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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (137-1044)

SUBJECT: SENATOR JOHN F. KENNEDY
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On 3/22/60, PCI JOSEPH HEGEMAN, who operates a public relations business in New Orleans, La., furnished the following information:

HEGEMAN stated that among his clients in the public relations field are JERRY WALD, Hollywood motion picture producer, and PHILLIP FRANK KASTEL, New Orleans top hoodlum. HEGEMAN stated that in the course of representing KASTEL and other clients, he travels frequently to Las Vegas, Nev., Hollywood, and Miami, Florida. He said that in the course of representing KASTEL's gambling interests, he has met a number of well known hoodlums, such as MEYER LANSKY, whom he described as a gambler operating in Miami and Havana, Cuba, and JOE FISCHETTI, Aka. JOE FISH, who HEGEMAN believes is the dominant figure in the racketeering element in the Miami area. HEGEMAN claims that as a result of his contacts with these individuals, he has met socially a number of their associates, whose identities are not known to him, and whom he has not sought to identify, feeling that inquisitiveness on his part might be detrimental to his relationship with KASTEL.

In this connection, HEGEMAN stated that on occasions he has overheard conversations between these individuals

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52 APR 13 1960 Special Agent in Charge

DIRECTOR

concerning their activities, some of which have no significance to him. He pointed out that he has never exhibited any inquisitiveness concerning these conversations because he felt "it would not be healthy for him." HEGEMAN related that within the past week he has returned from the Miami area and while there he learned from individuals, whom he declined to identify, but whom he claims are members of the underworld element, that FISCHETTI and other unidentified hoodlums are financially supporting and actively endeavoring to secure the nomination for the Presidency as democratic candidate, Senator JOHN F. KENNEDY. He stated as evidence of this fact, FRANK SINATRA is going to campaign for KENNEDY in several of the primaries. HEGEMAN stated he has known SINATRA personally since the latter has been connected with motion pictures in Hollywood and he knows that SINATRA is a nephew of JOE FISCHETTI. SINATRA is only booked to appear after clearance is obtained with FISCHETTI.

He advised that in addition to SINATRA, a song writer named JIMMY VAN HUSEN is in Miami writing campaign songs for KENNEDY. HEGEMAN advised that VAN HUSEN is SINATRA's song writer and at the present time, VAN HUSEN's secretary is rooming with an airline hostess of National Airlines named BARBARA JEAN GALL.

HEGEMAN advised that BARBARA JEAN GALL is a native of Miami Springs, Fla. and in the past has associated with various hoodlums in the Miami area. HEGEMAN stated that it is his opinion that SINATRA and VAN HUSEN are being made available to assist Senator KENNEDY's campaign whereby FISCHETTI and other hoodlums will have an entre to Senator KENNEDY.

HEGEMAN advised that Senator KENNEDY's brother-in-law, PETER LAWFORD, a well known movie actor, has been cultivated by SINATRA and they are now apparently close associates. He advised that it is Las Vegas gossip that LAWFORD has a financial interest in the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas. HEGEMAN claimed that the controlling interest in the Sands Hotel is owned by DOC STATCHER, although the latter's name does not appear as an owner. He advised that it is his understanding that LAWFORD has an interest of one half of one per cent in the hotel.

HEGEMAN stated when in Miami he had occasion to overhear a conversation which indicated that Senator KENNEDY

had been compromised with a woman in Las Vegas, Nevada. He stated that he knows that Senator KENNEDY was staying at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas about 6 or 8 weeks ago during the filming of a movie entitled "Ocean 11," starring DEAN MARTIN. He stated that he observed Senator KENNEDY in the night club of the Sands Hotel, during this period, but has no idea as to the identity of any possible female companion. He stated that when Senator KENNEDY was in Miami, Fla., an airline hostess named SUSAN STALLINGS, who is a native of Baltimore, Md. was sent to visit Sen. KENNEDY. He stated that he learned this from an airline hostess whom he did not want to involve and whom he declined to identify. He stated that he had no idea of the date Sen. KENNEDY was in Florida.

HEGEMAN stated that all of the above information has come from members of the hoodlum element he has met and their associates, and he does not desire to identify them, and in some instances does not know the identities of some of these individuals. He stated that there is no way he can check the accuracy of this information as he is afraid to ask questions of any of these individuals, but he believes that this information is correct. HEGEMAN said that he was considerably disturbed when he learned this information, as he would hate to see a pawn of the hoodlum element such as SINATRA have access to the White House.

Although it is realized that the above information as furnished by PCI HEGEMAN is to a great extent non-specific, it is being brought to the Bureau's attention in view of the prominence of Senator KENNEDY. HEGEMAN advised that he will be proceeding to Mexico City within the next few days where he will be a guest in the Bomber Hotel while negotiating with the Mexican movie industry for distribution rights of Mexican motion pictures in the United States. He stated his stay in Mexico City will be indefinite. Upon his return, HEGEMAN will be followed closely to assure that any additional information received by him is made available to this office.

BACHMAN