

DATE: 11-14-2017

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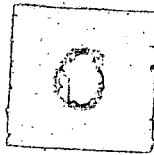
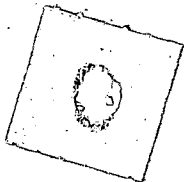
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DIRECTOR, FBI

1/24/64

SAC, NEW YORK (RUC)

PG 694-PC  
TOP ECHELON CRIMINAL  
INFORMANT PROGRAM

Re Pittsburgh letter to Bureau, 1/14/64.

The attention of the Pittsburgh Office is directed to the matter captioned "LA COSA NOSTRA aka; AR-CONSPIRACY," by report of SA JAMES P. FLYNN dated 7/1/63 at New York. Matters pertinent to Pittsburgh's referenced inquiry are reflected on page 27.

No other information is available to the NYO re any other stab-murder victim or any killing at a banquet for JOE MASSERIA, who was himself murdered in 1931.

- 3 - Bureau (1 - 92-6054)
- 2 - Pittsburgh (137-1593)
- 1 - New York (92-2341)
- 1 - New York (137-10206)

JPF:LW  
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92-6054-  
NOT RECORDED  
29 JAN 27 1964

ORIGINAL FILED IN 137-9541-5

72 FEB 5 1964

DATE: 11-14-2017

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
M E M O R A N D U M

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM : SAC, PITTSBURGH (P)

DATE: 1/14/64

SUBJECT: PG 694-PC  
TOP ECHELON CRIMINAL  
INFORMANT PROGRAM

CAVBOMB

LA Cosa Nostra

The Pittsburgh Organization or Syndicate

Informant is presently living at the Hotel Carlton, Room 1302, Pittsburgh, where he intends to remain until the several cases in which he is involved are disposed of.

On 1/9/64, informant and JOSEPH MEROLA contacted SA JOHN S. PORTELLA at the Pittsburgh, Pa. office, and indicated that they desired to talk to SA JOHN S. PORTELLA. They suggested that SA PORTELLA come to Room 1302.

SA PORTELLA went to Room 1302, Carlton House Hotel, where JOSEPH MEROLA was busy packing to return to Miami, Florida on a 7:40 P.M. flight. They both commented that they had worked on a business deal and earned a little money but not enough to meet all their expenses.

JOSEPH MEROLA left the hotel for the airport, leaving SA PORTELLA and informant alone.

SA PORTELLA noted that the informant was in an extremely good mood and appeared to be willing to talk about matters that heretofore he refused to talk about. Informant remarked that he desired to help "straighten out" certain facts that the FBI might be interested in provided he could be assured that he would not have to testify in Federal Court or before any investigative or

- 4-Bureau (137-9541)
- (1-92-6054) (1-Inspector JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN)
- 3-Cleveland (157-127)
- 2-Miami
- 2-New York
- 4-Pittsburgh (137-1593)
- (157-154)
- (1-92-478) (1-92-329)

JSP/mdp

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9-*E. J. [Signature]*

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 137-9541-27

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administrative committees and that his name would not be used nor made public in any way unless he first approved it. Informant was told that any information he furnished would be treated as confidential and no attempts would be made to force him into testifying unless he first agreed to it. Informant said that with this understanding he would be willing to relate a few of his experiences and some of his knowledge of what he termed "the outfit."

Informant remarked that he has been with "the outfit" since he was 16 years old and has associated with this element from coast to coast for the last 41 years. He claims that at age 16 in Cleveland, Ohio, he began running "booze" for the organization there. He considers himself a soldier or worker who has faithfully carried out orders given him and, as a result of this, he gained a reputation and stature throughout the United States.

He claims that there is a tightly knit "gambling syndicate" operating throughout the United States and membership in it is not limited to Italians only. He states that the primary requisite for membership is that one be engaged in gambling, regardless of nationality. The italians have taken over the leadership of the gambling world and while they make the big decisions in it, others such as Jews, Irish, Polish and so forth are part of the operation. The Italians have gone a step further than the others, in that members of their respective families intermarried and this made the bond much tighter.

Informant said that it is better to say that there is a "gambling organization or syndicate" in which the Italians are the leaders rather than to say that the Italians have a criminal syndicate known as LA COSA NOSTRA or the MAFIA with the membership being exclusively Italian. He said that he knows from first hand knowledge that the gambling syndicate looks down on crimes of violence and crimes involving narcotics and prostitution. Only in a few isolated cases would the organization approve such actions.

For example, he stated that JOHN LA ROCCA of Pittsburgh, is one of the most peaceful leaders in the country. If someone in his group steps out of bounds, LA ROCCA will go out of his way to check the circumstances

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and on more than one occasion has stopped hasty drastic action that the others wanted to take, and the matter was settled peacefully.

Informant stated that the gambling syndicate or organization in Pittsburgh is set up as follows:

JOHN LA ROCCA and FRANK AMATO are the leaders or bosses. TONY RIPEPPI was a leader but he is retired and has little or no voice. The next leader or sub-boss is GABRIEL MANNARINO who is married to the daughter of FRANK AMATO. Below MANNARINO are the following who might be called lieutenants:

JOE SICA	LOUIS VOLPE
JOE ROSA	MICHAEL GENOVESE

Below the lieutenants are the soldiers or workers namely, AL ROSS, FRANK VALENTI, JOHN FONTANA, PHIL GENOVESE and LOU MILANO (deceased).

CHARLES FREDERICK TEEMER, who operated the Jockey Club and now the Red Dog in Chester, W. Va., accounts only to JOHN LA ROCCA who gets 50 per cent of everything that TEEMER has in operation no matter where he is.

JOE ROSA exerts control of YEE TERLESKI of Pittsburgh's South Side, and he obtains the lion's share of everything that TERLESKI has operating for him anywhere. ROSA in turn contributes to JOHN LA ROCCA and accepts orders from LA ROCCA.

JIMMY HOFFA, President of the Teamsters Union, is acquainted with both JOHN LA ROCCA and GABRIEL MANNARINO and whenever HOFFA really wants something in Pittsburgh he calls on one of these two. JACK ARMAND, also known as ARMANDO CARLOMAGNO, President of the Taxi Cab Union of Pittsburgh, is flashy and loud and gives everyone in Pittsburgh the impression that he is HOFFA's contact in Pittsburgh but actually this is not true.

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By way of history of the setup in Pittsburgh, informant related the following:

LA ROCCA succeeded JOHN BAZZANO, SR., who was the undisputed leader of Pittsburgh. BAZZANO, overwhelmed with his importance, ordered the killing of the three VOLPE brothers of Pittsburgh. MIKE SPAMOLI (Phonetic) carried out the execution of the VOLPE boys. SPAMOLI is allegedly in prison in Italy where he is serving a life sentence for murder. Informant said this crime was not sanctioned by the organization and the killing of more than one member of a particular family is always looked upon with disfavor. The only two additional items that cause trouble in the organization are stealing another member's wife and/or his money.

After the VOLPE killings, JOHN BAZZANO went to New York to attend a banquet given in honor of JOE MASSERIA (Phonetic), a big boss of the organization. BAZZANO knew he was in trouble with everyone over the VOLPE killings and when it came to his turn to make a toast he asked those present what they were waiting for and why they did not get his killing over with. As soon as BAZZANO completed his comments each of the 32 men present stabbed him with an ice pick and his dead body was shipped on to Pittsburgh.

According to the informant, this gave JOHN LA ROCCA his chance and in spite of the informant's opposition and the opposition of FRANK VALENTI, LA ROCCA gained solid control in Pittsburgh. As a result of their opposition, informant and VALENTI were branded as "outlaw soldiers." Since that time, they have had to live by their wits and do not enjoy the wealth that the others who are "in" enjoy.

Informant said that he first met FRANK VALENTI in Cleveland, Ohio, many years ago and it was VALENTI who brought him to Pittsburgh and later introduced him to the MANNARINOs of New Kensington.

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Because of the fact that this was the first time informant really began to open up, SA PORTELLA chose not to make copious detailed notes and chose not to ask detailed questions because he felt that to do either of these things might cause the informant to suddenly stop talking. During the interview informant touched upon the following items:

1. TONY GROSSO of Pittsburgh is an independent numbers operator whose only ally is the Deputy Superintendent of Pittsburgh Police Department LAWRENCE J. MALONEY. GROSSO is the biggest book and/or bank in Western Pennsylvania and it is generally conceded that he supplies the Pittsburgh Police Department, through MALONEY, with information that they use to eliminate competition for him. GROSSO has a current girlfriend in the Greentree section of Pittsburgh, whose husband drives a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette or Pittsburgh Press newspaper truck. The husband is aware of GROSSO's relationship with his wife and tolerates it. He allegedly purchased for this girlfriend a new 1963 Cadillac automobile. GROSSO has been the topic of discussions many times among the soldiers or workers. Several offers were extended to cause him trouble, but JOHN LA ROCCA vetoed any of these moves because he did not want trouble stirred up in Pittsburgh. ✓
2. When informant ran the Bachelor's Club in East Liberty for CHUCK TEEMER (in essence for JOHN LAROCCA), he had complete control and recalled that for a two year period he paid Deputy Superintendent LAWRENCE J. MALONEY of the Pittsburgh Police Department, \$1,500 a week cash.

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3. TONY RIPEPPI, once a boss or leader, has been permitted to gracefully retire from action primarily because of his three sons. He has no voice in problems now, but should he desire an audience he could easily arrange one.
4. Use of dynamite or other explosives is strictly against all organization current rules unless it is approved by the leaders as the only way to settle a dispute. The reason for this regulation is that too many innocent people can be hurt and it attracts a lot of attention.
5. In the Pittsburgh area if anyone has a bank roll and desires to get into some form of gambling, he can automatically do so provided he gets police protection. If he goes along fairly well someone from the organization will try to become his partner but, before the approach is made, it will necessarily have to be cleared with JOHN LA ROCCA and/or KELLY MANNARINO. If they should approve the move, the person desiring to cut in can make his attempt. But, if they deny authority to make the approach, it would be best to forget the whole thing. SONNY CIANCUTTI of New Kensington, Pa., is a close personal friend of GABRIEL MANNARINO but holds no official position in the group. When CIANCUTTI desired to become a partner of BENNIE FROMME of Pittsburgh, it was okayed by GABRIEL MANNARINO. Informant helped CIANCUTTI but the alliance with FROMME flopped because of the heavy losses.
6. JOSEPH MEROLA, formerly of Pittsburgh and now of Miami, is considered an outlaw. MEROLA lost favor with GABRIEL MANNARINO and was never approved as a worker or soldier.



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8. SAM MANNARINO, New Kensington, Pa., has no voice at either New Kensington or Pittsburgh. His brother, GABRIEL, controls the money and makes the decisions.
9. The dice and card game which operated in Braddock, Pa., until several months ago, was managed by BENNIE PLOTKIN. This game was a New Kensington operation bankrolled by GABRIEL MANNARINO.
10. Meetings were held periodically by JOHN LA ROCCA, FRANK AMATO, KELLY MANNARINO, and others, but the meeting date, and place were carefully guarded secrets and hardly ever do they meet at the same place twice.
11. NICK TWEEL of Huntington, W. Va., is very close to a very good close friend of JIMMY HOFFA. It was through this very good close friend that HOFFA and the Teamsters Union invested \$3,000,000 in the Continental Distributing Company of Huntington, W. Va., a firm in which TWEEL has a big interest.

#### The Cleveland Organization or Syndicate

Informant stated that from personal knowledge, he knows this to be the hierarchy of the Cleveland, Ohio setup. JACK WHITE, also known as JACK LICAVOLI; JOHN SCALICH, also known as SCALISE; and JOE DE CARLO are considered to be the three leaders. Below them there are two lieutenants--TONY DEL SANTER and FATS AIELLO.

He stated that Cleveland definitely controls Youngstown, Ohio, and FATS AIELLO who lives in Youngstown, Ohio, is the boss because he is married to JACK WHITE's

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sister. FATS, through his barbout gambling, owes the Cleveland group about \$500,000. They put him in business at the A Lounge and because of his gambling it was forced to go out of business.

CHARLES MURGIE of Pittsburgh, Pa., was sent to Youngstown, Ohio, to control MIKE FARAH who opened the Jungle Inn. This incident took place about 15 or 20 years ago and Pittsburgh and Cleveland agreed that MURGIE could handle the job in Youngstown, Ohio, because they desired to become MIKE FARAH's partner. FARAH was making very good money at the Jungle Inn and the Pittsburgh - Cleveland group wanted 50 per cent of the Jungle Inn to provide money for soldiers of the Cleveland group who were serving a life sentence as a result of work they were doing for the organization. The men serving the life sentence were as follows:

JOHNNY RAY	(FNU) ENGLISH of Toledo
TOM LICAVOLI	JAKE SUKIN (Phonetic) of
RALPH CARSELLO	Toledo
(Phonetic)	

The wives of the men named above, for as long as 16 years, received monthly payments from the Cleveland organization for as long as their husbands were in prison. This is one example of how the organization cares for its faithful soldiers.

#### CAVBOMB

Informant stated that the killing of CHARLES CAVALLARO is not related to other killings in Youngstown such as NAPLES, DE NIRO, and so forth. He said that there are many separate groups in Youngstown, Ohio, trying to improve their position. The "old outfit" lost control many years ago and even in the old days Youngstown was not tightly supervised from either Cleveland or Pittsburgh.

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Today Youngstown is up for "grabs" but all decisions concerning Youngstown emanate from Cleveland.

VINCE DE NIRO bankrolled the Sans Souci Club in Havana, Cuba for EDDIE TOBIN and TOBIN took him for \$500,000 cash. DE NIRO began to extend his operations in numbers and gambling in Youngstown, Ohio, in order to regain some of this lost cash and no one seemed to interfere. The NAPLES brothers also wanted a piece of Youngstown, Ohio, and SANDY NAPLES was serious competition, so much so that VINCE DE NIRO arranged for his murder. BILLY NAPLES, brother of SANDY, learned that DE NIRO was responsible for his brother's death and he, BILLY, personally wired up DE NIRO's automobile which caused his death.

LOUIS DE NIRO was able to obtain the proof that BILLY NAPLES killed his brother so he arranged for BILLY NAPLES to be included on an alleged big burglary score and as BILLY was getting ready to participate on this score BILLY's car was blown up. Informant stated the record will show that BILLY NAPLES was dressed in black clothing, the type used by burglars in the Youngstown area.

At the present time, BILLY SUNDAY is operating a barbout game in Struthers, Ohio. According to informant, SUNDAY was once the partner of NICK DEDA (Phonetic) of Buffalo, New York. SUNDAY is operating a game not approved by the Cleveland group and SUNDAY has been marked for a "hit" and informant predicts that his life will be taken in the very near future. Informant has no idea who, when, and where it will happen. The only reason he could offer for the hit is that SUNDAY is operating without sanction, and he refused to close, and he was close to CAVALLARO.

MIKE ROMEO, also known as MIKE ROMANO, of Campbell, Ohio, one of the old timers, was shot at some time before CAVALLARO was dynamited. ROMANO's attacker missed and ROMANO and his group, after making their inquiries, concluded that CHARLIE CAVALLARO was responsible for this attempt and a "hit" was ordered on CHARLIE.  
 on CHARLIE.

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The order for this came directly out of Cleveland and is traceable, according to the informant, to JACK WHITE and/or JOHN SCALISH. He further pointed out that CAVALLARO testified before the KEFAUVER Crime Committee Investigations of several years ago and provided this committee with names, addresses, and a few facts concerning the Youngstown-Cleveland organization. Since that time CAVALLARO has been in disfavor and the attempted killing of ROMANO presented a second good reason for eliminating CAVALLARO.

Informant said he does not know who actually did the technical work on CAVALLARO's automobile because there are so many who could have done it. He stated that there are so many workers or soldiers in the Cleveland group that he could not name or suspect one who might have done the CAVALLARO work. Informant said that he would make some attempt to learn who actually wired up CAVALLARO's automobile.

Informant said that he was well acquainted with DOMINIC MOIA and knows that MOIA was not killed because he wired up CAVALLARO's automobile, but was killed on orders emanating from Cleveland, Ohio, because he promised to open up Canton, Ohio, for gambling, and so forth, and accepted a lot of money from the Cleveland group and then failed to deliver Canton.

Informant stated that from reliable sources he knows that ALFRED OPONOWICZ, the Top Ten Fugitive of the Bureau, is alive and believed to be somewhere in the South. Informant said that he has ways of determining just exactly where OPONOWICZ is in the South and he will obtain this address and telephone number and make same available so that OPONOWICZ can be apprehended. He stated that OPONOWICZ is not a part of any organization or syndicate and for this reason he would have no hesitancy in having the Bureau locate him.

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JOE MASSI

Informant considers JOE MASSI to be one of "the Mr. Bigs" in nation-wide gambling, ranking in stature on the same level of MEYER LANSKY, MOE DAVIS, also known as DALITZ or DALITS, of Cleveland, is also MASSI's partner. MASSI owns the Miami Provision Company and sells meat to most of the hotels and motels in Miami Beach and Miami, Florida. In addition he has a "sizeable" interest in the Desert Inn and the Stardust at Las Vegas, Nevada and also in the Riviera before it was sold. From the enterprises listed above MASSI earns approximately \$7,500 per day without ever leaving Miami Beach, Florida.

Informant said that MASSI is probably one of the most generous men in the racket-gambling element in the United States. He said that MASSI, on a daily basis, hands out over \$500 in \$20 bills to his old buddies who did not do as well in the business as he has done. He stated that these handouts take place every morning when MASSI goes to the barber shop for a shave.

Informant related that MASSI put MICKEY LEIBOWITZ in business by giving him \$27,000 cash to buy a tavern in either Cleveland or Miami. On the night LEIBOWITZ opened his tavern, MASSI spread the word to his friends to patronize MASSI's club and on opening night LEIBOWITZ did \$35,000 worth of business. He tried to pay back the \$27,000 and MASSI refused to accept it.

Informant stated that MASSI is definitely worth several million dollars and is married to a Jew.

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MEYER LANSKY

According to the informant, MEYER LANSKY is considered by all to be the father of big-time gambling in the United States and informant estimates that he must be worth about \$100,000,000 or more. LANSKY is associated in his ventures with his brother, JAKE, and a person known as DOC STACHER, also known as DOC HARRIS. Informant stated that LANSKY desired to pull away from the entire operation but the Italian group, who control gambling, refused to allow him to disassociate himself at this time.

Informant stated that LANSKY's long-time partner in the nation-wide gambling setup has been JERRY CATENA of Newark, New Jersey. CATENA, while VITO GENOVESE is in prison, is the real boss of the entire United States insofar as gambling and rackets are concerned.

LEADS

CLEVELAND

At Campbell, Ohio

Advise whether or not MIKE ROMEO, also known as MIKE ROMANO, was fired upon some time shortly before CAVALLARO was dynamited.

At Struthers, Ohio

Identify BILLY SUNDAY and evaluate information furnished by informant concerning SUNDAY.

At Cleveland, Ohio

1. Advise whether or not setup furnished by informant agrees with setup obtained by your office from other informants.

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2. Advise whether or not there is any truth to the remark that CAVALLARO testified before the KEFAUVER Committee.

MIAMI

At Miami, Florida

Attempt to learn the identity of JOE MASSI's barber and consider putting MASSI under surveillance to determine if he does pass out money to his old cronies every morning at the barber shop.

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Identify JOE MASSERIA and comment on whether or not a murder took place at MASSERIA banquet about 15 to 20 years ago where the victim was stabbed by 32 ice picks.

PITTSBURGH

At Pittsburgh, Pa. (Allegheny County )

Will keep in touch with informant and attempt to develop and enlarge on information already furnished by him and attempt to elicit from him any information about specific instances that could be of interest to this office.