

December 4, 1936

Mr. Robert Wahlforth, Secretary  
Sub-Committee of the Committee on Education and Labor  
Room 247-C, Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wahlforth:

BURNS DETECTIVE AGENCY  
P.O. Box 1184, Spokane, Washington

This office, closed for several years, was reopened about a year ago. Floyd Brewer, the local manager, was formerly Sheriff of Spokane County, and later Deputy under former Sheriff Claude Hennick of King County. (Seattle is in King County.) After Hennick's defeat he served as a hired guard from the Seattle Burns office in the Fisher Flouring Mills strike, and next appears as Manager of the Spokane Burns Agency office. Hildret, his wife, is a much more inspired narrator, and was called in reportedly to rescue him when he was floundering too badly.

I wish to call your attention to Mr. Brewer's written statement in his letter to Hagan, second page, fourth paragraph from the end: "No written reports of operatives are made in industrial cases." Mr. Brewer elaborated on this and told me that no written report is made to the client even though he requests one. If you compare this statement with his letter of August 22, 1935 to W. S. Hama, sent to the last paragraph, relative to File #2081, he states: "For your information, our investigator has reported his findings to the Sheriff of the county as well as to the client. In his written reports of his activities with certain other persons, it would be a very simple matter to establish his identity." It seems to me that in these two statements there is a complete contradiction with no loophole unless Mr. Brewer should contend the merger expense accounts sent in daily by this operative, I-5, sample copies inclosed, would constitute a written report that could establish I-5's identity. I went through the whole file of this case, #2081, and it contains nothing but I-5's expense accounts, bills to Mike-Coleman for services, and a letter to Sheriff Hildret, copy enclosed.

The enclosed pages from the Fisher Worker and the Commonwealth News give the story of the strike at this operation and the part played in it by the Washington Industrial Council and by Fitzgerald, a member of the Washington Industrial Council and also undercover man for the powerful West Coast Lumbermen's Association.

After giving me the automobile rental reports on this case, copy enclosed, Mr. Brewer realized that they gave this operative's name, and requested me to give them back. Acting on your instructions that anything once handed over should be retained, I refused.

I would like to follow this case to Oak and locate this operative and, between the employer and the sheriff, determine if written reports are turned in, and also follow E-S's operations and see just how he works.

The balance of the material secured from the Systems Office will probably not disclose anything of special interest, and the letter to Mr. Hagan summarizes the answers received to requests for certain information and material.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice W. Howard.

MWH/H  
Enclosures.