

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
1216 Smith Young Tower  
San Antonio, Texas.  
April 30, 1934.

MR. NATHAN.....
MR. TOLSON.....
MR. CLEGG.....
MR. COWLEY.....
MR. EDWARDS..
MR. EGAN.....
MR. QUINN.....
MR. LESTER.....
CHIEF CLERK...
MR. ROBER.....

*Boyer*

GTJ/ML

AIR MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

JOHN DILLINGER et al  
National Motor Vehicle Theft Act

Dear Sir:

In tracing 38 caliber Colts Superautomatic pistol that was obtained from bandits in recent Dillinger fight in Wisconsin, the Dallas office ascertained that this gun was shipped by Wolf & Klar, Fort Worth, Texas, to H. S. Lebman, 111 South Flores Street, San Antonio, Texas.

Lebman operates at this address a saddlery and harness shop. He also operates as a gunsmith and handles second-hand guns.

Lebman was questioned by the Police here at the time Tommie Carroll shot and killed City Detective H. C. Perrow, at which time Perrow and three other detectives were attempting to execute a pick-up order that had been issued by the Chief of Detectives for Tommie Carroll and H. L. Keith. At the time Carroll escaped after shooting Perrow, he commandeered a truck and left the truck about one block from Lebman's place of business. Investigation developed that he had gone into Lebman's place and obtained a pair of trousers to aid in changing his appearance, as at the time he shot the City Detectives he was dressed in riding breeches and boots. He made good his escape from San Antonio. At the time in cooperation with local police I arrested H. L. Keith at the Aurora Apartments. The Identification Unit identified Keith, who was at that time using the name of Chas. W. Fisher, as being wanted for several Post Office robberies in Wisconsin and Minnesota. He was returned to Wisconsin and upon entering a plea of guilty was sentenced to eight years in Leavenworth Penitentiary. A full report was made on this under the name of H. L. Keith with aliases. At that time there was no information available as to the identity of any persons who might have been in San Antonio with Carroll and Keith.

Knowing what success the police had attempting to obtain information from Lebman, I thought it best to pick him up and bring him to the Division office and question him there. This was done Saturday about 8 P.M. He was questioned throughout the night by myself and Special Agent C. R. Davis, and

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on Sunday morning about 7 o'clock, we took Lebman to his place of business and searched it. We found, in addition to possibly 200 second-hand rifles and shot guns, approximately 50 second-hand pistols and approximately one dozen new pistols of assorted makes. We found one Thompson sub-machine gun, the breech of which was in Lebman's safe, the balance hidden in his place of business. The serial number of this gun had been removed. On his work bench I found a 45 caliber automatic pistol dismantled and which he was making into a sub-machine gun. I found one new commercial type 45 caliber automatic pistol hidden in the drawer of a desk. I also found one 45 caliber automatic Army pistol that was the property of the United States Government.

After some hours of interview Lebman made the enclosed sworn statement and supplemental statement attached hereto. He is without a doubt the biggest liar and unprincipled human that I have ever talked to. He has resided in San Antonio for the past 15 years. In fact, he went to school here as he is only about 32 or 33 years of age.

At the time of taking the statement from him, I did not have a picture of George (Baby Face) Nelson. I exhibited to him a photograph of all the Karpis-Barker mob, together with photographs of Dillinger, Hamilton, Bentz and their women. He stated none of these individuals had contacted him. This morning we exhibited to him photograph of ~~Edward~~ Van Meter and he readily and positively identified the photograph as the likeness of Wayne Huttner, mentioned in his statement. We also exhibited to him photograph of George Nelson, which was received this morning, and he likewise identified it as a positive likeness of Jimmie Williams, also mentioned in his statement. It is my understanding that the description of Jimmie Williams's wife, as mentioned in Lebman's statement, tallies identically with that of the wife of George Nelson.

As will be noted in Lebman's statements, he admits that he was making the 45 automatic into a machine gun for Wayne Huttner, although he claims that this work was ordered last December, and as he had not been in touch with any of the bunch lately, he had not completed the work. The file markings on this gun shows that the work was recently done. A thorough search of his place failed to disclose any record whatever of the purchase, sale or shipment of any guns of any type and Lebman admitted that he kept absolutely no record of the receipt of a gun or the sale of it. I tried in every way to pin him down as to the date of the October shipment to Minneapolis but was unable to establish it. The only thing we found of any interest among his papers was the "Jimmie" letter that I incorporated in his supplemental statement. To show what a consummate liar this man is, you will note that he furnished me with a name and street address in St. Paul to which he claimed he shipped the five machine guns in October and it was not until we found the "Jimmie" letter and confronted him with it that he then admitted that the address contained in this letter was actually the address to which he had shipped the machine guns.

ID of  
Huttner &  
Jimmie Williams

Van Meter  
as Wayne Huttner &  
Williams as Nelson

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I tried to pin him down as to what made him think of the street address in St. Paul and whether or not he had done any business with any one at that address. He could not explain what made him think of that address and emphatically denies that he had ever done any business with anybody at that address.

The information contained in his statements was immediately telephoned to the St. Paul, Chicago, El Paso and Dallas offices.

We interviewed his wife and her statement is also attached. According to her claims, she only saw the men a few times around Lebman's place of business and had accompanied some of them on a pleasure trip to Laredo, Texas, during which time they did not register at any hotel as they made a round trip in one day. *not under his*

There is no doubt in my mind but what this man Lebman has been dealing not only with the gangsters mentioned herein but possibly others and it will necessitate a painstaking check of the Express Company's records here to ascertain to what points he has shipped packages that might by their weight or value contain machine guns or other arms. Especially do I desire to establish the date of the October shipment, as the Texas Machine Gun Law went into effect October 25th last. This law forbids even the possession of a machine gun except in the hands of law enforcement officials.

According to Lebman, he first contacted Jimmie Williams and Keith in San Antonio in June. He could not explain why they called on him. He stated they only remained here a few days at that time. He claims the next contact was with Jimmie Williams in September and that Williams only remained in San Antonio about one week and this was the time that the negotiations were made that ultimately resulted in the shipment of the guns to Minneapolis. Lebman claims his next contact was when the five men showed up in San Antonio about November 18th or 19th. It is noted that he claims Jimmie Williams, Wayne Huttner and Tommie McGammon left San Antonio the day previous to the shooting of City Detective Perrow by Carroll and that from conversation he overheard Carroll and Keith were to remain here a while longer and later join the others somewhere in the East. In questioning him concerning the automobiles used by this mob, the only information I could obtain was that contained in his statements attached. He steadfastly denies that he knew where they were staying in San Antonio except that he knew that Keith was residing in the Aurora Apartments. It has been developed that Tommie Carroll was stopping at the Bluebonnet Hotel under the name of Tommie McLarkin. So far we have been unable to ascertain where the balance of the gang stopped while they were here in November and December. However, every effort will be made along that line.

The United States Attorney here is cooperating to the limit and a complaint was filed this morning charging Lebman with possession of stolen government property, to-wit: the 45 automatic pistol found in his possession. His bond was set at \$2,000.00 which he has not as yet made but probably will.

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Arrangements have been made for the full cooperation of State District Attorney Walter Tynan, who states that as soon as Lebman makes bond in the Federal case, he will file on him under the Texas Machine Gun Act which was passed October 25, 1933, and forbids the possession of a machine gun except by law enforcement officials. I have also arranged for the County Attorney to file complaints against Lebman charging him with being a dealer in firearms and not complying with the Texas statute which requires that a dealer be registered and keep a record of each and every gun sold.

It is my belief, and I have so advised SAC Blake at Dallas, that a thorough check should be made of the records of Wolf & Klar, Fort Worth to ascertain from them what record they have of every gun sold Lebman during the past year and a half, as he stated to me that all of the pistols that he handled were obtained from Wolf & Klar. He denied ever obtaining any machine guns from Wolf & Klar and states that the machine guns mentioned in his statement were obtained in the manner indicated. However, this will be thoroughly checked and may be found to be untrue.

I have called in Resident Agent Murphy at Houston to assist us but may have to call on you for one other man as I intend to sift this matter to the bottom.

At the time of the arrest of Keith at the Aurora Apartments, he was in company with one Chas. Nelcey, who, on account of his having no previous criminal record, was released by the San Antonio Police Department. It is believed that this is the correct name of that man as he had been in San Antonio for several months at the time Carroll-Keith and their mob came here. Lebman admits that he has been in correspondence with Nelcey who is now supposed to be located at 2315 Kemper Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio, and that he sold Nelcey a gun case that was bought through Wolf & Klar, Fort Worth, Texas, and shipped direct to C. H. Nelcey at the Cincinnati address mentioned, on Feb. 24, 1934. Nelcey's San Antonio Police number is 8331, and, for the information of the Cincinnati office, he is described as follows:

Age 35; height 5 feet 7; hair medium chestnut; eyes gray green; complexion ruddy; native New Haven, Conn.

I am furnishing the Cincinnati office with a copy of this letter and enclosures together with a photograph of Nelcey and it is suggested that a thorough check be made of this man as he may be in touch with some of this gang.

Chicago  
St. Paul  
Dallas  
El Paso  
Cincinnati

Very truly yours,

  
Gus T. Jones,  
Special Agent in Charge.

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