

# U. S. Bureau of Investigation

Department of Justice

Oklahoma City, Okla. June 25, 1933.

Mr. Nathan	_____
Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Edwards	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,  
United States Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D.C.

Personal and Confidential.

Dear Sir:

I have not had any time to write you about the terrible thing at Kansas City, as I have been on the road constantly from last Tuesday morning until yesterday noon. I was in Kansas City Thursday afternoon for a few hours, leaving there hurriedly for Hot Springs from which place I got back yesterday at noon.

Since the Kansas City office and Mr. Nathan are in constant touch with you I will not go into any details except to say that it appears likely that the murderers are Oklahoma outlaws and that they will as likely as not, be located in Oklahoma or Arkansas and will be hard to take. In this connection, since our agents will be actively engaged in the hunt for them, it is imperative that we be equipped to meet them at least well equipped in the way of arms. We have only the small light pistols furnished by the Bureau and which are entirely inadequate for the purpose.

We ought to have one Thompson sub-machine gun, a couple of high-power rifles and about four 45 calibre Colts Automatic pistols and plenty of ammunition for each. A sawed-off shotgun or two would also be useful. I hate to send agents out after these outlaws unless we can meet them on equal footing. If we can have this equipment, I will see that the agents are taught how to use it. I myself am competent with any of the weapons except the machine gun.

Please do not attribute this request to excitement or buck-ague, as I know, and am sure you realize just what we are up against. As we are now situated, we have to scramble round and borrow guns if called for a tough job.

Informant A at Hot Springs, should be settled with, as he fulfilled his contract on the level. He is now in a very tough spot, which is alright with me, as I want to keep him where we can handle him and use him; but at the same time, we must protect him. Will you cause a proper voucher to be prepared in the name of Louis Luce, so that it can be cashed through a third party. The informant will use that name. He is deathly afraid for his correct name to appear even on a voucher or check. He won't even let me phone or wire him and I have to contact him very carefully.

I spoke with Mr. Nathan about raising a private reward fund for the capture of the murderers and he seemed to think favorably of the idea. The Public is with us, and I believe a few of the large oil companies in this state would put up four or five thousand dollars if I asked them to unofficially. Would you care to have me broach the idea to them? If enough money is offered, some one will likely come forward with information.

Will you send me some one to take Lackey's place as Number One, or shall I use Deaderick? I could use a good hardboiled agent now, who knows how to take care of himself, as Frank Smith's nerve is somewhat shot to pieces and poor Lackey is out.

Please pardon this badly typed and otherwise horrible specimen of letter writing, as no stenographer is available this morning.

Very truly yours,

R.H. Colvin

TOLSON

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JUN 29 1933

Reply  
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June 27, 1933.

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Mr. R. H. Colvin,  
United States Bureau of Investigation,  
224 Federal Building,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

JUN 29 1933

Dear Mr. Colvin:-

I have received your letter of June 25, 1933, with regard to the unfortunate incident which occurred at Kansas City on June 17th, and want to thank you for writing me in detail concerning the matters contained therein.

Please be advised that steps are being taken to properly equip all field offices with appropriate fire arms. You will be further notified in this connection in the near future. I fully agree with you that our men must be afforded every possible facility in dealing with the type of men responsible for the cowardly acts committed at Kansas City.

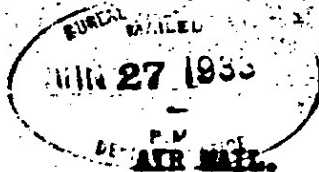
With reference to the Louis Laze matter, a voucher has been prepared and is being forwarded to you under separate cover for signature and approval in order that early action may be taken concerning the promised payment.

You are authorized to utilize the services of Agent Deaderick as Acting Agent in Charge in the event of your absence and pending the return to duty of Agent Lackey.

With regard to the matter of a private reward fund for the capture of the murderers of Agent Caffrey and the police officers at Kansas City, I want you to know that I am personally intensely interested in anything to encourage the receipt of information leading to the apprehension of these criminals. The Bureau feels, however, that it would be undesirable for the Federal Government to be placed in the position of soliciting or accepting the use of private funds in a matter of this kind and it is, therefore, believed that we should take no action along the line suggested in this connection.

Sincerely yours,

Director.



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