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TO : Director, FBI (92-2989)

DATE: 11/17/58

FD-217 to SU, MM, M, WAVA, 11/25/58

FROM : SAC, Salt Lake City (92-84)

SUBJECT: AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA
ANTI-RACKETEERING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/2/82 BY SP4ORM/BJR
1-18-97

5668 SLD/MSR
(JFK)

JOHN (SLIM) EWING, who is being developed by the Salt Lake City Office as a PCI, and whose identity should be protected, was contacted on 11/6/58. He owns the Ewing Manufacturing Company, Las Vegas, which company makes and installs locks and other safety mechanisms on all types of gambling devices. He installs this equipment for most of the casinos in Las Vegas and he is well acquainted with gambling figures in this area.

EWING stated he had "just returned" from a trip to Havana, Cuba, where he was shown around for "a few days" by JAKE LANSKY. (LANSKY is a Miami Top Hoodlum.) He said LANSKY has an interest in the Riviera Hotel in Havana, and spends most of his time in Cuba.

Regarding the slot machine operation in that country he stated the government gets 30 % of the take from the slot machines and government agents carry the keys. There was also a 30% import on machines going into Cuba until a short time ago. Recently a law was passed prohibiting the import into the country of any machines. The reason behind this, according to EWING, was that the gambling figures in Havana had "more or less" given the Tropicana Hotel to the government group that controls gambling. This was to keep them happy and keep the pressure off the other places. The Tropicana had all three-wheel machines. The Hilton Hotel started to ship in some four-wheel machines and these were drawing business away from the Tropicana. Consequently the brother-in-law of the president of Cuba, who is spokesman for the government group, arranged for passage of the restrictive import law.

EWING said he talked to RAUL GONZALES, who is Business Agent of the Hilton Hotel and has a 5% interest in the Hotel. GONZALES contracted with EWING to make equipment for thirty four-wheel machines. He was instructed to ship the devices to

- 4 - Bureau
 - (2 Legal Attache, Havana)
 - 2 - Miami
 - 1 - Salt Lake City
- RBT:FR
(7)

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Handwritten signatures and initials, including "Carpenter" and "JFK".

SU 92-84

the company's Miami Office. GONZALES said he was getting in thirty new machines from the Jennings Manufacturing Company in Chicago. EWING asked him how he was getting around the import law and GONZALES stated this law "is for the peons."

EWING stated the owners of the Hilton Hotel tried to persuade him to come to Havana and set up a factory to manufacture slot machines. He said he is not going to set up this plant because of the unsettled political situation in Cuba. He said he did line up a few contracts and may make some equipment in addition to the thirty devices ordered by the Hilton.

EWING said government officials from the collectors on up are getting "fat" from Havana gambling and he is convinced that as soon as they learn enough to run the show themselves, they will kick everyone else out of the country.

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