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During this same period of time, the "Jacksonville Journal" ran an article concerning JOHNSTON's testimony before the Kefauver Committee which conveyed the impression that he had been associated with the hoodlum element and that he had been linked with them. JOHNSTON in interview with Bureau Agents advised that he went to the newspaper and threatened to sue them for slander if a general retraction of this article was not printed. At that time JOHNSTON stated, "I am not and have never been connected in any way with the CAPONE mob or any other mob."

During our investigations in the Criminal Intelligence Field, no information has been received which would indicate that WILLIAM H. JOHNSTON, SR., is in touch with local hoodlums, nor has there previously been any information received from any other division indicating association or contact with hoodlum elements. However, HAROLD COHN, owner of Radio Station WRHC, an established source of the Jacksonville Division, has been contacted. He advises that he has known JOHNSTON for about thirty years and considers JOHNSTON a close friend. He confidentially furnished the following information:

Twenty-five to thirty years ago JOHNSTON was sent to Jacksonville from Chicago, Illinois, by one EDDIE O'HARE, a Chicago hoodlum, to manage the Jacksonville Kennel Club. O'HARE financed the venture and JOHNSTON received a nominal salary. Part of JOHNSTON's job involved public relations and at that time COHN was managing editor of the "Jacksonville Journal."

About fifteen years ago, one of AL CAPONE's henchmen, name unknown, allegedly tried to "muscle in" on O'HARE's operations and as O'HARE was in no position to refuse, O'HARE's holdings were partly given to some of CAPONE's henchmen, names unknown. O'Hare trusted JOHNSTON and named him beneficiary of some of his business interests which included the Jacksonville dog track. About twelve years ago, O'HARE had his head blown off in a gangland-style murder and it became necessary for JOHNSTON to negotiate with the Chicago hoodlums in order to buy out their interest in the Jacksonville Kennel Club. JOHNSTON reportedly was successful in this and controls the club without any interference from the Chicago element. JOHNSTON is not believed to have had contact with the hoodlums since that time although he undoubtedly knows many of them and