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OWENS, GEORGE W., DAVIS, WILLIAM RAY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, DALLAS (94-265)
SUBJECT: INTERVIEW PROGRAM
CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE MATTERS
DALLAS DIVISION

DATE: 4/9/63

Re Dallas letter, 3/11/63.

On 3/14/63, while conducting investigation concerning the operation of a gambling club at 3109 West Davis. (DL 165-115) Bureau Agents observed known Dallas gambler [redacted] park his car in the area and start towards the gambling club. Agents contacted [redacted] and interviewed him in the Bureau car. [redacted] appeared to be cooperative and cordial but it was also quite apparent that he was inquisitive as to the purpose of the Agents being in the area of the gambling club. He was given a pretext reason. [redacted] identified several cars parked in the area as belonging to known Dallas gamblers. He also furnished some information as to the activities within the club, maintaining that there was no bookmaking activity and that the persons in the club were playing poker and gin rummy only, sometimes for high stakes.

OTHER 4

In view of his attitude, further efforts by the Dallas Office will be made to contact and develop [redacted] as a possible source or informant.

- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - Dallas (92-231)
- 1 - Dallas (165-115)
- 1 - Dallas (92-339)
- 1 - Dallas (165-69)
- 1 - Dallas (165-79)
- 1 - Dallas (165-68)
- 1 - Dallas (165-118)
- 1 - Dallas (143-24)
- 1 - Dallas (162-219)
- 1 - Dallas (162-210)
- 1 - Dallas (94-265)

RMB/11
(13)

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Stone Meadows 4-28
CWO
FOR REVIEW AT FBIHQ BY
HSCA RE 4-20 REQUEST.
(SEE BUFILE #62-117290)

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stated he had been in Miami during this time but refused to furnish any information concerning his activities there. He was questioned concerning telephone calls received at his telephone number from a known South Carolina gambler, PAUL THOMAS (DL 165-68), and he admitted that such a call had been received but the call had been placed by THOMAS to a friend of OWENS from Miami who was in Dallas at the time. DAVIS denied any interstate communications for gambling purposes or any interstate travel for same. He refused to discuss his wagering activity. He was questioned concerning his gambling debt of an alleged amount of \$18,000 owed by him to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, gambler FRANK VUCI (DL 165-118). DAVIS would only comment that he had taken care of the matter and that he had lost the money in a poker game in which VUCI was supposed to have been his partner. He stated that although the stories around town had stated the amount was \$18,000, it was actually \$5,000. OWENS made a comment to the Bureau Agents which possibly reflects the attitude of numerous Dallas gamblers, to wit, "Are you guys bothering the other gamblers as much as you are bothering me?". He then went on to explain that anyone connected with gambling in Dallas is quite upset over the intensified efforts of the FBI and IRS in checking all gambling activities in Dallas.

On 3/28/63, [redacted] subject of Dallas *Texas* file 143-24 was interviewed by Bureau Agents at his place of business. [redacted] admitted having ordered and purchased the numerous items of gambling equipment consisting mostly of marked playing cards and loaded dice which had been found in his apartment recently by Dallas police officers. He claimed he had purchased these several years ago from a company in Chicago and had used them to "cheat suckers" in poker games in the Dallas area two or three years ago. He claimed that after he had made some money through these efforts he suddenly decided to quit because he was afraid if he continued he might get into trouble with some other gambler who would discover his activities. [redacted] appeared to be cordial and cooperative and further contacts with him will be conducted by the Dallas Office in an effort to develop him as an informant or source of information. He is an operator of a private drinking club in Dallas and therefore, in a position to be of possible assistance to the Bureau.

OTHER 4

On 3/15/63, [redacted] owner and operator of a liquor store in Dallas, was interviewed by Bureau Agents at his place of business. [redacted] name and phone number had been found among the effects of Dallas bookmakers SHERMAN FRANKLIN LITTLE and MARVIN COX (DL 165-129) when they were arrested by the Dallas PD Vice Squad 2/20/63, based on information furnished by the Dallas Office. [redacted] freely admitted his wagering activities with the subjects and furnished pertinent information concerning their activities. He appeared to be quite cooperative and stated he would assist the Bureau in the investigation of LITTLE and COX. As a result of this contact, a new 137 case is being opened concerning [redacted] and further contacts will be made with him in accordance with Bureau instructions.

TEXAS

On 4/3/63, [redacted] (DL 162-210), was interviewed for the third time by Bureau Agents concerning gambling activities in the Dallas Division and specifically those of known Dallas gamblers RUSSELL DOUGLAS MATTHEWS and JOHN ELLI STONE and STONE's associates. [redacted] furnished a great deal of pertinent information concerning these men and their activities and information received concerning MATTHEWS was used as a basis for opening a new ITAR - Gambling case concerning MATTHEWS. Dallas has submitted a letter to the Bureau in connection with this matter. Because of the above, a new 137 case has been opened concerning [redacted] and it is believed because of his vast knowledge of gambling activities in Dallas as well as his close association with bookmakers in Dallas, he can be of value to the Bureau.

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A review of the Dallas Interview Program to date reflects that in many instances pertinent information has been obtained and several potentially good sources have been developed. It has also been noted that the Program has created an uneasy atmosphere among the gambling element in the Dallas area. This discreet pressure along with intensified investigation will be maintained by the Dallas Division.