



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

June 17, 2021

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.  
SUITE 1203  
27305 WEST LIVE OAK ROAD  
CASTAIC, CA 91384

FOIPA Request No.: 1482086-001  
Subject: BYRD, DAVID HAROLD

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Below you will find check boxes under the appropriate statute headings which indicate the types of exemptions asserted to protect information which is exempt from disclosure. The appropriate exemptions are noted on the enclosed pages next to redacted information. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted to indicate where pages were withheld entirely and identify which exemptions were applied. The checked exemption boxes used to withhold information are further explained in the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions.

**Section 552**

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(2)

☐ (b)(3)

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☐ (b)(4)

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☐ (b)(7)(A)

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☐ (b)(7)(E)

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**Section 552a**

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (k)(1)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (k)(3)

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☐ (k)(5)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

11 pages were reviewed and 9 pages are being released.

Please see the paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request as well as the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

- ☒ Document were located which originated with, or contained information concerning, other Government Agency [OGA].
- ☒ This information has been referred to the OGA(s) for review and direct response to you.
- ☐ We are consulting with another agency. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is completed.

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. **"Part 1"** of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. **"Part 2"** includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. **"Part 3"** includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing [foipaquestions@fbi.gov](mailto:foipaquestions@fbi.gov). If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.



See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Seidel  
Section Chief  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Information Management Division

Enclosures

The enclosed documents represent the final release of information responsive to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request.

This material is being provided to you at no charge.

Inquiries regarding your Other Government Agency (OGA) referral(s), designated within the release as "Referral/Direct," may be directed to:

Carmen L. Mallon  
Chief of Staff  
Office of Information Policy  
Department of Justice  
Suite 110501425  
New York Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Records that may have been responsive to your request were destroyed. Since this material could not be reviewed, it is not known if it was responsive to your request. Record retention and disposal is carried out under supervision of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Title 44, United States Code, Section 3301 as implemented by Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1228; Title 44, United States Code, Section 3310 as implemented by Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1229.10.

A record that may be responsive to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request has been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). If you wish to review these records, submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to NARA, Special Access and FOIA, 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 5500, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Please reference the file number 94-HQ-47508.

## FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

### Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website.
- (ii) **Intelligence Records.** To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

### Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) **Requests for Records for Incarcerated Individuals.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any incarcerated individual pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

### Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. A standard search normally consists of a search for main files in the Central Records System (CRS), an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include references, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files. For additional information about our record searches, visit [www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records](http://www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records).
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative “FBI file.” An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at [www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks). Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at [www.edo.cjis.gov](http://www.edo.cjis.gov). For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.
- (iv) **National Name Check Program (NNCP).** The mission of NNCP is to analyze and report information in response to name check requests received from federal agencies, for the purpose of protecting the United States from foreign and domestic threats to national security. Please be advised that this is a service provided to other federal agencies. Private Citizens cannot request a name check.

## **EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS**

### **SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552**

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.


### **SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a**

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

This document is made available through the declassification efforts  
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

# The Black Vault

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The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)  
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are  
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages  
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

**Discover the Truth** at: **<http://www.theblackvault.com>**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1482086-1

Total Deleted Page(s) = 2  
Page 9 ~ Referral/Direct;  
Page 10 ~ Referral/Direct;

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 6-24-61

FROM : SAC, DALLAS (60-370)

SUBJECT: ① ONIONS, TEXAS  
ANTITRUST

There is enclosed herewith report of SA GASTON C. THOMPSON, dated 6-24-61, Dallas, Texas, containing results of interview with D. HAROLD BYRD of Byrd Enterprises, Dallas, Texas, in the above captioned matter, as requested by the Antitrust Division. As reflected in the report, BYRD did have any first-hand knowledge or documentary evidence to support his charges of collusion as alleged in his telegram forwarded to the Attorney General of the United States, on May 22, 1961.

For the information of the Bureau and San Antonio, the complainant in this matter is a wealthy individual with many and varied business and financial interests and is identical with DAVID HAROLD BYRD, former SAC Contact, Dallas Division (Dallas file 80-415).

C

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1 - San Antonio (Enc. 2) (Info)  
1 - Dallas  
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ENCLOSURE

REC-21

16 JUN 28 1961

EX-119

56 JUL 12 1961

STAT SECT

DL 60-370

regard also be obtained from JOE BYRD or G. CURTIS JACKSON, Crystal City, Texas. Mr. BYRD advised he does not possess any information which indicates an actual agreement or conspiracy to control the price of onions exists; however, the fact that an onion grower can obtain only one or two cents per pound for onions while such commodity is sold at twenty-five to thirty cents per pound in the chain stores is indicative "something is wrong".



to Brownsville. It is my understanding that 12 buyers control the purchase of over 90% of the onions produced in the United States, and these in turn are controlled by the chain stores. The chain stores to a similar extent control the purchase of all other vegetables grown throughout this area. Regardless of the price received by the grower, the ultimate consumer from the retail grocery store pays a high price.

"Most of the chain stores require the individual manager or licensee to purchase all produce through the chain control.

"I am sure that many others throughout this area have brought this matter to your attention and it may be that there is no actual agreement or conspiracy to control the price of these commodities, but the result is just the same. If the figures I have are correct, the 12 big buyers in the one field almost have a monopoly.

"I realize there is probably nothing that any Governmental Agency could do about this, but I wanted to join those people who call these matters to your attention for your consideration."

Mr. BYRD advised the information set forth in his telegram to the Attorney General of the United States was based on information contained in the above letter, together with general information related to him on May 18, 1961, by JOE BYRD, Vice President and General Manager, Byrd Farms, Inc., Crystal City, Texas. He advised the term "disaster areas" was obtained by him as a result of reading a newspaper article in one of the Dallas or San Antonio papers, with a McAllen or Brownsville, Texas, dateline, which referred to Crystal City and the Lower Rio Grande Valley areas as "disaster areas". He explained, in other words, such terminology as a descriptive term rather than being applicable to particular areas designated as "disaster areas" by some Government agency.

He advised he does not know the names or addresses of the "12 buyers" and the "chain stores" referred to in his telegram and has no first-hand knowledge to support the charges of collusion contained in his telegram. He suggested JOE BYRD or G. CURTIS JACKSON, Crystal City, Texas, might possess such information, or at least know where such information might be obtained.

Mr. BYRD further advised he did not know whether the onion farmers remaining in the business reduced their average voluntarily as a result of some Government program or as a result of some collusive action by the farmers themselves or with other individuals in the industry. He advised information in this

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 24, 1961

Mr. D. HAROLD BYRD of Byrd Enterprises, Tower Petroleum Building, Dallas, Texas, advised he has had a beneficial interest in the onion industry since sometime during the 1930's. He is now President and principal stockholder of Byrd Farms, Inc., a Texas corporation which operates a 4,500 acre truck farming enterprise near Crystal City, Texas. During the past five years this truck farming enterprise has grown and marketed an average of 250,000 50 pound sacks of onions each year. He identified other officers and the directors of Byrd Farms as follows:

OFFICERS

JOE BYRD, Vice President and General Manager (second cousin of D. H. BYRD);

G. T. ALDRIDGE, Vice President;

BESS BOND, Secretary;

GEORGE SMITH, Treasurer;

MARY A. COLBERT, Assistant Secretary;

H. R. STALLINGS, Assistant Treasurer.

DIRECTORS

D. HAROLD BYRD

JOE BYRD

G. T. ALDRIDGE

Mr. BYRD readily recalled having directed a telegram to the Attorney General of the United States on May 22, 1961, complaining that onion growers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas were receiving extraordinarily depressed prices as a result of collusion among onion purchasers, possibly upon instructions from chain stores in violation of the Federal Antitrust laws.

He advised the only document in his file bearing on the above complaint is a copy of a letter dated May 17, 1961 from G. CURTIS JACKSON, Attorney, Crystal City, Texas, and General Counsel for Byrd Farms, Inc., to Honorable JOE KILGORE, Member of Congress, House Office Building, Washington, D. C., as follows:

"I do not know if the Anti-trust provision will apply or not, but we have a situation throughout your district which needs changing. The onion season has just about closed and has resulted in substantial losses to many of the growers from here

On 6-23-61 at Dallas, Texas File # DL 60-370

by SA GASTON C. THOMPSON /mas Date dictated 6-24-61

in the Lower Rio Grande Valley" and containing the text of a telegram addressed to the Attorney General of the United States by Mr. D. H. BYRD of Byrd Enterprises, Tower Petroleum Building, Dallas, Texas, as follows:

SOUTH TEXAS ONION GROWERS WITH LIFE SAVINGS INVOLVED ARE BEING RUINED BY ACTIVITIES IN VIOLATION OF OUR ANTITRUST LAWS. I AM TOLD THAT ONLY TWELVE BUYERS CONTROL OVER NINETY PERCENT OF ONIONS PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES AND THESE IN TURN ARE CONTROLLED BY THE CHAIN STORES WHO ARE OPPOSED TO GIVING THE ONION PRODUCER A FAIR PRICE AND ARE PAYING ONLY ONE OR TWO CENTS PER POUND AND SELLING AT TWENTY-FIVE TO THIRTY CENTS PER POUND IN THEIR CHAIN STORES. MANY ONION FARMERS WENT BROKE LAST YEAR AND THOSE REMAINING IN THE BUSINESS REDUCED THEIR ACREAGE VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, YET THOUSANDS OF TONS OF THE WORLD'S FINEST ONIONS ARE BEING DUMPED DAILY BECAUSE OF THE LOW RIGGED PRICES BEING OFFERED. CRYSTAL CITY IN SOUTH TEXAS AS WELL AS THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ARE DISASTER AREAS BECAUSE OF PRICE FIXING. SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE IMMEDIATELY AS THE ONION SEASON IS JUST ABOUT OVER AND EVERY HOUR AND EVERY DAY COUNT. WITH THE WEEK'S DOW-JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE OF THIRTY INDUSTRIALS SHOWING A HIGH OF \$705 WITH A PLUS FIGURE OF \$18.05 AND COMMODITIES SHOWING A HIGH OF ONLY \$146 AND A MINUS 0.39 CHANGE DOWNWARD, IT IS CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT THE FARMERS PRODUCING THESE COMMODITIES ARE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST AND THE PRODUCERS WHO ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR ECONOMY ARE GETTING HURT BADLY. I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR CONSIDERATION OF A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THIS MATTER.

It was requested that Mr. BYRD be interviewed as to the identity of any persons who would have first-hand knowledge tending to support his charges of collusion. Further, it was requested the nature of financial or other interest of Mr. BYRD in the onion industry, if any, be determined.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of:

GASTON C. THOMPSON  
June 24, 1961

Office: DALLAS

Field Office File No.: 60-370

Bureau File No.:

Re:

ONIONS, TEXAS

Character:

ANTITRUST

*DAVID HAROLD BYRD*  
*D. Harold Byrd complaint*

Synopsis:

Telegram forwarded Attorney General, 5-22-61, by D. H. BYRD of Byrd Enterprises, Dallas, Texas, complaining onion growers in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas are receiving extraordinarily depressed prices as a result of collusion among onion purchasers in violation of Federal Antitrust laws. BYRD advised 6-23-61, he is president and principal stockholder of Byrd Farms, Inc., which operates 4,500 acre irrigated truck farming enterprise near Crystal City, Texas. During past five years this truck farming enterprise has grown and marketed approximately 250,000 50 pound sacks of onions each year. Allegations in telegram based on information related to D. H. BYRD by JOE BYRD, Vice President and General Manager Byrd Farms, Inc., and G. CURTIS JACKSON, Attorney, Crystal City, Texas. D. H. BYRD advised he does not know names and addresses of "12 buyers" or "chain stores" referred to in telegram and has no first-hand knowledge to support charges of collusion. Suggested JOE BYRD and G. CURTIS JACKSON might possess such first-hand information, or at least know where same might be obtained. Investigation limited to request of Antitrust Division that D. H. BYRD be interviewed.

60-5657 -C- 2  
DETAILS:

Investigation in this matter has been limited to the request of the Antitrust Division that D. H. BYRD, Byrd Enterprises, Dallas, Texas, be interviewed:

Investigation in this matter was predicated on a communication dated June 15, 1961, from Mr. LEE LOEVINGER, Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, to the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, captioned "Request for Investigation of Possible Antitrust Violations Resulting in Depressed Prices to Onion Growers".

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Field Office <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">DALLAS</div>	Office of Origin <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">DALLAS</div>	Date <div style="text-align: center;">6-24-61</div>	Investigative Period <div style="text-align: center;">6/23/61</div>	
Title of Case <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">ONIONS, TEXAS</div>		Report made by <div style="text-align: center;">SA GASTON C. THOMPSON</div>		Typed By: <div style="text-align: center;">mas</div>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">ANTITRUST</div>		

XXXXXX

-C-

## ADMINISTRATIVE

Two copies of this report are being designated for the San Antonio Office as the Antitrust Division may request interviews with JOE BYRD, Vice President and General Manager, Byrd Farms, Inc., and G. CURTIS JACKSON, Attorney, both Crystal City, Texas.

Approved  Copies made:	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below
(2 - Bureau (AM) 2 - San Antonio 1 - Dallas (60-370) 1 - ATD by OGA, 7/6/61		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">5657-2</div> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">             16 JUN 28 1961           </div>

-A\*-

Cover Page

STAT/SECT.

Mr. Paul A. Owens, Assistant Chief, General Litigation Section,  
is familiar with the background and details of this matter and can be  
contacted if any further details are required (Republic 7-8200 [Code 187]  
Extension 2425).

6/20/61

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REC-24  
Airtel

TO: SAC, DALLAS  
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI

ONIONS, TEXAS  
ANTITRUST

Enclosed are two copies of Antitrust Division's memorandum dated 6/15/61, requesting that a particular interview be conducted.

You will note that Byrd alleges collusion among onion purchasers, possibly upon instructions from chain stores. These, of course, should be identified by name, address, etc. Complete details as to how the collusion came about should be obtained, as well as information as to the identities of those who instigated it and information as to how the collusion continues. Any information as to meetings should be obtained, together with dates, places, identities of those present, matters discussed, etc.

In the event Byrd is unable to furnish certain information he should be requested to supply names and addresses of individuals who can furnish such information. Any documentary evidence supporting his statements should be obtained. The identities of others who can corroborate his information should be obtained.

You will also note that Byrd alleges that remaining onion farmers reduced their acreage voluntarily this year. It would appear pertinent to inquire into this to determine whether that action is the result of some Government program or the result of some collusive action by the farmers themselves or with other individuals in the industry.

In view of information in the enclosure that the areas in Texas affected by this alleged collusive action are described as disaster areas, Byrd should be interviewed immediately and a report submitted at the earliest possible date.

Enclosures (2)

FJB:em

(4)

MAILED 25

JUN 20 1961

COMM-FBI

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

8 JUN 23 1961