

Agency Information

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (137-1876)

DATE: November 21, 1955

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (137-648)

SUBJECT: LA 3860-C CONF. INFT.
CRIMINAL INFORMANT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-1-97 BY 5668 SLD/MSR
(JK)

On November 15, 1955 LA 3860-C met SA JEROME WRIGHT and SA JEROME K. CROWE at Coffee Dan's Restaurant, Hollywood Boulevard and Cahuenga Street, Los Angeles, California.

The informant was interviewed by the above Agents first in Coffee Dan's Restaurant and later in the informant's car which was parked in the immediate vicinity. The informant furnished the following information:

"CONFIDENTIAL MAGAZINE" INFORMATION CONCERNING GLIF, LA 62-2469

The informant advised that in August or September, 1955, an article appeared in the "Confidential Magazine" concerning ELIZABETH SCOTT, Hollywood movie star, being a Lesbian.

She said the article, in effect, stated that SANDRA BETTS (victim in VERNON VAN HECKE, et al; SANDRA BETTS, et al - VICTIMS, LA 31-7560), after being arrested by the Los Angeles Police Department on a vice charge in 1954, admitted that the name and telephone number of ELIZABETH SCOTT found by the Los Angeles Police Department in her call book was, in fact, ELIZABETH SCOTT, the movie star. This article indicated that BETTS knew SCOTT and also indicated that SCOTT was a Lesbian.

The informant stated that she had given the call book in question to BETTS prior to her arrest, and that BETTS and the other persons arrested with her did not know ELIZABETH SCOTT personally, and, therefore, were not in a position to know whether or not SCOTT was a Lesbian.

The informant then stated that about the first week in September, 1955 before she went to the Los Angeles

JW:emp
(8)

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3860-10721

County Hospital, ~~CATHERINE CASEY~~, wa. ~~KAY CASEY~~, Los Angeles prostitute, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office number B317715, and friend of the informant, asked the informant if she wanted to make a few dollars regarding the article in "Confidential Magazine" concerning ELIZABETH SCOTT. CASEY stated that ~~FRED O'TASH~~, (white; male; born January 6, 1922 at Lawrence, Massachusetts; address, 1342 North Laurel, Los Angeles, California), a former vice squad officer for the Los Angeles Police Department, was presently working as a private detective for Los Angeles attorney, ~~ARTHUR J. CROWLEY~~, whose office is located at 1680 North Vine Street, Los Angeles, California. CASEY said that she had been working with O'TASH in Hollywood for "Confidential Magazine" and that O'TASH had learned that ~~the call book~~ mentioned by BETTS had actually belonged to the informant and that BETTS and the other persons arrested with her had not known ELIZABETH SCOTT personally. CASEY stated that O'TASH wanted to talk with the informant about this matter.

The informant said she met O'TASH on or about September 15, 1955 and that he told her that he had learned that BETTS had misrepresented the fact that the call book belonged to her (BETTS), and that she and the other persons arrested with her had not known ELIZABETH SCOTT personally. He stated that since the informant was the only person who could refute this part of the story, he would give her \$500 if the informant would subsequently sign a statement that she would not testify in behalf of ELIZABETH SCOTT in the event that SCOTT sued "Confidential Magazine."

The informant stated that she needed the money and accepted the \$500, provided her name not be mentioned in connection with this article. O'TASH thereupon paid the informant \$500 in cash. The informant then asked O'TASH what other assurance would she have that her name would not be mentioned in connection with any subsequent suit, and O'TASH replied, "If a person like ~~WALTER WINCHELL~~ was on your side, you would feel assured, would you not?"

The informant stated that she did not, at the time, deem it advisable to ask any further questions about WINCHELL.

The informant stated that she went to the Los Angeles County Hospital on September 19, 1955 where she underwent a serious heart operation. The informant stated she left the hospital on or about November 1, 1955. On November 10, 1955, O'TASH contacted her and requested that the

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informant come to the office of ARTHUR J. CROWLEY, Los Angeles attorney, and sign a statement concerning their agreement. The informant stated that she went to the office of CROWLEY and in the presence of CROWLEY and O'TASH, signed a paper which said in effect that she would not testify on behalf of ELIZABETH SCOTT in case SCOTT sued "Confidential Magazine" concerning the article printed about her. The informant stated that CROWLEY notarized the paper.

The informant stated that O'TASH later invited her to go to Palm Springs, California and spend a week end sometime in the future. She stated that she had not accepted the invitation as yet, but that she was considering accepting the invitation in order to learn from O'TASH more about his connection with "Confidential Magazine." The informant stated that she would attempt to ascertain from CASEY exactly what information she was obtaining for O'TASH and what connection WINCHELL had with "Confidential Magazine." The informant stated that she would be unable to obtain the above information until after January 1, 1956 since her doctor had advised her not to exert herself physically until after that date. She stated that after January 1, 1956, she would be able to become actively engaged again in furnishing information to the FBI.

On November 19, 1955, the informant advised that she was leaving for Las Vegas, Nevada and would return to Los Angeles on or about November 25, 1955.