



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Sacramento, California

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

February 3, 1978

ROBERT WESLEY JONES,  
Also Known as  
Robert Wesley Rackstraw,  
R. L. Boehner, JR.  
Gary Miller

On January 3, 1978, an authorized complaint was filed by Special Agent [redacted] before U. S. Magistrate E. Dean Price, Modesto, California, charging subject as Robert W. Rackstraw, with violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 1073, in that on or about December 9, 1977, he did flee the State of California, to avoid prosecution for the felony of issuing non-sufficient fund checks. Federal warrant issued same date and in hands of U. S. Marshal, Eastern District of California, Sacramento, California. Bail recommended in the amount of \$100,000.

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On February 2, 1978, [redacted] Stockton, California, Police Department, telephone number 209-944-8323, advised that captioned individual opened a checking account under the false name of R. L. Boehner at the Wells Fargo Bank, Cupertino, California, and on December 4, 1977, wrote a non-sufficient funds check on that account in the amount of \$32,400 to 3R Engineering. He also opened a false account at the Crocker National Bank in Downey, California, in the name of Gary Miller, and on December 3, 1977, wrote a non-sufficient funds check (NSF) in the amount of \$21,640 payable to 3R Engineering. On

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5- [redacted]  
2- [redacted]  
2- Honolulu  
2- [redacted]  
2- Mobile  
2- [redacted]

2-San Antonio

2- [redacted]  
2- [redacted]

WLL:js  
(23) p

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency nor duplicated within your agency.

sub-933-1

164-81-7806

DB Cooper-15948



ROBERT WESLEY JONES

December 7, 1977, he deposited both of the above non-sufficient fund checks to his account at the Union Safe Bank, Lockeford, California. On December 8, 1977, he withdrew \$25,000 from this account, part of which was in American Express Money Orders bearing serial numbers RG 89-801-260, 270, 280, and 88-942-800.

[ ] advised that subject similarly made other false check deposits to an account he maintained at the Security Pacific National Bank, North Stockton Branch, 6530 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, California, and on December 8, 1977, he made a withdrawal there of \$50,940.00.

In addition the Stockton Police Department located 150 pounds of high explosives in storage by subject at Stockton and determined that he also had shipped fifty electric blasting caps and a one thousand foot roll of detonator cord to an ex-Army buddy in San Antonio, Texas,

[ ] advised [ ] is under investigation there by a task force as subject was a suspect in the theft of high explosives at the Felton Quarry, near Santa Cruz, California, on February 21, 1975, a portion of which were found by the FBI when they arrested [ ] of the New World Liberation Front at Richmond, California, in early 1976.

[ ] advised that when the explosives were found in Rackstraw's effects at Stockton, California, in mid-January, 1978, they also discovered 25 rifles and handguns and over 3,000 rounds of ammunition. Papers in his effects noted he had been trained as an Army Green Beret and was skilled in guerrilla warfare.

On February 2, 1978, [ ] California Highway Patrol, Stockton, California, telephone number [ ] advised he located a Drott Crawler Excavator, valued at about \$75,000 when it was stolen in 1976, at San Jose, California, among the equipment operated by subject in Calaveras County, California, and is seeking a warrant for subject's arrest.



ROBERT WESLEY JONES

On February 2, 1978, [redacted] California, telephone number [redacted] advised she and at least one other couple have been swindled out of money they furnished to Bob Rackstraw [redacted]. They have furnished the details of this fraud to [redacted] State of California Consumer Affairs [redacted] San Andreas, California, telephone [redacted].

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By communication dated January 27, 1978, the Dallas Office of the FBI reported they had located captioned individual as currently employed in Iran by Bell Helicopter International. Bell employed him on January 6, 1978, and by January 13, 1978, he was in Iran. He is currently living at the Couroush Hotel, Isfahan, Iran, and has Bell Employee number 5238 as Robert Wesley Rackstraw. His work location is known to the American Embassy, Teheran, Iran, and to the Bell Director of Security in Iran, [redacted].

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On February 2, 1978, District Attorney Joseph Baker, San Joaquin County, Stockton, California, advised he is requesting extradition of subject from Iran through the Governor of California. He understands Governor Brown will ask the U. S. State Department to arrange for subject's return to the U. S. He hopes at the time of his arrest in Iran subject will be asked about the location of the stolen assets and the possible involvement of subject in the murder and/or disappearance of his stepfather, Phil Rackstraw.

Subject is described as follows:

Name	Robert Wesley Jones Also known as, Robert Wesley Rackstraw an alias he has used most of his life.
Sex	Male
Race	Caucasian
Born	October 16, 1943, at Cleveland, Ohio, and has falsely used October 16, 1940, at Santa Cruz, California
Height	6'1"



ROBERT WESLEY JONES

Weight  
Hair,

192 pounds  
Brown, receding at  
temples  
Green

Eyes  
Social Security  
Account Number  
California driver's  
license  
U. S. Passport  
Number

546-54-1279

H887157

B1155169

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Occupation

Has employee number 5258  
for Bell Helicopter International  
at Isfahan, Iran.

Prior Occupations

Claimed to be associated with  
3R Engineering, Cal Trans or  
California Trans Copters,  
Fargo Graphics & Printing,  
Cal-Motive Engineering,  
Courtesy Parking, Los Angeles,  
California. Reportedly is  
a qualified pilot for  
helicopters, single and  
multi-engined aircraft.

Relatives

Mother, Lucille Rackstraw,  
deceased.

Stepfather, Phil Rackstraw,  
who formerly was a business  
partner of subject and whose  
whereabouts has been unknown  
for several months prior to  
date subject fled California

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ROBERT WESLEY JONES

Relatives (Cont)



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Military

Military records concerning Rackstraw reveal he received a discharge under honorable conditions on June 21, 1971, because of resignation in lieu of elimination because of unfitness or unacceptable conduct. He was a 1st Lieutenant in the U. S. Army at the time of discharge. Examination of his background by the Army showed he had been convicted and placed on probation for burglary on two occasions, April 14, 1958, and December 20, 1957, and had also been arrested for using false identification and destruction of jail property on October 23, 1963, which resulted in his bail forfeiture of \$144.00, on November 4, 1963. Rackstraw also falsely claimed college degrees when filling out applications to the Army. He also admitted to the Army that he had been arrested by Military Police on August 4, 1969, for wrongful appropriation of Military property in the taking of a ¼ ton truck in Huloi, Republic of Viet Nam. He received training in weapons, explosives, and hand-to-hand combat while in the Military. In one statement to the Army he wrote, "I can only hope that I will never use the training and education the Army gave me against the Army itself, as I would be a formidable advisory."



ROBERT WESLEY JONES

LEAD:

It is requested that subject be located in Iran and returned to the U. S., along with any cash assets. At time of arrest he should be advised of his rights and questioned concerning his fraudulent activities and the possible murder of his stepfather.

APPROACH WITH CAUTION AS SUBJECT TRAINED IN  
KARATE AND USE OF FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES.



# ROBERT W. RACKSTRAW

## Address:

6400 Edgemoor Way  
San Jose, Ca. 95129  
Phone No:  
(408) 257-6783  
Social Security No.:  
546-54-1279  
Passport No:  
B1155169

## Description:

6ft. 1in. 192lbs.  
Date of Birth:  
Oct 16, 1940  
Place of Birth:  
Santa Cruz, Ca.  
Health:  
Excellent

## EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Chief of Construction	3R Engineering Contractors	From 1971 to 1976
Project Manager	1246 Folsom St.	
Engineering Consultant	San Francisco, Ca.	

**DUTIES:** Performed as a general engineering and building contractor involved in the techniques and knowledge of leveling and surveying devices, instruments and measuring equipment, leveling and surveying abbreviations, signs, symbols and definitions, engineering-construction working drawings, excavating, grading and paving, trenching, portland cement, concrete, including aggregates, mixing, form work, placing, curing, finishing and test; asphalt-concrete pavement, including asphalts, aggregates, mixing, placing and rolling; brick and stone masonry; pipe, pipelines, fittings and valves, including concrete, cast iron, cement asbestos, metal and vitrified-clay pipe, pipe laying structural steel; reinforcing steel; welding, gaseous, inert, petroleum and gas transmission lines, dams and hydroelectric installations. foundations, footings; building frames and framing systems, floors and floor systems; walls bearing and curtain, doors, windows, cabinet and millwork, trim and other details. Units of quantity by which building materials are sold and purchased. Carpentry, lathing plastering, roofing, painting and decorating cosmetic appeal; applicable construction codes, and safety orders of the State Division of Industrial Safety; provisions of the State Housing Law; made quantitative surveys from plans and specifications then submitted estimates, costs and projections.

Reason for leaving: Company sold to larger corporation, not interested in particular corporation policy.

Real Estate Agent	Olympic Realty	From 1971 to 1973
Construction Consultant	240 California St.	
Commercial Pilot	San Francisco, Ca.	

**DUTIES:** Acted in capacity of real estate agent to develop and promote large land tracts and commercial ventures for prominent real estate agency. Arranged qualification, mortgages, subordinations, corporate divestitures, and syndications. Utilized aviation capability to a great extent to assist in a most expeditious manner. Combined contractor knowledge, expertise and license as needed for advice, consultation and direction regarding construction and further development to include single and multiple family dwellings, office structures, shopping centers, sub-divisions, roads, lots, paving, building codes and all other necessary data, as required.

Reason for leaving: 3R Engineering

Owner Operator	Aqua-Marine Industries	From 1970 to 1971
Commercial Diver	Panama City,	
Underwater Instructor	Fla.	

**DUTIES:** Worked under contract on various operations using SCUBA, closed circuit, open and electrolung and other diving apparatus to explore, inspect, evaluate, repair, and consult on equipment and structures, check vessel bottoms and drive and propulsion systems. Worked as salvage operator to recover lost or sunken objects as required. also operated to diving related business's in the sale, leasing and repair of diving equipment and supplies, and instructed students in basic, advanced and special diving techniques at different locations throughout the world.

Reason for leaving: Sold the business.

DB Cooper-15954

sub 9332  
164-81-7207



### Military Officer

United States Army

### Reserve and Active 1964to 1970

**DUTIES:** Briefly, during seven years service, both reserve and active duty rose from private to Captain. Served two tours in Southeast Asia. First as an Army Green Beret serving in Special Forces Intelligence section utilized as a weapons and underwater demolitions expert. Second tour as a scout and gunship pilot in Army Aviation supporting ground troops and other assignments as directed by the commanding officer. Upon returning to the United States was Chief of Aeronautical Engineering, Aviation Test Board.

**Reason for leaving:** Honorable

## Electronic Test Engineer

**Sylvania Electronic Systems**  
333 Encinial St.  
Santa Cruz, Ca

From 1965 to 1967

**DUTIES:** Responsible for testing, troubleshooting, repair or modifying and re-design of electronic equipment, recommending changes, if necessary, to circuitry or installation specification and design to improve, simplify, and lower projected costs. Also aligned, adjusted, calibrated and modified test evaluation and registration equipment. Wrote test reports and developed charts, graphs and schematics to describe and illustrate system operating characteristics, malfunctions or deviations from design specifications and performed a multitude of other duties as assigned by supervision of company operations.

**Reason for Leaving:** U.S. Army. **NOTE:** Sylvania Financed Graduate Studies

## Cement Contractor

**Rackstraw Construction Company**  
220 36th Ave.  
Santa Cruz, Ca.

From 1963 to 1965

**DUTIES:** Operated own business and equipment on various contracted jobs under an agreed specification acceptable mass, pavement, flatwork, foundations, curb and gutter, special installations and other cement and concrete applications. Placed, finished and installed concrete including the setting of forms and screeds. Coordinated work assignments and materials to insure on-time completion of contracted jobs within cost estimates. Kept accurate records and documentation, from safety to payroll and other administrative duties that are required when self-employed.

**Reason for leaving:** Sold business to further education.

## Plant Manager

**Graham & Sons**

From 1961 to 1963

## Heavy Equipment Operator

500 Mt. Hermon Rd.

### Maintenance Supervisor

Santa Cruz, Ca.

**DUTIES:** Operated plant for growing cement company. Operated heavy equipment: bulldozers, large loaders, drove transit-mix trucks on many diversified contracts. Prepared mix designs and all other batch plant operations to include; customer sales and service, contract requirements, payroll, administration, employee relations, headed maintenance for entire operation including; truck fleet, required to remove and install engines, transmissions, rearends, hydraulic systems, and all other related mechanical and electrical equipment. Gas cutting and welding, electric welding, heavy equipment repair, machine shop, and handle plant breakdowns at critical production periods.

**Reason for leaving:** Plant did so well Kaiser Industries bought it just to shut it down.

**To eliminate competition:**



## EDUCATION:

1945-1953 Scotts Valley Grammar School  
Santa Cruz, Ca

1953-1957 Santa Cruz High School  
Santa Cruz, Ca.

1957-1961 San Jose State  
San Jose, Ca.

1966-1967 San Jose State  
San Jose Ca.

Math Major

BSEE

MSME

## MILITARY EDUCATION:

On Request

## LICENSES

General Engineering Contractor (A)  
General Building Contractor (B-1)  
Cement and Concrete Contractor (C-8)  
Earthwork and Paving Contractor (C-12)

Ca. Lic. No. 302709

Real Estate License

Ca. Lic. No. 413064

Class 1 Chauffers License

Ca. Lic. No. H887157

National Association of Underwater Instructors

Lic. No. 44544

Commercial Pilot

Fed. No. 2104631

Certified Flight Instructor

Fed. No. 2104631

## SECURITY CLEARANCE:

SECRET Dept' of Defense 1968

TOP SECRET SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE Dept. of Defense 1969

## AFFILIATIONS:

Pilots International Association  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association  
Association of Underwater Instructors  
Helicopter Pilots Association  
Costeau Society  
Oregon Pilots Association  
1st. Cavalry Division Association

WILLING TO RELOCATE WORLD WIDE





California License No. 302709

1246 Folsom St., San Francisco, Ca 94103  
San Francisco (415) 431-1774  
Stockton (209) 772-1756

### MILITARY EDUCATION

Basic Training  
Advanced Infantry Training  
Desert Armored Warfare  
Airborne  
Special Forces Operations  
Counter-Insurgency  
Ranger  
Non-Commissioned Officers Course  
Pathfinder  
Weapons Domestic & Foreign  
Demolitions  
Jungle Warfare  
Underwater Demolitions  
Psychological Warfare  
Internal Defense & Development  
High Altitude Low Opening (HALO)  
Basic Flight Training  
Advanced Flight Training  
Aviation Maintenance Officers Course  
Infantry Officers Basic Course  
Test Writers Evaluation Course  
Aeronautical Engineers Course

Fort Ord, Ca  
Fort Ord, Ca  
Fort Irwin, Ca  
Fort Benning, Ga  
Fort Bragg, NC  
Fort Bragg, NC  
Fort Benning, Ga  
Fort Benning, Ga  
Fort Benning, Ga  
Fort Bragg, NC  
Fort Bragg, NC  
Panama Canal Zone  
Fort Bragg/ Florida Keys  
Fort Bragg NC  
Fort Bragg, NC  
Fort Benning, Ga  
Fort Wolters, Tx  
Fort Rucker, Ala  
Fort Eutis, Tx  
Fort Benning, Ga  
Aberdeen, Md  
Fort Rucker, Ala

### Licensed for:

Aircraft: Helicopter Single & Multi-Engine, Piston & Jet Powered.  
Single & Tandem Rotor, Flight Instructor & Check Pilot.

Airplane Single- & Multi- Engine Prop Driven, Piston & Jet

To my knowledge, I was one of (7) individuals who flew experimental aircraft in the Army in S.E. Asia on Combat Missions (J) prefixes

Vehicles: 1/4 ton Through 10 ton including 60 pass. bus  
Tracked Vehicles up to M-60 Tank

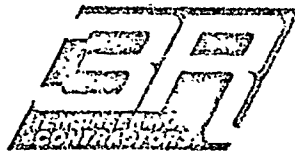
### Ranks held:

Pvt E-1  
Pvt E-2  
PFC

Coporal  
Sergeant  
Staff Sergeant

Warrant Officer WO1  
Chief Warrant Officer CW2  
1LT Infantry  
Captain, Infantry





California License No. 302709

1246 Folsom St., San Francisco, Ca 94103  
San Francisco (415) 431-1774  
Stockton (209) 772-1756

### DECORATIONS

Army Aviator Wings  
Paratrooper Badge  
Vietnamese Paratrooper Wings  
Combat Infantry Badg  
Good Conduct (2)  
National Defense  
Calif. Service Medal  
Army Cmendation Medal

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry  
Presdential Unit Citation  
(2) Bronze Stars  
(2) Distinguished Flying Crosses  
(6) Capaign Ribbons  
(5) Purple Hearts  
(36) Air Medals  
Silver Star



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ E F T O  
☐ CLEAR

Date 3/6/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (164-2111)  
 ATTN: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION, LATENT  
 FINGERPRINT SECTION  
 FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (P)

SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
 OO: Seattle

Enclosed for Seattle is one copy of LHM dated 2/3/78 concerning ROBERT WESLEY JONES, aka Robert Wesley Rackstraw, Sacramento [redacted]

[redacted] who was recently arrested by the New York Division and is awaiting transfer back to Stockton, California after waiving extradition. He claims RACKSTRAW is his true name and all records except birth records list him as RACKSTRAW.

Also enclosed for Seattle is one copy of RACKSTRAW's resume wherein he claims to hold Army aviator and paratrooper insignia, as well as Vietnamese paratrooper wings, and to have received training in both demolitions and underwater demolitions while in the U.S. Army.

RACKSTRAW's military record discloses he was forced to resign his first lieutenant's commission in June, 1971, and he was extremely bitter over his severance. His description and sketch of NORJAK subject are very similar. When arrested by the FBI in February, 1978, he admitted to the arresting agent that he would be fully capable of successfully

- 1 - Bureau
- ② - Seattle (164-81) (Enc. 2) *read list*
- 2 - San Francisco (164-220)
- 2 - St. Louis (164-63)
- 3 - Sacramento (2 - 164-50)

WLL/kj  
 (10)

164-81-7808

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 8 1978	
[redacted]	

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) (Time)

DB Cooper-15959

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SC 164-50

effecting the NORJAK hijacking, but denied participation and claimed he was interviewed and eliminated as a suspect by a San Francisco FBI Agent in Fort Cronkite, California in 1971.

Photos of RACKSTRAW taken within the past three years have been sent direct to the Seattle case agent and should be returned to SA [redacted] at the Stockton, California RA when no longer needed.

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The day after RACKSTRAW was arrested in New York, the body of his stepfather was located in a hole in Calaveras County, California, and a murder warrant against RACKSTRAW has just been issued.

RACKSTRAW's [redacted] has been located by the FBI [redacted] been with the suspect in November, 1971 at the time of the NORJAK and may be able to establish his whereabouts at the pertinent time.

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FBI Identification Division, Latent Fingerprint Section, is requested to compare suspect's fingerprints under FBI No. 977 973E with the NORJAK partials.

LEADS:

SAN FRANCISCO

Will assign SA [redacted] to interview suspect's [redacted] and will search files to determine why RACKSTRAW was considered a suspect in NORJAK in 1971. Advise Seattle and Sacramento if he was interviewed and eliminated as a suspect in 1971.

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SEATTLE

Will consider RACKSTRAW as a suspect and set out other logical leads.

ST. LOUIS

Will review RACKSTRAW's military record under SSAN 546-54-1279 and send Seattle a copy of it and will attempt to locate good copies of any 1971 photos of RACKSTRAW for the Seattle Division.



SC 164-50

SACRAMENTO

AT STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA. Will remain alert to any clues that might arise concerning NORJAK during local investigation of RACKSTRAW on murder and theft charges.

ARMED & DANGEROUS



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 3/8/78

[redacted] furnished the following information: b6 b7C

She works for [redacted] and has home phone [redacted]

She is [redacted] ROBERT WESLEY JONES b6 b7C

[redacted] PHILIP RACKSTRAW, who was recently discovered as a murder victim.

PHIL RACKSTRAW [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] PHILIP never adopted JONES and JONES is his true name, although he always used the last name of RACKSTRAW in school and when he went into the Army.

She realizes that a murder warrant has been issued against JONES for the murder of [redacted] stepfather, but she will await the verdict of the court before deciding as to his guilt. b6 b7C

She denied any knowledge that ROBERT is identical to "D. B. COOPER", but she recalled that during the fall of 1971, ROBERT was just "floating around" because he was being sought on some fraud warrant out of Alabama. (Houston County, Dothan, Alabama) He intentionally did not keep his exact whereabouts known to his family.

She realizes D. B. COOPER had a knowledge of navigation and of parachuting and ROBERT is highly skilled at both. She believed he received his commercial flying license some time in the fall of 1971, because at Christmas, 1971, [redacted] b6 b7C

She recalled that it was about this time that he worked for some real estate firm in the Los Angeles area and part of his work was the promotion of some land in Oregon, back in an area so remote that there were no roads and ROBERT had to fly prospects in there to see the land.

Interviewed on 3/3/78 at [redacted] California File # SC 164-50  
SE 164-81

by SA [redacted] :js Date dictated 3/3/78 b6 b7C



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SC 164-50

When he first got out of the Army, in June, 1971, he first traveled around the south, for about a month, before he came back home to California. He stayed with his mom for a while and then when he heard he was wanted in Alabama he moved in with her for awhile. He then moved down to the San Jose area and from there he went to San Fernando to work for the real estate company. He seemed to have money and he frequently rented airplanes. He was always a pretty good "spender", but she has no recollection of his having any unusual amount of money during the fall of 1971. He got his real estate license when he moved to San Jose, she thought, although the land promotion firm that hired him was in San Fernando. She does not recall the name of the girlfriend he had for a short time in the San Jose area, but it was her recollection [redacted] California. He broke up with [redacted] and he did not meet [redacted] until after 1971.

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In a recent conversation she had [redacted]  
[redacted]  
ROBERT, [redacted] not surprised at  
the murder accusation against ROBERT because on one occasion  
[redacted]

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

9  
9331Date of transcription 3/8/78

[redacted] Stockton  
Police Department, furnished the following information:

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While returning ROBERT WESLEY JONES, also known as Robert Wesley Rackstraw, from New York to California, on March 3, 1978, he listened when JONES mentioned the "D. B. COOPER" case. JONES had earlier refused to sign a rights and waiver form.

JONES mentioned that he was one of 1500 men who were members of the Green Berets and who had the requisite skills to pull off the COOPER caper. JONES claimed the FBI interviewed all 1500 of them and left the inference he had been cleared of any involvement.

JONES furnished no other information of value but his attitude during the entire time was that he was vehemently against the "system", or "establishment".

It is noted that JONES had been forced to resign from the Army about five months before the hijack took place.

Interviewed on 3/6/78 at Stockton, California File # SC 164-50  
SE 164-81  
by SA [redacted] :js Date dictated 3/6/78

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Q1Date of transcription 3/8/78

[redacted] Stockton Police Department,  
furnished the following information:

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On March 6, 1978, while ROBERT WESLEY JONES  
was making a court appearance he had a brief conversation  
with [redacted]

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[redacted] asked JONES when he was at Ft. Cronkite and JONES  
replied in 1968. [redacted] advised that there was no Miranda  
warning given and no questioning was made concerning the  
D. B. COOPER hijacking.

[redacted] are attempting to clear up their  
explosives case and have told JONES that they are not  
interested in prosecuting him on the explosives case, but  
just want to clear their cases. On this basis he has been  
talking to them.

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He remarked that the FBI was looking for him on  
the Felton Quarry burglary or how the explosives were used  
but they never came to see him. He admitted that he was  
acquainted with [redacted] the Quarry, but  
denied involvement in the theft.

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Interviewed on 3/7/78 at Stockton, California File # SC 164-50  
SE 164-81

by SA [redacted] js Date dictated 3/7/78

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FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ E F T O  
☐ CLEAR

AIRTEL

Date 3/9/78

TO: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)  
 FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (P)  
 SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
 OO: Seattle

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Re Sacramento airtel to Seattle dated 3/6/78.

Enclosed for Seattle are the original and one  
 copy of FD 302's reflecting interviews with [redacted]

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Lead to follow up on issuance of suspect's flying  
 licenses with FAA is being left up to the office of origin.  
 This data is reportedly available from the FAA General  
 Aviation District Office, Oakland, California.

LEAD:SACRAMENTO

AT SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA. Will check with  
 California Department of Real Estate, 714 P Street, to  
 determine dates in the fall of 1971, that they dealt with  
 suspect as a real estate salesman and obtain pertinent  
 residence addresses during October - December, 1971. He  
 registered as ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW, born 10/16/43, at  
 Cleveland, Ohio.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

② Seattle (Encl. 6)  
 3-Sacramento  
 WLL:js  
 (4)

164-81-7815

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 11 1978	
FBI - SEATTLE	

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Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time) Per \_\_\_\_\_

DB Cooper-15966





# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20537

## REPORT

of the

## IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

### LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

YOUR FILE NO. 164-50 (P)  
 FBI FILE NO. 164-2111  
 LATENT CASE NO.

March 16, 1978

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TO: SAC, Sacramento

RE: NORJAK;

*Sus: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW*

REFERENCE: Airtel 3-6-78  
 EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: Sacramento  
 SPECIMENS:

The unidentified latent fingerprints and latent impression previously reported in the captioned case were compared with the available fingerprints of Robert Wesley Rackstraw, aka Robert Wesley Jones, FBI #977973E, but no identification was effected. No palm prints were located here for Rackstraw.

② - Seattle (164-81)



Acting Assistant Director, Identification Division

FILE

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THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DB Cooper-15967

FBI/DOJ



REGISTRATION FEE

\$4.00

ORS 493.050



OREGON PILOT REGISTRATION RENEWAL REMINDER  
REGISTRATION PERIOD FROM 01/01/78 TO 12/31/79

PLEASE REVIEW THE BELOW INFORMATION. CROSS OUT ENTRIES IN ERROR AND  
WRITE IN THE CORRECT INFORMATION. FAA PILOT CERTIFICATE NUMBER MUST BE  
ENTERED BY ALL BUT STUDENT PILOTS.

FAA PILOT CERTIFICATE #: 2104631  
FAA STUDENT PILOT #: NOT APPLICABLE

DATE OF BIRTH: 10-16-43  
Mo. Day Year

RACKSTRAW, ROBERT W  
PO BOX 352  
VALLEY SPRINGS CA 95252

HOME PHONE: 7721245  
BUSINESS PHONE: 7721756

OREGON  
COUNTY (NON-OR STATE): CALIFORNIA

FOR AIRCRAFT OWNERS ONLY

INSTRUMENT RATING: YES  
FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR: YES

AIRCRAFT OWNER: NO      AIRCRAFT USED FOR BUSINESS: N.A.  
FAA AIRCRAFT #: N.A.      AIRCRAFT USED FOR PLEASURE: N.A.

\*\*\*HIGHEST PILOT CERTIFICATE\*\*\*

STUDENT: NOT APPLICABLE  
PRIVATE: NOT APPLICABLE  
COMMERCIAL: YES  
AIR TRANSPORT: NO

\*\*\*\*\*TYPE OF AIRCRAFT RATING\*\*\*\*\*

SINGLE-ENGINE-LAND: YES      GLIDER: NO  
SINGLE-ENGINE-SEA: NO      HELICOPTER: YES  
MULTI-ENGINE-LAND: YES      BALLOON: NO  
MULTI-ENGINE-SEA: NO      OTHER: NO

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW

TOTAL PILOT FLYING HOURS \_\_\_\_\_  
PILOT HOURS FLOWN PAST 12 MONTHS: \_\_\_\_\_  
BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_ PLEASURE \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use Only

Admin. Code \_\_\_\_\_ R  
County Code \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF PILOT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR REMITTANCE OF \$4 TO:

AERONAUTICS DIVISION  
3040 25th Street S. E.  
Salem, Oregon 97310

Phone: (503) 378-4880

Appropriate Oregon Revised Statutes  
are printed on the reverse side.

a division of the

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

sub 933  
164-81-7826 9



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ E F T O  
☐ CLEAR

AIRTEL

Date 4/3/78

TO: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)  
 FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (P)  
 SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
 OO: SE

933

Re Sacramento airtel to Bureau, 3/6/78.

Enclosed for San Francisco and Seattle is one copy each of insert of SC

It is noted that neither real estate firm listed for suspect in the records of the Department of Real Estate was set out on his resume.

Police Department investigators advise that his papers hown him renting numerous airplanes in San Jose, California, during 1972, but earliest one located prior to that was 12/7/71.

Seattle is requested to advise if they desire palm prints taken of suspect RACKSTRAW for submission to Latent Fingerprint Section.

WLL  
 (P)

ARMED & DANGEROUS

- ② - Seattle (Enc. 1) *rec'd*  
 1 - San Francisco (164-220) (Info) (Enc. 1)  
 2 - Sacramento  
 WLL/ab  
 (5)

164-81-7845

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 6 1978	

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Number)

b6  
 b7C

b6  
 b7C

DB Cooper-16013



F B I

Date: 4/7/78

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

TO: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50)  
FROM: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81 ) (P)  
SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
OO: Seattle  
Bufile 164-2111

b6  
b7C

Re: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
Sub  933

b6  
b7C

Re Sacramento airtel to Seattle, 4/3/78.

LEADS:SACRAMENTO DIVISIONAt Sacramento, California

Will obtain and forward to the Latent Fingerprint  
Section of the Identification Division palm prints of suspect  
RACKSTRAW for comparison with NORJAK partials.

ARMED & DANGEROUS.

2 - Sacramento  
③ - Seattle  
RNN:jsb  
(5)  
ANL

933-B

sub 

164-81-7852

b6  
b7C

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ E F T O  
☐ CLEAR

AIRTEL

Date 5/5/78

TO: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)  
 FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (P)  
 SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
 OO: Seattle

Re: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
 Sub Number 933

Re Seattle airtel to Sacramento dated 4/7/78.

Suspect RACKSTRAW was approached by SA [redacted] on 4/24/78, at the San Joaquin County Jail, French Camp, California, and he refused palm prints or interview without permission of his attorney. He identified his attorney as [redacted] [redacted] was contacted and he advised SA [redacted] that he did not desire to have his client interviewed concerning NORJAK, but that he was agreeable to palm prints being taken.

On 5/4/78, SA [redacted] returned to the jail to take the palm prints, but RACKSTRAW again declined and advised that he wanted SA [redacted] to contact his attorney, [redacted] Oakland, California, telephone [redacted]. He stated that [redacted] is his primary attorney, [redacted] in Calaveras County.

[redacted] was telephonically contacted by SA [redacted] on 5/4/78, and he advised that it would be necessary for the government to get a court order to obtain the palm prints. He stated RACKSTRAW has denied being D. B. COOPER, but he does not want his client interviewed concerning it nor will he cooperate in the investigation as it might possibly not be in RACKSTRAW's best interest.

2-Seattle

3-San Francisco (164-220)

2-Sacramento

WLL:js

Approved: (7)

Transmitted (Number) (Time)

DB Cooper-16015

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 1978	
IN	

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C



SC 164-50

On 5/4/78 this matter was discussed with AUSA [redacted] Sacramento, California, and he advised that the court order should be obtained by the Seattle Office through the U. S. Attorney at Seattle.

b6  
b7C

On 5/4/78, [redacted] Stockton Police Department, advised he has heard that [redacted] is a lawyer in Oakland [redacted]

b6  
b7C

[redacted] He wondered if this would indicate that RACKSTRAW's suspected involvement in the 1975 theft of the explosives at the Felton Quarry, Santa Cruz, California, some of which were later recovered from the NWLF by the FBI at Richmond, California, in early 1976, might mean that RACKSTRAW intentionally obtained the explosives for the radicals. He stated that [redacted] reportedly was formerly in partnership with [redacted] another reported [redacted] reportedly [redacted] by the San Francisco Police Department, is [redacted] and has [redacted]

Seattle Division will discuss this matter of palm prints with the U. S. Attorney to determine if a court order will issue or whether it has to be handled as a subpoena to the Federal Grand Jury in Seattle. It is noted that RACKSTRAW is presently feigning a back injury which requires him to be transported in a wheel chair, and custodial personnel feel he is doing this in an attempt to effect a possible escape attempt. If U. S. Marshals are to transport him they should be warned that RACKSTRAW is a former U. S. Army Green Beret and Vietnam veteran and is highly skilled in the use of his hands and feet as weapons.

San Francisco Division will advise if the involvement of [redacted] on the defense team possibly indicates some interest by the NWLF in protecting their source of explosives. RACKSTRAW is known to have purchased a great deal explosive between the time he murdered his

b6  
b7C



SC 164-50

stepfather during the summer of 1977, and the time he fled to Iran in early 1978, and at least one case of the explosives has not been traced.

San Francisco will also furnish Sacramento the results of investigation requested in 3/6/78, Sacramento airtel to Bureau.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype☐ Facsimile☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ E F T O☐ CLEAR

Date 5/24/78

TO: SAC, PORTLAND

FROM: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)(P)

SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
OO: SEATTLERE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
SUB NUMBER 933

Re Sacramento airtel to Seattle, dated 5/5/78.

Enclosed for the Portland Division is one (1)  
copy of referenced communication.

For the information of the Portland Division, RACKSTRAW has been suggested as a suspect in this matter because he resembles the artist's composite of Unsub, and because of his military background particularly his paratrooper training. He appears to be fully capable of successfully affecting the Norjak hijacking.

LEADS:PORTLAND DIVISIONAt Portland, Oregon

Will discuss with the United States Attorney's Office in Portland the feasibility of obtaining a subpoena for the palm prints of ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Portland (Encl. 1)

2 - Sacramento

3 - Seattle (164-81) *jm*

RNN:ecf

PIN(7)

Searched *jm*Serialized *jm*Indexed *jm*Filed *jm*

164-81-7714

Sub 933-15

N

b6  
b7c

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number)

(Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_

FBI/DOJ

DB Cooper-16018



x Airtel

7/5/78

TO: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50)  
FROM: SAC, PORTLAND (164-41) (P)  
SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
(OO: Seattle)  
Bufile 164-2111

RE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
SUB NUMBER 933

Re Sacramento airtel to Seattle, 5/5/78; Seattle airtel to Portland, 5/24/78.

Contact with USA SIDNEY I. LEZAK, District of Oregon, Portland, Oregon, on 6/12/78, determined that USA LEZAK wished to have the matter of the means of obtaining RACKSTRAW's palm prints researched before taking any action. He advised he would have the matter researched and advise.

On 6/26/78, USA LEZAK advised he had turned the matter over to First AUSA [REDACTED], District of Oregon.

On 7/3/78, First AUSA [REDACTED] advised that he wishes to explore the possibility of obtaining RACKSTRAW's palm prints through some other means than a subpoena or a court order. He accordingly requested that the identity of the District Attorney of the locality in which RACKSTRAW is to be tried for murder be obtained and furnished to him, so that he may contact that District Attorney and discuss the matter with him.

2 - Sacramento  
② - Seattle (164-81)  
2 - Portland

RPH:ceh  
(6)

Sub 933-16  
164-81-7973

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 7 1978	
FBI - SEATTLE	



PD 164-41

LEAD

SACRAMENTO

AT SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA. Will obtain the name of the District Attorney prosecuting RACKSTRAW on local charges, and forward same to Portland Division to furnish to First AUSA [REDACTED] Will note that it is not clear from referenced Sacramento airtel to Seattle whether this would be the District Attorney of San Joaquin County or the District Attorney of Calaveras County.

b6  
b7c

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.



AIRTEL

7/27/78

TO: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)  
FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
OO: SEATTLE  
BUFILE 164-2111

Re ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW Sub Number 933  
[redacted]

Re Seattle airtel to Sacramento, 7/6/78.

On 7/26/78, [redacted] Calaveras County SO advised that he expected the trial of ROBERT RACKSTRAW was in its final stages and expected to be completed in two weeks.

The following investigation was conducted by SC  
[redacted]

AT SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA:

On 7/21/78, [redacted] California Department of Motor Vehicles, Driver's License Section, advised that a search of their files failed to locate any California driver's license for [redacted] date of birth [redacted] described as 6', 185 lbs., brown hair, and blue eyes.

No record could be located for [redacted] aka  
[redacted]

No further investigation is outstanding in the Sacramento Division, therefore, this matter is being RUC'd at this time.

2 - Seattle  
2 - Little Rock (164-22)  
1 - Sacramento  
TRK:mm1  
(5)

SUB 933  
164-81-7997

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 29 1978	
FBI - SEATTLE	



XX AIRTEL

7/12/78

TO: SAC, PORTLAND (164-41)  
FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (P)  
SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
OO: SEATTLE  
(BUFILE 164-2111)

RE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
SUB NUMBER 933

Re Portland airtel to Sacramento dated 7/5/78.

On 7/12/78, [REDACTED], Calavares County Sheriff's Office, advised that RACKSTRAW is currently on trial in Calavares County for murder and is being prosecuted by DA JOSEPH KILEY. He advised KILEY could be reached at number (209) 754-3887.

On 7/12/78, contact with the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office, Stockton, California, revealed that the name of the Assistant DA handling the RACKSTRAW case in Stockton is [REDACTED]

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Portland  
2 - Seattle (164-81)  
2 - Sacramento  
TJK/kmc  
(6)

SUB 933-18  
164-81-7998

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 13 1978	
FBI - SEATTLE	



8/10/78

TO: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)  
FROM: SAC, PORTLAND (164-41) (P)  
SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
(OO: Seattle  
Bufile #164-2111

RE ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
Sub #933

Re Portland airtel to Sacramento dated 7/5/78; and  
Sacramento airtel to Portland dated 7/12/78.

Information contained in referenced Sacramento airtel  
to Portland was furnished on 8/7/78 to First Assistant U.S.  
Attorney [redacted] for the District of Oregon who had  
been on vacation prior to that time.

On 8/8/78, AUSA [redacted] advised that he had been in  
telephonic contact with the District Attorney of Calaveras  
County, California, JOSEPH KILEY, and had determined that  
suspect RACKSTRAW had been acquitted of the murder charge for  
which he was tried in Calaveras County. [redacted] then  
telephonically contacted Deputy District Attorney [redacted]  
[redacted] of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office, Stockton,  
California. [redacted] advised [redacted] that suspect RACKSTRAW  
is scheduled to be tried on various charges in San Joaquin  
County beginning in September, 1978. Meanwhile, RACKSTRAW is  
free on \$60,000 bail.

[redacted] related to [redacted] that he has worked very  
closely for a number of years with the FBI Resident Agent at  
Stockton, SA [redacted] and he thinks very highly of SA [redacted]  
He stated that he would make every effort to see to it that  
major case fingerprints of RACKSTRAW are obtained at some point  
during the forthcoming prosecution in September, 1978.

2 - Seattle  
2 - Sacramento (164-50)  
2 - Portland  
RPH:kgf  
(6)

164-81-7999

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 12 1978	
FBI - SEATTLE	

DB Cooper-16023



PD 164-41

LEADS

SACRAMENTO

AT STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA. Will maintain contact with Deputy District Attorney [ ] for progress in his efforts to obtain major case fingerprints of suspect RACKSTRAW for elimination purposes in this matter.

b6  
b7c

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.



1  
SF 164-220  
JRO/ds

SUB 933

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

San Francisco indices contain no reference to  
ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW or ROBERT WESLEY JONES to the  
NORJAK investigation (SF 164-220) prior to 1978.

AT [REDACTED] CALIFORNIA

[REDACTED] was recontacted regarding [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] whereabouts in 1971. [REDACTED] recalled that [REDACTED]  
left ROBERT RACKSTRAW at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in early 1971,  
[REDACTED] California, area. She recalled that  
the Subject was released from the Army some time in mid year  
1971. She believes that he was [REDACTED] California,  
area in the summer of 1971, [REDACTED] She could  
not recall where he was in the fall of 1971, or specifically  
Thanksgiving, 1971.

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] vaguely recalled that RACKSTRAW may have been  
flying a plane or helicopter for some land development company  
in Oregon or Washington in late 1971. She believed that his  
job required him to fly people over large land tract areas.

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] could recall no other particulars about [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] location or employment in 1971.

b6  
b7C

SUB 933-20  
164-81-8637

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 7 1978	
FBI - SEATTLE	

DB Cooper-16025



SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)

9/27/78

SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (164-220) (P) (SJRA)

UNSUB, aka  
D. B. Cooper  
CAA - HIJACKING (A)  
OO: SE

Re Portland letter to San Francisco dated 2/28/78.

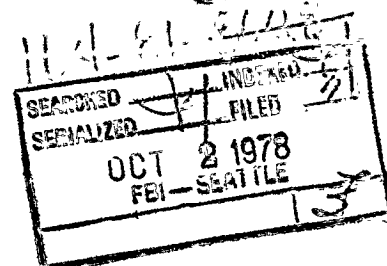
Enclosed for Seattle are two (2) copies of an  
investigative insert showing investigation by SA [redacted]  
[redacted] at San Francisco and [redacted], California. This insert  
concerns investigation regarding ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
and ROBERT WESLEY JONES.

b6  
b7C

Regarding the information contained in referenced  
Portland letter to San Francisco, be advised that San  
Francisco has reviewed the information contained in letter  
furnished by [redacted] and after much  
due deliberation, San Francisco, has determined that no  
further logical investigation appears warranted to involve  
or eliminate the suspect suggested. San Francisco, therefore,  
is taking no further action with regard to this letter.

b6  
b7C

2 - Seattle (Encs. 2)  
2 - San Francisco  
TPW:rvs  
(4) #10



DB Cooper-16026



SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)

11/8/78

SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (RUC)

NORJAK (A)  
OO: Seattle  
Bufile 164-2111

*Sub 933*

Re: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
Subject No. 933

Re Portland airtel to Seattle, 8/10/78.

On 10/11/78, one day prior to his trial in Stockton, California, ROBERT RACKSTRAW rented a \$55,000 plane from Bridgeford Flying Service and later that day called in a "Mayday" advising that his plane was on fire and he was forced to ditch in the ocean approximately 12 miles out of Monterey, California.

Investigation by the U.S. Coast Guard failed to find any sign of wreckage and it is believed that subject flew the plane to Mexico.

In view of the above, Sacramento is conducting no further investigation on this matter; however, if subject is located and arrested he will be returned to Stockton, California and major case prints will be obtained.

*164-21-8129*

- ② - Seattle  
1 - Portland (164-41)  
1 - Sacramento  
TRK/emh  
(4)

*Sub 933*  
*164-21-8129 22*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 10 1978	
FBI - SEATTLE	



140250 2301353

FM SE PD SC

DE LA

R 051453Z FEB 79FM LOS ANGELES (164-497)

TO SEATTLE (164-9L) ROUTINE

PORTLAND (164-41) ROUTINE

SACRAMENTO ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

MORJAK (A), OO: SEATTLE, BUFILE 164-2111.

RE PORTLAND TELETYPE TO LOS ANGELES FEBRUARY 3, 1979.

FOR INFORMATION OF SACRAMENTO, PORTLAND ADVISED IN RE  
TELETYPE THAT FOREST WESLEY BACKSTRAW HAS BEEN CONSIDERED  
AS A POSSIBLE SUSPECT IN THIS MATTER. BACKSTRAW IS CURRENTLY  
BELIEVED TO BE IN CUSTODY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AT FULLERTON,  
CALIFORNIA.

BACKSTRAW WAS RELEASED TO THE CUSTODY OF A [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (PH), SAN JOAQUIN SHERIFF'S OFFICE, FOR RETURN TO  
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA.

SACRAMENTO AT STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA, WILL CONTACT LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES AND ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN MAJOR CASE FINGERPRINTS OF

b6  
b7c

SUB 933<sup>73</sup>  
164-81-8049  
FEB 05 1979  
DB Cooper-16028 F



PAGE TWO (LA 164-497) UNCLAS

BACKSTAIR, INCLUDING PALM PRINTS, AND FORWARD SAME IMMEDIATELY  
TO FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION FOR COMPARISON WITH UNIDENTIFIED  
LATENT FINGERPRINT IMPRESSIONS DEVELOPED IN THE HIJACKED AIR-  
CRAFT IN THIS MATTER.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

03619597 SF 1

DB Cooper-16029



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☒ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☒ UNCLAS

Date 2/6/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (164-2111)  
 ATTN: FBI IDENT

FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (P)

SUBJECT: NORJAK  
 OO: Seattle

SUB 933

Re Sacramento airtel to Seattle, 11/8/78, and  
 Portland teletype to Sacramento 2/5/79.

RE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW

Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of palm  
 prints of ROBERT W. RACKSTRAW.

RACKSTRAW was apprehended 1/26/79, by the Fullerton  
 Police Department, Fullerton, California, for trying to  
 have copies made of a forged federal pilot's license.

On 2/5/79, [redacted] San Joaquin  
 County Sheriff's Office, provided the enclosed palm prints  
 obtained from RACKSTRAW at Fullerton, California. [redacted]  
 stated that the original prints are being retained by his  
 office for use in RACKSTRAW's local prosecution.

Sacramento is obtaining major case prints which  
 will be submitted when available.

2-Bureau (Encl. 3)  
 2-Portland (164-41)  
 2-Seattle (164-81)  
 2-Sacramento  
 TRK/ab  
 (8)

b6  
 b7c

SUB 935-29

164-81-8648

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 8 1979	
FBI-SEATTLE	
Per	

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Number) (Time)

DB Cooper-16030



SC 164-50

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

The Bureau is requested to compare palm prints of RACKSTRAW to those of unknown subject in captioned hijacking.



2/6/79

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)  
FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (164-220) (P) (SJRA)  
RE: NORJAK (A)  
OO: SE

ROBERT RACKSTRAW

On 2/5/79, [redacted] (PROTECT IDENTITY),  
[redacted] telephone [redacted]  
telephonically contacted the FBI, San Jose, Calif., and  
advised that [redacted]  
[redacted] ROBERT RACKSTRAW. Source stated

[redacted] Source advised that he is providing this information  
to the FBI because he read in the newspaper that RACKSTRAW  
is possibly identical to D.B. COOPER, the man who hijacked  
an airliner in 1971 and thought that the FBI would possibly  
want to talk [redacted] concerning RACKSTRAW's activities.

The source requested that his identity be protected

[redacted]  
[redacted]

On 2/5/79, [redacted]  
[redacted] California, telephone [redacted] appeared at the  
San Jose FBI Resident Agency and provided the following  
information:

[redacted] met ROBERT RACKSTRAW during [redacted]  
[redacted] Recently  
[redacted] saw a picture of RACKSTRAW in the paper and identified  
him [redacted]

② - Seattle  
2 - San Francisco  
WRS:rvs  
(4)

164-81-8069

Sub 93325

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 9 1979	
FBI - SEATTLE	

DB Cooper-16032

b6  
b7C  
b7D

b6  
b7C  
b7D

b6  
b7C  
b7D



SF 164-220  
WRS:rvs

[redacted] met RACKSTRAW while [redacted] working in a restaurant named [redacted] California. RACKSTRAW came into the restaurant [redacted] a casual conversation occurred and [redacted] and RACKSTRAW became acquainted.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

[redacted] knew RACKSTRAW by his true name. [redacted]  
[redacted]

Shortly after meeting [redacted] and RACKSTRAW moved to San Jose, California. [redacted] is certain that she and RACKSTRAW were in San Jose during November of 1971. During the period in question, November, 1971, to 1973, she saw RACKSTRAW on a daily basis, [redacted]. RACKSTRAW very rarely was gone overnight and [redacted] cannot remember that RACKSTRAW was gone overnight during November of 1971.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

RACKSTRAW smoked occasionally, but [redacted] could not remember his brand of cigarettes.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

Referring to RACKSTRAW's mannerisms, she described him as robust, but polite in speech, with no noticeable accent. He talked fast on occasion.

During November and December, 1971, RACKSTRAW had a full mustache, and she does not remember him shaving it off. At the time RACKSTRAW was about twenty-eight (28) years old and looked his age.

After [redacted] RACKSTRAW moved to San Jose in September or October of 1971, RACKSTRAW enrolled in and attended real estate school. About January of 1972, RACKSTRAW [redacted]

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b7D

[redacted] Later on [redacted] California, [redacted]  
[redacted] California. The last four numbers of her telephone number are [redacted]

In 1972, RACKSTRAW got a second job working at the Radio Shack in Cupertino, California.

[redacted] advised that there was no indication whatsoever that RACKSTRAW obtained a sizeable amount of money during the time that she knew him, 1971-1973. [redacted]

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b7C  
b7D



SF 164-220  
WRS:rvs

stated that during this time, there was no indication that  
RACKSTRAW was involved in any illegal activity.



AIRTEL

3/8/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (164-2111)

FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (RUC)

SUBJECT: NORJAK  
OO: Seattle

Re Los Angeles teletype to Sacramento, 2/5/79,  
and Sacramento airtel to Bureau, 2/6/79.

RE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW

ROBERT RACKSTRAW, San Joaquin County Jail, French  
Camp, California, refused to give consent to having major  
case prints taken without the advice of his attorney,  
[redacted] Oakland, California.

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On 3/7/79, Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney [redacted]  
[redacted] Eastern District of California, Sacramento,  
California, contacted RACKSTRAW's attorney, [redacted]  
Oakland, California, and advised that [redacted] desired the  
FBI to obtain a court order prior to obtaining major case  
prints from ROBERT RACKSTRAW.

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b7C

In view of the above, Sacramento is conducting  
no further investigation in this matter subsequent to receiving  
a subpoena for RACKSTRAW's major case prints.

- 2 - Bureau
  - 2 - Portland (164-41)
  - ② - Seattle (164-81)
  - 1 - Sacramento
- TRK:sib  
(7)

164-81-8070 Sub 933-26

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 10 1979	
FBI - SEATTLE	

13

DB Cooper-16035



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Washington, D. C. 20537

**REPORT**

of the

**LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION  
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION**

YOUR FILE NO. **164-50 (P)**  
FBI FILE NO. **164-2111**  
LATENT CASE NO.

**March 8, 1979**

TO: **SAC, Sacramento**

RE: **NORJAK**

REFERENCE: **Airtel 2/6/79**  
EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: **Sacramento**  
SPECIMENS: **Copies of finger and palm prints of Robert W. Rackstraw,  
FBI #977973E**

**The unidentified latent prints previously reported in this  
case are not identical with the submitted prints, which are enclosed.**

**Enclosures (3)**

**2 - Seattle (164-81)**

*Sub 933-27*

**164-51-8071**

SEARCHED <i>g</i>	INDEXED <i>g</i>
SERIALIZED <i>g</i>	FILED <i>g</i>
<b>MAR 12 1979</b>	
FBI-SEATTLE	
<i>3</i> FBI/DOJ	

THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DB Cooper-16036

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b7c



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype☐ Facsimile☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ UNCLAS E F T O☐ UNCLAS

Date 3/16/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (164-2111)

FROM: SAC, PORTLAND (164-41) (P)

SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
(OO: Seattle)Re ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW, Sub #933

Re Sacramento airtel to the Bureau, dated 3/8/79.

For information of all recipients, on 3/15/79, AUSA  
 [redacted] District of Oregon, Portland, Oregon, advised  
 as follows:

Departmental Attorney [redacted] telephonically advised  
 [redacted] this date that he had received a communication from one  
 [redacted] Attorney. [redacted] Oakland, California,  
 telephone [redacted] advised him that he represents  
 a client whom he did not identify who is willing to provide  
 information which will prove he is the UNSUB in this matter  
 in return for immunity from federal prosecution. [redacted]  
 instructed [redacted] to have the Portland Case Agent contact  
 [redacted] by telephone in an attempt to determine the validity  
 of this claim and to evaluate the potential for benefit to this  
 investigation.

It is noted that during the period April, 1978 to  
 March, 1979, investigation has been conducted to eliminate  
 or involve one ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW. RACKSTRAW is now  
 only 35 years old, and at the time of the hijacking in this  
 matter, would have been approximately 28 years old. UNSUB in  
 this matter was described as late 40's or early 50's in 1971,  
 with the median age of the description being 48 years. This

- 2 - Bureau
- ② - Seattle (164-81)
- 2 - San Francisco (164-220)
- 2 - Portland

RPH:cam  
 (8)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Number) (Time)

Sub 933

164-81-5072

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 20 1979	
FBI-SEATTLE	
Per	

DB Cooper-16037



PD 164-41

would indicate a disparity of approximately 20 years, and RACKSTRAW would not appear to be a very good suspect.

RACKSTRAW has been the subject of highly publicized prosecution for major crimes in California, and is now incarcerated in a California penitentiary. The Sacramento Office advised in May, 1978, that at that time RACKSTRAW was in custody feigning a back injury which required him to be transported in a wheelchair. Custodial personnel felt he was doing this in an attempt to effect a possible escape. It was noted that RACKSTRAW is a former U. S. Army Green Beret and Vietnam veteran highly skilled in the use of his hands and feet as weapons.

Sacramento Office further advised that on 5/4/78, [redacted] Stockton, California Police Department advised he has heard that [redacted] is a lawyer in Oakland, California. [redacted]

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[redacted] He wondered if this might indicate that RACKSTRAW's suspected involvement in the 1975 theft of explosives at the Felton Quarry, Santa Cruz, California, some of which were later acquired from the New World Liberation Front by the FBI at Richmond, California in early 1976, might mean that RACKSTRAW intentionally obtained the explosives for the radicals. He stated that [redacted] reportedly was formerly in partnership with [redacted] another reported [redacted] [redacted] reportedly [redacted] San Francisco Police Department. [redacted]

In view of the above information, Portland SA [redacted] [redacted] after consultation with Supervisor [redacted] of the Seattle Division, suggested to AUSA [redacted] that [redacted] in furtherance of Departmental Attorney [redacted] request. AUSA [redacted] was furnished a list of questions which could be asked anyone claiming to be UNSUB in this matter, the answers to which could only be known by the UNSUB and investigators close to the case. [redacted] was not provided with the answers to the questions.

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Subsequently, on the same date, [redacted] advised he had been in telephonic contact with [redacted] who requested the list

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PD 164-41

of questions be furnished him in writing. [ ] stated he would provide such a written list of questions to [ ] with the stipulation that [ ] not release the list of questions.

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The above for information. Portland will maintain contact with AUSA [ ] for any subsequent developments.

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ARMED AND DANGEROUS



# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (164-2111)

FROM : SAC, PORTLAND (164-41) (P)

SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
(OO: Seattle)

DATE: 4/25/79

RE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
Sub #933

Re Portland airtel to the Bureau, dated 3/16/79.

On 4/23/79, AUSA [ ] for the District of Oregon, Portland, Oregon, advised he had received a letter from Attorney [ ] Oakland, California, [ ]. This letter was a response to [ ] letter to [ ] dated 3/15/79, in which [ ] furnished [ ] with a list of questions to be answered by [ ] client prior to any negotiations or discussions concerning the possible prosecution of that client. [ ] advised the letter from [ ] stated as follows:

"Dear [ ]

"I am in receipt of your letter of 15 March, 1979, and agree to abide fully by its terms. I have discussed the contents of said letter with my client. At this point in time, he is not interested in pursuing the matter. This change in plans stems from personal problems which may well resolve themselves in the near future and allow us to once again pursue this topic.

"I shall consider the matter closed until I hear otherwise from my client and, in that event, I will contact you once again.

"Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

"Very truly yours,

"/s/ [ ]

- 2 - Bureau
- ② - Seattle (164-81)
- 2 - San Francisco (164-220)
- 2 - Portland

RPH:cam

(8)



164-81-8073

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 28 1979	
FBI - SEATTLE	



PD 164-41

AUSA [ ] stated he presumes from the above that [ ] client, as anticipated, was unable to answer the questions posed.

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In view of the above, Portland does not feel any further inquiry concerning this suspect is indicated.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS



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FM PORTLAND (164-41) P

TO LOS ANGELES (164-497) ROUTINE

SEATTLE (164-81) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

DEJAK (A), OO: SEATTLE, BUFILE 164-2111.

PE SUSPECT ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW, SUB NO. 933.

FOR INFORMATION OF LOS ANGELES, ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
HAS BEEN CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE SUSPECT IN THIS MATTER.  
RACKSTRAW IS CURRENTLY BELIEVED TO BE IN CUSTODY OF LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES AT FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA.

LOS ANGELES, AT FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA, WILL CONTACT LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES AND ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN MAJOR CASE FINGERPRINTS OF  
RACKSTRAW, INCLUDING PALM PRINTS, AND FORWARD SAME IMMEDIATELY  
TO FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION FOR COMPARISON WITH UNIDENTIFIED  
LATENT FINGERPRINT IMPRESSIONS DEVELOPED IN THE HIJACKED AIR-  
CRAFT IN THIS MATTER.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

*Sub 933*  
*SUB-0*

*8130*  
*SUB 933*

164-81-8111

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

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[redacted]

29 February 2000

RE: DB Cooper

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Dear Agent [redacted]

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On 22 February 2000, the History Channel presented a 30 minute documentary called "In Search of D.B. Cooper". I remembered the hijacking and decided to watch the program. At about the end of the program a statement was made that "in February 1979, the FBI thought they had their man." They put up a picture and I took notice and could not believe what I was seeing. Then the announcer said, "Robert Wesley Rackstraw, age 35 was being held on another arrest charge and was later cleared in the D.B. Cooper case." I could not believe what I had just seen, but from the profile of the hijacker, I can see why Robert W. Rackstraw would have been a suspect.

This letter is not really about DB Cooper, but rather about Robert W. Rackstraw and who he really is, if anyone knows.

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I am a former Air Force Officer and recently took an early retirement from [redacted] CA. I was [redacted] for the military and JPL.

Last summer, University of Riverside Extension offered an accelerated (4 week) certificate program in Conflict Management. I felt that with [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Mediation and Arbitration would allow me to use my background to start a new career. Robert W. Rackstraw was [redacted] and taught Mediation II

Robert Rackstraw held himself out as an attorney, but finally stated he had a JD but had not taken or passed any state bar exam. I have my JD, and I asked him where he got his degree, he mentioned several different schools but you could not get him to state the exact school or year he graduated.

He bragged about all the international arbitration and mediation he did for a living. He then told our class about all his military experiences. Robert was very hard to pin down to specifics or time frames. He mentioned or bragged about all types of military operations, awards etc. The man would have had to be over 100 years old to do all he said he has done in life. His military career was like Forrest Gump. He was in on every action, some CIA, that our country has encountered since WWII.

Robert showed me a picture in an Army Class A uniform with jump wings, and pilot wings. Since I have three children in the military, two of them at West Point, and being former Air Force Officer, he talked to me about his military experience

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[redacted]

[redacted]

MAR 23 2000

FBI SEATTLE DB Cooper-16043



[redacted] formed a group to conduct mediation and arbitrations. Because of his "experience" in mediation and arbitration, we asked Robert if he wanted to join our group to set up a web site.

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He agreed to join our group but provided a very limited resume for our website. He listed BS, BS, JD and LLM but gave no school. He then mentioned mediating 3100 cases but he was never specific. We worked on expanding his resume but had very little facts to deal with. [redacted]

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Our group is composed of professional's in law, contracts, real estate and government. After seeing the History Channel program, I taped the second showing and got our group together to review the tape. We are all in agreement that the man shown on the History Channel, "In Search of, DB Cooper" is Robert Wesley Rackstraw, a member of our mediation group. He was 35 when he was a suspect in the DB Cooper case. That was 1979, and he would be 56, which is his age now.

Our concern is that Robert Rackstraw holds himself out as a non practicing attorney, dealing with all the various judges, courts and dispute centers of Riverside and the surrounding areas. He was hired for a short time at UCR Extension as director of Public Law and Policy. The FBI had him arrested for something else and he was a suspect in the DB Cooper case. Our group is very concerned being associated with him, if he has a felony record.

Our group has tried to check him out and has been unable to find any law school from which he might have graduated, the address he gives in Lake Elsinore is an industrial park and his military experience is very questionable.

The History Channel stated that he was arrested, it did not say convicted. We would like to know if we should be concerned about associating professionally with this man.

The group has always been concerned about Robert and his stories but felt it was better to have him on our side, than to have him mad at us because of his mouth and contacts all over the court system.

There are a few of us that feel that maybe you did have your man and he talked his way out of the situation. The man is very much a loner. They stated the suspect wore sun glasses, was a chain smoker, had military experience, possible jump and flying experience. Robert matches all of those clues. We have checked and he owns no property in California, he has several different email addresses, and phones that forward to other numbers. Just a strange man. None of us would be surprised if he was DB Cooper.

Please let us know if any information on Robert Rackstraw's arrest is open to the public for review and if so how we can obtain a copy.

[redacted]

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

1110 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101-2904  
March 20, 2000



Dear 

In reference to your letter dated February 29, 2000 concerning Robert Rackstraw, I am sorry to tell you that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) can't assist you with what you are looking for. While arrest records are usually considered open records, the FBI can only supply an arrest record about a living person to another person if the person whose record is being sought signs a waiver giving up his privacy rights.

As for the issue of Mr. Rackstraw passing himself off as an attorney, you may want to contact California law enforcement authorities. Most states have laws making it illegal to practice law without a license.

For your information, I will pass your letter on to those investigating the D.B. Cooper case.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Mandigo  
Special Agent in Charge

Rv. 

Special Agent

64-81-Sub-33-32

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 28 2000	
FBI SEATTLE	

*[Handwritten signature]*

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DB Cooper-16045

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x

933

AIRTEL

5/5/78

TO: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)  
FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (P)  
SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
OO: Seattle

Re: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
Sub Number 934

Re Seattle airtel to Sacramento dated 4/7/78.

Suspect RACKSTRAW was approached by SA [redacted] on 4/24/78, at the San Joaquin County Jail, French Camp, California, and he refused palm prints or interview without permission of his attorney. He identified his attorney as [redacted] [redacted] was contacted and he advised SA [redacted] that he did not desire to have his client interviewed concerning NORJAK, but that he was agreeable to palm prints being taken.

On 5/4/78, SA [redacted] returned to the jail to take the palm prints, but RACKSTRAW again declined and advised that he wanted SA [redacted] to contact his attorney, [redacted] Oakland, California, telephone [redacted]. He stated that [redacted] is his primary attorney, [redacted] in Calaveras County.

[redacted] was telephonically contacted by SA [redacted] on 5/4/78, and he advised that it would be necessary for the government to get a court order to obtain the palm prints. He stated RACKSTRAW has denied being D. B. COOPER, but he does not want his client interviewed concerning it nor will he cooperate in the investigation as it might possibly not be in RACKSTRAW's best interest.

2-Seattle  
3-San Francisco (164-220)  
2-Sacramento  
WLL:js  
(7)

DB Cooper-16520

164-81-7881

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FBI - SEATTLE	

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FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype☐ Facsimile☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ E F T O☐ CLEARDate 5/24/78

TO: SAC, PORTLAND

FROM: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)(P)

SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
OO: SEATTLERE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
SUB NUMBER 933

Re Sacramento airtel to Seattle, dated 5/5/78.

Enclosed for the Portland Division is one (1)  
copy of referenced communication.

For the information of the Portland Division, RACKSTRAW has been suggested as a suspect in this matter because he resembles the artist's composite of Unsub, and because of his military background particularly his paratrooper training. He appears to be fully capable of successfully affecting the Norjak hijacking.

LEADS:PORTLAND DIVISIONAt Portland, Oregon

Will discuss with the United States Attorney's Office in Portland the feasibility of obtaining a subpoena for the palm prints of ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Portland (Encl. 1)

2 - Sacramento

3 - Seattle (164-81)

RNN:ecf

(7)

164-81-7914  
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DB Cooper-16615

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time) Per \_\_\_\_\_ FBI/DOJ

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FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype☐ Facsimile☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ E F T O☐ CLEAR

Date 5/24/78

TO: SAC, PORTLAND  
FROM: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)(P)  
SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
OO: SEATTLE

RE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
SUB NUMBER 933

Re Sacramento airtel to Seattle, dated 5/5/78.

Enclosed for the Portland Division is one (1) copy of referenced communication.

For the information of the Portland Division, RACKSTRAW has been suggested as a suspect in this matter because he resembles the artist's composite of Unsub, and because of his military background particularly his paratrooper training. He appears to be fully capable of successfully affecting the Norjak hijacking.

LEADS:PORTLAND DIVISIONAt Portland, Oregon

Will discuss with the United States Attorney's Office in Portland the feasibility of obtaining a subpoena for the palm prints of ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Portland (Encl.. 1)

2 - Sacramento

3 - Seattle (164-81)

RNN:ecf

(7)

164-81-7914 J

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_

(Number)

(Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_

FBI/DOJ

DB Cooper-16616



x Airtel

7/5/78

TO: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50)  
FROM: SAC, PORTLAND (164-41) (P)  
SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
(OO: Seattle)  
Bufile 164-2111

RE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
SUB NUMBER 933

Re Sacramento airtel to Seattle, 5/5/78; Seattle airtel to Portland, 5/24/78.

Contact with USA SIDNEY I. LEZAK, District of Oregon, Portland, Oregon, on 6/12/78, determined that USA LEZAK wished to have the matter of the means of obtaining RACKSTRAW's palm prints researched before taking any action. He advised he would have the matter researched and advise.

On 6/26/78, USA LEZAK advised he had turned the matter over to First AUSA [redacted] District of Oregon.

On 7/3/78, First AUSA [redacted] advised that he wishes to explore the possibility of obtaining RACKSTRAW's palm prints through some other means than a subpoena or a court order. He accordingly requested that the identity of the District Attorney of the locality in which RACKSTRAW is to be tried for murder be obtained and furnished to him, so that he may contact that District Attorney and discuss the matter with him.

- 2 - Sacramento
- ② - Seattle (164-81)
- 2 - Portland

RPH:ceh  
(6)

164-81-7973

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FBI	

[redacted]

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DB Cooper-16747

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FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ E F T O  
☐ CLEAR

AIRTEL

Date 7/27/78

TO: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)  
 FROM: *REU/RAC* SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (RUC)  
 SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
 OO: SEATTLE  
 BUFILE 164-2111

Re ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW Sub Number 933  
 [redacted]

Re Seattle airtel to Sacramento, 7/6/78.

On 7/26/78, [redacted] Calaveras County SO advised that he expected the trial of ROBERT RACKSTRAW was in its final stages and expected to be completed in two weeks.

The following investigation was conducted by SC  
 [redacted]

AT SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA:

On 7/21/78, [redacted] California Department of Motor Vehicles, Driver's License Section, advised that a search of their files failed to locate any California driver's license for [redacted] date of birth [redacted] described as 6', 185 lbs., brown hair, and blue eyes.

No record could be located for [redacted] aka  
 [redacted]

No further investigation is outstanding in the Sacramento Division, therefore, this matter is being RUC'd at this time.

② - Seattle  
 2 - Little Rock (164-22)  
 1 - Sacramento  
 TRK:mm1  
 (5)

164-81-7997

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SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 29 1978	
FBI - [redacted]	

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time) Per \_\_\_\_\_

FBI/DOJ

DB Cooper-16786



XX AIRTEL

7/12/78

TO: SAC, PORTLAND (164-41)  
FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (P)  
SUBJECT: NORJAN (A)  
OO: SEATTLE  
(BUFILE 164-2111)

933

RE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
SUB NUMBER 933

Re Portland airtel to Sacramento dated 7/5/78.

On 7/12/78, [REDACTED] Calavares County Sheriff's Office, advised that RACKSTRAW is currently on trial in Calavares County for murder and is being prosecuted by DA JOSEPH KILEY. He advised KILEY could be reached at number (209) 754-3837.

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On 7/12/78, contact with the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office, Stockton, California, revealed that the name of the Assistant DA handling the RACKSTRAW case in Stockton is [REDACTED]

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ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Portland  
② - Seattle (164-81)  
2 - Sacramento  
TRK/kmc  
(6)

164-51-4998

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DB Cooper-16787



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ E F T O  
☐ CLEAR

Date 8/10/78

TO: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)  
 FROM: SAC, PORTLAND (164-41) (P)  
 SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
 (OO: Seattle)  
 Bufile #164-2111

933

RE ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
 Sub #933

Re Portland airtel to Sacramento dated 7/5/78; and  
 Sacramento airtel to Portland dated 7/12/78.

Information contained in referenced Sacramento airtel  
 to Portland was furnished on 8/7/78 to First Assistant U.S.  
 Attorney [redacted] for the District of Oregon who had  
 been on vacation prior to that time.

On 8/8/78, AUSA [redacted] advised that he had been in  
 telephonic contact with the District Attorney of Calaveras  
 County, California, JOSEPH KILEY, and had determined that  
 suspect RACKSTRAW had been acquitted of the murder charge for  
 which he was tried in Calaveras County. [redacted] then  
 telephonically contacted Deputy District Attorney [redacted]  
 [redacted] of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office, Stockton,  
 California. [redacted] advised [redacted] that suspect RACKSTRAW  
 is scheduled to be tried on various charges in San Joaquin  
 County beginning in September, 1978. Meanwhile, RACKSTRAW is  
 free on \$60,000 bail.

[redacted] related to [redacted] that he has worked very  
 closely for a number of years with the FBI Resident Agent at  
 Stockton, SA [redacted] and he thinks very highly of SA [redacted]  
 He stated that he would make every effort to see to it that  
 major case fingerprints of RACKSTRAW are obtained at some point  
 during the forthcoming prosecution in September, 1978.

164-81-7999

② Seattle  
 2 - Sacramento (164-50)  
 2 - Portland  
 RPH:kgf  
 (6)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 12 1978	
FBI/DOJ	

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_

(Number)

(Time)

DB Cooper-16788

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PD 164-41

LEADS

SACRAMENTO

AT STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA. Will maintain contact with Deputy District Attorney [REDACTED] for progress in his efforts to obtain major case fingerprints of suspect RACKSTRAW for elimination purposes in this matter.

b6  
b7c

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.



1  
SF 164-220  
JRO/ds

SUB 933

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

San Francisco indices contain no reference to ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW or ROBERT WESLEY JONES to the NORJAK investigation (SF 164-220) prior to 1978.

AT [REDACTED] CALIFORNIA

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] was recontacted regarding [REDACTED] whereabouts in 1971. [REDACTED] recalled that [REDACTED] left ROBERT RACKSTRAW at Fort Rucker, Alabama, in early 1971, [REDACTED] California, area. She recalled that the Subject was released from the Army some time in mid year 1971. She believes that he was [REDACTED] California, area in the summer of 1971, [REDACTED] She could not recall where he was in the fall of 1971, or specifically Thanksgiving, 1971.

[REDACTED] vaguely recalled that RACKSTRAW may have been flying a plane or helicopter for some land development company in Oregon or Washington in late 1971. She believed that his job required him to fly people over large land tract areas.

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED] could recall no other particulars about [REDACTED] location or employment in 1971.

b6  
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164-81-8639

SEARCHED	INDEXED
COPY SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 2 1978	
FBI-SEATTLE	

DB Cooper-16852



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)

DATE: 9/27/78

FROM : *Cpm/OKB*  
SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (164-220) (P) (SJRA)

SUBJECT: UNSUB, aka  
D. B. Cooper  
CAA - HIJACKING (A)  
OO: SE

*SUB 933*

Re Portland letter to San Francisco dated 2/28/78.

Enclosed for Seattle are two (2) copies of an investigative insert showing investigation by SA [redacted] at San Francisco and [redacted] California. This insert concerns investigation regarding ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW and ROBERT WESLEY JONES.

Regarding the information contained in referenced Portland letter to San Francisco, be advised that San Francisco has reviewed the information contained in letter furnished by [redacted] and after much due deliberation, San Francisco, has determined that no further logical investigation appears warranted to involve or eliminate the suspect suggested. San Francisco, therefore, is taking no further action with regard to this letter.

② - Seattle (Encs. 2)  
2 - San Francisco  
TPW:rvs  
(4) #10

*recd  
FD*



5010-110

164-81-80281

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 2 1978	
FBI - SEATTLE	

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

DB Cooper-16853



# Memorandum

TO : SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)

DATE: 11/8/78

FROM : SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (RUC)

SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
OO: Seattle  
Bufile 164-2111Re: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
Subject No. 933

Re Portland airtel to Seattle, 8/10/78.

On 10/11/78, one day prior to his trial in Stockton, California, ROBERT RACKSTRAW rented a \$55,000 plane from Bridgeford Flying Service and later that day called in a "Mayday" advising that his plane was on fire and he was forced to ditch in the ocean approximately 12 miles out of Monterey, California.

Investigation by the U.S. Coast Guard failed to find any sign of wreckage and it is believed that subject flew the plane to Mexico.

In view of the above, Sacramento is conducting no further investigation on this matter; however, if subject is located and arrested he will be returned to Stockton, California and major case prints will be obtained.

- ② - Seattle  
1 - Portland (164-41)  
1 - Sacramento  
TRK/emh  
(4)

164-81-8029

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 10 1978	
FBI	

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R 051853Z FEB 79FM LOS ANGELES (164-497)

TO SEATTLE (164-8L) ROUTINE

PORTLAND (164-41) ROUTINE

SACRAMENTO ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

NORJAK (A), OO: SEATTLE, BUFILE 164-2111.

RE PORTLAND TELETYPE TO LOS ANGELES FEBRUARY 3, 1979.

FOR INFORMATION OF SACRAMENTO, PORTLAND ADVISED IN RE  
TELETYPE THAT ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW HAS BEEN CONSIDERED  
AS A POSSIBLE SUSPECT IN THIS MATTER. RACKSTRAW IS CURRENTLY  
BELIEVED TO BE IN CUSTODY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AT FULLERTON,  
CALIFORNIA.

RACKSTRAW WAS RELEASED TO THE CUSTODY OF A [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (PH), SAN JOAQUIN SHERIFF'S OFFICE, FOR RETURN TO  
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA.

SACRAMENTO AT STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA, WILL CONTACT LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES AND ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN MAJOR CASE FINGERPRINTS OF

SUB 933

b6  
b7c

104-81-8047  
FEB 05 1979  
[REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

DB Cooper-16921



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/6/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (164-2111)  
 ATTN: FBI IDENT

FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (P)

SUBJECT: NORJAK  
 OO: Seattle

SUB 953

Re Sacramento airtel to Seattle, 11/8/78, and  
 Portland teletype to Sacramento 2/5/79.

RE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW

Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of palm  
 prints of ROBERT W. RACKSTRAW.

RACKSTRAW was apprehended 1/26/79, by the Fullerton  
 Police Department, Fullerton, California, for trying to  
 have copies made of a forged federal pilot's license.

b6  
 b7c

On 2/5/79, Deputy [ ] San Joaquin  
 County Sheriff's Office, provided the enclosed palm prints  
 obtained from RACKSTRAW at Fullerton, California. [ ]  
 stated that the original prints are being retained by his  
 office for use in RACKSTRAW's local prosecution.

Sacramento is obtaining major case prints which  
 will be submitted when available.

2-Bureau (Encl. 3)  
 2-Portland (164-41)  
 (2)-Seattle (164-81)  
 2-Sacramento  
 TRK/ab  
 (8)

b6  
 b7c

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Number) (Time)

DB Cooper-16922

164-81-8048

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 8 1979	
[ ]	

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SC 164-50

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

The Bureau is requested to compare palm prints of RACKSTRAW to those of unknown subject in captioned hijacking.



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/6/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (164-2111)  
 ATTN: FBI IDENT

FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (P)

SUBJECT: NORJAK  
 OO: Seattle

SUB 923

Re Sacramento airtel to Seattle, 11/8/78, and  
 Portland teletype to Sacramento 2/5/79.

RE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW

Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of palm  
 prints of ROBERT W. RACKSTRAW.

RACKSTRAW was apprehended 1/26/79, by the Fullerton  
 Police Department, Fullerton, California, for trying to  
 have copies made of a forged federal pilot's license.

On 2/5/79, Deputy [redacted] San Joaquin  
 County Sheriff's Office, provided the enclosed palm prints  
 obtained from RACKSTRAW at Fullerton, California. [redacted]  
 stated that the original prints are being retained by his  
 office for use in RACKSTRAW's local prosecution.

b6  
 b7c

Sacramento is obtaining major case prints which  
 will be submitted when available.

2-Bureau (Encl. 3)  
 2-Portland (164-41)  
 2-Seattle (164-81)  
 2-Sacramento  
 TRK/ab  
 (8)

164-81-80-12

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 8 1979	
FBI - SEATTLE	
Per	13

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Number) (Time)

DB Cooper-16924



F B I

Date: 2/6/79

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Precedence)

TO: SAC, SEATTLE (164-81)

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (164-220) (P) (SJRA)

RE: NORJAK (A)

OO: SE

# 933

ROBERT RACKSTRAW

On 2/5/79, [REDACTED] (PROTECT IDENTITY),  
[REDACTED] telephone [REDACTED]  
telephonically contacted the FBI, San Jose, Calif., and  
advised that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ROBERT RACKSTRAW. Source stated  
[REDACTED]

Source advised that he is providing this information  
to the FBI because he read in the newspaper that RACKSTRAW  
is possibly identical to D.B. COOPER, the man who hijacked  
an airliner in 1971 and thought that the FBI would possibly  
want to talk [REDACTED] concerning RACKSTRAW's activities.

The source requested that his identity be protected  
[REDACTED]

On 2/5/79, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] California, telephone [REDACTED] appeared at the  
San Jose FBI Resident Agency and provided the following  
information:

[REDACTED] met ROBERT RACKSTRAW during [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Recently  
[REDACTED] saw a picture of RACKSTRAW in the paper and identified  
him [REDACTED]

② - Seattle  
2 - San Francisco  
WRS:rvs  
(4)

Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M

164-81-8069

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 9 1979	
FLE	

DB Cooper-16981



SF 164-220  
WRS:rvs

[redacted] met RACKSTRAW while [redacted] working in a restaurant named [redacted] California. RACKSTRAW came into the restaurant [redacted] a casual conversation occurred and [redacted] and RACKSTRAW became acquainted.

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[redacted] knew RACKSTRAW by his true name. [redacted]  
[redacted]

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Shortly after meeting, [redacted] and RACKSTRAW moved to San Jose, California. [redacted] is certain that she and RACKSTRAW were in San Jose during November of 1971. During the period in question, November, 1971, to 1973, she saw RACKSTRAW on a daily basis, [redacted] RACKSTRAW very rarely was gone overnight and [redacted] cannot remember that RACKSTRAW was gone overnight during November of 1971.

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RACKSTRAW smoked occasionally, but [redacted] could not remember his brand of cigarettes.

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Referring to RACKSTRAW's mannerisms, she described him as robust, but polite in speech, with no noticeable accent. He talked fast on occasion.

During November and December, 1971, RACKSTRAW had a full mustache, and she does not remember him shaving it off. At the time RACKSTRAW was about twenty-eight (28) years old and looked his age.

After [redacted] RACKSTRAW moved to San Jose in September or October of 1971, RACKSTRAW enrolled in and attended real estate school. About January of 1972, RACKSTRAW [redacted]

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[redacted] Later on [redacted] California, [redacted] [redacted] California. The last four numbers of her telephone number are [redacted]

In 1972, RACKSTRAW got a second job working at the Radio Shack in Cupertino, California.

[redacted] advised that there was no indication whatsoever that RACKSTRAW obtained a sizeable amount of money during the time that she knew him, 1971-1973. [redacted]

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SF 164-220  
WRS:rvs

stated that during this time, there was no indication that  
RACKSTRAW was involved in any illegal activity.



AIRTEL

3/8/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (164-2111)

FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (164-50) (RUC)

SUBJECT: NORJAK  
OO: Seattle

Re Los Angeles teletype to Sacramento, 2/5/79,  
and Sacramento airtel to Bureau, 2/6/79.

RE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW

ROBERT RACKSTRAW, San Joaquin County Jail, French  
Camp, California, refused to give consent to having major  
case prints taken without the advice of his attorney,  
[redacted] Oakland, California.

On 3/7/79, Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney [redacted]  
[redacted] Eastern District of California, Sacramento,  
California, contacted RACKSTRAW's attorney, [redacted]  
Oakland, California, and advised that [redacted] desired the  
FBI to obtain a court order prior to obtaining major case  
prints from ROBERT RACKSTRAW.

In view of the above, Sacramento is conducting  
no further investigation in this matter subsequent to receiving  
a subpoena for RACKSTRAW's major case prints.

- 2 - Bureau
- 2 - Portland (164-41)
- ② - Seattle (164-81)
- 1 - Sacramento

TRK:slb  
(7)

164-81-8070

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 10 1979	
FBI	





# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20537

## REPORT

of the

### LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

YOUR FILE NO. **164-50 (P)**  
 FBI FILE NO. **164-2111**  
 LATENT CASE NO.

March 8, 1979

TO: **SAC, Sacramento**

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RE: **NORJAK**

REFERENCE: **Airtel 2/6/79**  
 EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: **Sacramento**  
 SPECIMENS: **Copies of finger and palm prints of Robert W. Rackstraw,  
 FBI #977973E**

**The unidentified latent prints previously reported in this  
 case are not identical with the submitted prints, which are enclosed.**

**Enclosures (3)**

**2 - Seattle (164-81)**

*164-81-8071*

SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i>	INDEXED <i>[initials]</i>
SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
MAR 12 1979	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></div> LE <i>[signature]</i>	

THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

b6  
b7C

DB Cooper-16985



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype☐ Facsimile☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ UNCLAS E F T O☐ UNCLAS

Date 3/16/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (164-2111)

FROM: SAC, PORTLAND (164-41) (P)

SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
(OO: Seattle)Re ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW, Sub #933

Re Sacramento airtel to the Bureau, dated 3/8/79.

For information of all recipients, on 3/15/79, AUSA  
 [redacted] District of Oregon, Portland, Oregon, advised  
 as follows:

Departmental Attorney [redacted] telephonically advised  
 [redacted] this date that he had received a communication from one  
 [redacted] Attorney. [redacted] Oakland, California,  
 telephone [redacted] advised him that he represents  
 a client whom he did not identify who is willing to provide  
 information which will prove he is the UNSUB in this matter  
 in return for immunity from federal prosecution. [redacted]  
 instructed [redacted] to have the Portland Case Agent contact  
 [redacted] by telephone in an attempt to determine the validity  
 of this claim and to evaluate the potential for benefit to this  
 investigation.

It is noted that during the period April, 1978 to  
 March, 1979, investigation has been conducted to eliminate  
 or involve one ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW. RACKSTRAW is now  
 only 35 years old, and at the time of the hijacking in this  
 matter, would have been approximately 28 years old. UNSUB in  
 this matter was described as late 40's or early 50's in 1971,  
 with the median age of the description being 48 years. This

- 2 - Bureau
- ② - Seattle (164-81)
- 2 - San Francisco (164-220)
- 2 - Portland

RPH:cam  
 (8)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_

(Number)

(Time)

DB Cooper-16986

164-81-8072

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 20 1979	
FBI	

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PD 164-41

would indicate a disparity of approximately 20 years, and RACKSTRAW would not appear to be a very good suspect.

RACKSTRAW has been the subject of highly publicized prosecution for major crimes in California, and is now incarcerated in a California penitentiary. The Sacramento Office advised in May, 1978, that at that time RACKSTRAW was in custody feigning a back injury which required him to be transported in a wheelchair. Custodial personnel felt he was doing this in an attempt to effect a possible escape. It was noted that RACKSTRAW is a former U. S. Army Green Beret and Vietnam veteran highly skilled in the use of his hands and feet as weapons.

Sacramento Office further advised that on 5/4/78, [redacted] Stockton, California Police Department advised he has heard that [redacted] is a lawyer in Oakland, California. [redacted]

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[redacted] He wondered if this might indicate that RACKSTRAW's suspected involvement in the 1975 theft of explosives at the Felton Quarry, Santa Cruz, California, some of which were later acquired from the New World Liberation Front by the FBI at Richmond, California in early 1976, might mean that RACKSTRAW intentionally obtained the explosives for the radicals. He stated that [redacted] reportedly was formerly in partnership with [redacted] another reported [redacted] [redacted] reportedly [redacted] San Francisco Police Department, [redacted]

In view of the above information, Portland SA [redacted] [redacted] after consultation with Supervisor [redacted] of the Seattle Division, suggested to AUSA [redacted] that [redacted] in furtherance of Departmental Attorney [redacted] request. AUSA [redacted] was furnished a list of questions which could be asked anyone claiming to be UNSUB in this matter, the answers to which could only be known by the UNSUB and investigators close to the case. [redacted] was not provided with the answers to the questions.

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Subsequently, on the same date, [redacted] advised he had been in telephonic contact with [redacted] who requested the list

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PD 164-41

of questions be furnished him in writing. [ ] stated he would provide such a written list of questions to [ ] with the stipulation that [ ] not release the list of questions.

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The above for information. Portland will maintain contact with AUSA [ ] for any subsequent developments.

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ARMED AND DANGEROUS



*Memorandum*

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (164-2111)

FROM : SAC, PORTLAND (164-41) (P)

SUBJECT: NORJAK (A)  
(OO: Seattle)

DATE: 4/25/79

RE: ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW  
Sub #933

Re Portland airtel to the Bureau, dated 3/16/79.

On 4/23/79, AUSA [ ] for the District of Oregon, Portland, Oregon, advised he had received a letter from Attorney [ ] Oakland, California, [ ] This letter was a response to [ ] letter to [ ] dated 3/15/79, in which [ ] furnished [ ] with a list of questions to be answered by [ ] client prior to any negotiations or discussions concerning the possible prosecution of that client. [ ] advised the letter from [ ] stated as follows:

"Dear [ ]

"I am in receipt of your letter of 15 March, 1979, and agree to abide fully by its terms. I have discussed the contents of said letter with my client. At this point in time, he is not interested in pursuing the matter. This change in plans stems from personal problems which may well resolve themselves in the near future and allow us to once again pursue this topic.

"I shall consider the matter closed until I hear otherwise from my client and, in that event, I will contact you once again.

"Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

"Very truly yours,

"/s/ [ ]

2 - Bureau  
② - Seattle (164-81)  
2 - San Francisco (164-220)  
2 - Portland  
RPH:cam  
(8)

64-81-8073

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 28 1979	
FBI - SEATTLE	

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

DB Cooper-16989

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FM PORTLAND (164-41) P

TO LOS ANGELES (164-497) ROUTINE

SEATTLE (164-81) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

NORJAK (A), OO: SEATTLE, BUFILE 164-2111.

RE SUSPECT ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW, SUB NO. 933.

FOR INFORMATION OF LOS ANGELES, ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW HAS BEEN CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE SUSPECT IN THIS MATTER. RACKSTRAW IS CURRENTLY BELIEVED TO BE IN CUSTODY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AT FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA.

LOS ANGELES, AT FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA, WILL CONTACT LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN MAJOR CASE FINGERPRINTS OF RACKSTRAW, INCLUDING PALM PRINTS, AND FORWARD SAME IMMEDIATELY TO FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION FOR COMPARISON WITH UNIDENTIFIED LATENT FINGERPRINT IMPRESSIONS DEVELOPED IN THE HIJACKED AIR-CRAFT IN THIS MATTER.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

164-497-988

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DB Cooper-25874



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype☐ Facsimile☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate☐ Priority☒ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET☐ SECRET☐ CONFIDENTIAL☐ UNCLAS E F T O☒ UNCLASDate 2/5/79b6  
b7c

FM LOS ANGELES (164-497)

TO SEATTLE (164-81) ROUTINE *1053pm*PORTLAND (164-41) ROUTINE *1107pm*SACRAMENTO ROUTINE *1055pm*

BT

UNCLAS

NORJAK (A), OO: SEATTLE, BUFILE 164-2111.

RE PORTLAND TELETYPE TO LOS ANGELES FEBRUARY 3, 1979.

FOR INFORMATION OF SACRAMENTO, PORTLAND ADVISED IN RE TELETYPE THAT ROBERT WESLEY RACKSTRAW HAS BEEN CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBLE SUSPECT IN THIS MATTER. RACKSTRAW IS CURRENTLY BELIEVED TO BE IN CUSTODY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AT FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA.

RACKSTRAW WAS RELEASED TO THE CUSTODY OF A 

(PH), SAN JOAQUIN SHERIFF'S OFFICE, FOR RETURN TO STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA.

SACRAMENTO AT STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA, WILL CONTACT LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN MAJOR CASE FINGERPRINTS OF

JLC:fet

(1)

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b7cApproved: *TLG*Transmitted *See above*

(Number)

(Time)

FBI/DOJ

DB Cooper-25875



PAGE TWO (LA 164-497) UNCLAS

RACKSTRAW, INCLUDING PALM PRINTS, AND FORWARD SAME IMMEDIATELY TO FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION FOR COMPARISON WITH UNIDENTIFIED LATENT FINGERPRINT IMPRESSIONS DEVELOPED IN THE HIJACKED AIR-CRAFT IN THIS MATTER.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

#

DB Cooper-25876