1962 or 1963. [redacted] the sheet music for the song "Louie Louie" and said this was the same as originally written [redacted] did not contain any obscenity. He does not believe in using obscenity or rough language in any record, and has never done so.

Prior to the Kingsmen version of the record put out by Wand Records, he never received any complaints or indications that someone thought the lyrics were obscene, or that there was another set of lyrics. Thereafter, however, he would occasionally be asked by a friend about the lyrics since someone had apparently prepared a script of obscene lyrics to accompany the song. [redacted] with this type of rock and roll music, a listener might think he heard anything being said that he imagined. [redacted] has never seen the reported script of obscene language.

On 11/2/65 at Los Angeles, California File # Detroit 145-420
Los Angeles 145-755
by SA [redacted] Date dictated 11/2/65

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE DETROIT	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DETROIT	DATE 12/6/65	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 12/2/65
TITLE OF CASE UNSUB; 45 r.p.m. Recording "Louie Louie"		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED]	TYPED BY [REDACTED]
		CHARACTER OF CASE POSSIBLE ITOM b7c	

REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED] at Detroit, 11/30/65.

- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE

One copy of this report is being furnished the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Detroit, Michigan, inasmuch as this recording of the song "Louie Louie" was played over local radio stations in the Detroit area, and the FCC authorities at Detroit had received a complaint regarding this record.

APPROVED <i>PHS</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 2 - Bureau (145-2961) 1 - USA, Detroit 1 - FCC, Detroit 1 - Detroit (145-420)		145-2961-	20
		REC- 50	
		18 DEC 8 1965	
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT			
AGENCY.....	<i>Ice [unclear]</i>		
REQUEST RECD.....	<i>Mr. [unclear]</i>		
DATE FWD.....	<i>12/12/65</i>		
HOW FWD.....			
BY.....	60 DEC 14 1965		

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

1 - USA, Detroit
1 - FCC, Detroit

Report of:
Date:

SA [REDACTED]
12/6/65

b7C
Office: Detroit, Michigan

Field Office File #:

145-420

Bureau File #: 145-2961

Title:

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
45 r.p.m. Recording
"Louie Louie"

Character:

POSSIBLE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF
OBSCENE MATTER

Synopsis:

On 12/2/65, AUSA ROBERT J. GRACE, Detroit, advised that in his opinion the investigation of instant matter disclosed no evidence of a ITOM violation and that he was, therefore, recommending that no further investigation be conducted.

- C -

DETAILS:

On December 2, 1965, Assistant United States Attorney ROBERT J. GRACE, Detroit, stated that he thoroughly reviewed the results of investigation conducted in instant case and was of the opinion that there was no evidence of a violation of the Federal Interstate Transportation of Obscene Matter Statutes. He said that he, therefore, was recommending that no further investigation in this matter be conducted.

- 1* -

b7c

SAC, New York (145-2338)

October 10, 1966

Director, FBI (145-2961)

UNSUB; 45 rpm Recording
"Louie Louie"
POSSIBLE ITOM

OO: Detroit

Reurlet 8/23/65 and FBI Laboratory report D-486786 AV
forwarded to New York on 9/16/65.

In accordance with your request and referenced letter,
the tape recording from the record "Louie Louie" and the
mimeographed copy of the words to "Louie Louie" are returned
herewith. You should be guided by the opinion of the
United States Attorney in determining whether this material
should be returned to [REDACTED]
Wand Management Corporation, 254 W. 54th Street, New York City.

Enclosures

b7c
b7D

EX-104

REC-69 145-2961-21

19 OCT 10 1966

WPA

MAILED 5
OCT 7 1966
COMM-FBI

[REDACTED] b7c
(6)

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Wick _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

62 OCT 12 1966

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FBI

OCT 10 2 10 PM '66

DIRECTOR
FBI

[REDACTED]

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

DATE: 3/17/64

FROM : SAC, SAN DIEGO (145-NEW) (P)

SUBJECT: WAND
1650 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
ITOM

San Diego, California, made available a phonograph record entitled "Louie Louie" together with a copy of the lyrics sung by RICHARD BERRY, both of which are enclosed for the FBI Laboratory.

the record was apparently manufactured by the Wand Corporation, 1650 Broadway, New York City, New York.

the record was received by their office from Imperial Beach, California. A copy of the lyrics were made available by who stated that her daughter received them from a student attending the University of Washington at Seattle, Washington.

he played the record in an attempt to determine if the words were clearly intelligible and were, in fact, obscene. He stated that on the equipment available to him he was unable to ascertain if the lyrics to the song Louie Louie were obscene, and, therefore, made the record and lyrics available to the San Diego Office for examination by the FBI Laboratory.

it is his understanding that the record is available at local record dealers and, in fact, purchased another record entitled Louie Louie

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2) (REGISTERED)
2 - San Diego

REC-43

MCT-1

(4)

ENCLOSURE

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SD 145-NEW

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[produced by "Records, Inc., Hollywood, California", also sung by RICHARD BERRY. [redacted] he played the record but determined that the words which were intelligible were not obscene.

[redacted] he believes several versions of the same song, "Louie Louie", are available for distribution through record shops, but only the one produced by Wand possibly falls under the purview of obscene matter.

[It is requested that the record be reviewed at the FBI Laboratory with regard to its character and also compared with specimens of similar records which may have been submitted to the Laboratory.

[redacted] he wishes that neither the record nor the copy of the lyrics be returned to him, and, therefore, the Bureau is requested to dispose of the evidence upon completion of its examination.

REPORT
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: **FBI, San Diego (145-New)**

Date: **April 2, 1964**
FBI File No. **145-2972**
Lab. No. **D-445527 AV**

Re: **WARD**
1650 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
ITOM

Q1 + "Also Submitted" added to QF 5/20/64 w/h

Specimens received **3/19/64**

Q1 One 45 rpm WARD phonograph record entitled "LOUIE LOUIE (Richard Berry) THE KINGSMEN" on one side and "HAUNTED CASTLE (Lynn Easton) THE KINGSMEN" on the other side.

ALSO SUBMITTED: Photocopy of reported lyrics to record "LOUIE LOUIE"

Result of examination:

An additional copy of the phonograph record described above as specimen Q1 was submitted by the Tampa Office with a letter dated 2/17/64 and captioned "Unknown Subject; Phonograph Record 'LOUIE LOUIE' Distributed By Linax Music, NYC.; ITOM."

Because the lyrics of the song on the record, Q1, could not be definitely determined in the Laboratory examination, it could not be determined whether Q1 is an obscene record.

Specimen Q1 and the ALSO SUBMITTED material are retained in the Bureau's Files.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

b7c

(7)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Recorded
3/23/64

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: WAND
1650 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
ITOM

NO LAB FILE
File # 145-2927
Lab. # D-445527 AV

Examination requested by: SAC, San Diego (145-New)

3/17/64

Examination requested: Document

Date received:

3/19/64

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

1. Ad. Copy Q1 sent Tampa let 2/17/64
in which was mentioned et; Photograph Record
"Louie Louie" Distributed by Limax Music,
71000 Bufile 145-2961 b7C

Specimens submitted for examination

Q1 Wand 45rpm phonograph record entitled on one side "Louie Louie"

ALSO SUBMITTED: Photocopy of lyrics to record "Louie Louie"

Report

BR445-1 WAND phonograph record entitled
"LOUIE LOUIE (Richard Berry) THE KINGMEN"
on one side and "HAUNTED CASTLE (LYNN FINE)
THE KINGMEN" on the other side.

143-1 (50023 Limax Music (BMI) Time,
"1650 Broadway New York, N.Y." + a John...
Ken Chase... 4/1/64



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

To: **FBI, San Diego (145-New)**

Date: **April 2, 1964**

Re:

**WAND
1650 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
ITOM**

mt
J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **145-2972 -1**
Lab. No. **B-445527 AV**
80-662

Examination requested by: **San Diego**

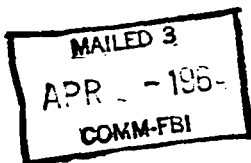
Reference: **Letter 3/17/64**

Examination requested: **Document**

Remarks:

**Unless advised to the contrary within sixty days,
Specimen Q1 will be disposed of in the Laboratory.**

cut



Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____ **1 - Tampa (145-New) Enclosure (Lab report)**
Casper _____
Callahan _____ **1 - 80-662 (obscene material)**
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____ **1 - 145-2961**
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

5 APR 9 1964 *b7c* *(7)*

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE *b7c* *5714* *117*

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (145-2972)
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

FROM : ECW SAC, SAN DIEGO (145-107)(C)

SUBJECT: WAND Corporation
1650 Broadway
New York, New York
ITOM

DATE: 5/15/64

*Evidence disposed of
in Lab 5/20/64*

Re San Diego letter to the Bureau dated 3/17/64;
and Bureau letter to San Diego dated 4/2/64.

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ST
esa

[REDACTED] San
Diego, California, advised on 5/8/64, that the phonograph
record made available to the San Diego Office entitled
"Louie, Louie", need not be returned to him and has no
objection to its being disposed of by the FBI Laboratory.

No further investigation is to be conducted in
this matter.

2 - Bureau
1 - San Diego

(3)

b7c

REC-33

145-2972-2

12 MAY 16 1964

MAY 16 1964