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Report Form
FD-263 (5-12-55)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
DETROIT	NEW YORK	3/14/63	2/1 - 3/8/63

TITLE OF CASE	Report made by	Typed By:
LA CAUSA NOSTRA DETROIT DIVISION	SA WINSTON T. CHURCHILL	PJB
	CHARACTER OF CASE AR - CONSPIRACY	

Synopsis:

REFERENCES: Report of SA JAMES P. FLYNN, dated 1/31/63, at New York.
Bureau letter to New York, dated 1/28/63.
Detroit airtel to Bureau, dated 2/5/63.

- P -

ENCLOSURES

TO BUREAU

Two (2) copies of letterhead memorandum reflecting characterizations of Informants.

LEAD

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Will, through Informants, attempt to identify additional members of the commission in the Detroit area.

Approved	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below
Copies made: 6 - Bureau (92-6054) [redacted] 6 - New York (92-2300) 3 - Detroit (2 - 92-914) (1 - 92-218)		92-6054-208 REC-38 MAR 18 1963

COPIES DESTROYED
10 MAR 29 1965

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56 MAR

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DE 92-914

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Agent to Whom Furnished
DE T-1 is Legat, Rome	
DE T-2 is CARL GELLISH Internal Revenue Service Detroit, Michigan	SA WINSTON T. CHURCHILL
DE T-3 is JOHN OLSZEWSKI Intelligence Division Internal Revenue Service Detroit, Michigan	SA JOSEPH E. ISEMAN
DE T-4 is JOSEPH GRAJEWSKI Detroit, Michigan	SA WINSTON T. CHURCHILL
DE T-5 is Dr. W. K. USHER 1206 Balfour Street, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan	SA WINSTON T. CHURCHILL
DE T-6 is DE 889-C-TE	SA WINSTON T. CHURCHILL SA JOSEPH E. ISEMAN
DE T-7 is DE 370-C	SA PALMER M. WEE
DE T-8 is PCI RUSSELL TRILCK Detroit Division	SA PALMER M. WEE
DE T-9 is JOHN BOLOGNA Internal Revenue Service Detroit, Michigan	SA JOSEPH E. ISEMAN
DE T-10 is HERMAN SCHWARTZ Catering Service Sheraton - Cadillac Hotel Detroit, Michigan	SA WINSTON T. CHURCHILL

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DE 92-914

Identity of Source	Agent to Whom Furnished
DE T-11 is PCI [redacted] Detroit, Michigan	SA JOHN L. SHELBURNE
DE T-12 is DE 337-C	SA JOSEPH E. ISEMAN
DE T-13 is ROSS ELLIS Supervisor in Charge United States Narcotic Bureau Detroit, Michigan	SA WINSTON T. CHURCHILL
DE T-14 is PCI [redacted]	SA JOSEPH E. ISEMAN
DE T-15 is DE 728-C	SA DOUGLAS W. HIBBIE
DE T-16 is [redacted] Former PCI Detroit, Michigan	SA JAMES L. SHANAHAN
DE T-17 is [redacted] Former PCI Detroit, Michigan	SA JOSEPH E. ISEMAN
DE T-18 is PCI GEORGE CARDARELLI Detroit, Michigan	SA LEO C. SHIRLEY
DE T-19 is CG 6343-C*	
DE T-20 is DE 718-C	SA JOSEPH E. ISEMAN
DE T-21 is DE 878-C-TE	SA ROBERT N. FITZPATRICK
DE T-22 is NY 213-C*	
DE T-23 is [redacted] Former PCI Detroit, Michigan	Former SA GEORGE L. BLUE

OTHER 4

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DE 92-914

Identity of Source	Agent to Whom Furnished
DE T-24 is NY 3123-C*	
DE T-25 is NY 3864-C-TE	
DE T-26 is NK 2251-C*	
DE T-27 is LAWRENCE GALLO New York City Racketeer	
DE T-28 is DE 906-C*	
DE T-29 is DE 868-C-TE	SA BARRON T. CONKLIN
DE T-30 is BS 837-C*	

- D* -
COVER PAGE

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Source: DE T- 16

The above source advised on March 24, 1958, that gambling in Detroit is controlled by what is considered the "Italian Syndicate". He stated that the top men are JOSEPH ZERILLI, ANGELO MELI, WILLIAM TOCCO, JOHN PRIZIOLA, MIKE RUBINO, JOE "SCARFACE" BOMMARITO and PETE LICAVOLI. Source stated that this syndicate controlled the numbers racket to a large extent, handbooks, barbute and football pools. Source stated that none of these top men to his knowledge perform any duties that would link them to gambling but they have trusted lieutenants to do the day to day work, maintain accounts and split up the profits.

Source: DE T- 6

The above source advised on April 29, 1958, that the leaders of the so-called "Italian Gambling Syndicate" in Detroit, Michigan, consisted of JOSEPH ZERILLI, WILLIAM TOCCO and ANGELO MELI. Source stated that PETE LICAVOLI and JOE "SCARFACE" BOMMARITO, are also close to the level of these three men.

Source stated that this group divides up the numbers operation, handbooks, wire service and football pools among various smaller groups but the top fellows control the operation and keep peace among the workers. Source stated he believes a percentage of the profit from the gambling operation is turned over to the top group and it is their pay for controlling the gambling syndicate.

Source advised on June 9, 1958, that he was employed by PETE CORRADO, brother-in-law of JOSEPH ZERILLI, who died in 1957, in a numbers house known as the Murphy House. Source stated that PETE CORRADO actively ran this business during 1946-1948 and source believes that ZERILLI and BILL TOCCO were partners with CORRADO although neither of them ever took part or appeared in the operations of the Murphy House. Source stated that he considers ZERILLI as one of the powers in the Italian gambling syndicate and he believes that ZERILLI receives some profits from gambling operations.

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WTC/sal - 1

Source: DE T- 6

On February 12, 1963, source furnished the following information concerning JOSEPH ZERILLI, whom he has known for over forty years.

JOSEPH ZERILLI came to the United States in 1914 from Terrasini, Sicily, and entered the United States at New York City, New York.

Source stated that after ZERILLI arrived in New York City, he immediately came to Detroit, Michigan, where his oldest sister, JOSEPHINE ZITO, and her husband, THOMAS, lived. Upon his arrival in Detroit, ZERILLI took up residence with his sister and her husband at 2259 East Congress Street and secured a job as a milkman.

Source advised that after working at this job for a year or so, ZERILLI got married and rented the upper flat of the ZITO house on East Congress Street. Shortly after ZERILLI's marriage, he secured a laborer's job with the old Morgan-Wright Company which did all of the construction work for the Michigan Consolidated Gas Company in Detroit.

After World War I, ZERILLI with his brother-in-law, WILLIAM "Black Bill" TOCCO, started a small Italian bakery in Detroit which, according to source, prospered very well and ZERILLI and TOCCO both worked very hard at the bakery making it a success.

Source stated that along with the bakery, ZERILLI and TOCCO sold imported Italian cheese and other imported Italian foods retail. It was through selling the imported Italian cheese and foods, according to source, that ZERILLI and TOCCO became acquainted with the late JOSEPH PROFACI of Brooklyn, New York, who was in the importing and exporting business.

Source advised that he had heard it was through this business that PROFACI, ZERILLI and TOCCO became very close friends and business associates inasmuch as ZERILLI and TOCCO were the only Italians in Detroit who were selling Italian cheese, foods and spices.

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