

Tully Archive: Tully Papers

Correspondence: Hoover, J. Edgar, 1943

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Box 1; Folder = Correspondence, Hoover, J. Edgar, 1943

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

October 25, 1943

Personal

Miss Grace Tully
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tully:

Immediately following our conversation of last Saturday evening, I had a check made to find out exactly the reason for representatives of this Bureau contacting Miss Esther Riley. I have received the following report which you will appreciate, of course, is the version which we had in our files.

It seems that the Bureau had been conducting an investigation looking to the apprehension of one William Randolph Delinski. This individual had a very lengthy criminal record which dates back to April, 1929. He had been arrested in various parts of the country on such charges as abandonment, grand larceny, carrying concealed weapons, house-breaking, robbery, and kidnaping. He had been sentenced to from eighteen to twenty years in the State Penitentiary in Georgia for carrying concealed weapons and for kidnaping the President of the First National Bank of Atlanta, Georgia. This had taken place in 1934. He escaped in August, 1937, was captured and returned to the penitentiary, but again escaped in August, 1942. Under the Federal Statutes a complaint was filed in Georgia to endeavor to effect his apprehension by reason of being an escaped prisoner, and also for his failure to register under the Selective Service Act.

In the records of the Georgia Prison and Parole Commission at Atlanta, Georgia, there was found the name of an Esther Riley, 9444 - 119th Street, Richmond Hill, Long Island, New York (9444 Lefferts Boulevard, Richmond Hill, Long Island, New York). These records of the Georgia Prison and Parole Commission listed Esther Riley as an acquaintance of Delinski.

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Miss Grace Tully

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Following the Federal complaint filed on Delinski, an extensive investigation was ordered in an effort to bring about his apprehension in view of his long criminal record, and the fact that he was an escaped prisoner. The New York Office of the FBI was instructed to make an investigation in New York State of Delinski in view of the fact that he had previously lived there. That investigation showed, according to the files of the New York City Parole Commission, that Delinski had lived at the home of the Riley family for some time in 1929 and 1930, and was apprehended while living there, for a violation of his parole, being returned to prison in New York State to serve out the balance of his sentence which had been imposed upon him for abandonment in New York State. Consequently, Agents of this Bureau made contact with the Riley family for the purpose of ascertaining any information which they might have concerning Delinski.

According to the records of this Bureau, Miss Esther Riley was interviewed on June 7, 1943, at the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. She assumed a protective attitude toward Delinski and expressed admiration for his action in marrying a Rose Scher "under pressure." Delinski was subsequently arrested for abandoning his son born of this marriage. Miss Riley stated that following his release from prison she had planned to marry Delinski. She denied emphatically that she had heard from Delinski since his escape in August, 1942, and contended that any attempts to apprehend Delinski and return him to the inhuman and barbarous treatment in a Georgia Chain Gang was unjust. She stated that under no circumstances would she divulge any information in her possession about the whereabouts of Delinski. Agents of this Bureau endeavored to convince her that it was not the function of the FBI to pass upon the fairness or the merits of Delinski's convictions, but that our function was to locate him and return him to the proper authorities.

In view of Miss Riley's refusal to answer any questions concerning Delinski, the United States Attorney's Office at New York issued a subpoena for her to appear before the Grand Jury under oath to give any information she might have concerning Delinski. She appeared before the Grand Jury in answer to the subpoena and refused to give any information in her possession, stating that she was the only person in whom Delinski had faith and she would not betray him. Following her refusal to answer

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questions propounded to her at the Grand Jury Hearing, she was taken before the Federal Judge by the United States Attorney. On the orders of the Judge, she then agreed to testify and in subsequent Grand Jury proceedings she gave certain information concerning Delinski. She stated that she had received a Christmas present from him in January, 1943, and that he had again contacted her on her birthday, February 28, 1943. She claimed that she had last heard from Delinski in May, 1943, from Oregon or Washington.

In June, 1943, an attorney in New York City advised the New York Office of the FBI that Miss Esther Riley had called at his office with a letter received from Delinski on June 28, 1943. An Agent called upon this attorney and examined the letter and found thereon the address from which it had been mailed in the State of Washington, resulting in Delinski's apprehension on June 29, 1943.

I have gone into some detail concerning the above because I wanted you to have the complete picture concerning this matter in so far as our records show. I inquired of the Agents who handled this case at our New York Office as to whether any of them had accused Miss Riley of living with a married man or had questioned her character or morality. I have been informed that no such accusation was made, though there were certain questions propounded to her about her interests in a married man. The Agents stated that Miss Riley, during the course of the questioning, was what might be termed antagonistic in that she declined to be of any assistance to the Government concerning her knowledge of Delinski and did not answer any questions or give any information until she had been ordered to do so by the Federal Judge in New York City.

I am inclosing herewith a copy of the fugitive order which was issued by the FBI at the time Delinski was sought, in order that you might note the criminal record which this man had and which was the occasion for the rather intensive effort made by Agents of this Bureau to effect his apprehension after he had escaped from the Georgia State Prison.

As I have indicated, the information which is contained in this letter reflects what appears in the files of this Bureau.

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Miss Grace Tully

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I would indeed appreciate any information which has come to your attention which indicates any improper action upon the part of Special Agents of this Bureau in the questioning of Miss Riley or in any contact which they may have had with members of her family. I will not for one moment condone any abuse of or mistreatment of persons interviewed during the course of any investigation by Agents of this Bureau. As I have said, I merely have one side of the story now, and I would indeed welcome any details which you may have concerning this matter so that I can further inquire into it and make certain that no impropriety was indulged in - or if there was impropriety, that I may take appropriate action to see that it will not occur again.

I do appreciate so much your speaking to me about this matter.

With expressions of my best regards, I am

Sincerely,

J. Edgar Hoover

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**IDENTIFICATION
ORDER NO. 1884**

April 24, 1943

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

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FBI No. 255,923

WANTED

WILLIAM RANDOLPH DELINSKI, with aliases: WILLIAM BELENSKY, GROVE COLLINS, GROVER COLLINS, ROBERT COLLINS, LOUIS COLLISON, ROBERT COLLISON, WILLIAM RANDOLPH DELENSKI, RANDOLPH W. DELENSKY, W. RANDOLPH DELENSKY, WILLIAM DELENSKY, RANDOLPH W. DELINSKY, WILLIAM RANDOLPH DELINSKY, DR. GREEN, BOB HAGAWAY, BOB HATAWAY, BOB HATHAWAY, R. A. HATHAWAY, ROBERT A. HATHAWAY, ROBERT HATTAWAY, G. MAYCOMBER, GEORGE MAYCOMBER, R. MAYS, B. A. WILLIAMS, BOB WILLIAMS, LEE A. WILLIAMS.

SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT



DESCRIPTION

Age, 38 years, born April 17, 1905, Gainesville, Florida; Height, 5 feet, 7 inches; Weight, 126 pounds; Eyes, blue gray; Hair, brown; Complexion, ruddy; Build, slim; Race, white; Nationality, American; Education, completed second year college; Occupations, salesman and photographer; Scars and marks, vaccination scar on upper left arm, brown mole center back, boil scar inside right leg above ankle, cut scars on both wrists, scar bridge of nose, cut scar over each eye.

Photograph taken October 14, 1937

RELATIVES

Mrs. Abraham S. (Ellalu) Delinski, mother, 853 S.W. 2nd Street, Miami, Florida; Florence Hetzler, sister, 828 S.W. 2nd Street, Miami, Florida; Mrs. Harry W. (Gertrude) Flynn, sister, 1109 S.W. 2nd Street, Miami, Florida.

CRIMINAL RECORD

As William Delinski, #---, arrested Police Department, New York, New York, April 14, 1929; charge, abandonment; disposition, indefinite term, paroled July 9, 1929.
As William Randolph Delinski, #E-7718, arrested Police Department, New York, New York, January 23, 1930; charge, grand larceny; disposition, returned to New York County Penitentiary as parole violator March 21, 1930, paroled March 18, 1932.
As Robert A. Hathaway, #36, arrested Southern Railway Company Police Department, Rock Hill, South Carolina, February 15, 1933; charge, carrying concealed weapon, trespassing; disposition, fined \$25.00.
As William Randolph Delinski, #8198, arrested Police Department, San Antonio, Texas, August 5, 1933; charge, fugitive (kidnaping); disposition, released to Atlanta, Georgia.
As William Randolph Delinski, #27024, arrested Police Department, Atlanta, Georgia, August 6, 1933; charges, carrying concealed weapon (2 charges), robbery, kidnaping; disposition, 2 years for carrying concealed weapon, 4 to 6 years for robbery, 15 to 20 years for kidnaping (consecutive).
As W. Randolph Delensky, #3227, received State Prison Farm, Milledgeville, Georgia, September 18, 1933; crimes, carrying concealed weapons, robbery, kidnaping; sentences, 2 years, 4 to 6 years, 15 to 20 years (consecutive). Escaped August 3, 1937.
As George Maycomber, #33985, arrested Police Department, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 14, 1937; charge, suspicious person - house breaking; disposition, released to Georgia authorities as escapee.
As Randolph Delinski, #424, received State Penitentiary, Reidsville, Georgia, November 7, 1937; crime, kidnaping; sentence, balance of sentence of 21 to 28 years, escaped August 9, 1942.



Randolph Delinski

A complaint was filed before a United States Commissioner at Savannah, Georgia, on January 12, 1943, charging William Randolph Delinski with a violation of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, in that he failed to register under the statute.

Law enforcement agencies kindly transmit any additional criminal record or information to the nearest division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

If apprehended, please notify the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., or the Special Agent in Charge of the division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation listed on the back hereof, which is nearest your city.

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Issued by: JOHN EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR