
Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10201-10037
RECORD SERIES : HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 92-3182-40

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : ROEMER, WILLIAM F. JR.
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

Released under the John F. Kennedy
Assassination Records Collection Act of
1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW
65994 Date: 11-01-2021

TITLE :

DATE : 02/03/1959
PAGES : 32

SUBJECTS :

GAL, INVEST, "TOP HOODLUM PROGRAM", ACT

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 02/17/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS :

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE CHICAGO	OFFICE OF ORIGIN CHICAGO	DATE 2/5/59	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 12/1/58 - 1/20/59
TITLE OF CASE GUS ALEX, aka.		REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM F. ROEMER, JR.	TYPED BY FBT
		CHARACTER OF CASE ANTI-RACKETEERING	

~~XXXXXXXX~~

REFERENCE: Report of SA WILLIAM F. ROEMER, JR., dated 11/25/58, at Chicago.

- P -

LEADS

THE BUTTE DIVISION

AT SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

As noted in my airtel dated January 21, 1959, ALEX and his wife intend to spend 11 days at the Sun Valley Lodge, Sun Valley, Idaho, commencing February 12, 1959. Butte will insure complete coverage of ALEX's activities, phone calls, and associates while in Sun Valley.

APPROVED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
COPIES MADE: 2-Bureau (92-3182) KC471 ✓ 2-Butte 1-Newark (Info) 1-New York (92-955) (Info) 2-Chicago (92-373)	92-3182-40		REC-44
	FEB 9 1959 <i>[Handwritten signatures and stamps]</i>		

50 MAY 24 1972

COVER PAGE

SPAC SECT.

PROPERTY OF FBI. - This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

67 MAR 16 1959

CG 92-373

THE CHICAGO DIVISION

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Will continue to conduct investigation regarding the current activities and so forth of GUS ALEX in conformance with Bureau letter to New York dated 11/27/57, entitled "TOP HOODLUM PROGRAM, AR".

COPIES TO OTHER OFFICES

One copy of this report is being designated for Newark and one copy for New York for informational purposes, due to the fact that the report contains information regarding the trip to New York and New York City, taken by CG 6232-C, where he solicited the cooperation of top hoodlums and other prominent hoodlums in New Jersey and New York City and because the results of this solicitation are reported therein.

INFORMANTS

<u>Informant</u>	<u>Agent</u>
CG T-1 CG 6232-C	(On 10/14/58 and 11/20/58 to SAs WILLIAM A. MEINCKE and JOSEPH G. SHEA)
CG T-2 CG 6029-S	(On 12/12/55, to SA JOHN J. OITZINGER)
CG T-3 CG 6272-C	(On 11/20/58, to SA WILLIAM F. ROEMER, JR.)
CG T-4 PCI EUGENE LIEBERMAN	(On 11/21/58, to SAs VINCENT L. INSERRA and PAUL B. FRANKFURT)
CG T-5 GEORGE E.Q. JOHNSON, JR., Attorney, Bank Building, Clark and Adams, Chicago	(On 12/17/58 to SA WILLIAM F. ROEMER, JR.)

COVER PAGE

- A -

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA WILLIAM F. ROEMER, JR. Office: CHICAGO

Date: 2/3/1959

File Number: Bureau 92-3182
Chicago 92-373

Title: GUS ALEX, aka.

Character: ANTI-RACKETEERING

Synopsis: ALEX continues to reside at 4300 North Marine Drive, Chicago, although he has been in New York City, Las Vegas, Nevada and Europe during most of the period covered by this report. Officials of Atlas Brewing Company, unable to find records of ALEX's past employment although information has been developed that he was a salesman there for approximately 8 years. Seven associates of ALEX identified. Informant advised that in order to operate a handbook in the Loop of Chicago, a bookie must obtain the sanction of ALEX and if given approval, call all bets into a syndicate "clearing house", where ALEX splits the income from the book, usually 50-50. Informant involved in dispute with a subordinate of ALEX obtained assistance of New York and New Jersey hoodlums and was able, through their help, to present true facts of dispute to ALEX, with result that ALEX's subordinate was discredited and informant was able to make arrangements with ALEX and his top aide FRANK FERRARO, to operate gambling houses in the first ward of Chicago, which is controlled for the syndicate by ALEX. Veteran Chicago Detective advised that he believes ALEX kidnapped and probably killed CLEM GRAVER, Illinois State Representative, in 1953, due to the fact that

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

II. ASSOCIATES

CHARLES "CHAPPIE" BERTUCCI

CG T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that recently he was involved in a monetary dispute with LOUIS TORNABENE. He stated that TORNABENE was a partner of his in a gambling operation located in the Santa Fe Hotel on the corner of Polk and Dearborn, Chicago, and that TORNABENE had cheated him out of a total of approximately \$19,000.00. He stated that in order to arbitrate this dispute he went to SAM BATTAGLIA, a high level syndicate hoodlum, who in turn met with a representative of GUS ALEX's in order to settle the dispute. The informant stated that the representative of GUS ALEX's was one C. BERTUCCI, well known as "CHAPPIE", who resides at 303 West 32nd Street, Chicago, Illinois. He stated that BERTUCCI drives a 1954 blue Cadillac convertible. He also advised that BERTUCCI is carried on the payroll of the city of Chicago but that he does not work for the city of Chicago even though he receives \$100.00 a week from the city.

CG T-1 advised that on November 18, 1958, he was contacted and advised to meet GUS ALEX and his Lieutenant, FRANK FERRARO, at the Normandy Bar, across the street from City Hall, in Chicago. He stated that he met ALEX and FERRARO and that after advising ALEX of his side in the dispute with TORNABENE, ALEX placed a call for TORNABENE to join them immediately. He stated that when TORNABENE arrived at the Normandy Bar, he was accompanied by "CHAPPIE" BERTUCCI, who stayed outside in the car when TORNABENE came inside.

It is noted that CG T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on December 12, 1955, that CHARLES "CHAPPIE" BERTUCCI is part owner of "Joey's Tavern", 5496 South Lake Park, Chicago. This informant also noted that BERTUCCI was a close friend of JOSEPH JAMES BAGNOLA, former Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution - Murder fugitive, I.O. number 5920.

LOUIS BRIATTA

CG T-3, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that a top lieutenant of GUS ALEX is LOU

GEORGE LEIDERMAN

112
CG T-3 advised that during the past several years one ~~GEORGE~~ LEIDERMAN was a well known bookmaker, who operated on a large scale in the Loop. He stated that in the late 1940's, LEIDERMAN took a bet from a better located in the Southwestern portion of the United States. This better lost and was unable to pay off LEIDERMAN. LEIDERMAN therefore accepted ownership in an oil well in Texas or Oklahoma owned by the better. Several months later the well produced sufficient oil to make a millionaire out of LEIDERMAN. Later, largely as a result of the Kefauver hearings, LEIDERMAN left the gambling business and now has an office at 188 Randolph where he deals in oil.

It is noted that in approximately May, 1958, while SA ROEMER was surveilling GUS ALEX in the Randolph Towers barber shop, 188 Randolph, a well dressed man entered the shop and was addressed by what SA ROEMER felt was Mr. LEBERMAN (PH) by a barber. ALEX immediately called to the man "GEORGE come here". It is believed this must have been LEIDERMAN, whom the informant described above. He was approximately 50 years old, tall, medium-heavy build, dark hair.

On December 10, 1958, it was observed that the building directory at 188 Randolph listed GEORGE LEIDERMAN in suite 620-627. When questioned as to the association between LEIDERMAN and ALEX, informant stated that he knows of none directly but due to LEIDERMAN's prominence in the Loop, it certainly figures that he is acquainted with ALEX.

112
PAT MARCI

CG T-1 stated that when he was contacted in order to meet with GUS ALEX at the Normandy Bar on November 18, 1958, as described more fully below under the caption "Position of Gus Alex in the Chicago Crime Syndicate", it was PAT MARCI who called the informant and set up the meeting. He stated that when he arrived at the Normandy Bar, MARCI met him and brought him directly to the table of GUS ALEX and introduced him to ALEX and FRANK FERRARO.

CG 92-373

CG T-3 advised that LOUIE BRIATTA is the man under ALEX, who has organized the gamblers in the Loop and who keeps them in line. He said that under BRIATTA are many underlings who constantly visit the bookies to insure that ALEX's interests are well provided for and that no one is crossing him. He identified one SID FRASER as being one of these underlings.

CG T-3 stated that years ago, men like JOHN LYNCH, MAL CLARKE, GEORGE LEIDERMAN and EDWARD DOBKINS were the "big bookies" in the Loop but that within the past several years the syndicate has "pushed" these men more and more until all of them decided that it was not worth it anymore and left the business in Chicago. Now, he said, the gamblers in the Loop are almost entirely "dagos" and very few have the personal integrity and good will which the old timers had.

CG T-1 advised, as previously reported, that GUS ALEX interceded in a dispute between LOUIS TORNABENE, notorious Chicago handbook operator and the informant, by taking TORNABENE's side in settling the matter in favor of TORNABENE. CG T-1 stated that ALEX's influence was sufficient to overcome the influence of SAM BATTAGLIA and other highly placed hoodlums, who sided with the informant, probably due to ALEX's control of the first ward, the area which CG T-1 stated ALEX controls for the crime syndicate in Chicago. The informant has now furnished additional information concerning this dispute regarding the role played in it by ALEX, as follows:

On October 10, 1958, CG T-1 stated that he had gone out to collect a gambling debt of \$6,000.00, which was owed to himself and LOUIS TORNABENE. The informant explained that he had taken the bet from an individual unknown to LOUIS TORNABENE. The individual lost and, therefore, owed the sum of \$6,000.00 to himself and LOUIS TORNABENE. The informant advised that in his opinion he had been muscled out of money honestly owed to him by TORNABENE and, therefore, took it upon himself to keep the \$6,000.00 and not turn over TORNABENE's share to him. The informant advised that he telephoned TORNABENE and told him that he planned to keep the money, as he felt that the money was due him and that if TORNABENE had any ideas otherwise, that the informant would take the entire matter up with hoodlum contacts of his on the

East Coast. The informant advised that he had planned to make a trip to the East in order to settle the whole dispute; however, the \$6,000.00 came into his hands before he had time to make arrangements to go East. He advised that he was positive that he would be able to straighten the entire situation out because he recontacted his associates in New York and New Jersey and felt that there was a minimum of risk in holding out the money on TORNABENE.

Informant advised that he contacted TORNABENE and told him that he would, under no circumstances, pay him any money, after which he decided that he should immediately leave Chicago and make the necessary contacts in Newark and New York to back up the threats which he had made to TORNABENE.

On October 14, 1958, informant advised that since he had departed from Chicago, he had been in daily contact with his wife who advised him that at about 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 11, 1958, LOUIS TORNABENE and BENNIE BERNARD, notorious Chicago cartage thief, came into their grocery store and asked for the informant. The informant said that these two individuals told his wife, "I want you to know that your husband has \$6200.00 of ours and we want it - if he doesn't come up with it we'll kill him." Informant advised that it was LOUIS TORNABENE who made the above statements. At about 6:30 p.m. on the same day, both TORNABENE and BERNARD again appeared at the store and told a young male employee, not to open the store on Sunday. The informant advised that on Saturday night his wife had contacted the Maxwell District, Chicago Police Department, advised that she had been threatened, and asked for a police escort home, and again in the morning to work. Informant advised that no details were supplied to the police; however, one Lieutenant GORE, who is known to the informant, apparently for friendship sake, caused informant's wife to be escorted to and from the store. Informant advised that on Sunday, the 12th, at about 10:30 a.m., BENNIE BERNARD appeared at the store. Informant advised that LOUIS TORNABENE never made a re-appearance at the store after Saturday, the 11th. BENNIE BERNARD on Sunday stated "You know if he doesn't get that money up, no matter where he goes we have connections. We'll get him and kill him." Informant advised that on Monday, the 13th, his wife said that BENNIE BERNARD again re-appeared between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m., at which time he said, "You know the money is not LOUIS', but his (meaning (BENNIE BERNARD) and his partner - he's going to get hurt - guys we are with are angry." BERNARD said

that he had gotten in touch with LOU and had calmed him down, and that if the informant straightened things out now everything would be okay. But if he did not, he would get hurt. We'll get him."

Informant advised that on October 14, 1958, knowing that BENNIE BERNARD was on federal probation, he made a telephone call to the United States Probation Office, Chicago, Illinois, determined that a Probation Officer by the name of WITMORE was in charge of BERNARD's probation, and he told WITMORE that BENNIE BERNARD had come to his store on several occasions, had made threats to his wife, attempted to force the employees to keep the store closed, and made threats against his person. Informant advised that he did not give WITMORE all of the details as to the reason the threats were made.

Informant advised that on October 14, 1958, his wife advised him that a probation officer by the name of WITMORE had appeared at the grocery store during the afternoon of October 14, 1958, and had BENNIE BERNARD with him. The probation officer interviewed the informant's wife in BERNARD's presence and asked if the allegations were true, at which time BERNARD budded in and said, "All I said to her was if (the informant) doesn't pay the \$6200 back we're going to get him and he'll get hurt." Informant advised that his wife told the probation officer that she was distraught and was in no frame of mind to answer further questions. Informant advised that since that time, neither BERNARD nor TORNABENE appeared at the store. However, the windows in the grocery store were all smashed over the last weekend.

On November 6, 1958, the informant contacted the Chicago Office of the FBI and advised that he had been in Newark contacting hoodlum connections, and had also been to New York City, where he contacted various people in an effort to straighten out his situation. He advised that he felt sufficient pressure had been brought to bear by the New York connections and he had been told to return and no harm would be done to him and that the matter with TORNABENE had been settled.

The informant supplied the following information regarding his contacts on the East Coast. He said that about

October 16, 1958, he made his first contact with one PETE LE BLANC in Hasbrook Heights, New Jersey. He advised that during the time that he ran gambling operations in New Jersey himself, he became well acquainted with PETE LE BLANC, as LE BLANC had been an active member at that time in the Moretti, Addonis & Anastasia Gang. He advised that MORETTI, ADDONIS and ANASTASIA, of course, are now dead and that PETE LE BLANC has taken over in that section of Jersey. He advised, however, that LE BLANC is, in effect, a powerful man in himself; however, he no longer has any organization behind him due to the fact that the Bergen County area in New Jersey is pretty well cleaned up regarding gambling and numbers, due to the extreme pressure which had been brought to bear by States Attorneys and police in that area. LE BLANC advised him that he no longer could use a telephone and he was reluctant to make contacts with other known hoodlums in the immediate area, due to the fact that the FBI was conducting extensive investigation and was apparently worrying them a great deal. Informant advised that LE BLANC told him that he would take the matter into consideration and that he might consider a trip to Chicago to contact the proper authorities and plead the informant's case. Informant advised that after a sufficient length of time it became apparent to him that LE BLANC was going to take no action. Informant advised that the meet with LE BLANC was at the offices of an attorney, N. CORELLA, at the corner of Second and Summit, Lindhurst, New Jersey. He advised that CORELLA had set up the meet between himself and LE BLANC.

Informant advised that after it had become apparent to him that LE BLANC was not the answer to his problem, he moved into the Newark area, and on about October 23, 1958, he contacted one TONY BANANAS (described as white male, age 40s, 6', 185-90 pounds, well built, athletic, Italian) at Dot's Restaurant on Route 10, about 15 miles west of Newark. He advised that this restaurant is frequented by hoodlums in the area and TONY had selected it as a meeting place. According to the informant, TONY BANANAS' sphere of influence is in Newark and he controls a good measure of the gambling occurring in the area. He advised that TONY is well placed in the syndicate and is considered an extremely powerful man.

The informant advised that the meet with TONY BANANAS had been set up for him through a friend, one AL DIVOTO, a bookie and an individual who has good contacts among bookies and hoodlums in the Newark area. He advised that AL DIVITO sells cars in Kearny, New Jersey, and that he is employed by the Chevrolet Company on Kearny Avenue. The informant advised that this is the only Chevrolet dealership on Kearny Avenue; however, he could not recall the name. He advised that DIVITO is not well placed regarding the top hoodlums and is, in effect, letting a rather small bookie operate at present. However, due to the operation that he now runs and those that he has run in the past, he knows the right people and was able to set up a meet with TONY BANANAS.

Informant advised that the sum and substance of the meeting with TONY BANANAS was that TONY told him to take his problem to PETE LE BLANC, who would be in a better position to do something for him, as PETE knew of his past reputation and would be in a better position to vouch for the informant than he (TONY BANANAS) would be. TONY advised that if he didn't get any satisfaction, however, to return and TONY would see that the situation was straightened out in Chicago. Informant advised that he did not want to tell BANANAS that PETE LE BLANC had been contacted and had offered very little assistance, so he dropped the matter and made no further effort to contact BANANAS. He stated that on about October 25, 1958, he contacted LOUIS "Coca Cola".

He advised that this meeting took place in Newark on 7th Avenue near High Street. He advised that if one was facing Broad Street, the place would be on the south side of 7th Avenue. He advised that the place was a little store which contained a TV set and several tables and chairs and nothing else. He advised that it was a meeting place for hoodlums in the area.

The informant described LOUIS "Coca Cola" as white, male, late 40s, 175 pounds, 5'7"-5'8", well built, greying brown hair, Italian. He advised that LOUIS "Coca Cola" was connected with the numbers and horse books in the Newark area. He stated that the above mentioned store was used in connection with both activities; however, messages were taken to and from the place by runners and although there was one telephone in the place it was not used for business at all.

He advised that LOUIS "Coca Cola" is a powerful lieutenant to RICHIE "The Boot", a 70 year old hoodlum who is one of the most powerful individuals in numbers and horse books in the Newark area. He advised that LOUIS "Coca Cola" listened to his story and tried to find flaws in it, indicating that LOUIS TORNABENE might have been right in his action. Informant felt that LOUIS "Coca Cola" did not know him or his reputation well enough to be in a position to help him. He advised that LOUIS "Coca Cola" asked if he knew JOHNNY MARSHALL (MARSHALL CAIFANO), Chicago top 10 hoodlum. The informant had never met MARSHALL and, of course, denied that he knew him to LOUIS "Coca Cola", and that just about ended any further discussion.

The informant then advised that he felt that he would be in a better position if he made some contacts in the New York City area with some top hoodlums that he knew over there and felt that he would get better satisfaction and make faster headway than he was in the Jersey area. Informant decided to contact one SALVATORE ESPOSITO. He advised that SALVATORE ESPOSITO is a "bean man" for New York hoodlums and at one time had been a member of Murder Incorporated. Informant advised that he knew SALVATORE ESPOSITO personally for a period of approximately 15 years after he had been released from prison. SALVATORE ESPOSITO had served about 12 years for murder. He advised that he had dealings with ESPOSITO in the past when he (informant) was closely associated with the Addonis and Moretti Gang in Jersey. He advised that ESPOSITO works for the New York City hoodlums; however, he lives in New Jersey and he advised that ESPOSITO now resides at 11-43 Hoehn Street, Lodi, New Jersey, telephone number Gregory 2-1663. He advised that he contacted SALVATORE ESPOSITO and his brother, TONY, in New York City at a little social club which is actually a store front location on 102nd Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenue. He advised it is on the north side of the street and the number is probably 245. He advised that this store is a meeting place for hoodlums in New York City and is simply an empty store which has several chairs and tables and a television set. He advised that he met SALVATORE and TONY for the first time about October 25, 1958. SALVATORE told him immediately that he would be able to straighten out the situation with little difficulty.

