That Lish Whitsoh was the person who went to Tampa and from there mailed to the king family the FBI lab's tape supposedly of selections from its eavesdropping on King, the intent being to persuade king to kill himself, was disclosed in the disclosed records of the DJ's Office of Professional responsibility internal investigation of what the FBI had done to King. OFR&s notes identify Whitson as a retired FBI SA. That could be taken to mean that although retired he did this chore for the FBI or that he was working for it when he undertook the chore and retired before OFR's inquiry. Whitson's obituary in the Washington Post of 6/25/90 makes it clear that Whitson was still working for the FBI when he did it.

With the tape he also mailed an anonymous letter having the same purpose.

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LISH WHITSON FBI Special Agent

Lish Whitson, 82, a retired FBI special agent, died of cardiopulmonary arrest June 24 at his home in Bethesda.

Mr. Whitson was born in Saunemin, Ill. He graduated from the University of Illinois and received a law degree from the University of Arizona law school. While in law school, he taught speech and drama at the University of Arizona. He practiced law briefly in Tucson before joining the FBI in 1935.

He served as a special agent in the Southwest until 1942, when he was transferred to the Washington area. He retired in 1972.

His wife, the former Clytie Collier, died in 1987.

Survivors include two children, Clytie Whitson Taylor of Salisbury, Md., and Lish Whitson Jr. of Seattle; a sister, June Ewing of St. Petersburg, Fla.; and two grandchildren.