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TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

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COMMENTS :

HO 165-689

On 1/13/71, PCI [] reported that things have been very quiet around the Safari Ltd. offices during the past two weeks and neither JACK STRAUS nor his secretary JERRY GILL has been seen at these offices during this period.

On 2/10/71, [] reported that the telephones have been taken out of the Gaming Safari's Ltd. Office during the past week. She reported that an unknown individual had frequently used the Towers Hotel telephone, which is located just outside the Steakery Restaurant on the second floor of the hotel. She stated this man had frequently been with STRAUS in the Gaming Safari's Office. Informant also advised that the hotel had recently discovered that long distance calls could be made from this phone, which is just an extension of the hotel switchboard, and these calls could not be assigned to any specific room when they appeared on the bill. Informant stated she believes this situation has been changed so that long distance calls could no longer be made from the hotel extension.

Informant also advised that GENE SANDELL had reportedly moved to River Road, Wharton, Texas and has telephone number 532-5267.

On 3/3/71, PCI [] stated things have been very quiet around the Towers Hotel and the Gaming Safari's Ltd. Office during the past two weeks; however, STRAUS was in the office that date with his secretary. Informant reported that GENE SANDELL had been in town about a week ago and had stayed one night in Room 906.

On 1/28/71, HO 1082-C-TE advised that he had no information which would indicate that BENNY BINION planned to return to Houston or to resume any gambling activities here. BINION has been successful in Las Vegas and is reported to have purchased a big ranch in Wyoming where he is spending a considerable amount of his time. Informant would know if BINION did return to gambling operations in Houston and informant feels certain that BINION would not consider tying up with STRAUS or taking over any of STRAUS' gambling business. *TE 1082*

NO 1232-C-TE has advised that JACK STRAUS has been booking horses and sports in Houston and supposedly has five gambling locations where wagers taken by variety of individuals in Houston are recorded. This informant does not

G
COVER PAGE

HO 165-689

know STRAUS' booking locations and stated he feels STRAUS may possibly book races to be run at Evangeline Downs Race Track in Lafayette, Louisiana, which track operates from April 7, 1971 through Labor Day. This informant will attempt to determine telephone numbers he feels STRAUS may be using in his operation.

On 3/16/71, PCI MICKEY GUARINO advised that he has not had any further contacts with JACK STRAUS and does not know if STRAUS is presently in business or not.

On 2/10/71 the Miami Division advised that NORMAN ROTHMAN, 425 Surfside Boulevard, Surfside, Florida, is subject of Miami file 92-1870. ROTHMAN was born in New York City XX NEV on 12/26/14 and was active in gambling in the Cuban San Souci Nightclub and reportedly controlled all slot machines in Cuba YJ except those in Havana, prior to the CASTRO regime. ROTHMAN'S gambling activities in Cuba reportedly were backed financially by the MANNACINE brothers from New Kensington, Pennsylvania, and PATSY ERRA, Miami Beach, Florida, all LCN figures.

ROTHMAN was convicted in 1960 with others attempting to smuggle guns stolen from a National Guard Armory in Ohio to Cuba, and received a five-year prison term and \$10,000 fine.

ROTHMAN is reportedly an associate of SANTO TRAFFICANTE, JR., LCN figure from Tampa, Florida.

In 1967 ROTHMAN reportedly had an undisclosed interest in the Albion Lounge, Miami Beach and was later employed by International Lithographers, Miami Beach, Florida.

ROTHMAN is reportedly a representative of PATSY ERRA and the gambling and shylocking in the Miami area. ROTHMAN has travelled extensively of late to Las Vegas, New York, and New Jersey and has been reported in the past as a courier of funds for LCN figures.

JFK Law 10(a)2

During the latter part of 1967 ROTHMAN was reportedly organizing junket flights from Miami to the New Frontier Hotel, Las Vegas. On 3/17/69 ROTHMAN was arrested in Las Vegas for vagrancy and loitering and had in his possession over \$10,000 in cash.

COVER PAGE

165-1849-44

HO 165-689

On 12/18/69 ROTHMAN, along with others were the subjects of a 15-count indictment returned by the FGJ, Southern District of New York, charging them with ITSP. No trial date has been set and this case is still pending against ROTHMAN.

On 3/15/71, MM 1401-C-TE advised that he is personally acquainted with NORMAN ROTHMAN, and since ROTHMAN at one time was engaged in the junket flight business to Las Vegas casinos, ROTHMAN may have been in contact with STRAUS in this connection.

On 1/22/71, LR 695-PC advised that he is acquainted with JACK STRAUS and that he is acquainted with HUBERT DANE HARRIS, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Informant stated HARRIS is a former owner and operator of the Vapors Club, a former gambling casino at Hot Springs. Prior to closing in March, 1964 STRAUS would come to Hot Springs and gamble.

LR 695-PC stated that HARRIS is not connected with gambling activities at present with the exception of having a casino in Istanbul, Turkey. Junket trips are made up in the United States by HARRIS of prospective gamblers to travel to Istanbul and gamble. Informant stated this is probably the reason STRAUS has been in contact with HARRIS; however, he cannot state this definitely.

I
COVER PAGE