

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI  
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90104-10240  
RECORD SERIES : HQ  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 92-2940-83

Released under the John  
F. Kennedy  
Assassination Records  
Collection Act of 1992  
(44 USC 2107 Note).  
Case#:NW 56792 Date:  
4-10-2018

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI  
FROM : PG  
TO : HQ

TITLE :

DATE : 03/03/1961  
PAGES : 17

SUBJECTS :

SEBASTIAN JOHN LARocca

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified  
RESTRICTIONS : 4; 11(a)  
CURRENT STATUS : Redact  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 07/31/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE, APPROVAL OF IRS

COMMENTS : RPT

CRIMINAL INFORMANT COVERAGE

The following individuals are presently being utilized by the Pittsburgh Office in the SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA investigation:

PG 573-C, who is extremely friendly with the GENOVESE brothers and particularly FIORE GENOVESE, younger brother of MIKE GENOVESE, and who is presently being utilized for the general coverage of the Red Eagle Club and its visitors.

PG 585-C, who is well acquainted with most of Pittsburgh's Top Hoodlums and who was formerly employed as a waitress in the Red Eagle Club, once known as the Genovese Cocktail Lounge, 412 Larimer Avenue, Pittsburgh. Informant still visits this establishment and comes in constant contact with MIKE GENOVESE and other members of Pittsburgh's racketeering element in her role as a medium-priced prostitute. Informant is presently traveling with Mrs. JULIA MINTZ, widow of JAKE MINTZ, co-owner of EZZARD CHARLES, former world's heavyweight boxing champion. She is presently being utilized for the coverage of the Genovese-La Rocca-Nelson interests.

GEORGE "MOON" MESSER, a PCI who is presently very active in Pittsburgh numbers operations and who was arrested during the month of August, 1958, in connection with his operation. He is intimately acquainted with many Pittsburgh top hoodlums and racketeers through association with them when they began their racket careers. He is presently being utilized for coverage of the Genovese-Nelson interests and is also contributing information regarding the VOLPE brothers who are close associates of GENOVESE and LA ROCCA.

GEORGE "ZIP" ZAPPA, a PCI of the Pittsburgh Office presently engaged in racket activity in the City of Pittsburgh who is being utilized for general coverage of lottery and numbers operations in the Pittsburgh area.

HENRY J. BARBER, a PCI of the Pittsburgh Office who is part owner of the notorious gambling establishment at Chester, W. Va., known as Club 30, who is being utilized for information concerning the club and the interest in it of Pittsburgh hoodlums associated with both LA ROCCA and GENOVESE.

-C-  
COVER PAGE

10109-10510

PG 92-226

Miss MARIAN FOGEL, a PCI of the Pittsburgh Office who is being utilized for information concerning Pittsburgh prostitution activities and as a check on the activities of PG 585-C.

AL BUCK, former Allegheny County Detective and now Vice-President of the Fidelity Trust Company, Loan Department, Pittsburgh, who is being utilized for his knowledge of the Bankers Exchange in Pittsburgh from which he can obtain information regarding bank loans made to Pittsburgh top hoodlums. BUCK is also familiar with the activities of several of Pittsburgh's top hoodlums, particularly those of LA ROCCA, from having worked on criminal matters for many years in the City of Pittsburgh.

HERMAN ISRAEL, a confidential source of the Pittsburgh Office who is being utilized for information concerning the MANNARINO organization in New Kensington, Pa., and who is also furnishing information regarding tie-ups with the GENOVESE organization in Pittsburgh.

WILLIAM A. DOBKIN, a confidential source of the Pittsburgh Office who was extremely helpful to Pittsburgh Agents during the investigation of the RALPH KINER extortion investigation several years ago and whose brother-in-law, NORMAN FARBER, is a member of the MANNARINO organization.

In an effort to increase criminal informant coverage, the PCIs under development are being contacted on a continuing and regular basis so that information obtained from them may be used on a day-to-day basis in connection with spot surveillances of the establishments frequented by the subject when he is in the Pittsburgh vicinity.

-D-  
COVER PAGE

10104-10000

PG 92-226

INFORMANT COVERAGE RELATING TO THIS REPORT

PG T-1 is PG 573-C, who was contacted by SA JOHN S. PORTELLA, on 2/24/61.

PG T-2 is PG 615-C, who was contacted by SA THOMAS G. FORSYTH, III, on 2/4/61.

PG T-3 is PG 622-C\*, who was contacted by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE, on 2/10;17 and 20/61.

PG T-4 is AUGUST BECKER, a potential criminal informant of the Pittsburgh Office, who was contacted by SA VOEGE, on 2/10/61.

PG T-5 is PG 585-C, who was contacted by SA VOEGE, on 2/2 and 19/61 and 3/1/61.

PG T-6 is GEORGE STRAKA, an Internal Revenue agent attached to the Fraud (Racket) Section, Room 827, Fulton Building, Pittsburgh, Pa., who was contacted by SA VOEGE and SA DONALD G. FISCHER on 2/10/61, and who has requested that his identity be concealed.

PG T-7 is PG 601-C, who was contacted by SA DAMON W. PITCHER, on 2/23/61.

-E\*-  
COVER PAGE

20101-109113

patrols in the locality. He advised that he has alerted his patrolmen to the importance of LA ROCCA and the possibility of embarrassment to the McCandless Township Police Department as a result of publicity given to the activities of LA ROCCA. He stated that his men have been instructed to notify him of any unusual developments in this regard so that he might immediately contact the Pittsburgh Office of the FBI.

B. ASSOCIATES

Recent Information Regarding the Associates of LA ROCCA Engaged in Racketeering Activities

*Pa*  
PG T-1, who has expressed an unwillingness to appear before any future Federal or state proceedings, advised that FRANK JOSEPH VALENTI has returned to the Pittsburgh vicinity and is once again appearing "in the open" and endeavoring to exert his temporarily-lost influence in the area. He said that VALENTI, a close associate and one time lieutenant of LA ROCCA, appeared at the Red Eagle Club, formerly known as the Genovese Cocktail Lounge, 412 Larimer Avenue, Pittsburgh, on the evening of February 23, 1961, and became extremely angry when he saw the informant, with whom he has had a falling out, tending bar for the establishment. The Red Eagle Club is operated by MIKE GENOVESE, protege of LA ROCCA, who attended the Apalachin conference during November, 1957.

The aforementioned informant advised that in order to appease VALENTI, FIORE GENOVESE, younger brother of MIKE, who operates the bar, dismissed the Pittsburgh informant. Other Pittsburgh sources of information are presently being contacted to ascertain whether or not VALENTI fits into the LA ROCCA organizational picture for the future and whether he intends to once again become prominent in Pittsburgh rackets.

VALENTI voluntarily surrendered himself to the Monroe County District Attorney at Rochester, N. Y., on January 18, 1961. He had been indicted in Rochester for vote fraud and was released on \$1,500 bail following his surrender to face felony charges. Technically, VALENTI was charged with registering and voting while under conviction for a felony and registering

MANNARINO brothers in the operation of their gambling establishments in the New Kensington area. The informant stated that he had arranged to take movies of the wedding and at the reception in an effort to determine the identities of the out-of-town guests in attendance. He said that MANGINI and his bride would honeymoon in Hawaii and that a representative of the LA ROCCA-GENOVESE organization, FELIX "PHIL" GENOVESE, did not appear as expected, according to rumors.

PG T-3, who has expressed an unwillingness to appear before any future Federal or state proceedings, advised that on either February 9, 1961 or February 10, 1961, MIKE GENOVESE had flown to California to "give his oldest daughter away." He stated that although some people would possibly think that he was accompanied on this trip by SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA he was not and that LA ROCCA was vacationing in Florida.

PG T-4, who has expressed an unwillingness to appear before any future Federal or state proceedings, was contacted upon the receipt of this travel information relating to GENOVESE and he advised that GENOVESE left on Thursday morning, February 9, 1961, for Los Angeles, Calif., on a jet flight. He stated that he believes GENOVESE was accompanied by ARTHUR D. "ARCHIE" NELSON, his alleged front at the Phoenix Motel in Monroeville, Pa.; that he would possibly return on or about February 13, 1961. He said that GENOVESE told him prior to leaving that he would give his oldest daughter away in marriage to a young boy whom he had never met but who is "clean." He believed this meant that the boy is not engaged in any type of racketeering activity. The informant said that he believes the oldest daughter of GENOVESE is named YVONNE and that she is about 20 years of age. He said the former wife of GENOVESE is named CARMELLA and that she resides in San Pedro, Calif., where the wedding was to take place. He said GENOVESE did not mention the name LA ROCCA to him and that he therefore did not think that anyone would accompany GENOVESE besides NELSON.

The aforementioned information was immediately furnished to the Los Angeles Office which advised that GENOVESE arrived at Los Angeles on February 10, 1961, attended the wedding of his daughter at San Pedro, Calif., on February 11, 1961, and was staying at the Thunderbird Hotel, International Airport, Los Angeles, Calif.

101011-10310

REVIEWED BY <sup>ERS</sup> ~~ED~~/JFK TASK FORCE.

ON 7-14-98 dal

- RELEASE IN FULL  
 RELEASE IN PART  
 TOTAL DENIAL

PG 92-226

has observed "young Johnnie" LA ROCCA at the establishment and noted that he was visiting Pittsburgh from his Johnstown, Pa., residence during the week of February 19, 1961. She added that he frequented a few of his old haunts and was evidently "business-minded" during this visit.

PG T-3 advised that officers of the North Star Cement Block Company are extremely upset about the recent prison sentences imposed and adverse publicity directed against highly-placed officials of the General Electric Company and the Westinghouse Electric Corporation for price-fixing and antitrust violations. He stated that the North Star Cement Block Company is ostensibly a member of "an association," not otherwise described, but believed to be an organization of Pittsburgh or Western Pennsylvania cement block manufacturers.

The aforementioned informant stated that members are engaged in a conspiracy which may include price-fixing and that North Star officials, JOHN CONTI and ROY VEY, are so jumpy lest they become involved that they are making up a story to the effect that an anonymous caller told CONTI that a representative of the Justice Department had been making inquiries about the association and the membership of North Star in it. He said North Star's representative to the association may be the vice-president of this association and that the story that CONTI made up and will tell may cause North Star to pullme out of the association before some members tell investigators all they know. He added that CONTI and VEY, along with the PRUNER brothers, ALDO and ALMO, who are also executives of the North Star Cement Block Company are extremely worried about being called before a Federal Grand Jury looking into the activities of both the association and/or SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA.

D. LEGITIMATE ENTERPRISES

Information Relating to the North Star Cement Block Company, 12 McCandless Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
(owned and operated by SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA)

PG T-6, who has expressed an unwillingness to appear before any future Federal or state proceedings,

JFK Law 11(a)

JFK Law 11(a)

As a result of a spot surveillance at the North Star Cement Block Company on December 5, 1960, during which time a car bearing a New York registration was observed parked near the main entrance and a preliminary investigation reflecting that this registration had been assigned to Stearns Manufacturing Company, Inc. of Adrian, Mich., the Detroit Office determined on January 23, 1961, that the aforementioned company with

92-2940-83  
DET-1416 (9)