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Date: 5/16/62

Transmit the following in Plain Text

Via AIRTEL REGISTERED MAIL

To: Director, FBI

From: SAC, Philadelphia (166-27)

Subject: JOHN CAVELLI, aka Ice Cream;  
 PHILIP TESTA;  
 ITAR  
O.O. Philadelphia

*Pg 2*

Re Philadelphia airtels to Bureau dated 5/8 and 11/62, no copies to Chicago or Springfield.

For background information of Chicago and Springfield, it is to be noted that PHILIP TESTA is the lieutenant of ANGELO BRUNO, aka, the Philadelphia representative of "The Criminal Commission." PH 627-PC, a son of a nationally known racket figure, has during May 1962 furnished information indicating that he had traveled to New York City, had stayed at the residence of DAN CHERICO, 1009 Ogden Avenue, Bronx, N.Y., telephone GE 8-1645, in whose residence in a large den or recreation room on the first floor a meeting was held at approximately 2 p.m. on Sunday, 5/6/62.

Persons who attended this meeting did not include the informant but did include DAN CHERICO, JOE BONAFIA (phonetic), subject JOHN CAVELLI, subject PHILIP TESTA, PAUL LACONA (phonetic), HENRY NOISE (phonetic), JOE (LNU), and three other persons whose names informant could not recall. This meeting lasted approximately

- 4 - Bureau (RM)
- 1 - 92-2717
- 2 - Boston (RM)
- 1 - 92-272 (ANGELO BRUNO)
- 2 - Chicago (RM)
- 2 - New York (RM)
- 1 - 92-739 (ANGELO BRUNO)
- 2 - Springfield (RM)
- 2 - St. Louis (RM)
- 2 - Philadelphia
- 1 - 166-27
- 1 - 92-445

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PH 166-27

one and one-half hours. Informant believed that all persons present besides CAVELLI and TESTA were from New York with the exception of PAUL LACONA and HENRY NOISE, who were from the Boston area. NOISE told the informant he and LACONA were owners of Gero's Bar, Hanover and Commercial Streets, Boston, Mass.

On 5/8/62 informant identified a photograph of HENRY SELVITELLA, Boston Police Department Number 262 87, as the person introduced to him as HENRY NOISE.

Informant stated that he believed the meeting in New York was connected with ANGELO BRUNO's numbers operation because of the presence of PHILIP TESTA and CAVELLI, it being noted that CAVELLI has previously been described as TESTA's chief assistant in the numbers racket in Philadelphia.

On 5/9/62 informant again advised he would go to New York for the weekend of 5/12/62. While in New York he would again stay at the home of DAN CHERICO with the purpose of the trip being to deliver an unknown sum of money.

For characterization of informant, all offices should classify him as being closely associated with nationally known racket figures, who has furnished previous reliable information. (For your confidential information, the informant is the son of a nationally known racket figure. His name has assisted him being rapidly promoted in BRUNO's gambling activities and at present informant is collecting an average of \$20,000 per day from BRUNO's numbers activities in the Philadelphia area.) It should be noted that dissemination of any portion of the above information being furnished by the informant would unquestionably jeopardize his safety.

IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND THE DANGER OF COMPROMISING INFORMANT'S LIFE AND POSITION, THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE HANDLED WITH THE GREATEST CARE AND DISCRETION.

PH 166-27

On 5/11/62 the informant stated that on the following Monday, 5/14/62, he would be the only one making collections for the numbers plays, all of which were under the control of ANGELO BRUNO, that he would be making 25 collections daily between the hours of 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and that money collected would amount to an average of \$20,000 per day. This money was turned over by the informant to "LULU" ESPOSITO, who is banking the money in a rear room at a sandwich shop at the corner of 19th and McKean Streets, Philadelphia. Informant could furnish no additional details as to his time of departure for the trip to New York during the coming week end.

On the evening of 5/14/62 informant furnished the following information regarding the trip to New York and the activities of 5/14/62:

Informant travelled to New York in JOHN CAVELLI's car, leaving Philadelphia at approximately 10:30 p.m. on 5/12/62. Informant and CAVELLI went to the home of DAN CHERICO, 1009 Ogden Avenue, Bronx, N.Y., at which time CAVELLI turned over to CHERICO \$35,000 in cash consisting of 100, 50, and 20 dollar denominations.

Informant could furnish nothing evidentiary but definitely believes that the money delivered was money collected from numbers activities in Philadelphia, all of which was under the control of BRUNO.

He noted that CHERICO uses his personal telephone to make frequent calls but informant did not know if any toll calls were charged against the telephone. He was told by CAVELLI that they could not return to Philadelphia until a telephone call was received at CHERICO's residence. This call came through about 10:30 p.m., 5/13/62. The identity of the caller was not known to the informant; however, he learned from a conversation between CHERICO and CAVELLI that the call was in regard to what was to be done with the money. He ascertained that the money was going to an individual described only as "WILLIE GREEN" from East St. Louis.

PH 166-27

It was ascertained that these trips were to be made weekly and that money would be delivered on each occasion. Informant noted that he had collected from various numbers operators under BRUNO's control in Philadelphia that day approximately \$12,000.

By airtel received at Philadelphia 5/12/62, the Bureau instructs that an ITAR inquiry as captioned above be opened with Philadelphia designated as origin. Bureau instructions were to pursue inquiry in regard to captioned subjects in a vigorous manner to ascertain if there was a prosecutable violation. All offices are requested not to make any open inquiry to jeopardize the informant's safety.

Leads

BOSTON:

At Boston, Mass.:

(1) Will furnish the Philadelphia Division up-to-date information on PAUL LACONA and HENRY SELVITELLA, aka Henry Noise, per Philadelphia airtel 5/8/62.

(2) Photographs of these individuals should be furnished to the Philadelphia Division to be displayed to the informant.

(3) Any close associates of these two individuals who could possibly travel to New York should also be furnished the Philadelphia Division.

CHICAGO:

At Chicago, Ill.:

(1) Considering racket connections between Chicago and East St. Louis, Chicago should promptly furnish any information as to the identity of WILLIE GREEN of East St. Louis.

PH 166-27

(2) Photographs of close associates of this individual if he is identified should be furnished to the Philadelphia Division.

NEW YORK:

At New York City:

(1) New York should immediately obtain toll calls for the residence of DAN CHERICO, 1009 Ogden Avenue, Bronx, N.Y., telephone number GE 8-1645, in an effort to identify his associates, particularly in the East St. Louis area.

(2) Should endeavor to establish a confidential source to cover possible future meetings at this residence plus investigation requested in Philadelphia airtel dated 5/8/62 requesting identifying information on CHERICO and BONAFIA.

(3) New York should furnish photographs of these individuals plus photographs of known associates of these persons.

ST. LOUIS:

Review indices for any information regarding WILLIE GREEN and furnish same to Philadelphia.

SPRINGFIELD:

At East St. Louis:

(1) Will attempt to identify WILLIE GREEN.

(2) If WILLIE GREEN is identified, furnish photograph.

(3) Ascertain toll calls originating from his telephone to provide Philadelphia and New York contacts

PH 166-27

- (4) Will furnish background of WILLIE GREEN.

PHILADELPHIA:

At Philadelphia, Pa.:

- (1) Will maintain contact with PH 627-PC.
- (2) Will request surveillance at a time when informant can be provided safety.

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