

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI  
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10201-10029  
RECORD SERIES : HQ  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 92-3182-32

Released under the John  
F. Kennedy  
Assassination Records  
Collection Act of 1992  
(44 USC 2107 Note).  
Case#:NW 45679 Date:  
11-16-2017

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI  
FROM : ROEMER, WILLIAM F. JR.  
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
TITLE :  
DATE : 11/25/1958  
PAGES : 31  
SUBJECTS :  
GAL, BKG, INVEST, ASSOC  
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified  
RESTRICTIONS : 4; 11(a)  
CURRENT STATUS : Redact  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 01/06/1999  
OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE, APPROVAL OF IRS  
COMMENTS :

CG 92-373

On October 15, 1958, HERB WARD, Manager, Beach Garage, 5939 South Lake Park, advised SAs PAUL B. FRANKFURT and ROEMER that "BUTCH" LADON does not keep his Pontiac in the Beach Garage as he did heretofore, but instead now keeps a 1958 black Cadillac Fleetwood 60 Special, Illinois license number 470 148, in the garage. It is noted that this is the car that LADON has been using to chauffeur ALEX. WARD also furnished information that LADON has now changed his pattern in that he now takes his car from the garage around 10 a.m., whereas his former procedure was to take the car before 9 a.m., and sometimes before 8 a.m.

A surveillance of "BUTCH" LADON on October 15, 1958, by SAs FRANKFURT and ROEMER determined that LADON entered the Beach Garage at 10:21 a.m. and left it at 10:22 a.m., driving the above mentioned Cadillac. At 10:37 a.m. LADON exited from Lake Shore Drive at the Fullerton Street exit. At 10:52 a.m., the above described Cadillac was observed in a parking space at 320 Oakdale, the residence of EDDIE VOGEL and FRANK FERRARO.

It is noted that LADON previous to his employment as a chauffeur by ALEX was a chauffeur-body guard for EDDIE VOGEL, and the above information tends to indicate that LADON has resumed his association with VOGEL.

THOMAS S. X MUNIZZO

It is noted that T-5 has furnished information which has previously been reported, indicating that one "TOMMY" was a close associate of GUS ALEX, and that "TOMMY" was used by the hoodlums for contacts with the mayor of Chicago. It has also been reported that investigation determined that the "TOMMY" referred to by CG 6232-C is in all probability THOMAS S. X MUNIZZO.

On September 24, 1958, T-5 was contacted to determine if the previous information which he had furnished regarding "TOMMY" concerned THOMAS S. MUNIZZO, 305 West 31st Street, Chicago, Illinois, the owner of the 31 Excavation Company at that address. This informant stated that this

*del*  
been changed from NATHAN LADON, who previously was listed as the driver for this car, to JOSEPH D. PIGNATELLO, 6918 South Paulina, Chicago. It is noted that this car has been observed by sources of this office being driven by LADON for GUS ALEX, and it is this car which is described above under the caption, "NATHAN 'BUTCH' LADON." It is also noted that ~~JOE~~ PIGNATELLO is an associate of hoodlums and at one time was believed to be a chauffeur-body guard for EDDIE VOGEL. He operates a pizzeria on West Roosevelt Road in Chicago. On October 6, 1958, PIGNATELLO was interviewed at his residence at 6918 South Paulina by SAs FRANKFURT and ROEMER. PIGNATELLO was most uncooperative during the interview, and refused to answer any questions whatsoever put to him by the interviewing agents. He repeated the following phrase approximately a dozen times during the course of the interview: "Give me your card and my attorney will contact you."

ELLIOTT PRICE *MASS*

T-1 advised that he had recently been in Boston, Massachusetts, and while there, was in contact with ELLIOTT PRICE, who is involved in the numbers racket and in bookmaking in Boston. PRICE advised the informant that he was a good friend of GUS ALEX. When the informant returned to Chicago, he mentioned to ALEX that ELLIOTT PRICE had sent his regards to him and ALEX told the informant that PRICE was "O.K." and "a real swell guy."

SIDNEY R. KORSHAK *del*

*del*  
It is noted that previous information has been reported concerning the association which exists between GUS and MARIANNE ALEX and SIDNEY and BERNICE KORSHAK. Briefly, it is noted that KORSHAK and his wife are close friends of the ALEXs, and that KORSHAK is an extremely wealthy attorney with offices at 134 South La Salle, Chicago, and a brother of MARSHALL KORSHAK, Illinois State Senator, with whom he shares legal offices. It is also noted that while ALEX was evading the subpoena of the Senate Rackets Committee that he stayed in the Ocotillo Lodge in Palm Springs, California, for a period of time, and that while

in Los Angeles, California, he used a 1958 Lincoln Continental Mark 3 automobile. SIDNEY KORSHAK has advised SA ROEMER that the villa at the Ocotillo Lodge where ALEX stayed is leased to him, KORSHAK, on an annual basis, and that it was his Lincoln Continental Mark 3, which ALEX and his wife used in Los Angeles.

JFK Act 6 (2)

JFK Act 6 (4)

[redacted] owner-manager, the Whitehall Club, 105 East Delaware, stated in applying for membership in the Whitehall Club, ALEX used S. KORSHAK, 2970 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, as a character reference. It is noted that SIDNEY R. KORSHAK advised SA ROEMER in July, 1958, that he maintains an apartment at 2970 Lake Shore Drive.

LOUIS TORNABENE

As has been previously reported, LOUIS TORNABENE is a close associate of GUS ALEX, and operates handbooks in the Loop area of Chicago, over which ALEX allegedly holds the principal interest. T-5 advised on September 24, 1958, that for the past six months he has been a partner of LOUIS TORNABENE in a gambling establishment which the informant and TORNABENE operated at the Santa Fe Hotel, Polk and Dearborn Streets, Chicago. During the course of this joint venture, T-5 stated that TORNABENE became obligated to him in the amount of approximately \$15,000.00, as well as a personal gambling debt amounting to an additional \$4,000.00. TORNABENE refused to pay the informant his winnings because the informant had quit on a specific crap game in which TORNABENE was playing against other persons, some being backed by the informant. The informant, at the time of quitting, was winning money from TORNABENE. The informant contacted SAM BATTAGLIA, highly placed Chicago hoodlum, through an intermediary and BATTAGLIA sent an individual named FNU POPE to see the informant. POPE said he would have to get both sides of the story in regards to the gambling debt and would have a ruling in a day or two.

Prior to the informant's contact with SAM BATTAGLIA, LOUIS TORNABENE had sent two hoodlums to his house, obviously with the intent to threaten the informant to take no further

901-1008 d

action regarding the gambling debt. The informant spotted the two individuals sitting outside his home and then decided to go directly to SAM BATTAGLIA to force the issue.

On the evening of <sup>see</sup> September 24, 1958, the informant was called to the Santa Fe Bar for a meeting with TORNABENE and POPE. At that time also present was an individual known as "Chappie," who is a close associate of LOUIS TORNABENE and GUS ALEX in gambling operations. The informant advised CHAPPIE at this meeting would directly represent GUS ALEX's interest in the dispute. The informant advised that POPE, the representative of SAM BATTAGLIA, was described as white, male, Italian, 55, light complected, average height and "skinny."

It was decided at the meeting that TORNABENE owed the informant no money from the gambling debt. TORNABENE stated that the informant was being charged expenses for the operations of TORNABENE's bookie joint and that his share in the winnings less expenses would be \$4,600.00, which TORNABENE was obligated to pay and was, in fact, paying off. ~~The~~ informant advised that POPE had contacted MAISH BAER, Chicago hoodlum, prior to the meeting and that BAER, knowing the informant, sided with him in the dispute. <sup>see</sup> The informant advised that the entire situation cost him \$10,000.00 and the interesting point was that it showed the power of GUS ALEX's influence in the syndicate setup. He advised that in spite of SAM BATTAGLIA, POPE and MAISH BAER siding with him, GUS ALEX's weight thrown to TORNABENE's side of the issue was sufficient to settle the dispute in TORNABENE's favor with no objection from any of the other participants in the conversation. The informant further advised on October 8, 1958, that he felt that he had been muscled out of money honestly owed to him by TORNABENE and that he is presently making efforts through his eastern contacts, which would be the former "Joe Adonis" Gang, of whom there are a few members left operating on the East Coast, who are very powerful in the Jersey City and New York City area. The informant hoped through this connection to have contact made directly to TONY ACCARDO, who would then settle the dispute himself. The informant advised that if he is successful with his East Coast contacts, they will send a man to Chicago to make the contact with ACCARDO. He advised he would keep this office advised of the entire situation as it develops.

201-1003 d

The informant further advised that LOUIS TORNABENE has huge sums of money available at all times for his gambling operations and that he maintains several safety deposit boxes at the Central National Bank, located east of Halsted Street on the north side of Roosevelt Road. He advised that this bank is also used as a place for storing gambling money by other hoodlums in the Chicago area; however, he did not know the specific individuals outside of TORNABENE using the bank's facilities.

T-5 further advised that during the period of time when he was in close contact and in the good graces of LOUIS TORNABENE, TORNABENE boasted to him that GUS ALEX is anxious to lend him \$20,000.00 for TORNABENE's own use in bookmaking. TORNABENE stated that he has not accepted the twenty grand but also said that GUS ALEX has offered part of the policy racket on the South Side of Chicago. TORNABENE indicated that he is interested in the policy angle.

HENRY SUSK *see*

Attention is drawn to the fact that it has previously been reported that HENRY SUSK is a close friend of GUS ALEX, and that SUSK has furnished ALEX with several automobiles, which remain registered to SUSK but are used principally by ALEX. Also, that SUSK has furnished a diner's credit card to ALEX, and that ALEX utilizes this card for meals.

T-1 advised that on September 26, 1958, HENRY SUSK dined with GUS and MARIANNE ALEX, and that MARIANNE ALEX attempted to do the cooking on this occasion and burned both the steak and potatoes, which she attempted to cook.

EDDIE VOGEL

Reported above under the caption, "NATHAN 'BUTCH' LADON", is information that SAs FRANKFURT and ROEMER observed LADON drive the Cadillac, which he has been using to chauffeur ALEX, to the residence of EDDIE VOGEL, on October 15, 1958. On October 20, 1958, SA FRANKFURT observed LADON driving this same automobile with VOGEL as a passenger. This,

to be "The Boss of the Loop" for the Chicago Crime Syndicate. He stated that any problems which arise among gamblers in the Loop are settled by GUS ALEX, and that he feels certain that no bookie can operate in the Loop without the sanction of ALEX. He reiterated information in this regard, which he has furnished previously concerning the attempt of a prominent hoodlum to "muscle" in on the informant's business, and stated that he continues to operate free from such "muscling" after he successfully sought the intervention and protection of ALEX. He feels that this continued "guardianship" of GUS ALEX has enabled him to operate in the Loop free from hoodlum interference and free from the usual fifty per cent which the syndicate extracts from each gambler. It is noted that above under the caption "ASSOCIATES" and the sub-caption "LOUIS TORNABENE" information is set out concerning the intervention of GUS ALEX in a dispute between T-5 and LOUIS TORNABENE. As noted above, the informant stated that one of the most significant things to him in the entire dispute was the fact that in spite of the weight of SAM BATTAGLIA, who is regarded among hoodlums in Chicago as a very influential syndicate leader coupled with MAISH BAER, who is also highly regarded among Chicago hoodlums although not so much so as BATTAGLIA, and one POPE, the fact that GUS ALEX sided with TORNABENE in the issue was sufficient to settle the dispute in TORNABENE's favor with no objection from BATTAGLIA, BAER, or POPE. It is noted further that this dispute concerned a gambling operation in the Santa Fe Hotel, located at Polk and Dearborn Streets in the first ward of Chicago. This information would, therefore, tend to substantiate information previously reported that GUS ALEX controls the first ward for the syndicate. The first ward includes the Loop, the near South Side, and the near West Side, being Chicago's largest geographic ward.

## 2. The South Side

T-8 and T-9, who have furnished reliable information in the past, were contacted during October, 1958. These individuals are very well acquainted with many hoodlums and particularly with individuals engaged in the policy racket on the South Side of Chicago.

CG 92-373

on September 29, 1958, that investigators of his office have received information that GUS ALEX is a silent partner with RALPH PIERCE in the Crossroads Cafe, Wabash and Van Buren Streets, Chicago, Illinois.

It is noted that RALPH PIERCE is a top hoodlum in Chicago.

C. Income for 1951, 1952, 1953,  
1955, 1956

Mr. LA VERNE DUFFY, Chief Investigator, Chicago Office of the Senate Rackets Committee, advised SA ROEMER on September 29, 1958, that one of his investigators was able to review the income tax returns of GUS ALEX during the years 1951, 1952, 1953, 1955, and 1956. Mr. DUFFY stated that the only information the investigator made notes on concerning these returns was as follows:

JFK Law 11(a)

REVIEWED BY <sup>JKS</sup> JFK TASK FORCE

ON 11/12/98 dal

VI. HANGOUTS

RELEASE IN FULL

RELEASE IN PART

TOTAL DENIAL

A. Club Continental

T-13, with whom insufficient contact has been made to determine his reliability but who is in a position to know, advised that GUS ALEX, along with other hoodlums such as JAMES ALLEGRETTI, JOHNNY "Bananas" DE BIASE, and LENNIE PATRICK, are frequent diners at the Club Continental, a plush Rush Street night club. This informant stated that during the early part of 1958, the above individuals

11(a)

82-3182-32



CG 92-373

The following informants are furnishing current information regarding ALEX:

CG 5973-C  
CG 6232-C

The following informants have furnished recent information concerning ALEX, but have not furnished any information during the period covered by instant report:

CG 6215-C  
CG 5973-C  
CG 6241-C

The following Potential Criminal Informants are furnishing current information concerning ALEX:

[REDACTED]

RAY LONGTREE

[REDACTED]

JFK Act 6 (2)

JFK Act 6 (4)

In addition to the above, [REDACTED] of Evergreen Park, Illinois, Police Department, who enjoys a certain amount of ALEX's confidence, having grown up in ALEX's old neighborhood contemporaneously with him, is contacted regularly. He now resides two blocks from ALEX's mother's residence in Evergreen Park. Also, [REDACTED] who reside across the street from ALEX's mother and brother, are contacted regularly. It is noted that ALEX receives his mail at his mother's address and visits there often.

In order to aid in the determination of a possible move on the part of ALEX and his wife, arrangements have been perfected with BENJAMIN LEVIN, Superintendent of the Lake View Post Office, which covers ALEX's residence at 4300 North Marine Drive, Chicago. Mr. LEVIN, who was last contacted on October 13, 1958, advised that he will immediately contact this office in the event he receives a removal notice from either ALEX or his wife, MARIANNE RYAN. It is noted that it

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

CG 92-373

is not felt likely that ALEX would request a removal notice, but it is felt extremely likely that MARIANNE RYAN, due to her career as a professional model, would be most desirous of furnishing a forwarding address to the post office.

INFORMANTS

T-1  
PCI

[REDACTED]

On September 29, 1958, to SAs ROBERT W. HEDDEN and EDWARD J. NEHLS, and on October 20, 1958, to SA HEDDEN.

T-2

[REDACTED]  
9336 South Spaulding  
(Upon request).

On October 6, 1958, to SA WILLIAM F. ROEMER.

T-3

[REDACTED]  
Chief of Security,  
Drake Hotel,  
Chicago, Illinois.

On September 17, 1958, to SA ROEMER.

JFK Act 6 (2)  
JFK Act 6 (4)

T-4

HECTOR "TONY" TONTINI,  
Maitre d',  
Whitehall Club,  
105 East Delaware,  
Chicago, Illinois.

On October 20, 1958, to SA ROEMER.

T-5

CG 6232-C

On September 24, 1958, to SA WILLIAM A. MEINCKE.

T-6

PCI RAY LONGTREE

On October 7, 1958, to SA ROEMER.

T-7

PCI

[REDACTED]

On November 12, 1958, to SA ROEMER.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

901-19958

CG 92-373

T-8

Former PCI [REDACTED]

On October 15, 1958, to  
SAs PAUL B. FRANKFURT and  
ROEMER.

T-9

[REDACTED]  
Partner of T-8 in a bail bond  
business, Wabash Avenue and  
48th Street, Chicago, Illinois.

On October 15, 1958, to  
SAs FRANKFURT and ROEMER.

T-10

CG 6132-C

On September 15, 1958, to  
SA WILLIAM J. MC CORMICK

T-11

[REDACTED]  
PCI.

On July 29, 1958, to  
SA BILLY E. WEBB.

T-12

CG 6215-C

JFK Act 6 (2)

JFK Act 6 (4)

On September 13, 1958, to  
SA ROBERT L. BAKER.

T-13

[REDACTED]  
Manager, Club Continental,  
500 North Rush Street,  
Chicago (Upon request).

On September 12, 1958, to  
SA MEINCKE.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE