
Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90104-10161

RECORD SERIES : HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 92-2940-39

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : PG
TO : HQ

TITLE :

DATE : 10/22/1958
PAGES : 23

SUBJECTS :
SEBASTIAN JOHN LAROCCA

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4; 10(a)2
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 07/31/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS : RPT

Released under the John F. Kennedy
Assassination Records Collection Act of
1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW
68262 Date: 09-22-2022

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE PITTSBURGH	OFFICE OF ORIGIN PITTSBURGH	DATE OCT 22 1958	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 9/2,5,9, 12,16-18,23-26,29,30; 10/2,3,6-10,13/58
TITLE OF CASE SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA, was.		REPORT MADE BY ROBERT A. VOEGE	TYPED BY SMO
CHARACTER OF CASE ANTI-RACKETEERING			

SYNOPSIS:

Neighbors and informants advise that LA ROCCA has still not returned to Pittsburgh, Pa., vicinity but believe he contacts his residence regularly in some manner. Adopted son of LA ROCCA returned to Valley Forge Military Academy at Wayne, Pa., on 9/16/58 and gave two checks totaling \$1,525 to Finance Officer. Both checks were drawn on Washington Trust Office of Western Pennsylvania National Bank at Pittsburgh. Subpoenas still outstanding for [redacted] to appear before FGJ for [redacted] and U. S. Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor or Management Field. Matters of interest concerning associates of LA ROCCA and status with other Government agencies set forth. IN VIEW OF THE CONVICTION OF THE SUBJECT FOR ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO KILL AND HIS ARREST FOR CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON, HE MAY BE ARMED AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS.

- P -

APPROVED 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: ② - Bureau (92-2940) icc 4260 1 - Baltimore (92-149) (Info) 2 - Buffalo (92-87) 2 - Detroit 1 - Jacksonville (Info) 1 - Miami (92-163) (Info) 2 - New York (92-825) 1 - Philadelphia (92-497) (Info) 3 - Pittsburgh (92-226)		92-2940-39 14 OCT 23 1958	REC-4 EX - 133

57 NOV 3 1958

STAT. 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

The informant recalled that SPINELLI was a non-drinker who had been born and raised in Italy and still had a wife and two children living there. He described SPINELLI as about 6'4" in height and said that he was known in the area as a professional killer who hired out on out-of-town jobs. He stated that when SPINELLI was crossed up in some manner by the VOLPE brothers in connection with some stills he owned personally, he became so enraged that he vowed he would kill all three. The informant stated that he was with SPINELLI when SPINELLI obtained the weapon with which he killed the VOLPES and left a moonshine joint without saying where he was going. He said he later heard the details of the shooting from by-standers who told him that SPINELLI had encountered the three VOLPE brothers eating breakfast at Bazzanno's Restaurant on Wylie Avenue, Pittsburgh, at which time he gunned them to death.

The informant recalled that SPINELLI gathered his few personal belongings together and immediately fled to New York where he encountered the brother of the BAZZANNO who ran the Pittsburgh restaurant. He stated that SPINELLI killed this individual and that the newspapers related that BAZZANNO was discovered with more than 150 ice pick holes in him and various sections of his body cut off. He recalled that SPINELLI then fled to Italy and had nerve enough to settle with his family in the same town in which the elder VOLPE was an official. He recalled that the elder VOLPE was then responsible for having SPINELLI sentenced to 25 years in prison in Italy because he could not be extradited to the United States.

The informant advised that following the murder of his brothers, LOUIS VOLPE was incarcerated by the Pittsburgh Police Department who thought he had something to do with the SPINELLI-VOLPE feud. He recalled laughingly that when LOUIS, now a close associate of SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA, was released from jail, there were a great many newspapermen on hand and when a flash bulb went off unexpectedly, LOUIS fainted, believing he was shot. He recalled that during the early 1920's, numbers operations in the Pittsburgh vicinity were incidental to moonshine operations and that most moonshiners carried numbers cards in their back pockets. He suggested that the Pittsburgh Police Department became interested in numbers only when moonshine became no longer profitable for them. He advised that he still sees both LOUIS and JOSEPH VOLPE on occasion and has seen both of them with MIKE GENOVESE and JOHN LA ROCCA.

F. MISCELLANEOUS

Status of LA ROCCA with Immigration and Naturalization Service

On September 30, 1958, a discussion was held with HAROLD LAUVER, Agent in Charge of Investigations; HARRY GOULD, Acting-in-Charge of Naturalization Examinations; and NED HELMOVITZ, Naturalization Examiner, concerning LA ROCCA's status as far as the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is concerned. It was learned that the LA ROCCA matter is still in pending status and that the Pittsburgh Office has received no further instructions in this regard. LAUVER advised that although there is no active and specific investigation being conducted on LA ROCCA, determination must be made concerning the final disposition of his naturalization petition.

GOULD advised that he believes the INS will simply await the return of LA ROCCA before taking further action on his petition. He explained that only in that way will the Government be able to have the petition dismissed "on merit" and with prejudice so that LA ROCCA will be unable to re-petition within a five-year period. HELMOVITZ advised that he feels sure that he could go into United States Federal District Court at any time and obtain the denial of the petition on the grounds that LA ROCCA has failed to prosecute it. He suggested, however, that when LA ROCCA returns he will be expected to give a satisfactory account of his whereabouts during the period he was not in the Pittsburgh vicinity and to show why he did not comply with two subpoenas sent to his residence.

LAUVER advised that the LA ROCCA file was sent to the District Chief of Investigations of INS at 70 Columbus Avenue, New York City, on September 19, 1958, upon request. He said he is quite certain that the file will be reviewed by the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York and was requested specifically for that purpose.

Information Regarding Subpoenas With Which LA ROCCA Must Be Served

ALBERT DIMEOLO, United States Marshal for the Western District of Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh, advised SA VOEGE on October 10, 1958, that he has received no new information regarding LA ROCCA and that he still has two subpoenas outstanding for service to [redacted]. He advised that the first is a subpoena for the appearance [redacted]

REVIEWED BY ^{DWS} JVK TASK FORCE

ON 9/29/57 del

- RELEASE IN FULL
- RELEASE IN PART
- TOTAL DENIAL

92-2948-39 10(a)2

PG 92-226

of [redacted] before the Federal Grand Jury for the [redacted] to testify and give evidence in regard to an alleged violation of [redacted] and that the second is a subpoena for the appearance of LA ROCCA before the United States Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor or Management Field. He stated that the dates for these appearances have not yet been set and that he cannot do anything further regarding them until LA ROCCA returns to Pittsburgh or is located in some other jurisdiction. He advised that he will immediately notify the Pittsburgh Office in the event he should learn anything regarding LA ROCCA in this regard.

Surveillances Conducted Relating to This Investigation

Spot surveillances were made on September 2, 5, 12, 18, 26 and 29 and on October 3 and 10, 1958, at 900 West Ingomar Road, Ingomar, and at 12 McCandless Street, Pittsburgh. Nothing of interest to this investigation was observed during these spot surveillances.

IN VIEW OF THE CONVICTION OF THE SUBJECT FOR ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO KILL AND HIS ARREST FOR CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON, HE MAY BE ARMED AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS.

- P -

- 22 -

92-2940-39 10(9)(2)

INFORMANTS

T-1 is AL BUCK, former Allegheny County Detective and now Vice President of the Fidelity Trust Company, Loan Department, Pittsburgh, Pa., who was contacted on October 6, 1958, by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE and who has requested that his identity be concealed.

T-2 is H. W. GLENN, Postal Inspector, United States Post Office, Pittsburgh, who was contacted on October 3, 1958, by SA VOEGE and who has requested that his identity be concealed.

T-3 is GEORGE "MOON" MESSER, a PCI of the Pittsburgh Office who was contacted on September 29, 1958, by SA VOEGE.

T-4 is an anonymous informant who, on June 16, 1958, contacted Assistant Attorney General D. MALCOLM ANDERSON at the United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., by letter offering to furnish information to him regarding the activities of Pittsburgh top hoodlums and racketeers. On that date he suggested that an insert be placed in the personal column of "The Pittsburgh Press" referring to him as "TIGER" and furnishing an address where he could write to Mr. ANDERSON personally. A post office box has been rented by the Pittsburgh FBI Office and numerous letters regarding the activities of Pittsburgh top hoodlums and racketeers have been received to date. He has still not been identified.

T-5 is Miss MARIAN FOGEL, a PCI of the Pittsburgh Office, who was contacted on September 12, 1958, by SA NORMAN T. THOMPSON.

T-6 is PG 573-C who was contacted on August 17, 18, 19 and 20, 1958, and again on September 16, 17 and 18, 1958, by SA JOHN S. PORTELLA.

T-7 is HERMAN ISRAEL of the Scott Rug Company, Pittsburgh, a confidential source of the Pittsburgh Office, who was contacted on August 19, 1958, by SA PORTELLA.

T-8 is WILLIAM A. DOBKIN, 3215 Kennett Square, Pittsburgh, a confidential source of the Pittsburgh Office, who was contacted on August 25, 1958, by SA PORTELLA.

T-9 is Miss FRANCES PRIAM, a PCI of the Pittsburgh Office, who was contacted on October 9, 1958, by SA VOEGE.