

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM : *WOK* Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division

SUBJECT: Unknown subject;  
Peter Weinberger - Victim

DATE: July 6, 1956

The New York Times on Friday, July 6, 1956, carried a news item reporting the kidnaping of Peter Weinberger, 33 days of age, from the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Weinberger, at 17 Albemarle Road, near Westbury, Nassau County, New York. According to the news item the baby was abducted between 3:00 and 3:15 p. m. on the afternoon of July 4, 1956, from a roofed terrace at the back of the house, and a ransom note demanding the payment of \$2,000 was left at the scene. It is requested that the Criminal Division be notified promptly if and when a decision is reached by the FBI to exercise its investigative jurisdiction under the Federal Kidnaping Laws, 18 U. S. C. 1201.

It is noted that this is the second abduction of an infant to occur in Nassau County within eight months. The earlier instance being the disappearance of Stephen Damman, aged three, on October 31, 1955. In connection with the disappearance of Stephen Damman, the FBI publicly announced its decision not to enter the investigation of the case, although the Bureau had been formally advised by the Criminal Division that the Bureau had the authority under the kidnaping laws to investigate the Damman case if the Bureau decided an evaluation of the circumstances and existing evidence justified such a course. In view of this second abduction of a baby so close in time and space to the first, it is suggested that it might be desirable for the Bureau to reconsider its decision not to investigate the disappearance of Stephen Damman. It is also suggested that it might be desirable in the future for the Bureau to refrain from public statements of its declination to investigate abductions that are portrayed to the public as kidnapings by the newspapers, radio, and other agencies of public information because of the tendency of such statements to lead potential kidnapers to believe that this crime can be perpetrated without incurring the risks of a federal investigation and prosecution.

*7-4*  
*ALL 67C*  
*7-10-56*

INDEXED - 15 RECORDED - 15 7-8062-477  
~~EXP. PROC.~~ JUL 16 1956

*I have written memo to A. G. copy to [unclear]*

~~JUL 6 1956~~ 34 7-6200-7