

March 3, 1932.

After examining the witnesses at the Lindbergh estate, after sizing up the general lay of the land, both inside and outside of the Lindbergh home, and after noting the terrible confusion in and around the house, and the various members of the different police forces, I immediately realized that if any clues were left behind, in or around the Lindbergh home, that they had been entirely obliterated by this time, and would be of no earthly use, and because of the terrible police confusion and blundering that was going on I thought that it would be best to go back to New York where I could digest the unusual investigation that I had made, and determine for myself the definite procedure for action.

I therefore asked Mr. Thayer and Mr. Hennessey to drive me back to New York, to the home of Mr. Edward Aronow, my attorney, at Number One Christopher Street. We arrived there, and Mr. Thayer immediately sent for his stenographer and we dictated a preliminary report of our observations, and after putting them on paper and stating them, I realized that for the time being it would be absolutely fruitless to start working from the scene of the crime, and decided that it would be much better for me to tackle this case from the underworld channels, and determine if possible whether it was the work of an organized gang of kidnapers, most of whom were known by me, and to look for the best emissaries to send out to the various different states, and have them keep under cover, and see what they could learn from these gangs in their states, which were better known to them, whether they had anything to do with this kidnapping, or had any direct or indirect knowledge as to what "mob" or organized group might have had something to do with the kidnapping. I sent eight men who I knew were best fitted for the job

to persons in the states who I knew would not arouse any suspicion in underworld channels, and I instructed them definitely that if they learned of any material knowledge, to phone me at a telephone number which I had given them, and instructed them very definitely that if I was not there to answer the phone, that they could talk to Mr. Aronow with the same confidence as they would have in me if I were to answer the phone, and I instructed Mr. Aronow to sit at this telephone day and night, and to take every report and relay it to me, wherever I happened to be. I told them that I would be in constant touch with him so that he would know where to get in touch with me.

Having completed that part of the job, I immediately set out to find a man by the name of Owney Madden, a man I have had occasion to know for a great many years, and I consider him very trustworthy, and the proper man to advise me in such a matter. I had considerable difficulty in reaching this man, and it was not until midnight of March 5th that I met Owney Madden in an uptown office building, and realizing the delicacy of the mission that I was on, I had to be careful in what I had to say to Madden, that he could not consider my visit as an accusation that he might have something to do with this atrocious crime, and I was rather shaky and nervous, because from the time that I was hired for this particular job, on the morning of March 2nd, I had as yet not had any sleep and was getting very tired.

I opened my conversation with Madden by asking, "Owney, I am here on a very delicate mission. You know that I had formerly been a government man, that I have had any number of transactions, some that you heard about, and before I impart to you my mission, I want to ask of you your frank opinion of me, and that is, in the great number of years that you have known me have you found me to be "right".

Owney thereupon answered, "Mickey, you need no introduction to me. Your reputation precedes you. Not alone have I always found you to be "right" but I do not know of any one man that I have had occasion to talk with or deal

with that ever knew you, that did not always have the same opinion, that you were "right" and could be trusted with a man's life and liberty; so you need not hesitate to tell me frankly why you are here."

I immediately pulled out a copy of the ransom note, which was a very good resemblance of the original, I laid it down on his desk, asked him to read it, and I awaited his reactions. Owney looked very startled, and was, from what I observed, both dazed and amazed at its contents, and as he looked up at me, I asked him whether he understood the meaning of it. He said to me, "Mickey, I have been sick in bed for the past four days, and that is why you probably could not reach me in the last couple of days, and the reason why this note so completely took me off my feet was because I had no occasion to read about this case but I presume that this note refers to the Lindbergh case, as a certain reporter of a certain newspaper located me at my home during the day and told me of the Lindbergh kidnapping, and asked me whether I could give him any definite lead in this case, and here you are with the ransom note."

I said, "Owney, that is right. This is the Lindbergh case. I was just as startled, when, on the morning of March 2nd a man by the name of Robert H. Thayer, an associate of Colonel William J. Donovan, and a son-in-law of Congresswoman Ruth Pratt, confronted me in a court room of the Municipal Court, while I was on the stand, as the plaintiff in a check case, before Judge Roeder, and waited in the courtroom until my trial was over, and then apprized me of the fact that Colonel Lindbergh's baby had been kidnapped the previous night. As a client of Colonel Donovan's mother-in-law, and a friend of the family, he and Colonel Donovan owed it to the Lindberghs to try to solve this kidnapping for them, or at least to do everything they could to help solve it, and in view of the fact that I had done some very effective work for the office of William J. Donovan before that, and that they thought I was the proper man for this job, and they told me that they would confer

with Colonel Breckenridge, whom they knew, and also with Colonel Lindbergh, tell them of my very effective work, and recommend me as the proper man for this job.

I further told Owey of my meeting with Colonel Breckenridge, at 3:00 in the morning of March 3rd, of the terms that I laid down to the Colonel, namely that I would not act in an official capacity, would not report my actions through any constituted law enforcement body, be it Federal, State or local, that I would only take this job as an independant, lone-handed emmissary, and that they fully agreed upon, and therefore nothing that you and I would have to say here, now or hereafter no one but you, myself, Colonel Breckenridge and Colonel Lindbergh would know. With that assurance can I enlist your aid? Owey immediately replied, "Mickey, if that is the situation, you can have my body and soul, and have every aid that I have at my command, and make use of me in any way that you think could help in this picture.

I proceeded to give him a flimsy of what I had done from the moment that these terms were agreed upon, up to the very moment that I was talking to him, spoke to him of all that I had seen on the grounds and what I had found out, and the very first question that I asked him was, from his experience, could he throw any light as to what mob could possibly have perpetrated this crime. He studied and studied the note, and he told me that he could not give me an off hand answer, but that he would get working, keep his ear to the ground, and see what he could find out. I left him, and he gave me three telephone numbers where I could reach him day and night.

In the meantime, while this conversation was going on, Thayer and Hennessey were waiting for me in an automobile, and we decided to drive out to Hopewell. It was now three o'clock in the morning of March 6th. We first ~~found~~ ^{phoned} Colonel Breckenridge and asked him to ~~send~~ ^{send} us at the Baltimore

Lunch, in Princeton, at 4:30 in the morning, which he consented to do, and when we arrived there I reported to Breckenridge that I had enlisted Owney Madden's assistance, told him of our conversation, and he was very highly pleased. In the meantime, he took out another letter which had been received from the kidnapers, which at a glance, from the very definite signature could be seen to be the actual second communication from them, as it was identical with the first letter that was left on the windowsill in the baby's room, the night that the baby was kidnapped.

This letter set forth that the kidnapers had increased their demand for ransom to \$70,000.00, and they gave as an excuse for this increase of \$20,000.00 that because of the fact that Colonel Lindbergh had disregarded the original instructions in the first letter asking him not to notify the police and to keep this matter quiet, and because of the fact that such a terrible confusion was being set up by the police and by the press, that they had to take someone else in with them, and having to declare this new party in would cost the Colonel \$20,000.00 dollars more. They further instructed the Colonel not to make this letter or its contents known, to get rid of the police and the press, and that ^{was} his only chance to get the baby back. They further suggested what they wished this \$70,000.00 to be composed of, and further suggested to sit back and wait for their next instructions.

I pleaded with Colonel Breckenridge in the name of God and the baby's safety not to show this letter to any of the police, especially to Colonel Schwarzkopf, whom Colonel Lindbergh had placed very much faith and confidence in, because it was my experience that a policeman once is a policeman always, and if Colonel Schwarzkopf knew of this letter, so would his immediate subordinate, and if his immediate subordinate knew it, everybody else would know it and in that way it would be a very difficult job to finally get this matter out of the hands of the police, and I acquainted him