

Dear Jim,

3/1/88

The Willie Weisberg records are actually of the FBI's bugging of his apartment and Angelo Bruno (Annaloro)'s office, not wiretaps.

If you remember the AU student, Lila, she told me that she'd heard she was related to Bruno. *On her father's side.*

I'd be surprised if these few dates of buggings is a fair sample of what the FBI actually got and I'd not be surprised if much of the withholding is improper. But given the content it does not seem likely that the withheld material would add much. *Or mean much.*

Willie's father was my father's father's cousin, so we were not closely related. Except that the entire family was very, very close and there was no such thing then as a distant relation. Willie's father, Shimon (Simon) and mother Bobtsie (Bess) were always at my paternal grandfather's for passover and other holidays. Shimon had a furniture store in Frankford, a northeastern section of Philadelphia, on a main street on which the elevated ~~xxx~~ ran, the Frankford elevated, subway in downtown Phila. I have some recollection of it after about 65 years, probably a little more.

The family story of what made Willie what he was is that his father was robbed regularly so unlike the other children, all of whom were quite successful, Willie ~~decided~~ ^{decided} that working for the crooks had it turned around - the crooks are the ones who made out. I remember that from when I was very young. I don't know that I ever ~~xxx~~ saw Willie. I have clear recollections of his parents, his father's older sister and her unmarried daughter and vague recollections of others in their part of the family. I believe Willie's parents came to this country before my father, who preceded his father. I know that all the rest of that part of the family *did come earlier.* Willie's older brother was quite successful in business, managing one of the better and larger department stores in Pennsylvania, and a sister died quite wealthy from her and or her husband's quite legitimate affairs. Willie was the only bad egg. It really shocked the rest of the family.

Except for Willie, my recollection is that his father was the friendliest, happiest, most pleasant adult I recall from my youth, always laughing or smiling, never with a bad word about anyone or anything. His mother was similar in disposition.

When the threat included in these FBI records was leaked to Drew Pearson it was misrepresented to him or he twisted it because it clearly is not a threat against JFK, although that can be misinterpreted if the leak is limited to the first of several references. The threat was actually against Jobby, and there is no doubt at all if one reads farther.

All of that part of the family were successful business people in the first generation and mostly schoolteachers or professions in the second generation, with some prominent and successful in business. Save for Willie. Once Willie made his decision that in effect he'd steal rather than being robbed, I am not aware of his ever having visited anyone in the family, save for perhaps his parents in his earliest days in crime, and I'm not certain of this, and perhaps when they were dying. I have a faint and unclear recollection that when he did offer his parents money they refused it. Nobody held him against his family but everyone in the rest of the family seemed to regard him as living while dead, a tragedy. They never mentioned him much.