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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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TO : Mr. Parsons *APR*

DATE: 3/15/61

FROM : C. A. Evans *EV*

SUBJECT: SAMUEL M. GIANCANA  
ANTI-RACKETEERING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 5-23-84 BY SP5RJS/CSL

*24-1*

## SYNOPSIS

Current inquiry discloses Giancana attempted to employ two Chicago jewel thieves as muscle men and paid killers. Giancana pressured his way into partnership at gambling club Wagon Wheel which now has gambling take averaging \$1,000 per day. *u*

### Giancana Attempts to Hire Muscle Men and Killers

A Chicago informant has advised that Giancana offered Chicago jewel thieves Steve Tomares and James D'Antonio employment in his organization. They were to be paid \$150 per week and were to be placed on a "stand-by basis." Their duties would be to take care of any job requiring strong-arm tactics or killing in connection with activities of the Giancana group. The informant advised Tomares and D'Antonio turned the proposition down because "they might have to kill their friends." *u*

### Former Employee Advises Giancana Muscled Into Gambling at the Wagon Wheel

Henry Hodl, former employee of Giancana lieutenant Rocco Potenzo, advised he was a poker and dice dealer and handled bookmaking operations at the Wagon Wheel, Chicago, and the Riviera, Niles, Illinois, for approximately ten years. He informed that the Wagon Wheel was run as a gambling operation for years by Nick D'Amico. D'Amico yielded to pressure by Giancana and took him in as a "partner" at the Wagon Wheel. *u*

The Wagon Wheel is now operating as a horse book and racing wire service, affording poker and dice games at the same location. The average take for the horse racing operations runs to approximately \$1,000 per day. *u*

The Riviera mentioned above is run by Salvatore Mercurio, according to Hodl. This club has a horse book operation and is the scene of operations for strip girls and prostitutes. Each evening the money from operations at the Wagon Wheel is collected and turned over to a Giancana associate, Rocco Potenzo, at the Riviera.

1 - Mr. Rosen

JGL:swb/rap  
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*[Handwritten signature]*

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Memorandum to Mr. Parsons  
Re: Samuel M. Giancana

Hodl also advised that when he became licensee for the Airliner Lounge, Rosemont, Illinois, he was introduced to the village president, D. E. Stevens, by Giancana's brother Charles. Charles instructed Stevens to "treat Hodl right." Hodl has had no trouble with Stevens and has not been told to limit or close down his bookmaking activities. It is noted that when Stevens was recently interviewed by Bureau Agents he made a statement that he had instructed Hodl to close down bookmaking operations.

Oil Company Leases Property in Which Giancana May have Interest

Recent investigation has indicated that Giancana has an interest in the Villa Moderne Motel, Northbrook, Illinois. Mark Friedman, vice president of the Jupiter - Midwest Oil Company, advised March 14, 1961, that the company in January, 1961, leased the property occupied by the Villa Moderne Motel, Northbrook, Illinois. Friedman was questioned concerning the possible interest of Giancana in the Villa Moderne and he denied any such connection. When questioned further concerning the history of the leasing transaction in connection with Villa Moderne, Friedman terminated the interview and asked interviewing Agents to meet him in the office of his lawyer if any further information was desired.

ACTION

The Chicago Office is continuing intensive investigation to develop fully the identities of enterprises in which Giancana has a financial interest. Additional information is being sought to develop fully the picture as to the various gambling enterprises he operates particularly as to the size of these operations and the identities of associates who are conducting them.

All offices having leads in this matter have been instructed to afford inquiries top priority in an effort to develop a prosecutable violation on Giancana at the earliest possible time.

*gmc*  
*EGP*  
*D*  
*JFB*  
*Wage*  
*AD*  
*J*  
*and*