FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

SUBJECT: THE BEATLES

FILE NUMBER: 145-0

Mr. Will R. Wilson Assistant Attorney General

March 11, 1969

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. McKinnon

PHONOGRAPHIC ALBUM BY
JOHN LENNON
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION
OF OBSCENE MATTER

This will confirm convergation on Earch 7, 1969, between Mr. Robert Mahony and Special Agent Charles R. McKinnon of this Bureau.

Mr. Mahony was advised that this Bureau has received a communication from Congressman Ancher Nelsen of Minnesota forwarding a letter sent to him from

identified himself in his which has

letter as an employee of

Allinesota.

phonographic album by John Lennon. This album, according to the contains a nude photograph of Lennon and Yoka One. It is concerned with the effect such a photograph may have on the youth in this country and requested to know what can be done to keep this photograph out of the hands of the American public.

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Mr. Mahony advised he is familiar with the phonographic album by John Lennon, which cover contains the nude photograph of Lennon and Yoka One. He advised that the photograph does not meet the existing criteria of obscenity from a legal standpoint and is not a violation of the Interstate Transportation of Obscene Matter, Statute. Congressman Helsen was so advised.

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NOTE:

See letter to Congressman Ancher Nelsen dated 3/10/69.

MAIL ROOM [] TO DIVER UNIT []

145-0-1765

Congress of the Plaited States House of Representatives Brahington, D.C.

March 5

195

Comparted 1 11-1509

Sir:

The atto bel communication is sent for your consideration.

Please investigate the statements contained themeir and forward the necessary information for reply, return by the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

H. C.

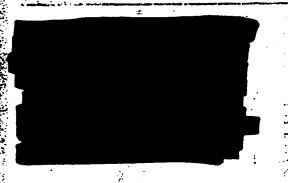
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JAHUARY 31, 1969

CONGRESSMAN ANCHER NELSON

DEAR ANCHER:

YESTERDAY I RECEIVED AN ALBUM AT OUR CAME TO ME BECAUSE I AM IN CHARGE OF THE

A:HICH

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IT IS THE LATEST ALBUM OF JOHN LENNON OF THE BEATLES AND HIS LATEST FLAME YOKO ONE. THE COVER OF THE ALBUM WAS A PHOTOGRAPH OF LENHON AND ONO COMPLETELY HUDE; AND BELIEVE ME THEY DIDN'T HIDE A THING. IT IS NOW BEING SOLD TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE RECORD STANDS. MR. NELSON, IT IS THE MOST DISCOLORED AND VULGAR DISPLAY OF GARBAGE! HAVE EVER SEEN IN MY LIFE.

ISN'T THERE SOME WAY WE CAN GET THIS ALBUM OFF THE MARKET??
IT HAS TO BE SENT IN THE MAIL TO THE STORES WHICH IN TURE:
BELL IT TO THE KIDS. IT DOES HAVE AN ENVELOPE OVER THE
PICTURE WHEN BOUGHT IN THE STORES, SO IT IS ALSO FRAUGULENT
ADVERTISING. MOST OF THE STORE MANAGERS DO NOT KNOW THIS
PICTURE IS ON THE COVER BECAUSE OF THE ENVELOPE. I AM AT
THIS TIME TRYING TO GET ANOLD OF ALL OF THE LOCAL MERCHANTS
CARRYING THIS ALBUM AND FILLING THEN IN ON WHAT IS REALLY
ON THIS ALBUM.

YOU ASK WHY THE YOUTH OF TODAY ARE LIKE THEY ARE...THIS IS ONE OF THE PRIME REASONS. ANCHER, I SAY TO YOU, THIS HAS TO STOP. ... AND I MEAN HOW!! PLEASE WRITE ME AS SOON AS YOU DECEIVE THIS LETTER AND TELL HE WHAT WE CAN DO TO GET THIS THASH OFF OUR YOUTH MARKET.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

67C J 1769

March 10, 1969

1 - Mr. McKinnon

B. 10%

Honorable Ancher Nelsen House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

I have received your communication dated "farch 5, 1939, along with its enclosure, a letter to you deted January 31, 1900, from

A representative of the Department of Justice has advised that he is familiar with the photograph contained on the cover of an album by John Lennon. He stated that no violation with regard to obscenity exists concerning this photograph has it does not not the criteria of obscenity free a logal standpoint.

Your bringing this to my attention is indeed appreciated.

I am returning letter to you're requested.

"incorely your".

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 3

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1 - SAC, Minneapolis - Enclosure

NOTE TO SAC, MINNEAPOLIS:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter dated 1-31-69, from to Congressman Ancher Nelsen for your information.

CRM:erg (5)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

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7-15-7-14 AR-1-17-1969

NOTE:

By communication 3/5/69, Congressman Ancher Nelsen (Rep. - Minnesota) forwarded a letter sent to him from stated he is an employee of a having linnesota. Stated the latest album of John Lennon of the Beatles contains a cover of Lennon and "his latest flame" Yoka One which depicts both completely nude.

Attorney Robert Mahony has previously reviewed the photograph contained on this record album and advised that it does not meet the criteria of obscenity from a legal standpoint. This is being confirmed in writing. We have had limited but cordial relations with Congressman Nelsen.

UNITED STATES G. .

Memorandum

Mr. Bishop

M. A. Jones

CONGRESSMAN CHARLES E. BENNETT (D - FLORIDA) FROM

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING PROPOSED LEGISLATION PROHIBITING SUBJECT:

THE DISSEMINATION OF OBSCENE MATERIAL

TO MINORS

By letter dated March 17th, Congressman Bennett sent a copy of H.R. 5171, which is legislation he has introduced to prohibit the dissemination of obscene material to minors. Congressman Bennett pointed out that his bill is patterned after a New York State statute which has been upheld by the Supreme Court. He also sent a copy of two other identical bills, H.R. 6186 and H.R. 7167. In his letter, Congressman Bennett requested "any information you can provide me to back up this bill." By letter of March 18th, Congressman Bennett followed up his previous letter with a request for "evidence" which would show that the rise in crime or the rise of sex crimes is attributable to pornography. He also asked if we can show that a substantial number of criminals have been exposed to pornography. He also asked if we know of any articles or research which would demonstrate a clear need for such a law as he proposes.

DATE 3-20-69

We have had cordial relations with Congressman Bennett over the past several years.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Director restrict our assistance in this matter to provide Congressman Bennett with appropriate reprint material, and that attached letter to this effect be sent.

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1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure

1 - Mr. Bishop - Enclosure

1 Mr. Rosen - Enclosure