

## **HSCA Appendix - Volume IX, pp. 1-60.**

### **Salerno Report - my notes**

note: the report is not published as originally submitted b/c Salerno used docs that might have been 4th Am. vios and raw intelligence data w/gossip, etc... involved.

- 2 Salerno had 3 broad tasks:
  - 1) review history/organization of organized crime in U.S., esp. with regard to motives to kill JFK and with regard to modus operandi.
  - 2) Whether the DOJ war on organized crime under Kennedy admin. created a motive to kill JFK.
  - 3) To determine why organized crime members/organizations would NOT have killed JFK.
  
- 2-3 Materials Reviewed
  - 1) FBI elsur
  - 2) local/state law enforcement, including NYC
  - 3) 92-6054: LCN file - 36 vol. from 1/1/63 to 6/30/64
  - 4) crime condition reports of FBI for particular individuals
  - 5) NYCPD ELSUR summaries and intelligence bulletins
  - 6) depositions of FBI personnel, local police and other people with potentially useful knowledge

### **3-11 HISTORY OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN U.S.**

Overview: Italian origins: Although not all Italians are involved in organized crime, there is a large organization of criminals in the U.S. that is primarily Italian in its origin, membership, language, etc.. Fractious when first arrived from Southern Italy. Now they are all one group - collectively most properly called LCN. Describes the types of activities LCN engages in. Describes how the organization is structured to protect those at the top of the pyramid from criminal liability. Describes how LCN uses violences to achieve virtually all of its objectives.

Prohibition: Prohibition created conditions conducive to "organizing" crime because bootlegging was such a major business. Alliances were forged with non-Italians. Lots of money.

St. Valentine's Day Massacre: 2/14/29 - 7 people shot in a Chicago garage. Much public attention on organized crime, esp. from law enforcement. In response, organized crime leaders from all over the country started to meet in order to set up some rules for peaceful coexistence. It worked. LCN is very organized, as evidenced by the amt of money they make and the difficulty of convicting them.

A Most Successful Enterprise: Until the 1960s, law enforcement basically either did not believe that LCN existed or they did not place a high priority on investigating it (b/c it engaged in "victimless" crimes). Kefauver Committee was the only major investigation. It established the existence of the syndicate. Subsequently, Congress passed some gambling legislation and some state and local governments started investigations. DOJ set up an Organized Crime and Racketeering Division.

Apalachin, N.Y.: In 1957, in upstate New York, local law enforcement discovered that a

large number of Italian Americans from all over the country were meeting at the estate of Joseph Barbera, Sr., who was himself already "of interest" to the police. This was a national meeting of some 65 LCN bosses. From intelligence gathering since 1957, law enforcement agencies have learned that they had a number of big issues to discuss at the meeting, including the need to control membership rolls, the need to resolve disputes that resulted in several incidents of violence in NYC, whether they wanted to get involved in narcotics traffic, and how to deal with problems that were arising in the garment workers' industry.

The Federal Response: Federal govt., under the McClellan Committee (included the Kennedy brothers), investigated the Apalachin participants. FBI set up top hoodlum program w/in days after Apalachin bust. Included Chicago ELSUR - very pervasive. FBI research unit created monographs on Mafia in U.S. and in Sicily. DOJ set up a special Attorney General's group on organized crime, which obtained indictments on Apalachin conferees, but not prosecutions. It was soon disbanded and OCR took over again. Federal Bureau of Narcotics worked to enforce the Narcotics Control Act of 1956 and obtained some convictions in NY.

State and Local Efforts: NY was really the only state or local entity to take on organized crime.

#### **11-43 LCN: FBI FILE 92-6054**

commission - knew about it from elsur on Giancana

LCN & the Kennedy Administration: The Kennedy brothers had McClellan Cmte experience. Targeted organized crime. RFK expanded DOJ's resources to focus on it. Told FBI to focus on it. Many FBI files are listed under "A.R." for antiracketeering. Had a 40 most wanted list. Then added an other 40.

#### Intelligence Operations

FBI top hoodlum program intensified. Targeted "TE" (top echelon) informants. JEH assigned agents in Chicago, Detroit, KC, Las Vegas, LA, Miami, NY, Newark, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco to develop informant relationships w/insiders.

RFK got the "travel bills" passed, which made it illegal to transport goods across state lines in aid of racketeering. This gave the FBI jurisdiction over most organized crime issues, provided they could prove the transport issue. (easy.)

#### A Successful Operation

The FBI work was successful. They got information both through live sources and through ELSUR. Figured out people who were going to be hit, LCN operations that were going on, modus operandi of past murders, etc... FBI was also able to create a report on organized crime in Chicago, including a chart of members and their political contacts.

#### Joseph M. Valachi

Was already in prison and believed that he was going to be killed for informing. Believed that a fellow prisoner was about to harm him and beat the fellow prisoner to death with a lead pipe. While awaiting trial for that murder, he started telling what he knew about the organization (1962).

### FBI Report on the Commission

JEH directed the NY field office to prepare a report. Other field offices were to send their intelligence to NY. Completed 1/4/63, entitled "The Criminal Commission, et al." The report set forth the family structure and the positions within the family. It also described the Commission, its members and the types of issues with which the Commission dealt. Field office intelligence varied in quality. The New Orleans office was particularly bad. Their report included only Carlos Marcello as a member. JEH directed New Orleans to get on the ball. By this time, had a good sense of structure and nature of organized crime.

### La Cosa Nostra

FBI intelligence gathering finally figured out that LCN was the proper name for the organization.

### The Kennedy Program

The Kennedy administration dramatically increased the amount of DOJ pressure upon organized crime.

### The Impact of the Kennedy Campaign

The Kennedy's pressure on organized crime disrupted LCN. Leaders had to recognize that they were vulnerable. Had to divert resources away from everyday responsibilities and onto protecting themselves from FBI.

#### On Political Influence

LCN influence with political leaders was widespread. One Congressman, Libonati, claimed to have kept down several of RFK's bills, like the wiretapping bill, the intimidating informers bills, etc... The FBI kept finding out which candidates and elected officials were controlled by the mob. Sometimes, they would let the boss know that they knew.

#### On Gambling

FBI assumed that the LCN made money through gambling, so watched it closely. Report discusses how LCN "skimmed" money off of legal gambling operations in Las Vegas. In 1/1962, Giancana, Gus Alex and Edward Vogel all talked in Chicago and indicated that the Chicago syndicate's illegal gambling operations had nearly ended b/c of the increased pressure from the "G."

### La Cosa Nostra and Intelligence Gathering

FBI learned all about LCN structure, membership and methods of operation. Frustrating to LCN members to have their secrets in the open. By 5/17/63 (the date of a memo from Smith to Sullivan), the FBI had an excellent handle on what LCN was up to. Salerno summarizes (pp. 28-31) what the FBI knew about organized crime in the early 1960s.

### 1963: Feeling the Pressure

4/63: the funeral of Carmine Lombardozi, a capo in the Gambino family - a fight ensued b/t members of organized crime and the FBI. Unusual occurrence b/c violence against law enforcement officers or other public officials was to be avoided. LCN and FBI high ranking folks were concerned.

Then, Giancana was basically under "bumper-to-bumper" 24 hour surveillance. Was causing problems b/c Giancana had to stay away from his normal haunts. Some Chicago

mobsters said that they had never seen conditions so bad.

In NY, Bonanno (NY) started to overstep his bounds (wanted his son to take over Southern California and supplant Frank DeSimone.) The Gallo-Profaci war in NY was raging. Then, Joseph Profaci was killed and his underboss tried to take over. The Commission would not allow it. Commission met to deal with all of these issues, with only partial success.

In 1963, DOJ decided to have Valachi testify before a Congressional committee about his membership in LCN and about org. crime generally. LCN members were annoyed and disrupted by Valachi testifying and by the knowledge that their homes and places of business were likely wiretapped.

#### Attitude Toward the Kennedys: Before and After

A special hatred for RFK and for JFK, especially because he would not control his brother. Not just members, but bosses, too. No animosity really directed at Hoover. After the assassination, most LCN members were happy. They felt that RFK had caused his brother to be killed b/c he pressed too many issues. They felt that FBI pressure would let up now that JFK was dead. Some said RFK should have been killed also.

#### Summary

- members felt pressure from the govt
- attn focused on RFK
- no evidence that LCN acted to harm the President, although the evidence is by no means complete.

### **43-53 ORGANIZED CRIME MURDERS: ANY PRECEDENTS?**

Have a good deal of information about organized crime murders. Usually gather the information from the murderers themselves.

#### Attitude Toward Murder

Leaders restrict use of violence. The more organized crime gets, the less violent it is. Leaders like to accomplish their objectives using threats and fear rather than actual killings.

#### The victims

LCN **avoids** using violence against law enforcement officers, government officials, reporters and certain other groups of people. Exceptions are usually people who doublecrossed the organization. No precedents exist for killing a high level official.

#### Characteristics of Organized Crime Murders:

- 1) the authorizer: use of violence requires authorization, particularly if the victim is a business associate or a member. The authorizer tries to stay as far away from the crime as possible.
- 2) the expediter: the trusted friend or associate who is to make arrangements for the hit. Gets wide latitude in how the murder is committed. Usually subcontracts the hit, rather than doing it himself.
- 3) the hitmen: usually people with a "proven record". Usually more than one involved. Rare for out of town people to be used.
- 4) murder weapon: Usually use handguns, but all other methods are employed,

- including knives, garroting, rifles, ice picks and dynamite.
- 5) wheelmen and the hit car: the hit car drives away the hit men. Driver is usu. local. Usu. drive to the scene of murders.
  - 6) the crash car: generally driven by someone with a clean record, who is unlikely to be identified as part of organized crime. Generally stops police pursuit by crashing.
  - 7) the finger: hitmen often do not know the victim. They take along the finger to point out the victim.
  - 8) limited conspiracy: try to keep conspiracy to a minimum, but still insulate boss.
  - 9) method variations: the method of killing can send a signal. It is most respectful to leave a shooting victim in the open so that the estate can be closed and the family can properly bury the person. "Double-crossers" bodies disappear.
  - 10) disposal of body: bodies are usually dumped at sea, compacted in an automobile or buried in an unlikely place.

### Three Exceptions

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