



**PRIME AIDES**—Quinn Tamm (seated), inspector in charge of FBI identification in Washington, D. C., examines a set of fingerprints held by Jerome Butler, of Hearst newspapers Wash-

ington staff. The prints were sent via International News Soundphoto and the Los Angeles Examiner to identify the Los Angeles slaying victim as Elizabeth Short.

# POLICE AIDED BY SOUNDPHOTO

By Ray Richards  
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 WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.— Identification of 22-year-old Elizabeth Short as the Los Angeles victim of one of the most brutal murders in crime annals was a cross-country feat of enterprise and scientific coordination today.

Participating were the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Los Angeles Examiner, the Washington Bureau of the Hearst newspapers, International News photos and Detective Sergeant Harry Hansen and a Brown of Los Angeles.

Successful, almost instantaneous transmission by wire across the continent of the delicate whorls, loops and "rents" of the dead girl's fingerprints is believed to have expanded the boundaries of crime detection.

## PRaise GIVEN

Praising the Examiner's enterprise and the clarity of the INP Soundphotos, the FBI said it considered the identification "an outstanding accomplishment."

The Examiner dispatched the prints to Washington by the INP which sends images by sound impulse through leased telephone wires in the most up-to-the-minute development of picture transmission.

Facilities for a check of the Soundphotoed images among the 104,000,000 separate fingerprints in the vast FBI files in Washington had been arranged by the Hearst Washington Bureau with FBI officials.

Within an hour after the bureau had delivered the prints to the FBI, the identification had been made.

## IMPERFECT

Given perfect fingerprints, it would have taken the FBI only a few minutes to locate those of the girl among the 104,000,000, so perfectly organized is the agency's file system.

But the dead fingers had not provided good prints.

The FBI undertook the task of "building up" the blank spots and other defects in the prints by a system which represents the final advance in identification methods.

With defective prints, as in the case of the Los Angeles murder victim, much of the search had to be conducted by hand, among filing cabinets crowding a former National Guard armory four times the expanse of a regulation football field.

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