

small plant and had also interviewed DON WALLACE, of St. Paul, Minnesota, the editor of "The Farmer" and a brother to the Secretary of Agriculture, with a view to arranging the distribution of this product. In view of the fact that there would be a large market for this product in New York City, because of the dairy farms near New York, it was decided that another plant should be built in that vicinity, and a site was selected by SAPIRO near Elizabeth, New Jersey.

SAPIRO stated that at this time he met MOE DAVIS, who, either for himself or some friends, put some money into this company; however, the idea did not turn out to be successful and the company was disbanded. He stated that he only saw MOE DAVIS on two or three occasions, and that he knew nothing about his other connections except that he thought he was a gambler at Cleveland, Ohio. He was positive in his statement that BUCHALTER, to his knowledge, had no interest in this firm, which he said, was represented in Ohio by BART McINTYRE, either a State Senator or Assemblyman from Cleveland.

However, SAPIRO admitted that he knew BUCHALTER. He stated that while he had his office in New York City from 1927 to 1935, he had employed as his secretary one GERTRUDE BLOOM, now MRS. MAURICE ROSEMAN, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On one occasion, he stated she introduced him to BUCHALTER, whom he had observed talking to MISS BLOOM in his office. After BUCHALTER left, MISS BLOOM advised him that he was her uncle, and admitted to him that BUCHALTER was "in the rackets" in New York City, and that the family did not have much to do with him. SAPIRO said that he could not remember what year this was, but he indicated that BUCHALTER had stopped in to see MISS BLOOM several times, and his only interest in seeing her was to inquire as to how she was and how other members of the family were. He also at times attempted to have her take some money from him, but SAPIRO stated MISS BLOOM always refused.

SAPIRO said that he has not seen BUCHALTER for years, and knows nothing of any other connections of his. He specifically requested that it never be made known to MISS BLOOM that he had ever mentioned her name.

He was shown the photographs usually displayed in this case and did not recognize BUCHALTER'S stand-up picture, stating that when he saw him BUCHALTER was always immaculately dressed and that there was never any semblance of a beard or whiskers on his face; however, he stated that the profile on the photograph which bears No. 46,043 does resemble BUCHALTER as he recalls him.

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TRIPPETT was interviewed at his office and stated that he was separated from his wife in November, 1932, at which time he left their home and moved to the California Club. He was shown the photographs usually displayed in this case, and could recognize none of them, and stated that he could not imagine what connection a telephone call from an individual named LONG in Hot Springs could have with him. However, when it was mentioned that ZWILLMAN was known to be a friend of JEAN HARLOW, TRIPPETT advised that he and his wife had been very good friends of hers, and that he had secured JEAN HARLOW'S divorce from HAROLD ROSSON. He said that JEAN HARLOW had visited at his home very often, and particularly after he left his home, JEAN had stayed with his wife on several occasions. It would, therefore, appear that probably the call to TRIPPETT'S residence by LONG was for JEAN HARLOW; and it is recalled by the writer that the file in this case indicates that during the time LONG was in Hot Springs at the Arlington Hotel, he sent a telegram to MARINO BELLO, stepfather of JEAN HARLOW, saying that he would call their home.

LEAD NO. 134

MOE DAVIS, Cleveland gambler, believed known to BUCHALTER, while in Tucson, Arizona, on March 27, 1937, and April 6, 1937, called Crestview 11638, but on both occasions, talked to Woodbury 62074.

Through appropriate contacts it was ascertained that Crestview No. 11638 had formerly been assigned to MRS. E. SIEGEL, wife of BEN SIEGEL, and had been discontinued on December 15, 1936. Shortly after this time the number Woodbury 62074 was assigned to the SIEGEL residence. It is thus evident that MOE DAVIS called BEN SIEGEL on the above-mentioned dates.

LEAD NO. 125

FRIEDA ZUCK's sister, RHEA, married IMMANUEL BUCHALTER, brother of the Subject. She has previously been interviewed, but the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at New York City, April 14, 1939, requested that she be reinterviewed as she might have further information. b7c

FRIEDA ZUCK was found to be still employed at the 20th Century Fox Studios in the Script Department, where she can be reached on Extension 1118. She was interviewed on July 28, 1939, at the studio, and said that

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she is presently living with friends at 1928 Santa Monica Boulevard, telephone OXford 5642, but would appreciate not being called at this address, as she intends to move in about a month and will advise this office of her new address.

MISS ZUCK stated that she could furnish no more information than she had given to Agents as previously set out in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Los Angeles, California, May 2, 1938, at which time she told all she knew. It appears that she did tell the truth in that interview, as her statements have been corroborated through other investigations in this case. b7C

MISS ZUCK stated that after having been interviewed before, she went back to New York because of the death of her mother and was there about six weeks, during which time, her time was fully taken up with her mother's affairs, and that she did not see BETTY BUCHALTER, who did not come to the funeral. She stated she, of course, saw IMMANUEL BUCHALTER, who is married to her sister, RHEA, but that no mention was made of the Subject. She said that she had then returned to Hollywood and resumed her employment at the studio, and has had no connection with anyone she met while BUCHALTER was here in Los Angeles in 1934. She also said that quite frequently she corresponds with her sister, with whom she is very close, but has not corresponded with BETTY BUCHALTER, although she admitted she is a good friend of hers.

She said that on May 26, 1939, she went back East for the unveiling of her mother, the expenses having been paid by her father, who wanted all of the family at home. She remained there until July, returning to California on July 13, 1939, and said that she had seen BETTY BUCHALTER on two or three occasions while in New York the last trip. She said that the only mention made of the Fugitive was when MISS ZUCK told BETTY that she had been questioned about Subject and BETTY told her not to worry; that "they" could do nothing to her, and to tell them the truth. She said that BETTY said she would like to know something about Subject, herself, as she has received no news of him since he disappeared. MISS ZUCK stated that she believed this was true as anyone who knew BETTY BUCHALTER before her husband became a fugitive could see the difference in her at this time. She indicated that she did not know where BETTY got her money on which to live, and said she would not ask her, assuming that she probably had money saved. MISS ZUCK further indicated that she did not try to pry into BETTY'S affairs as she considered it none of her business; and that she did not want to become involved in this case any more than she already is.

She was questioned about any relatives of BUCHALTER in this vicinity and said that she knew of none. She was questioned as to whether she knew GERTRUDE BLOOM, mentioned above, and stated that she did, but had

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not seen her for ten or twelve years, and that GERTRUDE BLOOM was a niece of BUCHALTER'S through one of BUCHALTER'S father's previous marriages. She added that BUCHALTER'S father had been married three times, and that the family tree was all mixed up. An effort was made to have her go into the family tree of the BUCHALTERS, but she stated that she could not because, after all, her relationship was simply through her sister's marriage, and the few relatives she did know were only those she had met at her sister's house and many of these she had not seen for years. She reiterated that she would, through some source, advise this office if she received any information concerning Subject, but that if her relatives ever found out, she could never forgive herself.

LEAD NO. 93

The report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Salt Lake City, Utah, dated October 8, 1938, reflects telephone calls made by PHIL REGAN and by a MR. FROST, probably FRANK FOSTER, from Reno, Nevada, to Los Angeles. b7c

Sterling 2160, Pasadena, California, which was called, is the residence telephone number of PHIL REGAN, mentioned in this case as a friend of SIEGEL'S and "DOC" HARRIS, said number now having been changed to SYcamore 7-2160.

On July 5, 1938, MRS. REGAN called 7331, exchange not given, to BENJAMIN LEVEN, New York Life Insurance Company, Hollywood. It was ascertained that Hollywood 7331 is the number of the New York Life Insurance Company.

The records of the Retail Merchants Credit Association show that BENJAMIN LEVEN has been employed by the above firm for six or seven years as a salesman having previously been in the Advertising Department of a Boston, Massachusetts, Sunday newspaper, and also for the HEARST papers in San Francisco, California; and had been a member of an advertising firm in New York City in 1923. The file indicates that he was the leading insurance writer for the country in 1936; and that in 1923 in San Francisco, California, he went through bankruptcy, listing \$123,873.00 in debts and assets of \$250.00. The confidential section of this report indicates that he was formerly the president of the Morosco Holding Company in New York City, and in 1925 was reputed to have been under Federal indictment for using the mails to defraud in connection with the above firm, wherein promotions resulted in a loss of \$2,500,000.00 to the stockholders.

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

SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER

60-1501-4266

/

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

I.C.#60-1501

THE FURDRESS CASE

JACOB SHAPIRO, with aliases;
LOUIS BUCHALTER, with aliases.

Jacob "Gurrah" Shapiro surrendered to Federal authorities on April 14, 1938, in New York, after being a fugitive from justice for less than a year. During that time every known associate and contact was investigated to determine if they were in communication with him. Relentlessly the forces of law and order were seeking to drive him out into the open. Shapiro stated the Federal Bureau of Investigation was hunting him wherever he went and under the circumstances it was like being in jail, thus he surrendered.

His associate of many years, Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, was going to see how he made out, Shapiro related to Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, before he decided to surrender. Sixteen months later Buchalter followed suit, bringing to a close a manhunt that encircled the continental United States and extended into Mexico, Costa Rica, Cuba, England, Canada, France, Puerto Rico and Carlsbad, Germany. Summary reports alone succinctly setting forth contacts of Shapiro and Buchalter, number over a thousand pages, to say nothing of the thousands of reports of Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation working in every section of the United States.

Over a period of years the activities of this gang have been the subject of headline after headline in the Metropolitan dailies, announcing some new depredation. Industrial racketeers, never hesitant to enforce their mandates with lead pipes, stench bombs, brickbats and bullets, Shapiro and Buchalter headed a modern gang of desperadoes whose brutality and vandalism equalled that of the Huns of old. Millions of dollars were exacted as tribute by the paid enforcers of Shapiro and Buchalter. Both had a flair for organization, combined with considerable business acumen, rivalling that of big business and industrial executives. Their underworld empire extended from coast to coast. Old associates still occupy pinnacles of authority in various sections of the country, while others hiding behind the garb of pseudo-respectability nurture their egos with their ill-gotten gains.

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60-1501-4266

Personal History and Background of
Louis "Lepke" Buchalter

Louis Buchalter was born in New York City on February 6, 1897, the son of Barnett Buchalter, who emigrated to America from Russia and operated a hardware shop in the neighborhood of Essex Street, on the lower East Side of New York City. His mother, Rose Buchalter, who is well over seventy years of age, is presently residing with her daughter. As a result of her first marriage Buchalter's mother had four children. Buchalter's father had previously been twice married, having four children, also. Buchalter has two full brothers.

In his youth Buchalter attended public school #75 through the sixth grade and then attended public school #62. While attending the latter he assisted his father in the operation of his hardware store, until his death in 1909. Following his father's death, the family moved to Brooklyn, New York, where they were supported largely by Buchalter's half-sister. While residing in Brooklyn, Buchalter attended public school at 54th Street and Sixth Avenue, completing his grade school course in 1910.

He was first employed after leaving school, as a salesman for a concern engaged in selling theatrical goods, such as spangles, tights and costumes and also handling imported Austrian chandeliers, which were then in fashion.

Among Buchalter's brothers were a dentist and a rabbi.

Buchalter was first arrested on September 2, 1915, on a charge of burglary. He was released by the Grand Jury, after being held eighteen days. He was next arrested January 12, 1916, on a charge of burglary, being released two days later. His first real brush with law enforcement occurred on February 29, 1916, when he was arrested under the alias of Louis Kauver, at Bridgeport, Connecticut, on a charge of theft. Buchalter in discussing this particular charge stated he was accused, together with individuals whose names he did not wish to disclose, of the theft of a salesman's hand grip out of his automobile and following his conviction, he was sentenced to the Connecticut Reformatory at Cheshire, Connecticut, which at that time was an unwalled institution. He was received at the Connecticut Reformatory on May 18, 1916, to serve his indeterminate sentence and was released on parole on July 12, 1917, although Buchalter claims he served less than two months before he was placed on parole. He absconded on July 23, 1917 and a parole violator warrant was issued but never executed and was later dismissed by the Board of Parole on December 9, 1931. The records reflect that Buchalter and his companions stole two suitcases containing samples of jewelry which were left by a salesman outside the doorway of a store, these samples being valued at about \$500.

At the time of his release he was furnished a job as an automobile painter and continued in this capacity for some time thereafter.

The report of the Medical Director of the Connecticut Reformatory is of interest and is as follows:

"HEREDITY: Excellent father and mother. Father died in 1910. Mother is refined. Well educated. 1 sister is a school teacher. 1 brother a Rabbi with a Ph.D. degree. 1 stepbrother a dentist. 2 uncles dentists. 1 uncle a druggist. Cousin specializing in psychology at Columbia at present.

Home: Lived with mother after father's death 3 years. Mother went to live in Colorado and inmate went to live with sister. Home conditions the best.

Physical: Normal

Mental: Normal

School: 8 grades in 10 years

Vocational: Steady. Stock clerk or in clothing stores owned by family.

Habits: Good

Delinquency: 2 previous arrests for burglary, discharged. Present arrest stole valise in Bridgeport because he was out of funds.

Inmate is a clean cut intelligent Hebrew, who led a normal life in spite of little supervision until August, 1916. Then worked for uncle who owns Orpheum at Savin Rock, who reduced his wages to \$8 a week. This he didn't like and went to New York, got in with a bad crowd doing petty jobs. His delinquency was probably result of mental conflict coupled with companions. Outlook is excellent.

Intelligence: Above average

Ability: Good

On April 28, 1917, Buchalter was arrested in New York City on a charge of grand larceny, second degree, and on January 11, 1918, was sentenced to serve one and one-half years at Sing Sing. He subsequently was transferred to the Auburn Prison and discharged on January 17, 1919. Buchalter refers to this arrest as "one for the possession of a package". On April 23, 1919, Buchalter was arrested for an attempted burglary in New York but was discharged two days later. On January 22, 1920 he was arrested on a charge of attempted burglary, third degree and was sentenced to two and one-half years at Sing Sing, where he was received on June 21, 1920. He was released on parole on March 16, 1922 and discharged from parole upon expiration of his sentence on December 19, 1922. Buchalter in discussing this offense claims he was intercepted, with Mike Weiderman, deceased, and Willie Goldman, while entering a silk house on 22nd Street, New York City, where they were perpetrating a burglary. Buchalter contends that he "came out flat", meaning he was not placed on parole, although the records indicate he was paroled. On September 11, 1925, Buchalter was arrested on a charge of robbery but was discharged on December 12, 1925.

On October 19, 1925, Buchalter was arrested with Jacob Shapiro, in connection with the Fish Market stick-up. He related on this occasion he was in the vicinity of the bus service operated by Jacob Shapiro and Shapiro was laughing at his, Buchalter's, plight and the arresting officer informed Shapiro to go along, too. This was the first time Buchalter and Shapiro were arrested together and they were later released. In this connection it is pointed out that Buchalter always refers to Shapiro affectionately as "Charlie".

On October 25, 1927, Buchalter claims he and Shapiro voluntarily appeared for questioning in connection with the murder of Jacob "Little Augie" Orgen, whom they had known for several years. They were held for investigation and discharged on November 4, 1927. On July 17, 1929, Buchalter and Shapiro were arrested at the Harrester Restaurant, charged with burglary and malicious mischief, arising out of an alleged attack on a clothing store on Bleeker Street. This, Buchalter stated, was the first time that either he or Shapiro had been involved in any Union job. On November 11, 1931, Buchalter was arrested with Shapiro and several other individuals on a charge of consorting with known criminals. At this time, Buchalter pointed out, he was suffering from a peashot in his eye and was about to move from the apartment which he occupied at the Franconia Hotel, when arresting officers took him and other associates into custody. All were subsequently released. On July 12, 1933, Buchalter was again arrested on a 722 charge, which is known as Consorting with Known Criminals, together with "Trigger Mike" Coppola, in an apartment in Manhattan.

Buchalter and Shapiro associated together as young boys and after Buchalter finished school in Brooklyn he again began associating with Shapiro, on the lower East Side of Manhattan. On August 20, 1931, Buchalter married Betty Wasserman, who was born in England on October 12, 1904. Her father, Abraham Arbeiter, was born in England, while her mother, Sarah Jacobs, was born in Russia. The family emigrated from London in 1908. Both her parents were divorced and later each remarried. Betty attended local grade and high school in New York and in 1920 married Jacob Wasserman, a World War veteran, who died as the result of an appendix operation, December 30, 1928, in Oklahoma. From this marriage a son, [REDACTED] Following his marriage to Betty, Buchalter adopted [REDACTED] in 1934 and it is said "Lepke" has a very fond regard for [REDACTED] At the time of Buchalter's marriage to Betty, Morris Wolensky alias "Dimples" and one P. Poveromo were the witnesses. Wolensky's activities will be described in further detail later on.] b7c

Prior to her marriage Betty Buchalter was employed as a night club hostess, by Ben Warden, who managed the Palais Royale and other night clubs, in New York. She was also employed as hostess at the Kentucky Club on West 47th Street, New York City, where she operated under the name Betty Wilson. She frequents night clubs considerably, keeps late hours, plays cards and the horses to a considerable extent. On February 19, 1933, Buchalter, under the alias Louis Saffer, along with Abner Zwillman and Ben Kutlow, registered at the Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs, Arkansas, where they remained until March 6, 1933. Betty Buchalter subsequently joined them. While at the hotel the party lived rather extravagantly, spending approximately \$1,000 a week.

A trucking concern engaged in transporting cut work from clothing manufacturers to contractors complained that their trucks were being interfered with and that they encountered difficulties when trucking for certain manufacturers. A nephew of the owner of the concern reported the matter to the police and the nephew was told he would receive a telephone call. Soon the phone rang and the caller announced he was "Lepke". The nephew told him about his uncle's difficulties, whereupon "Lepke" announced he would see who was involved and would see that there would be no recurrence of the difficulties. From that time on the trucker encountered no interference.

In the Spring of 1933 both Buchalter and Shapiro invested \$20,000 in cash in the Perfection Coat Manufacturing Co., which has previously been referred to and thereafter Buchalter received a drawing account of \$200 a week for a year. On March 24, 1933, a machine gun battle between gangsters and two armed automobiles occurred at Broadway and 81st Street, in New York. The battle is said to have been carried on by rival gangs headed by Waxey Gordon on one side and Luciano and Buchalter on the other. As previously indicated, a rather extensive gang warfare grew out of a misunderstanding which occurred early in 1933 between various gangs headed by Waxey Gordon, Max Greenberg, Max Hassall and others, while Luciano, Buchalter and their henchmen were opposing these individuals, whom they regarded as interlopers.

Max Greenberg was formerly a St. Louis racketeer and Max Hassall was characterized as the Beer Baron of Reading, Pennsylvania. It will also be recalled that early in 1933 Zwillman became affiliated with Luciano, Buchalter and Shapiro and it was said Waxey Gordon imported out-of-town killers to carry on the war.

"Dutch" Schultz, as already indicated, figured quite prominently in the strife that existed in the underworld at the time. On June 2, 1933, Abe Lurst, a former chauffeur of Waxey Gordon, was found slain in a stolen car parked in the Morris Park section of the Bronx. On June 4, 1933, William "Big Bill" Oppenheim, one of Gordon's lieutenants, was shot and killed as he entered his apartment in Paterson, New Jersey. On June 12, 1933, Buchalter was arrested in New York City, charged with consorting with criminals and according to police records, was associated at this time with "Trigger Mike" Coppola. Again Buchalter was released.

In the meantime, Verne C. Miller, Samuel Schrager and "Bugs" Siegel were in Chicago in the Spring of 1933. Schrager was a close friend of Buchalter and Miller and it is said at one time Miller and Schrager were interested in gambling in Montreal, Canada. As has been already indicated, underworld rumors have pointed to the importation of Miller to the New York area to carry on some of the killing activities of members of the "Big Six" Combination. On June 17, 1933, the Kansas City massacre was perpetrated and on June 21, 1933, Verne Miller departed for New York from Chicago, instructing his paramour, Vivian Mathias, to follow him to New York and go to Buchalter's home, after she had left her daughter in Minnesota. These instructions were followed and Vivian Mathias was entertained royally by both Buchalter and his wife Betty. Buchalter was the individual who would put her in touch with Miller and arranged for her to meet him at various times. On July 30, 1933, Buchalter joined his wife Betty and Miller's paramour at the Sherwood Hotel, Burlington, Vermont. During the evening Miller's paramour, then known as Mrs. Allen, was heard to say she had just travelled some fifteen hundred miles and later Buchalter made some comment inquiring as to why someone did not surrender. During the period that Miller's paramour was in the East he made trips to Montreal with Betty Buchalter, where they visited numerous night clubs and did considerable sightseeing around the city.

In the meantime it was ascertained Samuel Schrager was wanted as a parole violator and investigation revealed he was originally released on parole from Clinton Prison, November 21, 1925. Subsequently he was returned to Sing Sing as a parole violator and re-paroled from that institution on October 1, 1929. He absconded from parole supervision and was declared delinquent, April 1, 1931. Schrager was reputed to be an important member of Buchalter's machine.

Little is known of Buchalter's activities during the remainder of the Summer of 1933, although it is known on August 31st, Buchalter called Dixie Davis, the attorney, and asked him to come to his hotel that night. On September 11, 1933, Buchalter applied for a passport, stating he intended to visit France and Czechoslovakia, for his health.

Buchalter at the time gave his address as the office of his brother, Dr. Emanuel Buchalter. Buchalter sailed on the S/S "Mauretania" on September 22, 1933, proceeding to Carlsbad for treatment of a kidney ailment.

[REDACTED] b7D
From London they proceeded by air from the Croyden Airport to LeBorguet, France.

Returning for the moment to Verne Miller, on October 23, 1933, it was ascertained that Al Silvers alias Al Silverman, a member of the Zwillman gang, purchased a Ford coupe in New York, which was abandoned by Miller in Chicago, following his getaway on November 2, 1933. Another racketeer associated with Buchalter procured an automobile driver's license for Miller. It developed that Al Silvers was one of the more important members of the Zwillman gang and the investigation reflected that on May 13, 1932, Silvers was picked up after he left a hotel and a gun was found in his car. He was acquitted, however, on a charge of carrying a gun inasmuch as physical possession was not proven. Silvers was charged in a complaint filed November 6, 1933, with conspiracy to conceal and harbor a Federal fugitive. However, on November 20, 1933, his body was found near Somers, Connecticut, draped over a barbed wire fence, after he had been stabbed seven times in the head, once over the heart and had been strangled with his own necktie and a clothesline which had been knotted about his neck. He was unclothed but covered by a bloody blanket. Buchalter advised Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on November 28, 1933, that he knew Silvers as a liquor operator; that he got along well with all the boys. Buchalter admitted he was in the State of Connecticut on the weekend of November nineteenth, at the home of some respectable people, where he participated in a weekend pinochle game.

At this point Buchalter was advised, in the presence of his attorney, that Verne C. Miller was a fugitive from justice and a warrant was outstanding for his arrest, whereupon Buchalter said, "No one will have anything to do with Miller now," and then added, "If Miller shows up in New York you'll know about it." On the following day, November 29, 1933, Verne Miller's lifeless body was found in a ditch in Cambridge and Harlow Streets, Detroit, about eleven miles from the center of the city. He had been tied very securely in a jackknife position with his legs drawn close to his body and his arms pulled securely to his sides. His body was wrapped in two apparently brand new blankets and an automobile robe of cheap material. All identification marks had been removed.

It may well be concluded that Buchalter was under obligation to Miller, who did many jobs for his gang in the early part of 1933, by way of exterminating members of the Waxey Gordon gang. It may also be observed that the vigorous investigation seeking the apprehension of Miller and Al Silvers was getting uncomfortably close to Buchalter and his organization. It will be recalled that on the afternoon of November 28th, Buchalter admitted that Sammy Schragger was out of the city and he expected him back in a few days.

Buchalter also related that sometime in 1932 Verne Miller came to New York City with Gus Winkler and at that time it was his understanding that Winkler and Miller had some sort of contract with a large whiskey distillery, whereby they were to receive a certain amount of money on each case of liquor they could run into this country and Winkler and Miller had attempted to line up some customers and Buchalter was instrumental in introducing them to certain bootleggers. At that time he knew Verne Miller's real identity. He also added that he had known Sammy Schragger all his life, having been brought up with him. He then went on to relate that early in 1933 he had gone to Los Angeles with Zwillman and Ben Kutlow. Later they went to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where Mike Coppola joined the party. A few days later, before they left Hot Springs, Miller and his paramour arrived there and remained at the hotel and he took care of their bill. He also stated he saw Frank Nash and his wife in Hot Springs, at the time and admitted attending a large dinner party at which Verne Miller and Frank Nash were present. While in Hot Springs he met a man named "Dutch" but was not certain whether this was "Dutch" Akers, Chief of Detectives at Hot Springs, who was subsequently convicted. The last time he saw Miller, he claimed, was in February or early in March, 1933, although it is of course known this is not true, since he saw him in the summer.

On November 6, 1933, Buchalter and Shapiro, as previously indicated, were indicted in the Protective Fur Dressers Corporation case and the Fur Dressers Factor Corporation case. It is believed that Buchalter was introduced to Verne Miller by Benjamin Kutlow, who resided in a penthouse on Central Park West, New York City, and who travelled around considerably with Buchalter and Zwillman. On November 22, 1933, Buchalter and Shapiro were arraigned on their indictments and released on bond. They were surrendered at this time by their attorney, J. Arthur Adler and again Buchalter gave the address of his brother, the dentist, as his residence.

On June 28, 1935, Buchalter, accompanied by his wife and son, sailed from New York. On August 1st or 2nd of that year newspaper stories appeared to the effect that Buchalter and Shapiro had left the country in order to escape the local investigation which was then in progress in New York County. On August 12, 1935, the case against the Protective Fur

Dressers Corporation was called and Attorney J. Arthur Adler appeared on behalf of Buchalter, advising he had gone to Europe for his wife's health. Shapiro appeared. On September 3, 1935, Buchalter returned to New York City, along with "Celia", who had accompanied them. It is also known that Mooney Levy, Joseph Stacher alias "Doc" Rosen and his paramour, Gloria Reynolds, accompanied Buchalter on his trip to Europe in 1935. Later Betty Buchalter stated her husband went to Carlsbad to take the necessary baths in connection with a course of treatments for stomach ailments, although as already indicated, his attorney had stated that Buchalter went to Europe for his wife's health.

From October 26, 1936 until November 12, 1936, Buchalter and Shapiro were on trial, which resulted in their conviction. On November 12th, Buchalter was incarcerated in the Federal House of Detention at New York City, along with Shapiro. Both were released on December 3, 1936, on \$10,000 bail, which was put up by Nathan Borish, by Federal Judge Martin T. Wanton, who has since been convicted. It has been strongly rumored in this connection that Judge Wanton had been approached, although these rumors have not been definitely established.

From the time that Buchalter became a fugitive, along with Shapiro, extensive investigation was conducted. It was believed after a lapse of a few months, that Buchalter was definitely in hiding and was not in open contact with his old associates. This opinion was later borne out following Buchalter's apprehension, when it was determined that he had maintained his fugitive status in Manhattan. Following the accidental killing of Isadore Penn, who resided in the same building with Philip Orslowsky, considerable pressure was brought to bear in New York City and innumerable statements appeared in the press to the effect that Buchalter was gradually seeking to exterminate all witnesses who could appear against him. It can now be revealed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, fearing this, had affidavits taken from some of the witnesses, in the presence of a Federal District Judge, and their statements recorded by sound movies. The New York authorities, issued a \$25,000 reward for Buchalter "dead or alive". The extensive investigation which had been launched by Special Agents of the FBI throughout the Nation began to bear fruit. As the old contacts of Buchalter and Shapiro were established and the details of their relationships ascertained, the time had arrived to take some action. A Federal Grand Jury in New York City was summoned. Subpoenas were served by FBI Agents on the big shot racketeers in various sections of the U. S., summoning them to appear before the Grand Jury. All of these individuals were definitely known to have been associated with Buchalter and Shapiro or to have been well acquainted with them. In the parlance of the underworld, "The heat was on." They faced the Grand Jury with the realization that the FBI Agents knew in detail their activities and were confronted with one of two possibilities, either telling the truth or refusing to answer questions. One of the individuals lamented his plight to a Special Agent, stating "If you fellows keep this up you are going to ruin the entire United States," meaning that once the operations

of these individuals were brought out into the open they could no longer successfully continue their nefarious activities which flourished in darkness. Up to this point they had depended upon corrupt political domination and alliances in their local communities for protection, and now they were facing a greater power than theirs, a power which the greedy local politicians could not move or suppress. At the beginning of the Grand Jury numerous efforts were made through various channels to persuade the FBI to lessen the pressure that was being brought to bear and when all of this failed, negotiations for the admission of defeat and the surrender of Buchalter were advanced.

The Federal Grand Jury which met at New York City in the Summer of 1939, studied in detail methods of operation of Buchalter and Shapiro. ~~The books of the Raleigh Manufacturing Company were analyzed and the Grand Jury, after having considered the facts, immediately returned indictments charging various officials of the Raleigh Manufacturing Company with harboring Shapiro and Buchalter.~~ In the meantime underworld associates who were being forced to appear before the Grand Jury became insistent in making overtures to representatives of the FBI, and following a Sunday evening broadcast by Mr. Walter Winchell, at which time Mr. Winchell was authorized by the Director of the FBI, to publicly state that Buchalter's civil rights would be respected and maintained should he surrender, a series of nerve-racking negotiations began. Telephone calls were received, asking carefully worded questions as to the outcome of the proceedings against Buchalter. After several days, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation issued an ultimatum that no further consideration would be given Buchalter unless he surrendered by 4 P. M., on August 24, 1939. Then came another phone call, instructing that the intermediary, Walter Winchell, "drive up to Proctor's Theatre in Yonkers". Before reaching the theatre a car loaded with strangers drew alongside the automobile driven by Walter Winchell. One of the men got out, holding a handkerchief over his face, and instructed Winchell to go to the drugstore on the corner of 19th Street and 8th Avenue; to enter one of the phone booths and about nine o'clock someone would come up to him and tell him where to notify the G-Men to meet him. Promptly at nine o'clock an individual approached and stated, "go back in there and tell Hoover to be at 28th Street on 5th Avenue between 10:10 and 10:20."

In accordance with the representations which had been made, the Director, unaccompanied, kept the rendezvous. At 10:17 the search ended when "Lepke", wearing dark glasses, disguised with a mustache, kept his word. Although a little excited, he seemed anxious to talk, to talk to someone new, after being in the shadows for over two years, probably with many other hunted men. He immediately threw away his glasses, stating, "I don't need them any more" and then added, "I would like to see my wife and kid, please". His wishes were acceded to. The man hunt which extended from coast to coast and across the seas, had come to an end, and with it, it is hoped, the terror that stalked through the East Side of Manhattan for years.

Buchalter had closely observed proceedings which were instituted against his associates of many years, Shapiro, who on June 17, 1938, was sentenced to serve three additional years and pay a \$15,000 fine in the Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York, in connection with the indictment returned against him as a result of his activities in the Fur Dressers Factor Corporation case.

The physical description of Buchalter is as follows:

Name: Louis Buchalter, aliases:
"Lepke"; Louis Buckhouse;
Louis Buckhalter; Louis Kawer;
Louis Cohen; Louis Buckalter;
Louis Kauvar; Louis Buchholtz;
Louis Lauvar; Louis Saffar; Louis
Kauver; "Lepky"; "Lefky"; "Safky";
Murphy; "Schnozzle"; Lou Brodsky;
Judge Lewis; "Judge"; "The Judge";
"Judge Louie"; Judge Brodsky;
Louis Brodsky.

Age: 42, born February 12, 1897, in
New York City.

Height: 5' 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " - 5' 7"

Weight: 160

Build: Medium heavy

Hair: Dark brown, possibly graying at
temples

Eyes: Brown

Complexion: Dark

Teeth: Removable bridge of five teeth,
upper right; fixed bridge of one
tooth, lower right; fixed bridge
of one or two teeth, lower left

Mustache: Wears one occasionally

Nationality: American - Jewish extraction

Education: Grammar school

Scars: Appendectomy scar

Personal characteristics: Nose large, rather straight and blunt;
ears prominent; eyes alert and shifty;
has habit of passing change from one
hand to another; believed to wear
yellow gold ring on small finger of
left hand, set with large "cat's-
eye" stone, palish blue in color,
somewhat similar to a star sapphire;
believed to wear very expensive
flashy yellow gold pocket watch
set with emeralds and rubies, having
attached yellow gold chain studded
with similar stones - usually carried
in one of lower vest pockets and
chain extends diagonally from watch
pocket to one of upper vest pockets;
said to have the habit of looking
at his watch every five minutes or so
and toying with the chain. Habitual-
ly wears snap brim felt hat directly
in center of his head so the turned
down brim will tend to offset length
of his nose.

(2)* At Hattiesburg, Mississippi, will endeavor to locate LAN SWETLIK through the I.C. Railroad Freight Dept., to determine whether any member of his crew is identical with fugitive BUCHALTER, as requested in report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Indianapolis, Indiana, dated January 19, 1939. b7C

NEW YORK OFFICE

Will complete the following New York City proper leads which have been previously set out in the report of Agent [REDACTED] New York City, dated October 11, 1938. The New York out-of-town leads, which have been previously set out in this reference report and not completed as yet, will be repeated later in this report under New York out-of-town leads: b7C

(1)* Will keep in contact with the following superintendents of buildings, at which places various relatives of fugitive BUCHALTER reside:

- (a) 161 West 75th Street, Apartment 8B, which is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. H. J. MORSE; Superintendent JOHN MILKINS has been contacted in the past concerning these persons.
- (b) 110 West 86th Street, Apartment 12A, which is occupied by Dr. EMANUEL BUCHALTER, brother of fugitive BUCHALTER. Superintendent CHARLES LOREMAN has been contacted in the past concerning this matter.
- (c) 324 Roebling Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., an office maintained by Dr. EMANUEL BUCHALTER, at which place WILLIAM SEBKO is the superintendent.
- (d) 175 West 93rd Street, where PHIL KAUFMAN, the half-brother of BUCHALTER, resides. ROBERT E. SCHUBERT is the superintendent at this apartment.

- (e) 375 West End Avenue, at which address BETTY BUCHALTER, the wife of fugitive LOUIS BUCHALTER, and [REDACTED] b7C reside. FRITZ JOHNSON, the superintendent of this apartment building, has been contacted in the past relative to the BUCHALTER family.
- (f) Beacon Hotel, 75th Street and Broadway, at which address MRS. SARAH MOSS [REDACTED] b7C and MRS. ROSE BUCHALTER, the half-sister, niece and mother respectively of fugitive BUCHALTER, reside. Mr. H. G. YURDIN, hotel manager, has been contacted previously.

(2)* Will establish confidential contacts at the following addresses occupied by relatives of fugitive BUCHALTER, so that the Bureau can be appropriately advised in the event BUCHALTER should make his appearance at these places or in the event any pertinent information of value is obtained concerning him:

- (a) 218-220 East 165th Street, Bronx, N.Y.C., to which address Mr. and Mrs. ABRAHAM ARBEITER have recently moved.
- (b) 57 West 57th Street, New York City, an office maintained by DR. EMANUEL BUCHALTER.
- (c) 947 Montgomery Street, Brooklyn, Apartment 12F, which is occupied by ISIDORE BUCHALTER, fugitive's brother.
- (d) Harvard Drug Company, 4239 Broadway, New York City, at which place ISIDORE BUCHALTER is employed.
- (e) 260 West 35th Street, the address of the CITY CARRIERS CORPORATION, in which place PHILIP KAUFER is interested and employed.

(3)* Will interview the following relatives of fugitive BUCHALTER, information concerning whom, as well as the results of previous interviews conducted with these persons, is reported in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York City, October 11, 1938: b7C

- (a) BETTY BUCHALTER, 375 West End Avenue.
- (b) DR. EMANUEL BUCHALTER, 110 West 86th Street, Apartment 12A. It is also deemed desirable to interview MRS. EMANUEL BUCHALTER. In conducting this interview with DR. BUCHALTER, will also question him along the lines suggested by the Bureau in Bureau letter dated January 10, 1939 relative to the insurance policy upon the life of his brother, the premiums of which are being paid by him, Dr. EMANUEL BUCHALTER, and also in connection with the matter of obtaining a dental chart of the teeth of his brother, fugitive LOUIS BUCHALTER.
- (c) PHIL MAUVEL, 175 West 93rd Street, the half-brother of "LEPKE". His wife should also be interviewed.
- (d) ISIDORE BUCHALTER, full brother of "LEPKE", who resides at 947 Montgomery Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., Apartment 12F, and is employed at the HARVARD DRUG COMPANY, 4239 Broadway, New York City. His wife should also be interviewed.
- (e) JACK BUCHALTER, half-brother of fugitive, who resides at 359 Powers Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. MRS. JACK BUCHALTER should also be interviewed.
- (f) MRS. AARON (SOPHIE) BILTCHICK, the half-sister of Fugitive BUCHALTER. It is deemed advisable also to interview MRS. BILTCHICK'S husband in connection with this matter.
- (g) MRS. NATHANIEL (SARAH) BLUM, 601 West 70th Street, Apartment 3C, who is the half-sister of fugitive BUCHALTER. MR. NATHANIEL BLUM should also be interviewed in this connection.
- (h) MRS. LEAH BUCHALTER LEVY, 2733 Morris Avenue, Bronx, N.Y., Apartment 3A, the half-sister of fugitive. MRS. LEVY'S husband should also be interviewed, his name being BENJAMIN, he being employed at the General Post Office.

- (i) MRS. MAXWELL (MINNIE KAUFER) MORSE, Wells ton Apartments, 161 West 75th Street, who is the half-sister of fugitive BUCHALTER. MR. MAXWELL MORSE should also be interviewed.
- (j) MRS. SAM FINDEL, the real mother of BETTY BUCHALTER, information concerning whom is reported in the above mentioned report of Agent [REDACTED]. In this respect it is reported on page five of the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York City, dated March 24, 1938 (N.Y. serial #1841) that BETTY BUCHALTER called SAM FINDEL of 1154 College Avenue, telephone Jerome 7-5311. It is thought this may be the step-father of BETTY BUCHALTER. It has been ascertained that MRS. FINDEL now resides at Newburgh, N.Y., where her husband operates a junk yard. } b7c

(4)* Will interview FRIEDA ZUCK, who is presently residing with her mother at 307 Sterling Avenue, Brooklyn, it being noted that she is the sister of MRS. EMANUEL BUCHALTER, with whom she has corresponded. FRIEDA ZUCK had been previously interviewed in California during 1934, this interview being reported on pages three and four of the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Los Angeles, California, dated May 2, 1938 (N.Y. serial #2220). b7c

(5)* Will contact Mr. DANZIGER of the Bank of Yorktown, as to the bank accounts maintained by PHILIP KAUFER and the CITY CARRIERS CORPORATION, of which organization KAUFER is treasurer, it being noted in report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New York City, dated January 25, 1938 (N.Y. serial #1000), that Mr. DANZIGER was named by KAUFER as a reference at the time he applied for rental of his apartment. b7c

(6)* Will interview SIDNEY HILLEN, head of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, for information concerning BUCHALTER'S activities and his knowledge concerning the possible location of this fugitive. It has been reported from time to time that HILLEN was very close to BUCHALTER and SHAPIRO. In this connection, on pages

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

SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER

60-1501-4310

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Acers	✓
Mr. Carson	✓
Mr. Hendon	✓
Mr. Mumford	✓
Mr. Starker	✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Burton Turkus concedes, now, that Lepke baffled him. He says he came to know, as one by one he sent members of Murder Inc. to the death house, that they were alike in at least one respect. He says, "They all had killers' eyes." He noticed this in Abe ("Kid Twist") Reles, the informer who admitted casually on the witness stand that he had destroyed 11 men with gun, knife and fire. He saw it in Allie Tannenbaum, the second informer, who had admitted personal part in six murders; in Seymour ("Blue Jaw") Magoon, who took part in as many before he became a state witness against the mob. The look was in "Happy" Maione's eyes, in "Dasher" Abbendando's, in Mendy Weiss's, in Louis Capone's, even in Sholem Bernstein's, and Bernstein is only a "stoolie," a self-labeled "rat," or gang squealer.

Killer eyes, Prosecutor Turkus came to know, are something you can dramatize for a jury. You point them out to jurors and pretty soon they see it. It is the unmistakable mark of the beast. Mr. Turkus proceeded happily on this theory and gloated inwardly as each new batch of Murder Inc. defendants came up for trial. He says, "I got the feeling that the theory was perfect, and it held up in every case—until I turned, one morning in the trial room, and looked into Lepke's eyes." The prosecutor was actually startled by what he saw. "It jarred me," he confides.

Lepke—who was born Louis Buchalter—has warm, soft brown eyes. They are inordinately large. "Like a deer's, or a fawn's," Mr. Turkus tells you, with something like awe. "They never hardened." The gazelle eyes made no sense to the prosecutor. They dispelled a theory, for Lepke was the boss killer. As head of Murder Inc., or the Combination as its own members called it, he had ordered the death of anywhere from 60 to 80 men. By all standards his eyes should have been like Jack Diamond's, Vincent Coll's, "Lucky" Luciano's, Al Capone's. Psychiatrists who have examined Lepke since Mr. Turkus sent him to the Sing Sing Prison death house have merely affirmed that Lepke is different from all these.

They found no mental twist, nothing psychotic in his make-up. He seemed always affable under examination, his mind crystal clear. They were a little puzzled, as Mr. Turkus had been, by Lepke's curious blandness, his seeming humility. "The man is actually diffident," one psychiatrist noted in bewilderment. If there were any deviations from normal in Lepke, they were not apparent and exhaustive interviews, fitted with the cleverest oral bait, failed to bring them to the surface. There was one possible flaw, not too pronounced. Lepke seemed shy and embarrassed when the probers asked about his sex life. He was uneasy through this phase of examination. Incidentally, he has no children except an adopted son, offspring of his wife's first marriage.

If Sing Sing Prison's head keeper walks Lepke from his cell in the harshly lighted west wing death house to prepare him for the electric chair, Prosecutor Turkus will have achieved what no other American prosecutor can claim—the death penalty for top man in a murder mob. Jack ("Legs") Diamond, Arthur ("Dutch Schultz") Flegenheimer, Vannie Higgins, Vincent Coll, "Babyface" Nelson, Frankie Uale, John Dillinger and a dozen other mob bosses died with their boots on. Al Capone, "Waxy" Gordon and Lucky Luciano went to prison, but only on comparatively piddling charges.

Lepke, though, has been brought to book as a boss murder man should be—for murder. This seems strange, in a way. The little man with the deer's eyes outclassed all the others in sheer criminal genius. The others were comparative dolts when it came to mob organization. They rose to power by force. He combined brains with force. Yet with all these things, they frustrated the law and he did not.

Lepke, specialized in union rackets

Lepke controlled more industries and had a firmer grip on more labor organizations than any other racketeer of our time. Federal and municipal investigators figure he manipulated, all told, some 250 criminal ventures. He simultaneously kept an eye on at least 300 straw bosses, a corps of accountants and bookkeepers and on a staff of irresponsible triggermen, strongarm men and trial saboteurs. He disliked reckless shootings, stabbings and other

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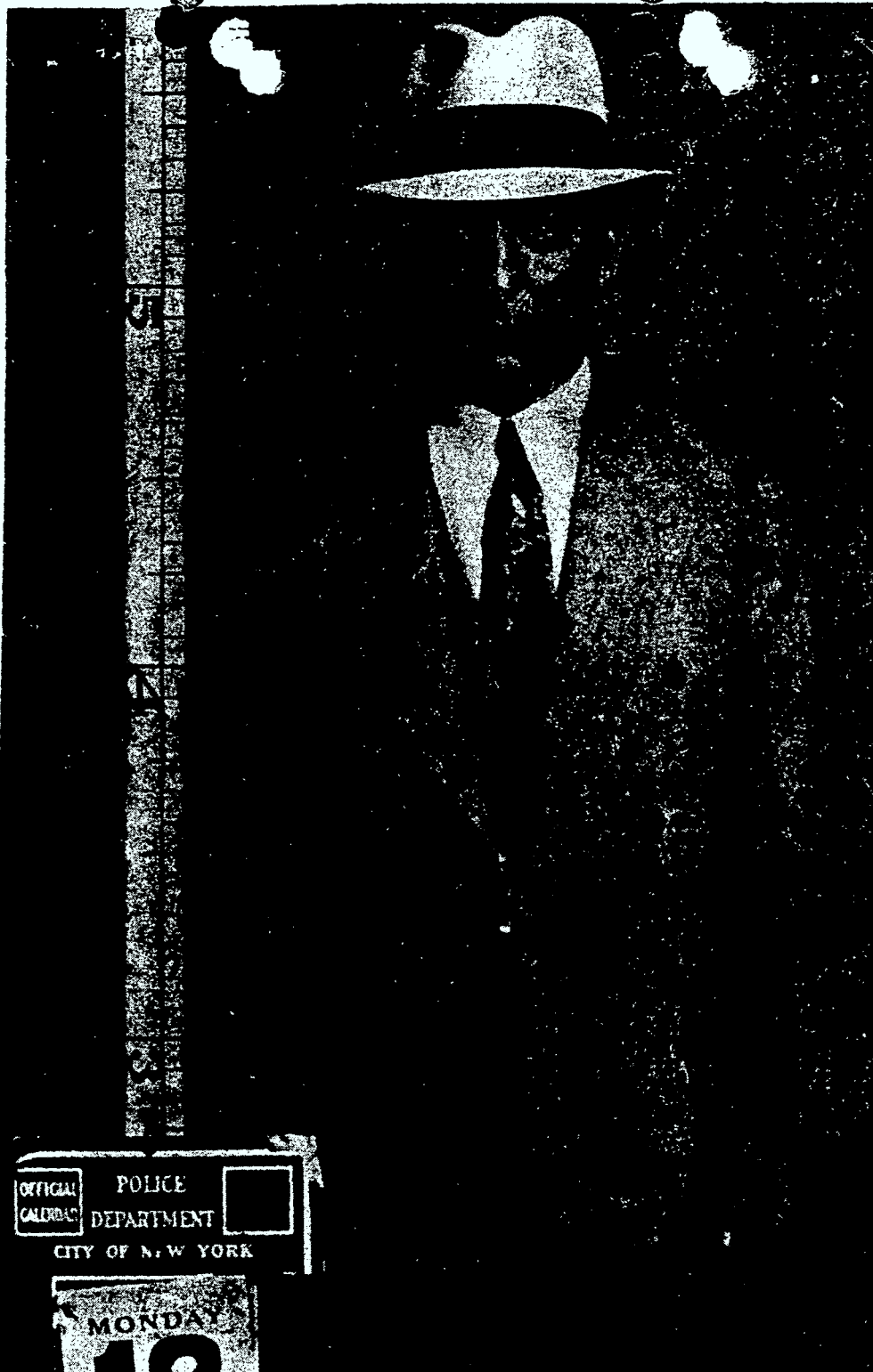
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DEPARTMENT
CITY OF N. Y.

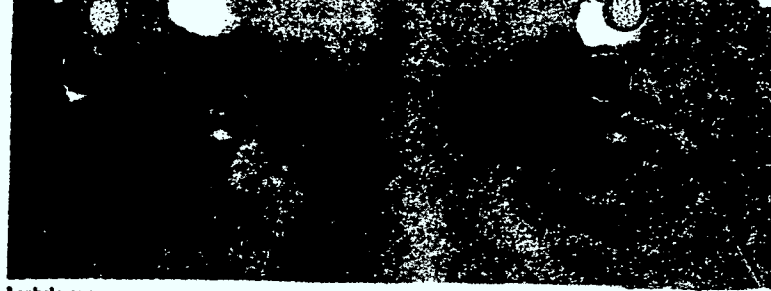
MONDAY
10

The house on the little island (right center) belongs to President Avila Camacho's brother Maximino. Beyond the bright green hill studded with pink and white villas lies another beach, called the Afternoon Beach. A third and most exclusive beach is on a small island off the picture to right. It is reached by the launches at the far end of this beach. There beautiful girls basking in the noonday sun are occasionally surprised by a stray wild pig, by a friendly burro or an armadillo looking for insects.



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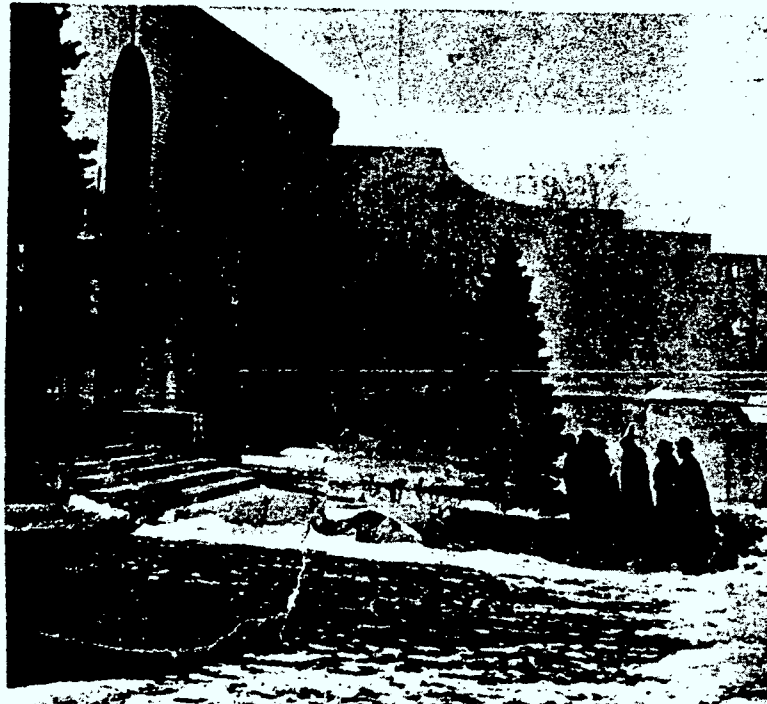


1935

Lepke's eyes are nothing at all like the characteristic hard and shifty "killer's eyes" of most trigger men. They are warm, brown and docile, seem to hold no fires of fury or hate or violence.



Lepke's codefendants, Louis Capone and Mendy Weiss, went to the Sing Sing death house more than two years ago for murder of Joe Rosen. They have been waiting there for Lepke ever since.



Lepke entered Sing Sing bareheaded on a cold January day following his surrender to New York State by the federal authorities. Unless appeals succeed, he goes to chair on March 2 at 11 p. m.



29:192

Abe ("Kid Twist") Reles, after turning state's witness to save his own skin, killed himself by jumping from a window of the Half Moon Hotel in Coney Island in 1941.

LEPKE (continued)

old. Lepke is extremely fond of the boy and carries his photograph inside the back cover of his diamond-studded platinum watch. Mrs. Buchalter likes night clubs and gaiety, but her husband preferred quiet—a book or a magazine, an occasional game of golf, sometimes a bit of pinochle. He never drank to excess. He liked Miami and before the war occasionally went abroad.

All through the Prohibition era, when the blustery beer barons were whooping things up and getting their names in the public prints, Lepke kept building his rackets apace but shrank from the limelight. When he was brought in for the Little Augie murder he was booked as Louis Buckhaus and newspapers referred to him by that name for the next five or six years. Comparatively few, even in New York City, knew he was one of the so-called Big Five of New York's underworld. There was sinister magic in the name Lepke only among his shivering victims and among the disloyal in his cabinet. Lepke had figured out, soon after he put his pet theories into practice, that "Where there are no witnesses, there are no indictments." When investigations threatened he sent possible witnesses far out of the jurisdiction and supplied them with funds. If they came back they were "hit."

The police were aware of Lepke's dark power, but since he neither did his own killing nor took part in mayhem and slugging expeditions but merely delegated them to the proper departments in his organization, the detectives could never pin a charge against him. One day in June 1933 he and "Trigger Mike" Coppola were arrested in a handsome flat on the thirteenth floor of a rather snooty apartment house in East 68th Street. Detectives searching the place found closets crammed with expensive but conservative clothes, a rather elaborate collection of golf equipment but no weapons. There were no guns because Lepke has always been careful to move without one. The only charge the police could make against The Judge was vagrancy, but he had \$800 in cash in his pockets and the charge was thin. They turned him loose on court order.

Dutch got hit by Bug and Piggy

Early in his major ventures, Lepke had established close business relationship with Lucky Luciano. They loaned gunmen to one another. When Lucky decided, for example, that Dutch Schultz was getting to be a nuisance, he borrowed some of Lepke's guns to liquidate Dutch. Charlie ("The Bug") Workman, Mendy Weiss and a man named Piggy did the job. Piggy, incidentally, went cold on the assignment at the last minute, but The Bug put a gun to him and Dutch and three of his aides died in an East Park Street tavern the night of Oct. 23, 1935 at 10:30 p. m. The Bug got the Dutchman, but Mendy Weiss claimed this hit. Lepke coldly warned both to stop quarreling about it. They did, right away.

Nothing bothered "Judge" Lurie until Governor Lehman appointed Thomas Dewey in 1935 to uproot New York City rackets and racketeers. This move gave Gurrath Jake and Lepke a belly laugh at first. "That boy scout," they said. "He'll get somewhere like a duck hitched to a post." Mr. Dewey set Lepke, Gurrath Jake and Lucky Luciano at the top of his list. He started digging scared and reluctant witnesses from among the hordes who were enslaved by Lepke in the industrial rackets. Lepke got nervous. Gurrath Jake was for Dewey's assassination, but Lepke knew what would happen even if it could be done. "We'll have the whole world around our ears," he prophesied gloomily. "That's no good."

In 1937, Lepke and Gurrath Jake were indicted in the Federal Court in Manhattan for violation of the antitrust laws in connection with their racketeering in the rabbit fur-dressing industry and for

LEPKE (continued)

violation of the narcotics law. By this time, Lepke had scattered possible Dewey witnesses far and wide across the country and was maintaining them in their hide-outs. Lepke, Gurrah Jake and Max Silverman, their straw boss in the bakery racket, were also indicted for extortion. Lepke and Gurrah Jake fled, and from his hiding place Lepke ordered the destruction of key witnesses. Murder Inc. had seen a lot of men die, but not as fast as they did during this period. Supreme Court Justice Ferdinand Pecora, who had been designated to hear the cases, was horrified.

The underworld stood by Lepke for 21 months. One of the Italian gang leaders in Brooklyn hid him for a while in the Oriental Dance Hall in Coney Island. This hideout was uncomfortable. Kid Twist found a Brooklyn waterfront flat, run by a red-haired virago, and Lepke boarded there a while. He grew a full mustache and wore dark glasses. He still collected from many of his labor victims and still drew heavy earnings from the Raleigh Manufacturing Corp., a clothing firm with offices at 200 Fifth Avenue and a factory in Baltimore, which he controlled.

When the waterfront flat grew tiresome, Lepke moved to an apartment in a large house on Foster Avenue in the Flatbush district in Brooklyn. Here he was the "paralyzed husband" of a Mrs. Walker, who had a 19-year-old son. When anyone knocked at the door, Lepke would let his arms go limp and would assume a paralytic pose in his armchair by the fire-escape window. Here he received Kid Twist and his other agents, directed his multitudinous affairs, ordered the dispatch of men who might get to Mr. Dewey or to the federal authorities. The victims were stabbed with ice picks, shot and dropped into Catskill streams. One was throttled and burned in a Brooklyn lot. Lepke's own men were terrified. They watched each other warily.

Trigger fingers sometimes slipped

Max Rubin, who had been a Lepke straw boss in the garment center, was shot in the neck one night on Gunhill Road in the Bronx after he had appeared before Mr. Dewey. The marksmanship was bad, and Rubin survived to be the most damaging witness against Lepke at trials later. In their zeal to fulfil Judge Louie's orders, the Lepke gunmen accidentally murdered Irving Penn, an innocent music publisher. They mistook him for Phil Orlovsky, a potential witness against Lepke. This added to public indignation. The city of New York put a \$25,000 reward on Lepke's head. The federal government previously had offered \$5,000.

Finally, word came to Brooklyn from J. Edgar Hoover's office that if Lepke was not turned over within 72 hours, a host of FBI men would be turned loose on the borough and a merciless campaign would be started against all the mobs, Lepke's as well as others'. One of the big Italian gang bosses knew that this meant business. He passed the word to Lepke and a plan for surrender was worked out. A little after 10 o'clock the night of Aug. 24, 1939 Lepke got out of an automobile on Fifth Avenue at 28th Street, still wearing the dark glasses and the mustache. He was somewhat heavier than when he had gone into hiding. Waiting for him in a sedan was the columnist, Walter Winchell, chosen intermediary in the surrender. Winchell spoke to a heavy-set man, wearing dark glasses like Lepke's, sitting deep in the tonneau.

He said, "Mr. Hoover, this is Lepke."

Lepke removed his own glasses, dashed them on the pavement.

"How do you do?" he said politely. "Glad to meet you. Let's go."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35



On Jan. 2, 1940, Lepke was convicted in the Federal Court in Manhattan on the anti-trust law violations and was sentenced to 14 years in Leavenworth. A fortnight later in General Sessions Court in New York City he was convicted on 36 extortion counts and was sentenced to serve from 10 years to life in state's prison as a fourth felony offender. The federal authorities claimed prior right to his person and he was transported to Leavenworth. Gurrak Jake had surrendered to the federal authorities in the spring of 1938 and was serving time in the federal penitentiary in Wisconsin.

Meanwhile, though, William O'Dwyer, Brooklyn's district attorney, had taken office. He grabbed Reles, Tannenbaum, Magoon, Strauss, Maione, Abbando, "Bugsy" Goldstein, Louis Capone, Vito Gurino, Mendy Weiss, "Duke" Maffiores—all gunmen in Lepke's employ. He appointed Turkus to break them, and Turkus did. Reles, Tannenbaum and Magoon told the full inside story of Lepke's murder organization. Their testimony sent Maione and Abbando to the electric chair for the murder of George Rudnick, who had turned stoolie against the Lepke Combination. Later their testimony sent Bugsy Goldstein and Strauss to the chair for the murder and burning of "Puggy" Feinstein, another member of Murder Inc. who had weakened and endangered Boss Lepke.

The strain was too much for Kid Twist. He had pretended he had no remorse over sending his fellow men-at-arms to the death house. He had kept up his waggery—throwing wet toilet paper wads at detectives assigned to guard him in the Hotel Half Moon in Coney Island; escaping from them and calling them from a telephone in the lobby—but early on the morning of Nov. 12, 1941 he was found dead on the ground outside the hotel. He had gone out the window. This news got to Sing Sing Prison by criminal grapevine with incredible speed. Inmates who had known Kid Twist gloated at his death. Prosecutor Turkus heard that someone in the death house had remarked bitterly, "There's one canary who found out he could sing but couldn't fly." A canary, in underworld parlance, is any informer who "sings," or squeals, on his mates.

On Oct. 20, 1941 Prosecutor Turkus opened his case in Kings County Court in Brooklyn before Judge Franklin Taylor, against Louis Capone, Mendy Weiss and Louis Buchalter, charged with first degree murder. Nine defense lawyers opposed him. Lepke had been brought from Leavenworth for the trial. He was tanned from outdoor prison labor, his dark hair was thinned on top, but his face was

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



lyn lot in 1939, badly charred. Strauss (above), had done a ... to identify the body. A pe- ketter. His killers died in 1941

29394

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Mar

(over)

LEPKE (continued)

late at night. Finally the car stopped at a curb somewhere around 150th Street.

"It was raining pitchforks, coming down in torrents," Rubin testified.

"When the car stopped," Mr. Turkus wanted to know, "did you see somebody?"

"Lepke."

Lepke was huddled under a dripping awning before a darkened store. Rubin walked over to him, aware of something sinister in the cold, unmoving form.

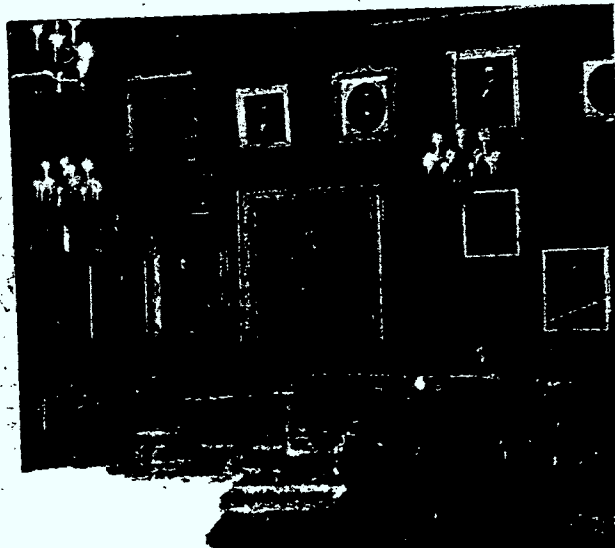
"Lepke wanted to know why I came back again. He asked me how old I was. I said I was 48. That was my age at that time. Lepke said, 'That's a ripe age.'"

Ripe enough, apparently. A few nights later one of Lepke's gunmen, trying to kill Rubin, put into his neck the slug that now causes Rubin to walk with his head on one side.

Allie Tannenbaum, skinny, slant-eyed, almost Japanese in facial contour, confirmed Rubin's testimony. He had heard Lepke say of Rosen, "There is one sonofabitch will never go downtown." Tannenbaum told how Mendy Weiss had boasted of the Rosen killing, had described how he murdered Rosen and how the sadistic "Pittsburgh Phil" Strauss took unnecessary pot shots at the body. Lepke, Tannenbaum told the jury, seemed unmoved when he heard this. His reaction was, "What's the difference as long as everyone is clean and got away all right?"

When Judge Taylor passed the death sentence, Lepke's soft brown eyes didn't change or harden. He heard the court solemnly pronounce that he, Weiss and Capone were to be delivered to Sing Sing there to suffer death by execution during the week of Jan. 4, 1942. He mopped at his tanned face with a soiled handkerchief but the blandness never altered. His tongue worked briefly inside one cheek and his fingers tensed, that was all.

Capone and Weiss were delivered to the east wing death house soon afterward. Lepke was taken back to Leavenworth Penitentiary, still a federal charge. A few weeks ago, though, Attorney General Biddle turned him over to New York State. He was driven to the prison under heavy guard. He was placed in the first cell to the right as you enter the west wing. He was docile then. He has been docile ever since—docile, with the same peculiar diffidence that so startled Prosecutor Turkus when he first became aware of it. Death-house keepers haven't been able to make him out. When other condemned men shout and call hoarsely to one another, Lepke is silent, still the extraordinary little man with the deer eyes who doesn't like to talk.



New York's capitol in Albany Feb. 2. Governor Dewey for Lepke, Weiss and Capone, whose execution he had his dispute with the federal government over Lepke's demanded that President Roosevelt commute Lepke's rendered to New York State. The U. S. Government out a guarantee that he would be executed. Some objection was afraid Lepke might earn clemency by Roosevelt-supporting labor leaders. On Jan. 21 Lepke was If he is not executed, the state must return him to the U. S. priority on Lepke dead; the U. S. Government on Lepke alive.

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

SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER

60-1501-4327

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

REC'D PROC.
JUL 18 1966

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, PORTLAND (62-0)

SUBJECT: LOUIS (LEPKE) BUCHALTER
MISCELLANEOUS

DATE: 7/11/66

AUSA JACK G. COLLINS, Portland, Oregon, is trying an IRS case in about 30 days from date. The subject is a confidence man who has defrauded a number of people by claiming to know where LOUIS (LEPKE) BUCHALTER buried a large sum of money on the Oregon Coast.

LOUIS (LEPKE) BUCHALTER was a member of "Murder Incorporated" in New York who was prosecuted and convicted by then District Attorney THOMAS E. DEWEY during the 1930s. AUSA COLLINS suspects that his subject knows nothing about BUCHALTER except what he has read in crime magazines. COLLINS thinks it would be helpful if he could have considerable background information concerning BUCHALTER to use in cross examining his subject.

REQUEST OF BUREAU

If it can be done without too much work, recommend that a summary of background information concerning BUCHALTER be furnished to Portland for delivery to AUSA COLLINS, who is Chief Assistant USA here and very helpful to us.

2-Bureau (AM)
1-Portland

[Redacted]
(3) b7c

REC-87 60-1501-4327

ST-105

16 JUL 18 1966

[Redacted] b7c



MAILED

JUL 22 1966

NAME CHECK

SAC, Portland (62-0)

July 21, 1966

Director, FBI

ST-10 REG 87 60-1501-4327

LOUIS (LEPKE) BUCHALTER
MISCELLANEOUS

Reurlet 7/11/66.

Subject was a prominent member of Murder Incorporated during his lifetime and received voluminous publicity.

Any information in Bureau files concerning him which could be released has previously undoubtedly appeared in the public press and would be available to the subject being prosecuted.

In an effort to be of some assistance to AUSA Collins, there are enclosed two copies of a brief summary concerning Buchalter, a copy of which may be given to Mr. Collins. He should be advised that the FBI should not be revealed as the source of this information.

It is noted relet did not set forth the name of the subject of the Internal Revenue Service prosecution. It is possible Bufiles may contain pertinent information concerning him which would be of assistance to Mr. Collins. In the event Mr. Collins desires a review of Bufiles, concerning the subject of prosecution, advise the Bureau, attention, Name Check Section, giving complete identifying data concerning him.

Enclosures (2)

[Redacted area with 'ENCLOSURE' stamp]

[Redacted area]

NOTE: SAC, Portland advised that Chief AUSA Collins who has been very helpful to the Portland Office, will be trying an Internal Revenue case in approximately 30 days. His subject (unidentified) is a confidence man who has defrauded a number of people by claiming to know where Louis (Lepke) Buchalter buried a large sum of money in Oregon. AUSA Collins believes subject's knowledge of Buchalter is limited to what he has read in crime magazines and desired background information concerning

70 AUG 1 1966

Note continued on Page 2.

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

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Sect. 103

Louis (Lepke) Buchalter

Buchalter to use in cross examining his subject.

b7c

Enclosure is a blank memorandum giving background and brief summary of the criminal career of Buchalter, who was a member of "Murder Incorporated" who died in the electric chair in March, 1944. This memorandum was originally prepared in 1955 for former [REDACTED] and was one of several memoranda prepared on well-known criminals. It is believed the enclosure should be furnished to AUSA Collins for his assistance as recommended by SAC, Portland.

62-99379-11

July 19, 1966

MEMORANDUM

RE: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER, with aliases

BACKGROUND:

Louis "Lepke" Buchalter was born in New York City on February 6, 1897, the son of Barnett Buchalter, who had come to America from Russia and operated a hardware shop on the lower East Side of New York City. His mother was refined and well educated, and one sister was a school teacher. His brothers included a dentist and a rabbi. In his youth, Buchalter attended the public schools and assisted his father in the operation of the hardware store until his father's death in 1909. Later, the family moved to Brooklyn. After completing grade school in 1910, Buchalter obtained employment as a salesman for a concern engaged in distributing theatrical goods.

CRIMINAL CAREER:

Buchalter was first arrested on September 2, 1915, on a charge of burglary. Released by the grand jury, he was next arrested in January, 1916, on a similar charge, but he was again released. His first real brush with law enforcement came the following month, when he was arrested at Bridgeport, Connecticut, charged with the theft of a grip from an automobile. Following his conviction, he was sentenced to the Connecticut Reformatory at Cheshire, Connecticut, where he was received in May, 1916.

For the next dozen years Buchalter was in and out of prison on numerous occasions, being arrested on charges including burglary, armed robbery, grand larceny and consorting with criminals. During this time, he became closely associated with Jacob Shapiro, and the notorious careers of the two were closely allied thereafter.

During the early 1930's, Buchalter and Shapiro turned to the lucrative rackets which were plaguing the entire New York area. In the years that followed, they built a criminal empire seldom matched in the annals of racketeering. The activities of their mob became the subject of headline after headline in the

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

60-1501-4327
ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

metropolitan dailies. With the typical weapons of their ilk, they attacked the poultry, fur, artichoke and clothing industries. Brutality, violence, intimidation and vandalism were their stock in trade as they moved in on flourishing businesses. Lead pipes, stench bombs, bullets and strong-armed bandits were the tools they used. It was soon obvious that it was far less painful to give the outlaws their "cut" than to defy them. One New York man, sitting quietly at home, was approached by a stranger carrying a folded newspaper. Not a word was spoken as the intruder took from the newspaper a bottle of acid which he dashed into the face of the innocent victim, leaving him seriously burned and scarred for life. The owner of a business in New Jersey learned the ways of the racketeers when his plant was bombed. Buchalter's hirelings, armed with iron pipes wrapped in newspapers and with guns, staged a daring attack on the headquarters of a union while a meeting was in progress. Another enemy of the rackets was found in a ditch in Detroit, tied securely in a jackknife position.

Once established as a kingpin of this vicious empire, Louis Buchalter found it convenient and undoubtedly much safer to retire behind the scenes. He became one of the wealthiest of men; living in sumptuous luxury and directing his reign of terror from afar.

Although arrested on many occasions, he seemed to be immune to punishment. Finally, however, towards the end of 1936, authorities started to close in. In November of that year he was convicted, with Shapiro, for violation of the Federal antitrust laws. The following August, Buchalter and Shapiro were indicted, with 14 others, by a grand jury of New York City for conspiracy to extort money from clothing manufacturers. With a long list of other charges about to be leveled against him, Buchalter decided to go into hiding. He dropped out of sight, but while continuing the tremendous investigations necessary to bring him to justice, authorities directed their attention to his henchmen. Federal and local grand juries began studying in detail the methods and records of the racketeers. Buchalter's underworld associates were being forced to appear in court. Big shot mobsters in various parts of the United States were summoned to appear before grand juries. In short, "the heat was on." The hoodlums facing the grand juries realized that the whole illegitimate empire was crumbling, with Buchalter apparently about to squirm out from under it. New York authorities, however, had not forgotten him. They issued a \$25,000 reward for him, dead or alive. The investigation of the FBI to locate Buchalter was intensified, and the pressure from the underworld for Buchalter's appearance mounted. Finally, in August, 1939, Buchalter found that he could no longer hide, and he was forced to give himself up to the FBI.

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

SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER

60-1501-NR DATED 11/28/56

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: November 28, 1956

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: *Louis Buchalter*

There are attached excerpts concerning the above-captioned case taken from "The FBI Story, A Report to the People," by Don Whitehead published by Random House, 1956. These excerpts are from page(s) 109-110 of the book.

The full text of the book may be found in the FBI Library.

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

60-1501-✓
NOT RECORDED

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Sect. 103

One of these was the arrest of the notorious Louis (Lepke) Buchalter whose gang forced the baking industry alone to pay them an estimated \$1,000,000 for protection.

As the FBI closed in on Buchalter, Walter Winchell broadcast a radio appeal for the gang leader to surrender, with the promise that his civil rights would be respected by the FBI. Negotiations began immediately between intermediaries of Buchalter and Winchell and finally an agreement was reached.

On the night of August 24, 1939, Director Hoover walked alone through New York City's streets to the corner of 28th Street and Fifth Avenue. And there the hunted man, Buchalter, surrendered to him. The FBI got Buchalter, and Winchell got an exclusive story. Buchalter was turned over to state authorities and later was executed for murder.

*Excerpt from pages 109, 110 of
"The FBI Story, A Report to the
People" by Don Whitehead*

ENCLOSURE

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

SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER

60-1501 SUB A SECTION 3

B'Nai B'Rith

COMMUNITY PRESS

Friday, April 14, 1939

Spur Campaign

Buchalter, Indicted N. Y. Fur Racketeer, Sought in L. A.

Bearing a warrant for the arrest of Louis Buchalter, a fugitive from New York, where he is being sought in connection with terrorizing activities in the garment, fur dressing, flour and trucking industries, Harold Nathanson, assistant director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, arrived in Los Angeles yesterday.



LOUIS BUCHALTER

Buchalter, one of the most notorious figures in Eastern underworld circles, is believed operating on the West coast from a hideout in Hollywood, Nathanson stated.

Local law enforcement agencies have been warned to be on the lookout for Buchalter, who dropped from sight about a year ago after federal agents in New York opened a drive against racketeering in key industries.

Buchalter's presence in Los Angeles, federal investigators point out, may be concerned with attempts to gain a foothold in organizing "protective" associations here similar to those he operated in New York.

Buchalter began his career as a minor hoodlum, gaining prominence in the underworld until as a leading racketeer he controlled his own organization of strong-

arm men and gunmen, which was believed to number from 200 to 500 men. He collected millions of dollars in tribute from legitimate business men through the protection racket, Nathanson said.

Strike-Breaking Activities

His activities also extended into strike-breaking and labor union coercion, the federal officer declared.

Buchalter is known variously as Louis Buckhouse, Louis Kawer, Louis Cohen, Louis Kauvar and Louis Buckholtz. Other aliases include Louis Laurar, Louis Safer, Louis Kauver, Lou Brodsky, "Judge Brodsky."

Born February 12, 1897.

Buchalter is about 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighs 160 pounds, has dark hair, dark complexion and brown eyes, large blunt nose and prominent ears. He has an 18-year-old son, Harold.

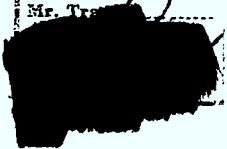
Many of Buchalter's victims—small businessmen upon whom he preyed while in New York—were of the Jewish faith. Persons having knowledge of his whereabouts are requested to communicate with the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

BETH OLAM
Cemetery and Mausoleum
HOLLYWOOD

No 3322 No 3618

900 N. GOWER STREET
E. Lew Zuckerman, Pres.
Morris Laskowitz, Mgr.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Crowl
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Tracy



b7c

R



60-1501 - 237

November 11, 1937

RECORDED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

RE: FUR DRESSING INVESTIGATION;
JACOB SHAPIRO, with aliases -
Fugitive; LOUIS BUCHALTER,
with aliases, Fugitive, et al;
ANTITRUST.

Transmitted herewith is a draft of an Identification Order concerning the fugitive Louis Buchalter. Kindly verify the fingerprint classification and check your files for any recent arrest of this individual.

When the above has been completed, kindly transmit the attached to the Mechanical Section.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Boardman.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Mr. Carson.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Gurnea.....
Mr. Hendon.....
Mr. Pennington.....
Mr. Quinn.....
Mr. Nease.....
Miss Gandy.....

Enclosure.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
NOV 12 1937
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



60-1501-237 sect. 5

NAME AND ALIASES:

LOUIS BUCHALTER, with aliases: Louis Kauvar, Louis Kawer, Louis Kaurer, Louis Lauvar, Louis Buckhouse, Louis Buchhalter, Louis Buckholts, Louis Cohen, Louis Saffer, "Lepke", "Lepky", "Lefky", "Sefky".

FINGERPRINT CLASSIFICATION:

15 0 25 W II 16
M 27 W 0

OFFENSE:

VIOLATION ANTITRUST LAWS

DESCRIPTION:

Age, 40 years (born February 12, 1897, New York, New York)
Height, 5 feet 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Weight, 160 pounds
Build, medium
Hair, dark brown
Eyes, brown
Complexion, dark
Race, white
Nationality, American-Jewish
Education, Grammar School
Occupation, racketeer
Scars & Marks, appendicitis operation scar
Peculiarities, nose large, rather straight and blunt; ears prominent;
eyes alert, shifting.

Photograph taken, June 12, 1938

CRIMINAL RECORD:

*As Louis Kauvar, #---, arrested Bridgeport, Connecticut, Police Department, February 29, 1916; charge theft; sentence May 16, 1916, indeterminate sentence State Reformatory, Cheshire, Connecticut.

As Louis Kauvar, #517, received State Reformatory, Cheshire, Connecticut, May 16, 1916; crime theft; sentence indeterminate; released on parole July 12, 1917; absconded July 28, 1917; warrant issued never executed; dismissed by Parole Board December 9, 1931.

*As Louis Buchalter, #B 46048, arrested New York, New York, Police Department, September 28, 1917; charge grand larceny, second degree; sentence January 11, 1918, 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years Sing Sing Prison.

*As Louis Buchalter, #---, received Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, January 11, 1918; crime grand larceny, second degree; sentence 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years; transferred February 19, 1918, to Auburn Prison, New York.

*As Louis Buchalter, #A 36826, received Auburn Prison, New York, February 19, 1918, on transfer from Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York; crime grand larceny, second degree; transferred May 21, 1918 to Great Meadow Prison, Constock, New York.

*As Louis Buchalter, #4474, received Great Meadow Prison, Constock, New York, May 21, 1918, on transfer from Auburn Prison, New York; discharged January 27, 1919.

*As Louis Cohen, #B 46045, arrested New York, New York, Police Department, January 22, 1920; charge attempted burglary, third degree; sentence June 21, 1920, 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York.

*As Louis Cohen, #---, received Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, New York, June 21, 1920; crime attempted burglary, third degree; sentence 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years; released on parole March 16, 1922; discharged December 19, 1922.

*As Louis Buchalter, #B 46045, arrested New York, New York, Police Department, November 11, 1931; charge extortion; dismissed June 16, 1932.

*As Louis Buchalter, with aliases, arrested New York, New York, Police Department on ten other occasions between September 8, 1915 and June 12, 1933; discharged.

As Louis Buchalter, #70172, arrested United States Marshal, Southern District of New York, November 21, 1933; charge violation of Antitrust laws; released November 21, 1933, on bail pending trial; sentence November 12, 1936, 2 years penitentiary, and \$10,000.00 fine.

As Louis Buchalter, #---, received United States Detention Headquarters, New York, New York, November 12, 1936; crime Sherman Antitrust Law; sentence, 2 years and \$10,000.00 fine; December 8, 1936, released on bail pending appeal; March 8, 1937,

conviction reversed.

An indictment was returned by the Federal Grand Jury, Southern District of New York, at New York, New York, on November 6, 1935, charging Louis Buchalter with aliases, and others with violating the Sherman Antitrust Law, in that he with others conspired to restrain interstate commerce; to monopolize interstate commerce; attempted to monopolize interstate commerce, and had monopolized interstate commerce. He failed to appear in Federal Court on July 6, 1937 and his bail in the amount of \$3,000.00 was forfeited and a warrant issued for his arrest.

Law enforcement agencies kindly transmit any additional information or criminal record to the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice.

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

Issued by:

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

(OVER)

*Represents notations unsupported by fingerprints.

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

SUBJECT: LOUIS "LEPKE" BUCHALTER

60-1501 SUB A SECTION 4

U.S. Opens Vast Crime Inquiry

By JOHN WADE and ARNOLD PRINCE

A Special Federal grand jury sitting in New York City will launch a drive Monday on all phases of crime in the United States. According to officials nothing approaching it in magnitude has been attempted heretofore. Acting under special authority of U. S. Attorney General Murphy, the jury is to investigate the entire American underworld.

All evidence will be checked against a file of 500,000 pages of crime reports and investigations assembled by the FBI throughout the nation since 1937. Ultimately, seven other Federal Grand Juries now functioning are to be assigned parts in the gigantic task.

Principal case to receive immediate consideration is that of Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, malignant garment, bakery and narcotic racketeer, who has been a fugitive from New York City since July, 1937.

The Mirror learned yesterday that subpoenas are being served on an amazing variety of witnesses to be questioned in connection with the long hunt for Lepke. Proceeding under sections of the Lindbergh law, and guided by precedents established in the Dillinger and Bremer kidnap gang cases, everyone known to have sheltered Lepke, or aided him in any way, is to be brought before the jury.

U. S. Attorney Gets Lepke Records



In Federal Court, U. S. Attorney Cahill and his staff go over evidence against fugitive racketeer Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, which was sent from Washington by F. B. I. to r.: Mathias Correa, William Young, Cahill and Jerome Doyle.

Lepke First Target

This will include physicians said to have treated him for a kidney ailment he has long suffered, attorneys he has consulted and other persons who came into contact with him while he was a fugitive and did not inform the authorities.

Prosecutions against these will be started under Federal statutes.

Jacob (Gurrah) Shapiro, once Lepke's partner in the rackets and now said to be his implacable enemy, and J. Richard (Dixie) Davis, former Dutch Schultz attorney, also are to be witnesses. Gurrah is being brought to New York City from the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta, where he is serving a term for violating the Sherman Anti-Trust Laws. He is expected to give information helpful in finding Lepke and revealing the extent of his operations, which have resulted in at least five murders and spread terror in various industries.

Federal officials yesterday emphasized, however, that the Lepke case is but one to be investigated. New York City is to become the headquarters for an integrated campaign against criminal bands the nation over, in which information obtained here will be distributed among Federal attorneys and State officials throughout the nation.

The subpoena power will be used in this district for the general probe, and leads uncovered outside the jurisdiction will be passed on to wherever they apply.

Without disparaging the seriousness of this inquiry, it was pointed

60-1501-A

out that it will be the climax of a series of moves to put United States District Attorney Cahill in the national limelight, not forgetting that Tom Dewey is also a famous prosecutor.

The evidence fills 86 huge volumes which were brought to New York City under the personal supervision of J. Edgar Hoover, chief of G-men. He calls the books



(Mirror)

ATTY. GEN. MURPHY

requests Special Federal Grand Jury to act on nationwide scale.

an "Encyclopedia of Crime." U. S. Attorney Cahill of New York City will have charge of the presentation of evidence and the calling of witnesses. He will be assisted by three expert aides—Assistant U. S. Attorneys Mattias Correa, Jerome Doyle and William Young, the latter, as head of the narcotics division, being particularly interested in the revelation that Lepke, among his underworld activities, is the head of a \$3,000,000 narcotics ring operating out of New York City.

Aided in Six States

As a further step toward centralizing the national crime drive, the headquarters of Myron Gurney, chief inspector of the F.B.I., has moved to New York City. Agents under Gurney gathered

such evidence bearing on the Lepke case as he became available. They are said to have identified persons in six states who allegedly aided him in various ways, or came into contact with him, without notifying the authorities.

The Federal penalty for this, it was said, will be rigidly enforced.

Federal authorities yesterday further confirmed the fact that Lepke, now supposedly "near New York," traveled widely since he disappeared from his local haunts two years ago. His flight took him across the nation and he is known to have visited Karlsbad, Bohemia, for the baths which are supposed to be helpful for his kidney ailment.

Lepke is sought on a bench warrant as well as on an indictment accusing him of violating

the narcotic laws. Federal authorities and District Attorney Dewey further charge that he is under suspicion of having ordered the murder of five potential witnesses against him. A mistake in carrying out his alleged instructions is believed to have caused the fatal shooting recently of Irving Penn, the Bronx music publisher, who lived in the same apartment house as Philip Orlovsky, held by Dewey as a material witness against Lepke.

Borough President Lyons of the Bronx yesterday wrote the Board of Estimate urging it at its meeting Monday to vote a \$10,000 reward for the capture of Penn's slayers. His letter stated in part:

"While I am in favor of a \$25,000 reward for the capture of Lepke, dead or alive, I think that as a matter of social jus-

tice we should be even more concerned with the apprehension and conviction of the murderer of Irving Penn, a reputable citizen who happened to live in the same apartment house as the intended victim."

Lyons charged that the killing of Penn might have been avoided if Dewey "had exercised the same precaution before the murder that he has since, in behalf of persons held as material witnesses in the Lepke case."

Assistant District Attorney Murray Gurfein yesterday conferred for an hour with Commissioner Valentine and other high officials in the Lepke case. He declined to make a statement to newspapermen when he left Police Headquarters.

EX-DOPE KING IS SQUEALING ABOUT LEPKE

Katzenberg Called as Star U. S. Witness in Gang Roundup

Yasha Katzenberg, so-called king of dope smugglers, bobbed up today as a star witness for the special Federal Grand Jury which Monday will attempt to take the entire American underworld apart.

Katzenberg was sentenced to ten years in prison a year ago and it had been believed that he was removed, as is the custom, to some Federal penitentiary.

Instead, it develops, he has remained right here in the Federal House of Detention and has been talking his head off. He would like very much to have some of those ten years lopped off and has given the Federal Bureau of Information some fifteen fat volumes of evidence.

Lepke Still Doing Business

Yasha has given the Government the information which led to a ten-count narcotics indictment against fugitive Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, most wanted gangster in America.

Yasha has also informed the G-men, it is understood, that the missing Lepke is still financially interested in a large and prosperous New York clothing concern.

Two executives of the company will be summoned before the Grand Jury. United States Attorney John E. Cahill will demand to know if they have been in communication with Lepke or have sent him any money, and if so, how.

In his prosperous days, when millions of dollars of dope were being bought in from the Orient through San Francisco, Yasha himself posed as a prosperous clothing merchant.

The grand jury was sworn in only two weeks ago to take action on eighty-six volumes of evidence as to how wanted racketeers and gangsters such as Lepke are able to hide out successfully.

Equipped with the 170,000 pages of material Cahill will strive chiefly to uncover the "underground railway" which whisks criminals to safety and keeps them supplied with money.

The line of attack is indicated by the fact that the managers of a number of upstate health sanatoriums will be summoned. The G-men evidently suspect that some of these resorts are not all they pretend to be.

This indicates that there is suspicion Lepke may have been whiling away some of his time in a wheel chair, with a pretty nurse, or nurses, to attend him.

It is known that he suffers from a kidney ailment and that he has twice gone to Europe to take the baths.

Put Finger on Torrio, Too

It was Yasha Katzenberg who took the witness stand and put the finger on John Torrio during the Little Fellow's trial in April. He gave detailed testimony concerning operations of the "Big Seven" prohibition syndicate which included Torrio, and Torrio suddenly entered a plea of guilty. He is now serving two and a half years.

As the Government prepared to go into action Monday the underworld rocked with the most serious diplomatic problem it has ever faced. The calling of the special Grand Jury, with authorization of United States Attorney General Frank Murphy, is in effect an ultimatum: Unless the underworld produces Lepke and turns him in there is going to be trouble all along the line.

Eighty-six volumes of evidence, an encyclopedia of crime, can cause plenty of trouble for plenty of people.

- Mr. Nathan.....
- Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Egan.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Crowl.....
- Mr. Harbo.....
- Mr. Lester.....
- Mr. Lawler.....
- Mr. Nichols.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
- Miss Gandy.....

Clipping from
NEW YORK POST

DATE: AUG 3 - 1936

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK
DIVISION.

sect. 4

- Mr. Tolson.....
- Nathan.....
- E. A. Tamm.....
- Clegg.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Egan.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Crowl.....
- Mr. Harbo.....
- Mr. Lester.....
- Mr. Lawler.....
- Mr. Nichols.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Sears.....
- Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Miss Gandy.....

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\$30,000 Is Offered For Surrender of Lepke, Gangster

Racketeer's Aides Also Sought as Dewey And Hoover Press Hunt

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Aug. 8.—Somewhere in hiding today is a middle-aged man with a \$30,000 price on his head.

He is Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, 42, a stocky, swarthy, big-nosed gangster—newest wearer of the ever-shifting title, "public enemy No. 1."

J. Edgar Hoover, G-man chief whose men have hunted Lepke for two years, will pay \$5,000 for him. District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey—thanks to action yesterday by the City Board of Estimate—has raised New York's ante to \$25,000.

Secrecy Promised.

Both Mr. Hoover and Mr. Dewey have promised to keep secret the

name of the person who "puts the finger" on Lepke, and the reward will be paid whether the fugitive racketeer, held responsible by Mr. Dewey for the slaying of five former associates since he jumped \$10,000 bail, is captured dead or alive.

In the hope of obtaining a lead to Lepke's whereabouts, Mr. Dewey ordered an eight-State alarm for Isidore Zennreich, 41, a partner of Lepke and Jacob (Gurrah) Shaprio in the days when they dominated the baking and garment industry rackets here.

Part of Anti-Crime Drive.

The search for Lepke was just one angle of an assault against a national "confederacy of crime" undertaken by a Federal grand jury impaneled by United States Attorney John T. Cahill.

Several business executives were named on the jury which prepared to begin immediate consideration of an 86-volume "Encyclopedia of Crime" prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Mr. Hoover, F. B. I. chief, is taking personal command of the investigative end of the "anti-crime" drive.

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- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. Nathan.....
- Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Egan.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Crowl.....
- Mr. Harbo.....
- Mr. Lester.....
- Mr. Lawler.....
- Mr. Nichols.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Sears.....
- Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Mr. Gandy.....

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\$30,000 Price Put on Racketeer's Head

NEW YORK, Aug. 8—It is now worth \$30,000 to any one providing information leading to the capture, dead or alive, of Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, industrial racketeer, and "the nation's most dangerous criminal."

Dist. Atty. Dewey believed such a fortune might tempt an informer who otherwise would be frightened by the knowledge that at least five former gangster associates of Lepke, who might have testified against him, have been assassinated in recent months.

The hunt for Lepke, in which the Federal Government is taking part, is the first phase of a nation-wide war on crime directed by a Federal grand jury here.

At Mr. Dewey's request, the City Board of Estimate yesterday raised the bounty on Lepke from \$5000 to \$25,000. The F. B. I. is offering another \$5000. The Police Department started today

printing 1,000,000 "wanted" circulars, to be distributed over the country.

Lepke long has been identified with fur, bakery and other rackets. He is believed still active, getting extortion money from merchants, thru his associates, at his hiding place. Twenty of his associates are under indictments for various crimes. Some are in custody. Some are being hunted.

The city also offered \$5000 reward for the capture of the killers of Irvin Penn, music publisher, who apparently was mistaken for a potential witness against Lepke who lived in the neighborhood. Penn was slain two weeks ago.

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AUG 10 1936

U.S., N. Y. Join In Wide Hunt For Buchalter

Special Grand Jury Convenes to Wage War on Racketeers

By the Associated Press

New York, Aug. 7.—Federal and city authorities took three long strides today in the campaign of the public versus Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, fugitive industrial racketeer accused of conducting a stealthy and deadly war against his erstwhile gangster associates.

The Federal Government convened an extraordinary grand jury to collect and integrate information in a national attack on crime, in which Lepke's capture figured as one specific objective.

Zennreich Hunted

The police sent out an eight-State alarm for Isidore Zennreich, accused Lepke associate, coincident with District Attorney Dewey's disclosure that "Izzy" and four others had been indicted with Lepke and his former top partner, Jacob (Gurrah) Shapiro, as bakery racketeers.

With deliberate fanfare, to impress upon the public consciousness New York's urgent desire for the capture of Lepke, the city board of estimate posted a \$25,000 dead-or-alive reward for the saturnine gangster.

Jury Carefully Chosen

The board also offered a \$5,000 reward for the killers of Isadore Penn, a quiet Bronx householder whose recent assassination spurred the search for Lepke. Penn, authorities say, was cut down by gunners in the mistaken notion he was a Dewey witness of similar appearance.

The new Federal grand jury, which the Government will use as a national anti-crime clearing house, was selected with extraordinary secrecy, no outsiders being permitted when the court met. Its personnel was likewise unusual, the list of its membership being studded with men of far more than average business and professional experience, including a half-dozen highly paid industrial executives.

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Ladd.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Miss Gandy.....

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- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. Nathan.....
- Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
- Mr. Clegg.....
- Mr. Coffey.....
- Mr. Egan.....
- Mr. Glavin.....
- Mr. Ladd.....
- Mr. Nichols.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
- Mr. Sears.....
- Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
- Mr. Tracy.....
- Miss Gandy.....

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DEWEY TO GUARD LEPKE INFORMER

Will Keep Identity Secret as Protection against Retaliation

Federal and city agencies directing a nation-wide hunt for Louis (Lepke) Buchalter pinned their chief hope today on the \$30,000 reward that is now offered for information leading to his capture, dead or alive.

District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey made no secret of the fact and promised complete protection to any person whose fear of underworld retaliation may prove less strong than the lure of the small fortune offered for the nation's No. 1 racketeer.

"My office and that of Captain Rothengast are open twenty-four hours a day," Dewey said. "The person who gives the information leading to Lepke's arrest will be fully protected, his identity will never be revealed and information will be received with absolute confidence."

Captain Rothengast is in charge of a special squad of fifty-five policemen and detectives assigned to the Lepke search.

Following the action of the Board of Estimate yesterday in increasing the city's reward from \$5,000 to \$25,000, in addition to the \$5,000 still offered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Police Department began printing 1,000,000 circulars giving Lepke's description and details of the new offer.

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NEW YORK

APR 1935

City Votes \$25,000 Reward for Lepke

As the Federal Government yesterday opened its greatest nationwide crime drive by swearing in the special Grand Jury that will begin taking evidence in New York City today, the Board of Estimate increased to \$25,000 the city's reward for the capture of Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, the swarthy fugitive racketeer who is the kingpin in the investigation.

The Federal Government has a standing offer of \$5,000 for Lepke, which brings to \$30,000 the total that will be paid to anyone bringing him in dead or alive.

The Board of Estimate also voted a reward of \$5,000 for the arrest of the four assassins who recently shot down Irving Penn, the Bronx music house publishing executive, presumably under the mistaken impression that he was Philip Orlovsky, a material witness held by District Attorney Dewey for the trial of Lepke if he is ever caught.

Dewey, on learning that the Board of Estimate had increased its reward for Lepke's capture from \$5,000 to \$25,000, issued the following statement pledging protection to anyone who helps bring Lepke to earth:

"Twenty-five thousand dollars will now be paid by the City of New York for information leading to the capture of 'Lepke' Buchalter.

"My office and that of Capt. Conrad Rothengast are open 24 hours a day.

Protection Pledged

"The person who gives the information leading to the arrest of Lepke will be fully protected. His or her identity will never be revealed. The information will be received in absolute confidence."

Earlier in the day Dewey had caused an 8-State alarm to be sent out for the arrest of Isidore Zenerich, described as the "bag man" who made the collections for the Lepke-Gurrah combination of racketeers in the garment and bakery rackets.

The special Federal Grand Jury picked yesterday was chosen for its extraordinary task from a panel of 50.

No effort was made to examine witnesses, the initial efforts of the newly selected jury being devoted to organization. The first of those who have been summoned from all parts of the country to appear before the jury will be heard this morning, it was said.

United States Attorney Cahill will be in general charge of the crime drive. Wherever evidence is uncovered by the Grand Jury in New York City or violations in other States, the information will be forwarded to the proper authorities for what the Government expects will be swift follow up action.

Three assistant U. S. attorneys, Mathis Correa, Jerome Doyle and William Young, will present evidence to the grand jury and question witnesses.

The special grand jury will inquire particularly into the manner in which Lepke has avoided capture since he jumped his \$10,000 bail bond two years ago. A report that an underworld organization exists for the protection of criminals fleeing from one jurisdiction to another will be carefully investigated.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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