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FBI

Date: 9/8/61

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
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Via AIRTEL
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[Handwritten initials]

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (92-2824)

FROM : SAC, DALLAS (92-36)

SUBJECT: JOSEPH FRANCIS CIVELLO, aka.
AR

[Handwritten signature]

Re Bureau letter to Dallas, 9/5/61.

Based on a file review, as instructed in relet, the following observations and recommendations are set forth for the Bureau's consideration.

[Handwritten: J. Carola]

Information that CIVELLO is "boss in Texas" answering to a "commission" that controls organized crime in Canada and the United States came from NY-3123-C* on 1/23/61. On 3/31/59, DL-105-C described CIVELLO as the top ranking member of an Italian criminal organization sometimes referred to as the "mafia", in the Dallas area (report SA MILTON L. NEWSOM, 6/23/59, Dallas). Informant based this information on a statement that CIVELLO achieved this rank during his more active years and primarily because of a murder CIVELLO committed in 1928. He stated CIVELLO shot one JOE DeCARLO with a sawed-off shotgun in a drug store in Dallas on 7/14/28. CIVELLO was exonerated of the murder charges after claiming the shooting was accidental. Informant claimed the murder was ordered by the "organization" after DeCARLO had attempted to hold out a considerable sum of money accumulated through illegal activities. Informant was pressed for facts concerning the above and stated that this information came from him indirectly and he has no information concerning actual proof of the above but is convinced that the information is correct.

DL-105-C, while stating that CIVELLO is the top ranking member of this organization, has continually advised that there is no organization, as such, operating in the Dallas area. He has stated CIVELLO is an "inactive" member

3 - Bureau
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C. C. Wick

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

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92-2824-89

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also a copy of my summary letter to DL 9-5-61

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DL 92-36

of the group that met at Apalachin but had reiterated that CIVELLO would be the number 1 man of any operation sponsored by the group in Dallas. In Dallas airtel to the Bureau, 2/26/58 entitled, Meeting of Hoodlums, Apalachin, New York, 11/14/57, AR, Dallas advised that this informant stated that CIVELLO had reported to those in attendance at the meeting that Dallas has never had an organized syndicate and will never have one. He said CIVELLO pointed out that there were small time gamblers and hoodlums who on individual basis had operated in the past but who never had any national connections. CIVELLO reportedly told the group that the Italians in the Dallas area were not strong enough to gain control.

Informant has continued to state that CIVELLO and his associates are unable to organize any illegal activity due to local, city and county administration in the Dallas area.

On 7/28/61, DL-105-C advised he could furnish no further details concerning investments CIVELLO has made in oil leases for himself and other Italians and had no details concerning the legal or illegal activities concerning the "Italian group" from which CIVELLO allegedly derives 2% of the proceeds. Informant said he gathered this information over a period of time from conversations with CIVELLO's associates and by his observation of dealings made in the past. He said he could furnish no specific details as most of the information was hearsay and his personal opinion.

In report of SA VINCENT E. DRAIN, 1/29/58 considerable information was furnished by PCI HODGES DUBOISE HAMILTON who at that time was secretary to HARRY DAVID KAHN, Oil Broker. Information reflects CIVELLO began contacting KAHN in 1955 relative to investing money in wildcat oil drilling. Informant said CIVELLO invested \$19,000 in 1955 for interest in 8 oil wells known as the Caddo Levee Production near Oil City, La. CIVELLO's interest in these wells was 9/64 working interest. Informant further advised CIVELLO invested \$3937.50 in 1957 on the drilling of two new wells at the same location. Informant also advised CIVELLO had 1/16 interest in the R. E. Collins Lease in Caddo Parish, La. near Shreveport, which was later either sold or given to his brother CHARLES EDWARD CIVELLO. CIVELLO reportedly had 1/6 working interest in the Swinney Lease, Caddo County, Okla. which is located near Cement, Okla.

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PCI stated that in 1955 CIVELLO brought the following individuals to the office of HARRY DAVID KAHN and told KAHN he wanted to put up money for investment purposes for a wild-cat well that was being drilled in Throckmorton, Texas. Informant stated this hole was drilled and it was a dry hole and all interested parties lost the money they had placed in same. The interested investors were as follows: ~~PHILIP BOSCO~~, Dallas; ~~JOSEPH J. COLLETTA~~, Dallas; ~~JOSEPH MOGAVERO~~, 195 Clinton St., New York City; ~~FRANK~~, SAM, PETE, ROCCO and ~~CARMINE PELLEGRINO~~, White Plains, N.Y.; ~~RUDOLPH MANFREDONIA~~, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

The development of DL-105-C as a live informant in covering CIVELLO's current and past activities has been difficult in that informant has been closely connected with CIVELLO and his associates all his life, he himself being an Italian. He has furnished information concerning CIVELLO reluctantly and indirectly. Every effort has been made to have him provide factual basis for his statements so that information could be properly evaluated.

Dallas will continue to probe CIVELLO's activities in regard to investments and financial dealings. Throughout this investigation CIVELLO has not been actively engaged in any criminal activity since the Apalachin Meeting and has not been known to have any organization, directed by him in Texas. Investigation indicates CIVELLO is in a stand-by position.

In regard to top hoodlum investigation concerning associates of CIVELLO, the Dallas Office has investigated his principal associates, JOE IANNI, DL 92-192; PETER PELLEGRINO, DL 92-198; JOHNNY ROSS PATRONO, DL 92-231; FRANK TORTORIELLO, DL 92-196. Additional top hoodlum cases will be opened concerning any associate developed who appears to meet the requirements for a top hoodlum investigation.

Continued efforts will be made to identify the CHARLIE GORDON referred to by DL-105-C. Every effort will be made to be aware of the identities of tie-ins between hoodlums in the Dallas area and other sections of the country as pointed out in relet.

The effectiveness of a highly confidential source is well recognized as a means of obtaining coverage for