

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10284-10021
RECORD SERIES : HQ
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CR 144-224-35

Released under the John
F. Kennedy
Assassination Records
Collection Act of 1992
(44 USC 2107 Note).
Case#:NW 45854 Date:
11-17-2017

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : KELLY, ROBERT T.
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

TITLE :

DATE : 05/22/1961
PAGES : 13

SUBJECTS :

SMO, GM, REL, ASSOC, RACK AND SUBV, GAMBLING,
LOTTERY TICKETS, OC, CRIMINAL ACT

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4; 11(a)
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 01/29/1999

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINTE, APPROVAL OF IRS

COMMENTS :

MIAMI

AT MIAMI, FLORIDA

1. Contact MM 722-C and any other logical sources for information relative to the subject matter of this case and for information indicating author of the anonymous letter pertinent to this investigation.
2. Will ascertain if W. KENT TOMLINSON is residing at 13145 Coronado Drive, North Miami, and attempt to obtain specimens of typewriters available to him thereafter forwarding same to the FBI Laboratory for comparison with the anonymous letters pertinent to this case.
3. If deemed advisable, will consider interviewing TOMLINSON to ascertain if he has any knowledge concerning the Empire Lottery Tickets, their printing, distribution and possible interstate transportation and further if he has any knowledge indicating that the MANNARINOS are connected with this operation.

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

In view of Bureau instructions contained in referenced Bureau letter and set forth under the Administrative Data of this report, the New York Office is requested to review case captioned, "BERNARD J. EZHAYA; ET AL; ITSP-MT," to ascertain any logical persons who may have authored the anonymous letters pertinent to this investigation. In this regard it is noted that those communications of which copies have been directed to the Pittsburgh Office have been reviewed. It is also logical to assume that anyone who would have the information furnished in these letters would have to be associated in some manner with the MANNARINOS, LOUIS COHEN and possibly with JOHN VERILLA, MIKE TRAFICANTE or JOHN CARAMADRE of the Altoona area and/or would have to have a knowledge of the New Kensington and Johnstown areas since some of the roads and other landmarks are named correctly in the diagram notwithstanding the fact that the actual sites depicted do not appear to exist.

PITTSBURGH

AT LINCOLN TOWNSHIP, PA. (WESTMORELAND COUNTY)

Will report results of investigation re the Cozy Inn, Route 22.

-B-
COVER PAGE

AT ALTOONA, PA. (BLAIR COUNTY)

Will maintain contact with PG 506-C for further information concerning the Empire Treasury Lottery Ticket paying particular attention to any interstate transportation that might exist; the location of the printing press; and the interest of the MANNARINO brothers, GABRIEL and SAMUEL, of New Kensington, Pa.

AT NEW KENSINGTON, PA. (WESTMORELAND COUNTY)

Will conduct logical background investigation re FRANK CIRIGLIANO, 1503 Leishman Avenue, and JOHN SHRIGGS (ph) to determine whether or not these persons may be anything more than local distributors of the Empire Ticket.

AT PITTSBURGH, PA. (ALLEGHENY COUNTY)

1. Will conduct credit and criminal investigations re JOHN L. POMOZZI, 2706 Toledo Street, Pittsburgh, to ascertain if he may possibly be associated with the subject of the Empire Lottery.
2. Will conduct credit investigation and contact logical sources re JAMES POMOZZI and wife, MARTHA, 1085 East 143rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio, a former resident of Pittsburgh, Pa., to determine his relationship with HOWARD W. HAYES and to ascertain whether or not he is involved in the distribution of lottery tickets.

ADMINISTRATIVE

For the information of all offices, an anonymous letter postmarked January 6, 1961, Miami, Florida, was received by the office of the USA, Middle District of Pennsylvania. This was a two page typewritten unsigned letter which alleged that Empire Lottery tickets produced by the LOUIS COHEN syndicate are printed in the New Kensington, Pa., area and stapled and packaged in the Johnstown, Pa., area. The anonymous informant indicated that a MIKE CHIPKA (undoubtedly MIKE CHOPKO) and JACK VERILLA (JOHN M. VERILLA of Altoona, Pa.) were responsible for the Western Pennsylvania area. The informant also alleged that these lottery tickets are shipped from Johnstown, Pa., all over the east coast of the United States. This informant also alluded to the fact that the MANNARINO brothers (SAMUEL and GABRIEL MANNARINO, National Top Hoodlums) are in charge of New Kensington, Pa., but did not make any specific

-C-
COVER PAGE

PG 144-35

DOJ-
Criminal
REVIEWED BY FBI/JSK TASK.FORCE

ON 8-13-98 *Cml*

☒ RELEASE IN FULL

☐ RELEASE IN PART

By letter dated 4/18/61 the Bureau advised that ~~it has been~~ ^{TOTAL DENIAL} furnishing copies of all reports in the instant case to the Department in view of the interest of the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section, Criminal Division, in the activities of the subject. It requested that the reports submitted include two copies for the Bureau in order that this dissemination can be made in the future.

The Bureau also advised in this letter as follows:

P2 On 4/11/61 the Department, in referring to the current investigation of COHEN, recalls that it has been suggested that HYMAN "HYMIE" MARTIN, presently of Miami, Florida, *P2* be considered as the possible author or source of the information contained in the anonymous letters. The Department noted that the information contained in these letters indicate a possible tie in between the LOUIS COHEN Treasury Balance Lottery operations and the operations of SAMUEL and GABRIEL MANNARINO in the New Kensington, Pa., area. The Department noted that a report submitted on SAMUEL and GABRIEL MANNARINO (Pittsburgh files 92-228 and 92-236) indicates the possibility that persons involved in this case might be supplying information to Federal authorities concerning SAM MANNARINO's activities, specifically the report of SA THOMAS G. FORSYTH, III, dated 2/27/61, pages 3 and 4. In view of this information the Department requested that an investigation be conducted to ascertain whether any of the persons involved in the MANNARINO investigation, either as principals or witnesses, is the author of the anonymous letter or the source of the information contained therein.

In reviewing the reference mentioned in the paragraph above it was determined that this information referred to information furnished by MM 722-C on 11/1, 10;12/20/60 concerning the disposal of WILLIAM RABIN and reported originally in the administrative section of report of SA JOHN P. LENIHAN captioned, "BERNARD J. EZHAYA, ET AL; ITSP-MT; PERJURY" (OO: New York), dated 2/1/61 at Miami, Florida.

A review of the Pittsburgh files on this subject matter reflected that the W. KENT TOMLINSON, an important figure in this case might possibly have been in possession of sufficient information to have authored these letters. Other persons mentioned through this case in the Pittsburgh files did not appear to have the information or the inclination to furnish such information to Federal authorities or it would logically have been furnished in another more direct manner.

-E-
COVER PAGE

In the same Bureau letter dated 4/18/61 the Bureau requested that all offices give this case priority attention in order that the following two points can be promptly resolved:

1. Is there a violation of ITLT on the part of subject COHEN?
2. Can the identity of the writer of the anonymous letters in the COHEN case be determined?

Our primary responsibility is to develop a violation concerning COHEN if he is in fact operating in violation of the ITLT Statute.

It is noted that investigative period of this report commences on 2/6/61. This is due to the fact that a memo to all RA's was issued on that date concerning this matter and sufficient returns concerning this memo had not been received at the time of the dictation of the last report on this matter.

All offices should note that Philadelphia has advised that AUSA WILLIAM D. MORGAN, Middle District of Pennsylvania, has advised that in view of the fact that the following persons are under indictment they should not be interviewed:

P2: LOUIS COHEN, ~~FRANK COHEN~~, aka., ~~Frank Cole~~, and MURRAY COHEN, aka., Murray Baker.

Information copies of this report are being placed in Pittsburgh files 92-228 and 92-236 captioned "SAMUEL MANNARINO, aka; GABRIEL MANNARINO, aka, ANTI-RACKETEERING," in view of fact that the Empire Lottery Tickets are being distributed in New Kensington, Pa., and inquiries are being made to determine what interest, if any, the MANNARINOS have in the lottery operations of LOUIS COHEN.

INFORMANTS

On 3/14/61 SEYMORE RABINOWITZ, PCI, advised SA ~~JOHN S. HUGHES~~ that he has been well acquainted with ~~GEORGE BONDY~~ of Johnstown, Pa., who operates the tavern on Main Street in Johnstown and who has been for more than twenty years the #1 distributor for Empire Treasury Tickets in the Johnstown area. The informant stated that BONDY gets these tickets from Altoona, Pa., which is the headquarters for Western Pennsylvania and sells them.

-F-

COVER PAGE

throughout the entire area of Cambria County. He stated that BONDY recently informed him that the ticket business is not nearly as good as it had been in years past inasmuch as gamblers now seem to want to bet more on sporting events and on other things where the action is quicker than with Treasury Tickets. BONDY pointed out that it takes a gambler a week to determine whether or not he has won or lost on Treasury Tickets and this seems to be a deterrent particularly with the younger gamblers in the Johnstown area.

It is noted that contact has been maintained by SA THOMAS G. FORSYTH, III with PG 612-C and PG 615-C on a regular basis and is reported under case captioned, "GABRIEL MANNARINO, aka; SAMUEL MANNARINO, aka; ANTI-RACKETEERING," in report of SA FORSYTH dated 5/9/61. No information has been developed indicating that the Empire ticket has been transported interstate.

On 3/20/61 PG 615-C advised SA FORSYTH that the man who delivers the Empire Treasury Lottery Tickets in the New Kensington area is one JOHN SHRIGGS (ph), whose car bears Pennsylvania license Y11979. He formerly worked at the City Club, New Kensington, and also worked in the MANNARINO numbers headquarters office. He is supposed to own half of the gambling card games at the Garibaldi Club, New Kensington, but due to a high blood pressure affliction, his brother, name not known, is handling the action in this latter place. Thursday is the day new weekly lottery tickets come out and is the day for deliveries to outlets.

On 4/6/61 PG 506-C advised SA JOHN S. HUGHES that LOUIS COHEN is now in Miami, Florida, where he is living with his wife, who is approximately 30 years his junior. He stated that LOUIS COHEN is in such poor physical condition that he is forced to use a walker when going from place to place. He indicated that LOUIS COHEN had been in Altoona, Pa., approximately six months prior to the date of the interview when a party was had for him and that he was forced to use this walker when attending the party. He stated that his wife is forced to care for him most of the time and indicated that he doubted that COHEN would be active in the lottery business in the future.

He further stated that COHEN's son, MURRAY COHEN, who is also known as MURRAY BAKER, is the alleged head of the Empire Lottery Ticket Syndicate at this time; however, the informant somewhat belittled the ability of MURRAY COHEN and the writer drew the inference that possibly there has been a change in the

-G-
COVER PAGE

leadership of the Empire Ticket business. The informant further stated that when MURRAY COHEN comes to Altoona, Pa., which is normally about once each month, he lives in a rooming house on the outskirts of the city, the address of which the informant did not readily have available. He stated that he would obtain this address and furnish it to SA HUGHES when he is next contacted.

The informant again insisted that the Empire Treasury Ticket business does not cross state lines and stated that he could possibly arrange to exhibit to SA HUGHES the printing presses and stapling machines which are used exclusively by the organization in printing tickets in the State of Pennsylvania. It should be noted that if this could be done, the possibility exists that samples of the printing from the press and from the stapling machine could be obtained and forwarded to the FBI Laboratory for examination of all Treasury Tickets which have previously been submitted in this case.

On 4/11/61 PG 630-C furnished SA WILLIAM J. MYERS with one Empire Treasury Ticket for the week 3/24-30/61, together with a win slip for that week headed No. 13. Informant said that he had arranged to purchase this Empire Ticket at the Smoke Shop operated by JOHN DE FLAVIO, which is located on Railroad Street, a short distance from Eigonier Street in Latrobe, Pa. Informant said that DE FLAVIO engages in all kinds of gambling operations at the Smoke Shop; that he sells numbers as well as treasury and other lottery tickets, has pinball machines or their substitute, the electronic devices on location in his shop and that he writes numbers and handles bets on sporting events.

On 4/11/61 PG 579-C advised SA MYERS that he has made contact with BRONI LACHOWICZ, proprietor of Brownie's Hobby Shop, 1400 Schoonmaker Avenue, Monessen, Pa., who is known to engage in the sale of various lottery tickets as well as writing numbers and carrying on a tip board and punchboard operation without results. He said LACHOWICZ told him he no longer carried Empire Treasury tickets or any other kind of treasury tickets because they are not in demand in Monessen. Informant said he also contacted CARL MONACK, Monack's Smoke Shop, 464 Donner Avenue, Monessen, and HAROLD ZEIDMAN, who operates a horse room at 1168 Schoonmaker Avenue, in an effort to acquire treasury tickets such as Empire or some other brand but without results. These persons informed him that treasury tickets were not in demand in Monessen and that they do not handle this type of device.

-N-
COVER PAGE

On 5/2/61 former PG 509-C telephonically contacted SA JOHN S. PORTELLA from Miami, Florida, in connection with another matter. He advised that he is well acquainted with HYMAN MARTIN and is thoroughly familiar with the activities of HYMAN MARTIN. He advised that HYMAN MARTIN was formerly associated with HARRY MILLER, LOUIS COHEN and HYMAN's brother, NATHAN MARTIN, in the lottery ticket business. He did not recall the name of the lottery ticket. NATHAN MARTIN handled the distribution of these tickets in and around Pittsburgh, Pa. Several years ago, informant could not specify a specific number of years, HYMAN MARTIN and LOUIS MARTIN had a disagreement which led to HYMAN disassociating himself from the lottery. Informant is certain that HYMAN is not connected with the lottery ticket business at this time since he, the informant, would necessarily be aware of this. Informant further advised that he is certain that NATHAN MARTIN is no longer associated with the lottery tickets since he would have heard HYMAN speak of this if it were so.

In general terms the informant was questioned as to whether or not any bitterness existed between LOUIS COHEN and HYMAN MARTIN of such a nature so as to cause MARTIN to take action which would be directed at causing LOUIS COHEN trouble of a financial and legal nature. This questioning was aimed at ascertaining whether or not HYMAN MARTIN might be the author of the anonymous letters pertinent to this investigation. The informant emphatically answered that there is no such bitterness between the two men and he has never had any indication that MARTIN would cause harm to COHEN in any manner whatsoever.

Numerous other contacts have been made throughout the Pittsburgh Division with informants and sources familiar with gambling activities with negative results as to the distribution or interstate transportation of the Empire Ticket with negative results. In the interest of brevity, the names of these contacts are not being set forth but will be maintained in the Pittsburgh files.

-I*-
COVER PAGE