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PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, ALBANY

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT BY
UNIDENTIFIED FBI AGENT,
AT APALACHIN, NEW YORK
DONALD C. SHOEMAKER - INFORMANT
PERSONNEL MATTER

73
Re my Radiogram, 11/10/59, and telephone call to
Assistant Director JOHN MOHR by STEPHEN S. SMITH, ASAC,
11/9/59.

Since this matter is concerned with the case
entitled, "U.S. vs. BONANNO, ET AL, Southern District of
New York, Criminal 159-35, TOP HOODLUM PROGRAM," two
additional copies of this Airtel and two additional copies
of the enclosed letterhead memorandum have been forwarded
for Bureau use in connection with that matter.

Enclosed are 6 copies of a letterhead memorandum
captioned, "DONALD C. SHOEMAKER, 39 Walnut Street,
Binghamton, New York," setting out allegations made by
SHOEMAKER that in late September or early October of 1959,

5 - Bureau (Encls. 8) *Bonanno, Joseph*
1 - New York (U.S. vs. BONANO, ET AL File)
2 - Albany
AVH/hcv
(8)

152-4225
NOT RECORDED
87 NOV 27 1959

ENCLOSURE

FM
23 DEC 1 1959 *GP*

ORIGINAL FILED IN 63-4421-352

Mrs. MELVIN JOHN (LUCY) BLOSSOM had said that if she was not left alone (in regard to testifying in U. S. vs. BONANNO, ET AL), she would swear that an FBI man got fresh with her and that when this agent and another came to her house to serve a subpoena on her they placed the subpoena down her front, pointing to her bosom.

SHOEMAKER alleges she said that this happened in the past three or four months and involved investigators who had been contacting her in the past three or four months.

For the Bureau's information, Mrs. BLOSSOM has not been contacted by any FBI Special Agent for over a year and no FBI Agent, of course, has served any subpoena on Mrs. BLOSSOM.

It is pointed out that Mrs. BLOSSOM'S husband, MELVIN JOHN BLOSSOM, was formerly Confidential Informant AL 3002-C. He was initially contacted by Albany Agents on 4/28/58, after a prior contact by Buffalo Agents while he was being treated at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Bath, New York. BLOSSOM was designated a Confidential Informant by Albany letter, 8/6/58, and was deleted as an informant, for lack of production, by letter dated 3/24/59. Mrs. BLOSSOM was seen on occasions by agents in connection with locating her husband.

In SHOEMAKER'S statement, allegations also appear that Mrs. BLOSSOM'S father, PETER STRANO, 39 Walnut Street, Binghamton, New York (who has in the past been committed to a mental institution, according to SHOEMAKER'S statement), instructed Mr. and Mrs. BLOSSOM before they went before the Grand Jury (in New York City) not to say anything about what happened at JOSEPH BARBARA'S and they agreed not to do so. Among other items, SHOEMAKER further alleged that ~~Mrs.~~ the BLOSSOMSSaid, in his presence, that the BARBARAS had a secret tunnel on the property and that something in it would be quite a surprise to somebody.

Two Thermofax copies of SHOEMAKER'S original statement are attached for the Bureau's information. SHOEMAKER has requested that the information he furnished be held confidential.

In respect to SHOEMAKER, it is noted (as set out in detail in the attached letterhead memorandum) that in 1950 he was charged with soliciting in respect to his wife and that they both received jail terms in respect thereto. In addition, as set out in the memorandum, information was received that he was again soliciting for his wife.

In respect to Mrs. LUCY BLOSSOM, she was operated on about two and a half weeks ago at the Tioga General Hospital, Waverly, New York, for breast cancer and returned to the hospital on 11/9/59, for another operation.

On 11/13/59 Mrs. BLOSSOM's doctor advised that Mrs. BLOSSOM would be released from Tioga General Hospital on the evening of 11/13/59 and would be at her residence and available for interview at that time.

In view of this agents from Albany are proceeding to Apalachin, New York to interview Mrs. BLOSSOM regarding this matter on November 14, 1959. The Bureau will be promptly advised of the results of this interview.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Albany, New York

November 13, 1959

DONALD C. SHOEMAKER
39 Walnut Street,
Binghamton, New York

On November 9, 1959, the captioned individual volunteered the following information to Special Agents Patrick A. Munley and Stanley S. Czarnecki of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Binghamton, New York, in the form of a signed statement as follows:

"November 9, 1959
Binghamton, N.Y.

"I, Donald C. Shoemaker, 39 Walnut Street, Binghamton, New York, make the following voluntary statement to Patrick A. Munley and Stanley Czarnecki, who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. They have made no promises or threats to me. I contacted the above mentioned Agents to furnish them the following information.

"I am acquainted with Peter Strano, who is the father of Lucy Blossom. He resides at my home in a first floor apartment at 39 Walnut Street. I live on the second floor. Peter Strano has lived at my house about a year and I have known him since 1949 when we both worked at Endicott Johnson Shoe factory.

"Sometime in late September or early October Lucy Blossom came to see her father about getting money to buy clothes to go to New York City to appear before the Grand Jury investigating the Barbara incident. At that time she was in my kitchen which is on the second floor of the house and my wife Ella and Peter Strano, her father, were also there.

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ENCLOSURE

Re: Donald C. Shoemaker

"Lucy Blossom was talking about going to New York and she said 'if they did not leave her alone she would swear with her hand on the bible that an FBI man got fresh with her.'

"Concerning investigators who have been contacting her the past three or four months she stated that some time ago when an FBI Agent came to her home she told him that she would swear that he got fresh with her. She also stated that about two weeks after the above incident same FBI Agent and one other Agent came to her house at which time they served a subpoena on her and they placed the subpoena down her front pointing to her bosom. She said that this happened in the past 3 or 4 months.

"After the Blossoms went to New York on another occasion concerning Federal Court proceedings they said they thought the Russells squealed on them. The Russells are another couple who worked for the Barbaras and the Blossoms think the Russells told the District Attorney that the Blossoms knew more than they were telling regarding the Barbara incident.

"Shortly after the Barbara incident while I was visiting Peter Streno at his former residence in Endicott, Melvin Blossom was also there and stated that all the men who were at the Barbara barbecue took an oath after the New York State Police raid that they never would disclose what took place at the Barbara estate and that if anyone of them would talk, his life would be taken.

"Peter Streno instructed Melvin and Lucy Blossom before they went to appear before the Grand Jury, not to say anything about what happened at Barbara's. Lucy Blossom and Melvin Blossom agreed to Streno's instructions. This conversation took place at my home. It took place just before the Blossoms were to appear in Federal Court in New York City.

Re: Donald C. Shoemaker

"About two or three months ago, Streno, while visiting in my apartment told me and my wife that at some future date Mr. Russell would appear missing. He didn't say who would do it but Streno inferred that Mr. Russell talked too much to the investigators concerning the Barbara incident.

"Streno has repeatedly told me that Lucy Blossom will never tell the truth concerning what she knew about the Barbara incident.

"During the past year, during the course of many conversations between myself and the Blossoms, they both stated that if they ever talked about what they knew about the Barbara's incident their lives would not be worth two cents, therefore, if possible, they will attempt not to say anything before any court proceeding.

"Lucy Blossom also told me that Mrs. Russell was shown some photographs of some of the men present at the Barbara incident by an investigator and she identified some of the pictures. Lucy Blossom said that Mrs. Russell was a damn fool for identifying those pictures.

"Lucy Blossom told her father while in my presence that the Barbara's had a secret tunnel on the estate which entrance is now covered and the Barbara's had kept things in it.

"Melvin Blossom told me that when the investigators were looking for guns in the woods on the estate after the raid, he was surprised that they did not find the tunnel because, if they had, they could have have found something in it and it would be quite a surprise to somebody.

"Melvin Blossom also told me that he knew in advance that all the men were coming to visit Joseph Barbara, because he had to wash all the Barbara cars, clean up the garage and the barbecue area and also to pick up the food. He also told me

Re: Donald C. Shoemaker

"that one of the Barbaras told him in advance that they were going to have guests at their home on the day of the incident.

"Melvin Blossom also said that at the time of the raid, he observed some of the visitors running into the woods and he seen those men throw guns into the woods.

"I have read this statement, which consists of this page and three others which I have initialed. It is true and correct.

/s/"Donald C. Shoemaker

"Witness

"Patrick A. Munley, Special Agent, FBI 11/9/59.

"Stanley S. Czarnecki, Special Agent, FBI, 11/9/59.

"I also want to state that Peter Streno asked me for \$1800.00 on the night of October 23, 1959, and told me I would have to have it by October 25, 1959. He gave no reason for this request but told me he would get statements from people so that I would lose my home and my children. I have talked to the District Attorney, Broome County, Binghamton, N.Y. about this. Since that time Peter Streno was committed to the State Hospital for observation. I signed the complaint against him and Doctors Dixon and Sergeant committed him to the State Hospital. He is still at the State Hospital. Since Peter Streno was committed his son Steve Streno, Syracuse, N.Y. called me and my wife answered the phone and he said he would fix both of us and hung up. I have not heard anything more from him.

"I have read the above statement and it is true.

/s/"Donald C. Shoemaker

"Witness

"Patrick A. Munley, Special Agent, FBI, U.S. Dept. of Justice 11/9/59

"Stanley S. Czarnecki, SA, FBI, 11/9/59."

Re: Donald C. Shoemaker

No Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been in contact with Mrs. LUCY BLOSSOM within the past year and no FBI Special Agent has served any subpoena on Mrs. BLOSSOM.

In regard to SHOEMAKER, on November 9, 1959, Assistant Chief of Police, JOSEPH SULLIVAN, Binghamton, New York Police Department, advised that SHOEMAKER had been under investigation by his Department's Vice Squad for soliciting for his wife and bringing men to his apartment for purposes of prostitution. Assistant Chief SULLIVAN said that his police files did not reflect an arrest for either SHOEMAKER or his wife ELLA SHOEMAKER.

LAWRENCE NABINGER, Patrolman, Endicott, New York Police Department, on November 9, 1959, said that DONALD C. SHOEMAKER of 632 Dickinson Street, Town of Union, New York, had been arrested on December 9, 1950, charged with soliciting and vagrancy. Patrolman NABINGER said that SHOEMAKER was sentenced to six months in the Onondaga County Jail and fined \$500.00. Patrolman NABINGER also advised that ELLA SHOEMAKER, wife of DONALD SHOEMAKER had been arrested on the same date for soliciting (prostitution) and had been sentenced to Bedford Hills Women's Prison for an indefinite term.

NABINGER said that police sources had furnished information that SHOEMAKER was again soliciting for his wife and currently resided at 39 Walnut Street, Binghamton, New York.

On November 9, 1959, DAVID FOULKE, Broome County Sheriff's Office, Binghamton, New York, advised he had no arrest record for DONALD or ELLA SHOEMAKER except the arrest by the Endicott Police Department, above mentioned.

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Inquiry determined that Mrs. MELVIN JOHN (LUCY) BLOSSOM, mentioned in above statement by SHOEMAKER, had a breast operation approximately two and one-half weeks ago, for cancer, and that her condition required that she return to the Tioga General Hospital, Waverly, New York, on November 9, 1959, for additional treatment.

Mrs. BLOSSOM's last home address was Route 1, Post Mobile Homes, Trailer Camp, Apalachin, New York.

This memorandum is loaned to you by the FBI and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.