

U. S. Department of Justice  
 DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
 Bureau of Investigation  
 224 Federal Bldg, Oklahoma City, Okla.  
 Nov. 27, 1933.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Hughes	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Locke	.....

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

GEO. MELLY BARNES et al  
 Kidnapping.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith, clippings from the Oklahoma Times for November 25th and 27th instant, relative to the action taken in regard to payment of rewards in the Urschel kidnaping case.

The Division is no doubt aware that the so-called "citizens committee" is no one but Urschel and his business associates. The repudiation of the reward offer on the false claim that Division agents alone were responsible for the capture of Kelly and his wife, without the aid of any outside person, has left a decidedly bad taste in the mouth of the citizenry of Oklahoma City.

Their refusal to pay anything to the little Arnold girl is to me a disgusting piece of cheapness and lowers immeasurably the previous good opinion I had of the Urschel family and associates. Needless to say, I am of course refraining from any comment on the matter locally, and shall continue to do so. I have no doubt that a certain portion of the public may come to the conclusion that the reward if any, was paid to Division Agents.

It will be noted that certain lawyers representing the ~~Katie~~ Arnolds are preparing to file suit to compel the payment of the reward to their clients, and I surmise that Division agents will be subpoenaed in the matter; therefore I deemed it prudent to advise you of the situation at once.

Please overlook this untidy letter, which I have attempted to type, myself as I wanted to get it off as soon as possible.

*Reply  
 12/15/33*

O.C. File 7-6

DEC 8 1933

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7-115-1024  
 DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
 DEC 6 1933  
 F. H. COLVIN  
 SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  
 NATHAN  
 FILE

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*[Handwritten notes and signatures]*

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December 5, 1933.

RECORDED  
DEC 8 1933

7-115-1024

Special Agent in Charge,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
224 Federal Building,  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of November 27, and have carefully noted the contents of the letter and its enclosures. I agree with you that this is an undesirable situation. I wish you would make certain that the law enforcement officials interested be informed of all of the facts in this case, namely that they definitely and clearly understand that this Division has taken no part in any negotiations or otherwise in connection with the distribution of reward monies in the Urschel case. This Division has furnished to the committee the information contained in its files which will enable them to judge as to the part played by any and all of the individuals indicated by the committee in the Urschel investigation.

I wish that you would see, as indicated in the foregoing, all law enforcement officials interested and impress upon them the fact that this Division is in no wise responsible for the decision of the committee along the lines indicated by you. In fact, this decision was a surprise to me.

Very truly yours,

Director.

RECEIVED  
DEC 5 1933  
P. M.  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION,  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEC 7 1933  
RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# Suit for Kelly Reward To Be Filed for Girl

Attorneys for Geralene Arnold  
Demand Colcord Pay Her  
\$15,000 He Offered.

A legal fight in federal court will be waged to force payment of the \$15,000 Urschel kidnaping reward to 11-year-old Geralene Arnold, attorneys for the girl announced Saturday in Dallas, according to an Associated Press dispatch.

The attorneys, Jack Burroughs and P. D. Smith, both of Dallas, were in Oklahoma City earlier in the week and conferred with Charles F. Colcord, chairman of the reward committee, in an attempt to get at least a part of the reward for their young client.

#### U. S. Agents Did Job

Geralene is credited with giving federal agents the tip that led to the capture of George "Machine Gun" Kelly and his wife, Kathryn, in a Memphis bungalow.

On the day after the conference Colcord issued a statement saying that no part of the reward would be paid to anyone, investigation having shown that the federal agents who captured the Kellys were acting on information which they had in their possession before the reward was offered. The agents themselves are not permitted by the government to accept rewards.

Colcord said his position was supported unanimously by a committee appointed to advise with him on the proper distribution of the reward.

#### Girl Suffers Shock

The attorneys for Geralene announced Saturday their suit for the reward would be filed in the federal court at Dallas. They said that Colcord and other members of the reward committee would be named defendants.

Colcord was out of the city Saturday and could not be reached for a statement. Previously he had said, however, that the committee had concluded its work and that as far as he was concerned the incident was closed. The reward, he said, would be returned to the citizens who subscribed to it.

Meanwhile, according to Geralene's lawyers, she and her parents are destitute at Dallas, not knowing where their next meal is coming from. In addition, they say, little Geralene lives in constant fear of violence from gangland allies of the Kellys.

Burroughs said that last Monday night Geralene, in a restaurant, saw a man she thought she had seen in Cicero, Ill., when she was traveling with the Kellys during their flight from officers. She suffered a nervous shock from which she has not recovered, Burroughs said.

WHAT talk about the prosecution of the leaders of the mob that lynched the kidnapers of Brooke Hart is idle conversation. It would be a waste of the state's money to bring charges against individuals in a community so outraged as were the citizens of Santa Clara county. It is a flare-up of the old vigilante spirit which ruled the coast cities when civilization was younger and the influences of the courts were not so well established as they are today. The wanton slaughter of young Hart by his abductors justified the death penalty if ever a crime justified the extreme punishment. The two culprits had made a complete confession. The finding of the body completed the evidence. There remained an expensive trial and appeal before the murderers met the supreme penalty. Our sense of law and order would be better satisfied if the people had permitted the law to proceed in its slower and dispassionate way, but we cannot find it in our hearts to be highly indignant over the fury of the mob in this instance. Lynch law leaves a bad taste, but it is good medicine for kidnapers who kill their victims. California justice was necessary to clean the desperadoes out of the mining camps in the fifties and behind Judge Lynch came a high sense of citizenship which seldom left prescribed and conventional paths. We have a secret pride in California's handling of this case. Our guess is that there will be no more kidnaping in California for quite a spell.

MR. URSCHEL could eliminate a lot of adverse criticism by giving little Geraldine Arnold a handsome purse for her share in the apprehension of the Machine Gun Kellys.

The fact that the Arnolds have applied for charity in Dallas and are virtually public charges has created a lot of sympathy for the family who were impressed into the service of the abductors of Mr. Urschel.

Inquire in the average group about the decision of the committee to give none of the reward offered and you strike an immediate reaction in favor of the child.

The committee may be on solid ground legally when it argues that the federal operatives had the case almost completely cleaned up when the Arnold child arrived in Oklahoma City after her tour with the Kellys. We are inclined to think that it was but a question of a few hours until the federal men would have taken Kelly regardless of the child. This is a matter of conjecture, however. The girl was instrumental in leading the officers to Kelly's lair. They took him as a result of her information.

There are a great many people who think the girl's schooling ought to be provided for. I have not heard of anyone who cares whether anything is done for the parents.

Oklahoma Times 11-27-33

7-115-1024