
Agency Information

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~~SIDNEY~~ NEVELEFF, a Los Angeles gambler who was arrested in Denver in July of 1951 in connection with a race track swindle. He stated that as of August 15, 1951 NEVELEFF was still in Denver under bond awaiting trial on the race track swindle and was living at Apartment 310, Camelia House, 12th and Grant Streets, Denver, Colorado. KLINE stated that he was personally renting this apartment and had lived there for about two months in July of 1951 during which period he and his wife were separated. He stated that he was permitting NEVELEFF to reside in the apartment as a favor pending disposition of the state charges against him.

KLINE specifically denied that he had any information as to the identity of the unknown subject in this case.

CHRIS MERKURI, FBI Number 375631

Confidential Informant Denver T-6, who has previously furnished reliable information to this office, reported that on July 11, 1951 he received a telephone call from JOHN PRIOLA, victim in this case who reported that he had been contacted by two unknown individuals on July 10, 1951 representing themselves as United States Internal Revenue Agents.

PRIOLA stated that these men attempted to "shake him down" for \$2,500 in consideration of their covering up alleged income tax irregularities on the part of PRIOLA. Informant stated that PRIOLA told him that these individuals stated that they intended to contact JOHNNIE WEST, TONY COLOSACCO, and the SMALDONE brothers as well as numerous other gamblers in Denver and vicinity who were alleged to have failed to properly report Federal Income Tax returns. Informant stated PRIOLA reported that COLOSACCO had personally contacted him on the morning of July 11, 1951 and told him that he had been "shaken down" by Internal Revenue Agents; that they had thrown him in jail, and had finally made a deal with him to cover up his income tax irregularities if COLOSACCO would pay them a sum of money.

According to Informant PRIOLA stated that COLOSACCO had commented that he would probably be better to pay off these agents in order to save a lot of trouble.

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Informant reported that after this conversation with PRIOLA he was contacted by TONY COLOSACCO who told him that he was working with DOLAN on a deal to "Shake-down" JOHN PRIOLA. He stated that COLOSACCO was at liberty on bond pending disposition of state burglary charges against him and was badly in-need of money. According to Informant, COLOSACCO stated that he told JOHN PRIOLA that Internal Revenue Agents were "Shaking down" a lot of gamblers around Denver and it would probably be a good idea for PRIOLA to pay off in order to save trouble.

Informant stated that COLOSACCO admitted that he had been the "Finger man" in connection with DOLAN contacting PRIOLA. According to Informant it was his understanding that another person had been with DOLAN on July 10, 1951 when he contacted PRIOLA but the identity of this person was unknown to him.

Informant stated that on the night of July 19, 1951, he was in front of the Dover Hotel in Denver talking to COLOSACCO. He stated that COLOSACCO related that he had just left the FBI Office where he had been questioned about the DOLAN case and that he had denied any participation with DOLAN in the attempted "Shake-down" of JOHN PRIOLA.

Informant stated that COLOSACCO explained that he had told the FBI that he had personally been approached by Internal Revenue Agents who had attempted to "Shake him down" and that he had heard that numerous other gamblers were to be contacted for the same purpose by Internal Revenue Agents. COLOSACCO warned Informant that in the event he was contacted by the FBI, he should tell the same story.

Informant reported that on at least one occasion during the month of August, 1951, he had observed JAMES HENRY DOLAN at the dog races at the Mile High Kennel Club north of Denver, Colorado. He stated that on that occasion DOLAN was accompanied by CHRIS MERKURI who, according to Informant, resides at the Dover Hotel in Denver and is known as a gambler, ex-convict and "Finger Man" in numerous burglaries. He stated that MERKURI is a long time friend and associate of ANTHONY COLOSACCO.

T-6 further related that on the night of July 24, 1951, he was in front of the Dover Hotel in Denver, Colorado talking to

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CHRIS MERKURI at which time MERKURI stated that TONY COLOSACCO was in bad trouble on the DOLAN case and suggested that it would be a good idea if someone would try to "fix" JOHN PRIOLA to prevent him from testifying against DOLAN and COLOSACCO.

Informant stated that MERKURI then suggested to him that he go out and talk to JOHN PRIOLA and attempt to pay him \$500 to prevent him from identifying DOLAN or testifying against COLOSACCO.

Informant related that he declined to have anything to do with such a scheme and stated that during the subsequent conversation MERKURI never mentioned the identity of the unknown subject in the case.

(After this information was received, all witnesses and victims in this case were immediately contacted and specifically instructed that if anyone approach them concerning the case they immediately report same to the Denver Office. Up to the present time there is no indication that any attempt has been made to "pay off" any witnesses or victims.)

T-6 has reported that ANTHONY COLOSACCO, in October, 1951, has made the comment that the FBI appears to know everything about COLOSACCO'S activities and has even been questioning DOMONICK GAUDIO in Chicago, Illinois. Informant described GAUDIO as a former Denver gambler and ex-convict who now resides in Chicago, Illinois and who for many years has been a close friend of CHRIS MERKURI and ANTHONY COLOSACCO.

The following Identification Record under FBI Number 375631 dated September 7, 1938 was obtained through the Denver Police Department:

<u>CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS</u>	<u>NAME AND NUMBER</u>	<u>ARRESTED OR RECEIVED</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
FD, Denver, Colo.	Christ D. Merkuri alias C.K. Merkuri #13552	3-17-31	arson	

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Confidential Informant Denver T-6 furnished the following information concerning "TEDDY" PRICE: He stated that he has been personally acquainted with "TEDDY" PRICE for over ten years; that PRICE is a professional gambler and is well acquainted with the SMAIDONES, TONY COLOSACCO and numerous other gamblers in the Denver area. He said that PRICE also frequently participated in barbuited games at the "Bug Dust" Poolroom in Louisville, Colorado, which game was frequented also by TONY COLOSACCO. He stated that during recent weeks PRICE has frequented a barbuited game at Wood , Colorado and is usually accompanied by one "Farmer" ROUTA, a brother of "Porky" ROUTA, who is now serving a life sentence at the Colorado State Penitentiary as a habitual criminal.

Informant reported that he doubts that PRICE is actually involved in the DOLAN case but pointed out that PRICE is unpredictable and unreliable and sometimes becomes violent when under the influence of liquor.

For example, Informant pointed out that PRICE recently borrowed approximately \$1,100 from a gambler and during the first week in October when PRICE had not paid up as agreed, this gambler went out to contact PRICE at the PRICE Plumbing Company on West Colfax Avenue in Denver. He stated that the gambler found "TEDDY" PRICE sitting in an automobile in front of the plumbing company and apparently PRICE had been drinking. Informant stated that when the gambler requested PRICE to pay him the \$1,100 that PRICE jumped out of the automobile and trained a .38 caliber revolver on the gambler and threatened to kill him. Informant stated that the gambler finally quieted PRICE down and no violence occurred, and some two or three days later the same gambler contacted "TEDDY" PRICE'S brother, "MICKEY" PRICE who paid the gambler the \$1,100 and made a specific request that no more money be advanced to "TEDDY" PRICE. According to the Informant "MICKEY" PRICE informed the gambler that his brother "TEDDY" PRICE was a "wild man" when he is drinking and recalled that a few weeks previously, TEDDY PRICE had appeared at "MICKEY" PRICE'S house in a drunken condition, entered the living room where "MICKEY" PRICE'S children were playing and fired several shots from a revolver into the living room ceiling.

MILTON PRICE was interviewed at the Denver Office by SA KENNETH M. RAUPACH and the reporting agent on October 16, 1951 at which time he stated that he is commonly known as "MICKEY" PRICE and resides

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instant case and at that time did not know DOLAN'S whereabouts.

T-8 reported by telephone on October 24, 1951 that he had just seen DOLAN on the street in Denver accompanied by JOSEPH RAYMOND SNEEL and RAYMOND JAMES CONLEY and that DOLAN had told him that they were in town to report for a hearing in state court on charges of operating a race track swindle in Denver in July, 1951. He stated that DOLAN told him that he expected to be in town for several days and would contact him later. T-8 stated that if he could obtain any pertinent information concerning this case he will immediately report the same to the Denver Office.

On August 24, 1951, at the Mile High Kennel Club, north of Denver, MICHAEL PRIOLA, who was a witness to the attempted swindle of JOHN PRIOLA on July 10, 1951, informed the writer and SA FRED G. McGEARY that he had just seen an individual who resembled the unknown subject in this case. He pointed this person out to Agents who identified him as Mr. LEO TYOR, 1756 Grant Street, Denver, Colorado. TYOR was interviewed privately by SA FRED G. McGEARY and the reporting agent at the Mile High Kennel Club and stated that he was born May 6, 1897 at Passaic, New Jersey, and had resided in Denver at 1756 Grant Street for many years. He stated that his brother, PHIL TYOR operates the Colonial Motor Company at 4545 West Colfax in Denver.

TYOR was subsequently observed by MICHAEL PRIOLA and JOHN PRIOLA on the evening of August 24, 1951 at the Mile High Kennel Club and they stated that they did not believe, after closer observation, that he was identical with the unknown subject.

Mr. JAMES O'DONNELL, Chief of the Mile High Kennel Club Security Police, informed that he had been acquainted with TYOR for many years and had never heard of his being engaged in any illegal activities.

On August 23, 1951 Mr. JOSEPH CROW, Manager, Sacks - Lawlor Company, Denver, Colorado, telephone number AL 3422, informed SA. ARTHUR S. REEDER that on the morning of August 23, 1951, a person who identified himself as BILL R. MOORE, Room 218 Dover Hotel, Denver, Colorado, had contacted the Sacks - Lowlor Company and requested that they prepare a badge for him with the following inscription thereon: "BILL R. MOORE - Secret Service".

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DOLAN, was: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa., "Chief": ANTHONY COLOSACCO, wa;
FUGITIVE: IMPERSONATION, CONSPIRACY" are identified as follows:

T-1: C. S. RAY, Vice-President, Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, Denver, Colorado, who furnished information on a confidential basis to SA PAUL E. BUSH;

T-2: DR-108;

T-3: DR-100;

T-4: JOEY GOODMAN, 340 North Oakhurst, Beverly Hills, California, who in August, 1951 was residing at the Argonaut Hotel in Denver, Colorado. GOODMAN furnished information to SA'S FRED G. McGEARY and PAUL E. BUSH with the understanding that his name would not be divulged. He stated that he is a professional gambler and has a wide acquaintance with gamblers throughout the United States;

T-5: Mr. CARL MEHLMAN, Assistant Manager, Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, Colorado, who furnished information to SA PAUL E. BUSH with the understanding that his name would not be divulged;

T-6: [REDACTED], was., 2329 South High Street, Denver, Colorado, Potential Criminal Informant;

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T-7: ALBERT FINER, Plumber, Mountain Plumbing Company, Denver, Colorado, who furnished information concerning "TEDDY" PRICE with the understanding that his name would not be divulged as the source of this information;

T-8: PAUL AUGUSTUS KING, was., Room 1018 Cosmopolitan Hotel, Denver, Colorado, Potential Criminal Informant.

REFERENCE: Report of SA PAUL E. BUSH dated August 13, 1951 at Denver;
Report of SA JOHN H. BOYAJIAN dated October 10, 1951 at Chicago;
Report of SA WILLIAM G. MASHAW dated October 11, 1951 at San Diego, California.