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LESTER BENJAMIN BINION

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office SALT LAKE CITY	Office of Origin SALT LAKE CITY	Date 10/7/60	Investigative Period 10/3/60 - 10/5/60
TITLE OF CASE LESTER BENJAMIN BINION, aka Ben Lester Binion, Benny L. Binion, L. B. Binion, Benny Benion, Benny Binion, Lester Ben Binion, Bennie Binion		Report made by LEO E. KUYKENDALL	Typed By: nlb ear
		CHARACTER OF CASE A-R	

XXXXXX
Synopsis

REFERENCES: Report of SA LEO E. KUYKENDALL dated 1/29/60, at Salt Lake City.

Report of SA LEO E. KUYKENDALL dated 3/2/60, at Salt Lake City.

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ADMINISTRATIVE

The following individuals are being set forth as close acquaintances of BINION, some of them being legitimate men in legitimate operations; therefore, it was not felt that they should be included in the body of this report; however, they were listed as acquaintances in the records of the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and were obtained from Mr. CARL F. ZARTER, Record Clerk of the United States Penitentiary,

EXP. PROC.

Approved <i>[Signature]</i>	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made: 3 - Bureau (92-3241) 2 - Salt Lake City (94-253)		92-3241-42	REC-44
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☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955 O-344750

NW#: 77813

DocId: 32329913

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Leavenworth, on 1/22/58:

~~W. G. MC COY,~~
~~Coleman Hotel,~~
~~Coleman, Texas~~

~~A. D. ASKIN,~~
~~Miles City, Montana~~

~~BOYD ROGERS,~~
~~Memphis, Texas~~

~~N. E. SHIPLEIT,~~
~~301 Virginia,~~
~~Haxabachie, Texas~~

~~W. A. DAVIS,~~
~~Box 31,~~
~~St. Joseph, Missouri~~

~~WILLIE LUSK, JR.,~~
~~1704-1706 Avenue A,~~
~~Lubbock, Texas~~

~~MARCELLA CHAPMAN,~~
~~415 Casanova,~~
~~Monterey, California~~

~~BEN CLARK,~~
~~4602 Woodrow,~~
~~Galveston, Texas~~

~~Mrs. ELVA BATES,~~
~~Morning Sun,~~
~~Las Vegas, Nevada~~

~~ROBERT M. JORDON,~~
~~1207 Exchange Avenue,~~
~~Oklahoma City, Oklahoma~~

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~~SLATS~~ ~~RODGERS~~,
~~Box 247,~~
~~Zahata, Texas~~

~~O. T.~~ ~~STEPHENS~~,
~~Van Alstyne, Texas~~

~~ALEX~~ ~~HENIG~~,
~~1632 North Normandie Avenue,~~
~~Los Angeles 29, California~~

~~FRANK~~ ~~DOWD~~,
~~Beckley Building,~~
~~Las Vegas, Nevada~~

~~MARVIN S.~~ ~~SIMPSON~~,
~~Fort Worth, Texas~~

~~ROBERT M.~~ ~~PATTERSON~~,
~~P. O. Box 129,~~
~~Billings, Montana~~

~~WILLIAM~~ ~~GATES~~,
~~633 Fifth Street,~~
~~Boulder City, Nevada~~

~~SAMUEL~~ ~~BLOCK~~,
~~Conrad Hilton Hotel,~~
~~Chicago, Illinois~~

~~E. L.~~ ~~ALEXANDER~~,
~~1039 South Garfield Street,~~
~~Lodi, California~~

~~LEO~~ ~~MARTIN~~,
~~c/o Roney Plaza Ocean at~~
~~23rd Street,~~
~~Miami Beach, Florida~~

~~JOHN~~ ~~SALOMON~~,
~~8124 Nelson Drive,~~
~~Dallas 27, Texas~~

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In addition to these, he also listed in his application before the Gaming Board for a license to operate a gambling establishment in Nevada in 1948 the following persons who submitted letters of recommendation regarding him:

~~ROBERT J. MALBURG,~~
~~Chief of Police,~~
~~Las Vegas, Nevada~~

~~VERN WALDO,~~
~~Assistant Cashier,~~
~~First National Bank,~~
~~Las Vegas, Nevada~~

~~ERNIE W. CRAGIN,~~
~~Mayor, Las Vegas, Nevada~~

~~GLEN JONES,~~
~~Clark County Sheriff,~~
~~Las Vegas, Nevada~~

~~REX BELL (As of January 7,~~
~~1958, Lieutenant Governor~~
~~of Nevada)~~

~~WILBUR CLARK (Official~~
~~of the Desert Inn Hotel,~~
~~Las Vegas, Nevada)~~

~~MARION HICKS (Official~~
~~of the Thunderbird Hotel,~~
~~Las Vegas, Nevada)~~

~~GUS GREENBAUM (Subject of~~
~~investigation by the~~
~~Phoenix Office)~~

~~BALLARD BARRON (Deceased)~~
~~(Formerly majority owner of~~
~~Las Frontier Hotel)~~

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In addition to these, in past contacts with subject he has related of being well acquainted with GLEN MC CARTHY of Houston, Texas; United States Senator LYNDON JOHNSON, who at the present time is the Vice Presidential Candidate on the Democratic Ticket; CLINT MURCHISON, financier of Texas and also owner of Del Mar Race Track, San Diego, California; REX BELL, Lieutenant Governor of Nevada; GRANT SAWYER, Governor of Nevada; United States Senator ALLEN BIBLE of Nevada; and WALTER BARING, Congressman from Nevada. *TEXAS D.C.*

In a letter dated 2/9/60, the Bureau called to the attention of the Salt Lake City Division the cooperation that BINION has shown in the past and the information that he has furnished concerning his own activities as well as the activities of others, which was of special interest; therefore, the Bureau instructed that the top hoodlum investigation should be closed and that efforts should be made to develop his cooperation in connection with overall investigations in criminal intelligence matters. Therefore, on March 10, 1960, LESTER BENJAMIN BINION was considered a potential criminal informant of the Salt Lake City Office and since that time has been furnishing information concerning his activities and also the activities of many other persons in the gambling business in Nevada on a regular basis. The information furnished up to this point has been reliable and it appears that he will be of value as an informant on criminal matters in Las Vegas, Nevada, and surrounding territory.

INFORMANTS

T-1	SU 386-C, whose identity is known to the Bureau.
T-2	SU 283-C, (deceased) whose identity is known to the Bureau.

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T-3	SU 353-C, whose identity is known to the Bureau.
T-4	ROBERT CAUDILL, a close associate of BINION.
T-7	H. P. WHITE, a PCI of the Dallas Office

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20088-10023

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: LEO E. KUYKENDALL
Date: 10/7/60

Office: SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Field Office File No.: SALT LAKE CITY 94-253

Bureau File No.: 92-3241

Title: LESTER BENJAMIN BINION

Character: ANTI-RACKETEERING

Synopsis: Subject's birth date 11/20/04, Whitewright, Grayson County, Texas, verified. Married TEDDY JANE HARRIS 10/3/33 at Ardmore, Oklahoma. Resided Dallas, Texas, area until 1947. Moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, 1947, maintained home there since that time. BINION considered big-time gambler in Texas. Admitted killing two people in Dallas in 1931 and 1936. Convicted one case of murder and received two years suspended sentence. Indicted 5/2/52, Northern District of Texas by IRS income tax evasion. Pled guilty, fined \$15,000.00 and received five years suspended sentence and five years probation. Indicted Northern District of Texas in 1952 for income tax evasion for years 1945 to 1948. Paid back taxes of \$516,541.93. Was sentenced to five years custody of Attorney General, fined \$20,000.00. Entered plea of guilty to State charge in Texas, operation of policy game. Received four year sentence to run concurrent with Federal sentence. Received U. S. Penitentiary 12/19/53. Released 3/19/57 on writ by order of court for Northern District of Texas at the request of the U. S. Supreme Court. Appeal lost in Supreme Court and subject surrendered U. S. Marshal, Philadelphia, 10/16/57. Immediately filed writ of Habeas Corpus and released on \$5,000.00 bond. Subject returned to Las Vegas. On 12/17/58 opinion of Judge GEORGE A. WELSH, USDC, EDPa, ruled that BINION's supervision by parole officer while on release was tantamount to confinement which ruling had the effect of freeing BINION. Appeal to decision of Judge WELCH requested by Department of Justice, 4/59. On 6/16/60 the Third Circuit Court issued mandate after U. S. Supreme Court denied BINION's petition for writ of certiorari and BINION must return to serve 58 days of original sentence.

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BINION surrendered self to U. S. Marshal at Carson City, Nevada, and filed another writ on 7/12/60 and posted \$5,000.00 bail and is presently at liberty. Subject presently operating a 156,642 ranch near Jordan, Montana, which is stocked with horses and cattle. DUE TO SUBJECT'S POSSESSION OF FIREARMS ON OCCASIONS OF PREVIOUS ARRESTS AND HIS USE OF FIREARMS IN THE PAST, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.
DETAILS:

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AT LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

A. PERSONAL HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

1. Birth Data

SA ALFRED D. NEELEY advised that BONNIE HESTAND, Clerk of Grayson County, Texas, on March 11, 1958, advised that Volume 3, Page 72, recorded the birth of LESTER BEN BINION, who was born at Whitewright, Grayson County, Texas, November 20, 1904, and is the son of LONNIE L. BINION and ALMA WILLIE WILKERSON BINION. Miss HESTAND stated the record of birth was established on January 25, 1941, on sworn affidavits of LONNIE L. BINION and O. W. MYRICK.

2. Employment

BINION's employment at the present time consists of operating a ranch at Jordan, Montana, which consists of 156,642 acres of ranch land located approximately 25 miles northeast of Jordan, Montana. This acreage consists of 77,058 acres of ranch land deeded personally to BINION. He has 6,720 acres leased from the State of Montana and other sources and he has 49,696 acres leased from the Federal Government on an individual basis and 23,168 acres leased from the Federal Government on a joint or community basis.

3. Marital Status

- 2 -

Paula Conn
REVIEWED BY ~~EW~~ JFK TASK FORCE

ON 12/22/91 *ld*

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- ☒ RELEASE IN FULL
☐ RELEASE IN PART
☐ TOTAL DENIAL

BINION married TEDDY JANE HARRIS BINION on October 3, 1933, at Ardmore, Oklahoma. They resided in Texas until 1947. BINIONS have five children: BARBARA BALLINGER, who resides in Las Vegas; JACK, who is presently a part owner of the Horseshoe Club in Las Vegas; BRENDA, a student at Nevada Southern University; TED, who is reportedly enrolling at Arizona University; and BECKY, who is attending a parochial school in Las Vegas, Nevada.

4. Residence

BINION advised SA LEO E. KUYKENDALL on January 4, 1958, that he has resided at 2040 Bonanza Road since he came to Las Vegas in 1947, and according to his admission summary to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, which is dated January 20, 1954, BINION stated that he owns a seven-room home which was purchased for \$68,000.00 in 1947. BINION stated that he maintains his home at Las Vegas as a permanent residence and during June, July and August of each year, he and his family go to their ranch near Jordan, Montana, and return in the fall for the enrollment of their children in school.

5. Military Service

BINION on his admission summary to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth advised that he has no military service. He also advised United States Probation Officer CLIFFORD DEVINE on September 2, 1952, that he has no military service.

6. Close Relatives

Mr. HUBERT W. BOYD, United States Probation Officer, Las Vegas, Nevada, advised that subject's father, LONNIE L. BINION, who is reportedly a farmer, and according to the admission summary at United States Penitentiary, July 20, 1954, a boss man at a gambling casino, died at the age of 66 years in 1948, death was attributed to heart trouble. Subject's mother, WILLIE, died when subject was thirty years of age. Subject is the oldest of three

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children. He has one brother, JACK, who has been dead twenty years, and was killed in an airplane accident when he was 23 years of age. Subject has a sister, Mrs. ROBERT (TEDDY) HOAG, who did reside at 5215 Ninth Avenue, Seattle, Washington. However, at that time was contemplating going to Alaska where her husband is stationed with the United States Navy. In June, 1960, BINION advised SA LEO E. KUYKENDALL that his sister, Mrs. HOAG, had returned to Seattle, Washington.

B. CRIMINAL RECORD AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

The following identification record of subject, FBI No. 206216, was received from the Bureau on August 22, 1960:

<u>CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS</u>	<u>NAME AND NUMBER</u>	<u>ARRESTED OR RECEIVED</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
Police Depart- ment, Dallas, Texas	BEN LESTER BINION #3950	July 1, 1924	Tire theft	released, no prosecu- tion

*Deleted pursuant
to Archival Authority
66-19087-279
slh 8/14/97*

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United States Marshal Reno Nevada	L. B. BINION #6786	May 5, 1952	Income Tax Evasion	September 3, 1952 fined \$15,000 and the imposition of sentence is suspended for 5 years and granted probation for 5 years
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United States Marshal Reno Nevada	L. B. BINION #6880	October 3, 1952	Income Tax Evasion	November 15, 1952 Defendant ordered removed to Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division at Dallas Texas and released on \$5,000 Bond November 15, 1952
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United States Marshal San Antonio Texas	BENNY BENION	December 4, 1953	Income Tax Evasion
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United States Marshal Dallas Texas	BENNY BINION #FP-9622	December 16, 1953	On orders of Bureau of Prisons enroute to United States Penitentiary
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Sheriff's Office Dallas Texas	BENNY BINION #52764	December 16, 1953	enroute Federal four years Penitentiary - to run con- Violation Income current Tax Law with Federal Time - re- leased to Federal Agent December 18, 1953
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US Pen
Leavenworth
Kans

L. B. BINION 12-19-53
#70732-L

IRA: false
Income
Statements

5 yrs Writ
& Bond on chg
of IRA false
& fraud Tax
returns

USP
Leavenworth
Kans

L B BINION
#70732-L

ret'd
11-7-55
from
Amarillo
Texas

WHCAT(IRA-
File false
& fraudulent
income tax
returns)

USM Carson
City Nev

LESTER BEN
BINION
#8951

6-10-60

income tax

BINION upon being interviewed for Probation Office admission summary to United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, on January 20, 1954, advised that he was charged with murder in Dallas, Texas, in 1931 as a result of a shooting in which he killed a Negro which BINION claimed was self-defense. He stated he caught this Negro stealing whiskey and the Negro threatened him with a knife. BINION also admitted a murder charge in 1936 which grew out of a quarrel concerning gambling and that he was forced to kill a white man in self-defense.

Lieutenant GEORGE BUTLER of the Dallas Police Department furnished the following information to SA VINCENT E. DRANE. This was verified on January 13, 1958. Mr. BUTLER stated that activities of BINION had been followed fairly closely and that BINION has no interest in gambling in Dallas or surrounding areas at the present time. He stated that BINION is wealthy and did not have to engage in illicit gambling operations and according to T-7 had stated "I do not want any more of Leavenworth."

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According to information of Detective GEORGE BUTLER, which was verified by SA VINCENT E. DRANE, BENNIE BINION first arrived in Dallas in his early youth and began to associate with BENNIE BICKERS, who was engaged in the bootlegging racket during the early prohibition era. It was reported that on October 6, 1931, that BINION caught a Negro stealing whiskey and that he beat this man to death with an old car bumper. For this crime BINION reportedly received a two-year suspended sentence. BINION began to muscle in on whiskey operations and reportedly had gone into illegal whiskey plants and stated "Everything that comes in between now and midnight is mine."

In 1934, HARRY URBAN, RAYMOND LOUDERMILK and BINION, all of whom had been associated in bootlegging activities during the previous years, organized a policy game in opposition to WARREN DIAMOND and BEN WHITAKER. These associates along with BINION began to operate sneak or running crap games in Dallas.

WHITAKER apparently sensed the violence of his operation in the policy operation and pulled out of the policy business and gave his policy wheel and all of the business connected therewith to BENNY BICKERS. BICKERS is the only person in the rackets in the Dallas area that BINION did not attempt to muscle in on.

In 1935 BINION and associates were joined by BUDDY MALONE and BUZZ NEWMAN and organized a race wife service.

In 1936 BEN FRIEDEN of Dallas had four policy wheels operating which were in opposition to the BINION interests. On September 12, 1936, BINION and MALONE reportedly approached FRIEDEN who was parked in his automobile on Allen Street in Dallas, Texas. MALONE and BINION approached FRIEDEN from both sides of his automobile, emptied their guns into him and reportedly threw one of the guns they were using in FRIEDEN's automobile and drove off. This reportedly was a cold

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blooded murder; however, BINION and MALONE both had this case dismissed by the District Attorney on his last day in office in 1936.

In 1936 IVY MILLER and EARL DALTON, known as experts in gambling and handling dice, joined BINION, et al, and these two along with BENNY BICKERS did very much to hold BINION and his violent operations down. BINION, at about this time, was described as wanting to kill everyone that was operating in opposition to him and stated "so they won't bother us any more."

In 1938 and 1939, BINION and his associates held numerous gambling games in Dallas and Fort Worth and opposing him in their business was SAM MURRAY. MURRAY retained two body guards, T. YATES and HERBERT NOBLE. MURRAY is also reported to have obtained an ex-convict to kill IVY MILLER, who was reportedly the brains behind BINION's gambling and hoodlum operations in the Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, areas.

IVY MILLER reportedly heard of the plot to take his life and on June 18, 1940, he met SAM MURRAY on a main street in Dallas and killed him. MURRAY was armed at the time he was killed and MILLER was not indicted.

BINION and associates were known as the "Southland Syndicate," inasmuch as a tremendous amount of their operations were in the Southland Hotel in Dallas. According to GEORGE BUTLER of the Dallas Police Department, after the death of MURRAY things were quiet until RAYMOND LOUDERMILK married the widow of SAM MURRAY, SUE MURRAY, and LOUDERMILK and HERBERT NOBLE started the operation of a policy game. NOBLE and LOUDERMILK were reportedly warned by BINION to get out of the policy business. However, they did not heed his warning and BINION reportedly had BOB MINYARD, one of his associates, kill LOUDERMILK on March 20, 1943. LOUDERMILK's murder was somewhat similar to the previously mentioned FRIEDEN murder and MINYARD was not billed by the Grand Jury.

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During 1944 and 1945 it was reported that OTTO FREYER, who was an ex-convict, began to hi-jack some of the crap games operated by BINION and associates. BINION hired LOIS GREEN (deceased) and JOHNNY GRISSAFFI to eliminate or get rid of FREYER. BINION reportedly instructed these men to "shoot the S.O.B. in the guts and bury him alive--It will be a tonic to any of the others who want to be hi-jackers." FREYER disappeared and has never been located. GREEN and GRISSAFFI were reportedly loaned a considerable amount of money by BINION for operation of their narcotics racket.

BINION also is reported to have had LOIS GREEN and JOHN GRISSAFFI murder RED CAVANAUGH and RAY SELLERS to avoid paying them their part of the loot from a hi-jacking.

During the war years BINION had complete control of all the rackets operated in the Dallas and Central Texas area and reportedly collected 25% on all dice games. This shakedown operation is reportedly the cause of the much publicized NOBLE-BINION feud.

NOBLE at this time had a partner, PHIL STEIN, and they began making considerable money and BINION's games began to suffer, at which time he raised his percentage take from 25 to 40% at which time HERBERT NOBLE told BINION to "go to Hell."

At the beginning of this feud, it is reported that BOB MINYARD, LOIS GREEN and JOHNNY GRISSAFFI shot NOBLE in January, 1946, which was the first attempt on his life. NOBLE was seriously wounded and while he was in the hospital, BOB MINYARD was killed and no arrests were made as a result of this killing. Subsequent to January, 1946, NOBLE had seven more attempts made on his life.

Informed underworld sources stated that NOBLE had MINYARD killed and that BINION was more determined to get NOBLE because if he did not, BINION would "lose his

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power as boss of racket operations in Texas and NOBLE would have someone kill BINION and become the new boss of gambling and racket operations in the Texas area."

NOBLE was murdered on August 7, 1951, when he drove his pick-up truck up to his rural route mailbox and a terrific explosion occurred which took HERBERT NOBLE's life.

In January, 1947, BINION's men had a "high stakes muscle game" at the Southland Hotel. During the game there was an argument and EDDY GILLILAND was killed. His body was taken into Tarrant County and dumped out of the car on the roadside.

It was at this time that BINION moved from Dallas, Texas, to Las Vegas, Nevada. The reason for his departure from the Dallas area was reported to avoid prosecution for gaming by the new District Attorney WILL WILSON and also to avoid the possibility of being killed by HERBERT NOBLE and associates.

During the attempt on NOBLE's life on November 28, 1949, Mrs. HERBERT NOBLE was killed when she got into her husband's automobile, at which time there was a terrific explosion which took her life. On December 24, 1949, LOIS GREEN, one of BINION's hired killers, was reportedly murdered in retaliation for Mrs. NOBLE's death.

It was reported that the Dallas County Grand Jury returned an indictment against BINION and HARRY URBAN for the operation of a policy game in 1951 and URBAN was tried in February, 1951, and received a four-year sentence which was appealed.

A. A. EADES, Auditor of the BINION-URBAN operations, confirmed many records of the URBAN-BINION operations during URBAN's trial and by their own figures and testimony,

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it was clear that the whole policy partnership had violated the income tax laws.

BINION on his tax returns in [] claimed a loss of [] on his smaller partnership but stated on his tax return the partnership took in []. He claimed a net profit of [] from the larger partnership, which he stated took in [] and claimed that he received a little over [] from over a gross of []. His net ran from [] per cent to [] per cent of the total profits. IRS [JFK Law 11(a)]

A check at the Hillcrest State Bank at Dallas regarding the affairs and dealings of HARRY URBAN and L. B. BINION reflected that deposit slips from April 9, 1948, to May 5, 1948, to BINION's account from HARRY URBAN's policy account was \$35,344.70. It was also noted checks drawn on URBAN's account (policy) signed by URBAN and made out to BINION or to cash and endorsed by BINION at Las Vegas with the initial "B" from December 7, 1948, to January 21, 1949, totaled \$47,588.29.

The records of the above bank also reflect that \$97,432.99 was transferred to BINION from the Dallas BINION-URBAN policy operations during 1948.

In August, 1952, SA FORD E. HOLMES at Reno, Nevada, determined from the United States District Court Clerk's Office that BINION was indicted on May 2, 1952, in the Northern District of Texas for income tax evasion. This information being recorded at the United States District Court Clerk's Office, Carson City, Nevada. Docket No. 12349, case entitled "BENNY BINION vs United States." It also reflected a consent to transfer of proceedings under Rule 20 of the Federal Rules of Procedure had been received from the Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth.

As a result of this indictment, a warrant was issued May 3, 1952, and BINION was taken into custody on May 5, 1952, by Deputy United States Marshal O. R.

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BRYANT and on the same date was released on \$10,000.00 bond. Records of the United States District Court, Carson City, Nevada, reflect that the original consent to transfer under Rule 20 was on July 21, 1952, and was withdrawn on August 5, 1952, by FRANK B. POTTER, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas and on August 9, 1952, there was a hearing on a motion for a re-transfer of BINION's case.

The original indictment which was dated July 21, 1952, reflects that on or about May 5, 1950, in Dallas BINION tried to evade income taxes for 1949 by filing a false and fraudulent return showing his income as \$16,144.70 with a tax due of \$3,841.30 when he well knew that his income was \$31,271.10 and that his tax was \$11,325.03. Count Two of the indictment reflects the same as to TEDDY JANE BINION, wife of subject, stating that she owes a tax of \$10,997.67.

Subject appeared before the Federal Judge EDWARD T. MURPHY on August 22, 1952, who was sitting in Carson City, Nevada, acting in the place of Federal Judge ROGER T. FOLEY and that at this time he entered a plea of nolo contendere which was accepted and he was sentenced on September 3, 1952, to five years suspended and was placed on probation for five years and fined \$15,000.00.

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On January 6, 1958, U. S. Probation Officer HUBERT BOYD of Las Vegas advised SA LEO E. KUYKENDALL that Mr. AMOS P. DICKEY, Clerk of the U. S. District Court, Carson City, Nevada, had directed a communication to Mr. MILES N. PIKE, U. S. Attorney, Reno, and to Mr. CLIFFORD DEVINE, U. S. Probation Officer, Reno, Nevada, advising he had received on September 3, 1952, from L. B. BINION the sum of \$15,000 as payment of his fine. Mr. DEVINE on the same date advised the Collector of Internal Revenue, Dallas, Texas, that on September 4, 1952, Attorney THOMAS A. FOLEY, acting for L. B. BINION brought to his office for delivery to the Collector of Internal Revenue, a cashier's check drawn on the Nevada Bank of Commerce at Reno, payable to the Collector of Internal Revenue, Dallas, a check in the amount of \$20,704.95. In this the amount of tax due was \$14,819.14 and six per cent interest for two years, five months, and four days, \$2,158.98, penalty at fifty per cent on first count of indictment, \$3,726.83.

The records of the U. S. Marshal's Office, Reno, Nevada, reflect that L. B. BINION was taken into custody by the U. S. Marshal on October 3, 1952, for income tax evasion, this being in connection with an indictment for tax evasion in the Northern District of Texas for the years 1947 and 1948.

On April 14, 1953, the Nevada State Journal, Reno, Nevada, reported that through Federal Court procedure BINION had attempted to evade removal to Texas and had appealed to the Supreme Court; and on April 13, 1953, the Court had refused to review BINION's appeal for removal order.

On December 7, 1953, the Las Vegas Review Journal newspaper reported that the Federal Government was enriched by more than \$500,000 when BINION paid his back income tax. The article stated that BINION had delivered his check for \$516,541.93 to the Internal Revenue Bureau at Las Vegas.

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In connection with the above indictment, Mr. HUBERT W. BOYD, U. S. Probation Officer, Las Vegas, advised SA LEO E. KUYKENDALL on January 6, 1958, that he had been advised through official channels that BINION had appeared before Judge BEN H. RICE, JR. on December 14, 1953, at San Antonio, Texas, and received a sentence to serve five years and a \$5,000 fine on four counts of the indictment. The \$20,000 fines were paid to the U. S. District Court Clerk's Office in San Antonio on the same date of sentence. Mr. BOYD stated on December 16, 1953, that BINION was sentenced on a state charge for operation of a policy game, to four years which was to run concurrent with the Federal time he had received two days previously and that he had been released to Federal authorities on December 18, 1953. Mr. BOYD stated he had a progress report from the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth concerning L. B. BINION which was dated March 19, 1957, stating the subject had been released that date by Court order dated March 18, 1957, from the U. S. District Court at Waco, Texas. This order was brought to the penitentiary by BINION's wife. The court ordered the subject released, having approved a \$25,000 bond. He was released by the U. S. Supreme Court and was to abide by their rules and regulations and also the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth District, stating if the sentence which subject is now serving is not eventually reversed, he will surrender himself to the custody of the Attorney General to complete his sentence. This appeal was lost and BINION surrendered himself to the U. S. Marshal at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 16, 1947, and a Writ of Habeas Corpus was immediately filed and he was released.

Subject's attorney, JACOB KOSSMAN of 1325 Spruce, Philadelphia, stated BINION should be released outright stating since the period he reported to the Parole Officer he was technically under Federal custody. BINION posted a \$5,000.00 bond pending a hearing on the writ.

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The Philadelphia Office, by communication dated May 22, 1958, advised Assistant U. S. Attorney JOSEPH L. MC GLYNN for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania had advised SA ROBERT W. HOLMES on May 21, 1958, he is awaiting the receipt of various records; and upon receipt of the records, he will be in a position to go before the U. S. District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and argue BINION's motion for a writ of Habeas Corpus and that he expects the argument to be made in the near future.

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On January 1, 1947, WILL R. WILSON (presently Attorney General of Texas) was elected District Attorney,

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and he, along with Chief of Police HANSSON, began an intensive operation to close up BINION and his associates as well as other gambling groups. It should be noted it was at this time BINION left Dallas and moved to Las Vegas, Nevada. Chief of Police HANSSON alleged that after BINION's incarceration at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, in December, 1953, that attempts were made to get BINION transferred from Leavenworth to the Seagoville Correctional Institution at Dallas and subsequently paroled; however, these many efforts of BINION and his friends failed, and he remained at Leavenworth. It should be noted that there is nothing in the files of the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, to indicate such efforts were made by BINION.

Chief HANSSON stated that information had been received through underworld sources that the BINION interests planned to assassinate Chief HANSSON; however, the identity of the "trigger men" was never known, and the reliability of the information was not evaluated. Chief HANSSON stated efforts were made to free BINION from the penitentiary subsequent to his commitment in 1953, by his wife and an attorney by the name of ROY GILBERT BAKER of Sherman, Texas, and HOWARD CARNEY of Gilmer, Texas, a former Secretary of State during Governor ALLAN SHIVERS' administration.

In connection with BINION's conviction for income tax evasion, SA VINCENT E. DRANE on January 15, 1958, advised the files of the U. S. District Court Clerk's Office in Dallas reflected that LESTER BENJAMIN BINION was indicted, two counts, on May 2, 1952, for

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evasion of income tax for the year 1949, in violation of Title 26, Section 145 (b), U. S. Code.

C. ASSOCIATES

On January 6, 1958, U. S. Probation Officer HUBERT BOYD advised that BINION had been under very close observation since he returned to Las Vegas from U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, in March, 1957, until October, 1957. Mr. BOYD stated his files reflected that BINION had contacted the Parole Officer 29 times from March 21, 1957, until October 23, 1957. Mr. BOYD stated BINION had stayed strictly to himself and his only associate was ROBERT H. "DOBY DOC" CAUDILL, a 2½ per cent interest holder of the Horseshoe Club in Las Vegas and JOE W. BROWN, who owns the remaining interest in the Horseshoe Club. He had also been observed conversing with employees of the Horseshoe Club, particularly T-1.

ROBERT ~~CAUDILL~~

Mr. HUBERT BOYD, Probation Officer, advised on January 6, 1958, CAUDILL is commonly known as "DOBY DOC." He originally operated a rooming house in Elko, Nevada, and was a bootlegger during prohibition days. He allegedly handled narcotics and hot jewelry; however, this has never been confirmed.

MAX ~~COHEN~~

MAX COHEN was alleged to have been an associate of BINION or to have visited him in Texas; however, this was never confirmed and T-1 stated as of December 21, 1957, COHEN had not been in contact with BINION since his release from the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth. This was verified by Mr. HUBERT BOYD, U. S. Probation Officer on January 6, 1958.

KANSAS

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NATIE ~~BLANK~~ *95.17*

In 1952, T-2 advised SA B. C. WHEELER that BLANK was a gunman for hire and at one time was a body-guard for BINION. He stated BINION discharged BLANK in September, 1953, after he had received information that BLANK had indicated to BINION that someone was going to kill BLANK in order to get his job as body-guard. BINION advised SA LEO E. KUYKENDALL in December, 1953, his automobile was fired at while NATIE BLANK was driving and he was of the opinion someone was trying to shoot BLANK and not himself.

GUS GREENBAUM
(Deceased)

GREENBAUM is former President of the Flamingo Hotel and presently is a large percentage holder in the Riviera Hotel. He is reported to be a contact of BINION but is not known to have contacted BINION since BINION's release from the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth.

Some of the alleged former associates of BINION are JOHNNY DREW of Chicago, GUY KINCANNON, Waco, Texas, and GLEN MC CARTHY of Houston, Texas; however, T-1 and U. S. Probation Officer HUBERT BOYD stated they have not known of a contact by any of these individuals with BINION.

HERMAN MILTON "HANK" ~~GREENSPUN~~ *WEV*

GREENSPUN is the publisher of the Las Vegas Sun newspaper and T-2 stated on December 23, 1957, GREENSPUN is friendly with BINION but BINION does not have much respect for GREENSPUN.

THOMAS A. ~~FOLEY~~ *WEV*

FOLEY is a Las Vegas attorney, the son of retired

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U. S. District Judge ROGER T. FOLEY. He has not been employed by BINION recently as BINION related on December 14, 1957, the only attorney he is employing at the present time is JACOB KOSSMAN of Philadelphia.

JOE W. BROWN
(Deceased)

T-3 advised on January 2, 1958, JOE W. BROWN is a multi-millionaire, owning tremendous oil holdings and refineries in New Orleans, has two stables of race horses and a breeding farm at Lexington, Kentucky, and owns 97½ per cent of the Horseshoe Club in Las Vegas.

In December, 1953, the Las Vegas Review Journal newspaper carried an announcement that BINION had sold to JOE W. BROWN 97½ per cent of the Horseshoe Club and 2½ per cent had been retained by R. H. CAUDILL. The reported sale price of the Horseshoe Club was in excess of \$887,000. BROWN reportedly has no criminal record, spends most of his time in New Orleans or at race tracks where his horses are running.

MARVIN STARK

STARK is reportedly from Houston, Texas, and operated a hickory barbecue stand at Houston in prior years. BINION advised SA LEO E. KUYKENDALL in February, 1958, that he was loaning STARK some money to open a barbecue place on North 3rd Street in Las Vegas. This barbecue house opened and was operated by STARK for approximately two months and then closed due to lack of business. *new*

The following information relative to STARK was obtained by SA HOLLIS Q. BOONE at Houston, Texas, and was furnished in a communication dated April 8, 1958:

On March 28, 1958, Mrs. ALLIE FUTRELL, Credit Bureau of Greater Houston advised SA BOONE that MARVIN T.

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~~MARVIN~~ STARK formerly resided at 3107 Rice Boulevard, Houston, TEXAS
is 45 years of age, (1957), married, wife PAULINE, one
child. A credit report from the Dallas Credit Bureau in
July, 1949, reflected STARK was self employed in the
cattle, farm, and real estate business. On March 28,
1958, Mrs. LUPE CANO of the Houston Police Department
advised SA BOONE that MARVIN THOMAS STARK, Houston
Police Department Number 37356, FBI Number 640584, and
TPS Number 67765 had been arrested in Dallas for
failing to register a gun in 1935 and he received one
year and one day in the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth
to run concurrent with a five year sentence in a state
robbery case. He had some arrests for violation of the
National Prohibition Act and on May 4, 1933, was sentenced
to 30 days for this violation. On July 10, 1934, he was
arrested by the Ft. Worth Police Department for robbery
with firearms and on February 26, 1935, was received
at the Texas State Penitentiary, from Dallas and Tarrant
Counties for robbery, sentenced to five years and paroled
January 21, 1937, and discharged from the Reprive State
Farm on April 24, 1940. He was sentenced December 17,
1937, to serve two years at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary
for burglary and he was released April 5, 1939, from the
OSP to the TSP as a parole violator. The records failed
to reflect any arrests for felony crimes since December,
1937.

B. APPROX. 1915

NEV

D. CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

On June 2, 1958, Sheriff W. E. LEYPOLDT of the
Clark County Sheriff's Office, Las Vegas, Nevada, advised
he has received no information that BINION has been
implicated in any type of criminal activities since
1947.

Informants who are at the present time or have
been in the past closely associated with BINION have

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stated BINION has found he can make more money in legitimate gambling than he ever could in illegal gambling operations.

E. LEGITIMATE ENTERPRISES

BINION has been operating gambling casinos in Las Vegas, Nevada, from 1947 until 1953 when he went to the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, for income tax evasion. Gambling is considered a legitimate enterprise as gambling is legal in the State of Nevada. He also operates a large ranch consisting of 156,642 acres of land owned or under lease by him near Jordan, Montana.

On February 25, 1958, Mr. ROBERT NELSON, Administrative Assistant, Bureau of Land Management, Miles City, Montana, advised SA DANIEL A. CURNAN that 77,058 acres of this ranch is deeded to BINION personally. The remainder consists of leases from the State of Montana and the Federal Government.

BINION advised SA LEO E. KUYKENDALL on April 14, 1958, that he had been to Phoenix, Arizona, making arrangements to purchase 1060 head of cattle from an old Mexican cattleman and that he had been to Jordan, Montana, where he had had the cattle shipped, to supervise their unloading and transportation to his ranch.

On April 21, 1958, HELEN HAMMOND, Garfield County Assessor's Office, Jordan, Montana, advised the oil well drilling on the BINION ranch which has been in progress for some time had come to a halt as they had apparently hit a "dry hole." BINION advised SA LEO E. KUYKENDALL that when they were drilling at 7,000 feet on the ranch, it appeared they were going to hit an oil well; however, they proceeded to 9,000 feet and did not have a showing and abandoned the well.

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REVIEWED BY *Land Management* ~~NEW~~ JFK TASK FORCE

ON *10/27/97* *lat*

- ☒ RELEASE IN FULL
☐ RELEASE IN PART
☐ TOTAL DENIAL

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On February 19, 1958, BINION advised SA KUYKENDALL that he is going to have quite a bit to do with the management of the Horseshoe Club but was not going to take any active part until JOE W. BROWN, who owns 97½ per cent of the Horseshoe stock had departed from Las Vegas and returned to his home in New Orleans.

On March 24, 1958, BINION advised above agent he is considering purchasing back the Horseshoe Club Gambling Casino, the Restaurant and other related properties from BROWN but will not close this deal until it can be determined if he can obtain a gambling permit in the State of Nevada after the writ of Habeas Corpus at Philadelphia had been finally settled and stated further he had been in touch with his attorney in Philadelphia and there was a possibility of a hearing on this writ in August, 1958.

With regard to the legitimate operations of subject's ranch near Jordan, Montana, Sheriff WILSON E. COREY of Garfield County, Montana, was contacted by SA DANIEL A. CURNAN, February 20, 1958, and Sheriff COREY stated he had received no information that would indicate that any underworld characters or members of the criminal element had visited or stayed at the BINION ranch which is located approximately 25 miles northeast of Jordan, Montana.

F. PLACES OF AMUSEMENT OR
HANGOUTS FREQUENTED

BINION is observed almost daily by Special Agents of the FBI at Las Vegas at JOE W. BROWN's Horseshoe Club. He is also observed frequently at his home, 2040 Bonanza Road, working with a number of horses he has there and he is also assisted in working with the horses by his daughter BRENDA and son TED.

T-1 advised that BINION, who has a number of well

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bred quarter horses and some thoroughbred horses, has interested his children in horses; and as a result, his daughter BRENDA participated in the rodeo during the Helldorado celebration the weekend of May 16. She was also a contestant in the cutting horse contest and was one of the high point winners in her class. T-1 further advised that BRENDA made a trip with her father to Phoenix, Arizona, during March where she was looking at some horses and he was negotiating to purchase cattle out of Mexico.

G. TRAVEL

According to the records of the U. S. Probation Officer, Mr. HUBERT W. BOYD, Las Vegas, BINION since his release from the U. S. Prison, Leavenworth, in March, 1957, has been granted permission to travel to Mecca, California, to his ranch in Montana and to Philadelphia to confer with his attorney. In June, 1957, he traveled to Montana with his family and remained there with his family until the weekend of August 20, 1957. He traveled to Santa Barbara, California, in October, 1957, where he had an operation performed on his youngest daughter, BECKY, for some type of growth on the bone of her right leg.

On March 26, 1958, subject advised he was going back to Phoenix, Arizona, to contact LES CONLEY, President of the "Cowboy Association of America" as he was trying to assist persons in Las Vegas with the rodeo celebration. He remarked on a previous visit to Phoenix he had talked with MAX COHEN, former Wichita bootlegger and laughingly remarked COHEN had been voted out of business when whiskey was legalized in the State of Kansas.

Recently BINION has made trips to San Bernardino, California, for one day's duration to receive treatments for

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his teeth and gums. He stated he usually has to remain at home for a few days after these treatments. He also advised that he possibly will return his youngest daughter, BECKY, to the hospital in Santa Barbara, California, as it appears her leg which was operated on in October, 1957, is not growing and will be shorter than her other leg.

BINION owns and drives a 1956 Cadillac Coupe de Ville, light gray-blue in color, which is registered to him at 2040 Bonanza Road. This automobile has Nevada license plates C-6212.

H. PERSONAL HABITS AND PECULIARITIES

Informants advise BINION has never been observed drinking any type of intoxicating liquors since he has been in Las Vegas. He has not smoked in some time but he has recently been observed smoking a cigarette on some occasions. Informants state he has no female companions outside his family. He is very interested in horses and cattle and taken much interest along ranching lines and other income possibilities.

He has a trademark in his appearance in that he always wears a white western type or "cowboy" hat.

Sheriff W. E. LEYPOLDT and Assistant Chief of Police GEORGE ALLEN advised they have never known or received information that BINION was carrying any type of firearm. There is also no indication he has any bodyguards. From observation it has been noted that subject's home is located in a very respectable neighborhood. His home is located on approximately three acres of property, is not lavishly but moderately furnished and informants extremely close to BINION state he keeps no valuables at his residence. BINION stated on March 28, 1958, he had

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completely quit smoking but he had nothing to do so he had started smoking again and was apparently going to become a confirmed smoker.

I. MISCELLANEOUS

Subject BINION advised SA LEO E. KUYKENDALL on April 2, 1958, that there had been rumors that he intended to purchase the Horseshoe Club Casino; however, he could not do this until after there had been a hearing on his writ of Habeas Corpus which was to be heard in Philadelphia and that this hearing would probably be set for August, 1958.

BINION also advised on April 14, 1958, that he had purchased 1,060 head of cattle in old Mexico and would have them shipped to his ranch near Jordan, Montana.

T-1 advised that BINION had indicated to him during May, 1958, that he has plans for repurchasing of the Horseshoe Club which was owned at this time by JOE W. BROWN who has 97½ per cent of this establishment and ROBERT CAUDILL has 2½ per cent. CAUDILL and BINION were partners in the Horseshoe Club prior to BINION reporting to the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, in December, 1953, to serve a five year term of income tax evasion.

BINION in November, 1958, advised that the controlling interest of the Horseshoe Club had been purchased by ED LEVINSON from JOE W. BROWN and that ROBERT CAUDILL, also known as "DOBY DOC," had purchased 25 per cent. The estimated percentage value is \$2,500 for 1 per cent.

BINION stated that he had received a sufficient

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amount of money on the exchange of the Horseshoe Club to pay the Federal Government his income tax debt, which at that time was reported to be between \$200,000 and \$250,000. He also related that he had sold horses from his ranch at Jordan, Montana, for approximately \$60,000.

T-4 advised that BINION had related to him on October 8, 1958, that he had sold \$60,000 worth of horses and cattle from his ranch and BINION, himself, related that he had attended a quarter horse sale and had purchased two horses which cost him \$5,000. These horses are supposed to have been purchased from a man well known in the quarter horse field known as "HOSS" INMAN.

On December 19, 1958, Chief Assistant United States Attorney JOSEPH L. MC GLYNN, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, advised that Judge GEORGE A. WELSH had filed an opinion on December 17, 1958, on BINION's motion for writ of Habeas Corpus in which WELSH ruled that BINION's supervision by parole officer was tantamount to confinement; and he, therefore, has no more time to serve.

On April 1, 1959, Assistant United States Attorney JOSEPH L. MC GLYNN advised SA ROBERT W. HOLMES of Philadelphia that the Department of Justice had instructed the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to prepare an appeal to the decision of Judge WELSH and that both sides should file briefs with the Circuit Court of Appeals, and it was expected there would not be a decision before the fall of 1959.

The Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the decision of Judge WELSH and BINION surrendered himself to the United States Marshal as he had been requested by the court to serve 58 days of his original sentence. He, therefore, surrendered to the United States Marshal at Carson City on June 10, 1960, and immediately filed another writ and posted a \$5,000 bail.

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REVIEWED BY *6015A* ~~WJFK~~ TASK FORCE

ON *12/22/97* *dad*

☒ RELEASE IN FULL

☐ RELEASE IN PART

☐ TOTAL DENIAL

SU 94-253

In connection with this matter, the Reno Evening Gazette, Reno, Nevada, dated July 13, 1960, stated that the government claims BINION owes 58 days; however, BINION claims that he finished the sentence while serving probation on a separate conviction and the Federal Court in Philadelphia granted him freedom on this argument. This was reversed and the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that only access probation served by BINION could be credited to the prison term, which left 58 days.

BINION now declares that by an odd coincidence it was exactly 58 days between the time he was granted freedom and the ruling was reversed. This, he said, would wipe out any remaining prison time.

In filing the writ, Attorney HARRY CLAIBORNE of Las Vegas asked for a temporary writ of Habeas Corpus until the dispute could be settled. Otherwise, he noted, "The question could become moot."

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**United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation**

Salt Lake City, Utah
October 7, 1960

LESTER BENJAMIN BINION,
also known as;
ANTI-RACKETEERING

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent Leo E. Kuykendall dated October 7, 1960, at Salt Lake City, Utah.

The informants utilized in this report have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency. Neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside your agency.

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~~Chief HANSSON stated that prior to 1945, when he was made Chief of Police, corruption existed among certain individuals in the Dallas Police Department, and it was necessary after his appointment to get on a long range program of weeding out the corrupt police officers and at the same time attempt to close up gambling operations which had existed for several years. HANSSON said BINION had many friends and was very powerful in the city of Dallas.~~

add to above para.

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SU 94-253

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SU 94-253

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