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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: September 7, 1963

FROM : SAC CLEVELAND (92-748) (137-1130)

SUBJECT: LA COSA NOSTRA

TOP ECHELON CRIMINAL
INFORMANT PROGRAM

On August 26, 1963, CV-554-PC was contacted and advised that he had read the "Saturday Evening Post" article on La Cosa Nostra. Informant, who has lived around Cleveland, Ohio, all of his life, among the hoodlum element, and who is an ex-convict, having done time for burglary and robbery at the Ohio State Penitentiary, furnished the following information regarding what he termed as "the outfit."

Informant explained that while others may refer to it as La Cosa Nostra, the Mafia, or the syndicate, he has always referred to it as "the outfit."

JOHN SCALISH (Apalachin attendee from Cleveland) is definitely a partner in the Desert Inn in Las Vegas and

- ④ - Bureau
- 1 - Cincinnati (INFO)
- 1 - Detroit (INFO)
- 1 - Las Vegas (INFO)
- 1 - Los Angeles (INFO)
- 1 - Miami (INFO)
- 1 - New York (INFO)
- 1 - Pittsburgh (INFO)
- 26 - Cleveland (1 - 92-748) (1 - 137-1130)
 - (1 - 137-1401) (1 - 137-1570) (1 - 92-167)
 - (1 - 92-168) (1 - 92-169) (1 - 92-171)
 - (1 - 92-176) (1 - 92-179) (1 - 92-280)
 - (1 - 92-282) (1 - 92-397) (1 - 92-399)
 - (1 - 92-400) (1 - 92-477) (1 - 92-500)
 - (1 - 92-501) (1 - 92-530) (1 - 92-563)
 - (1 - 92-565) (1 - 92-650) (1 - 92-810)
 - (1 - 92-846) (92-869) (1 - 165-276)

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DATE: 11-14-2017

CV 92-748; CV 137-1130

probably not only gets money off the top from Vegas but probably has "points" through MORRIS KLEINMAN or one of the others. JAMES LICAVOLI, aka., Jack White, of Cleveland, JOHN DE MARCO of Cleveland (Apalachin attendee), GEORGE GORDON of Miami, and the late "SCOTTY" GOLTSMAN of Cleveland all had a piece, one way or another, of the Desert Inn and the Beverly Hills Country Club which formerly operated in Southgate, Kentucky. It is noted that informant and GEORGE GORDON have been close over the years. With regard to "the outfit," informant feels JOHN SCALISH is the "big man" and that he inherited his status from his late brother, TOM SCALISH, who in turn inherited his position from "BIG AL" POLIZZI, formerly of Cleveland, and now of Miami. Informant feels JOHN SCALISH's lieutenants in "the outfit" would be JOHN DE MARCO, FRANK BRANCATO and NICK SATULLO, all of Cleveland. He named the following as in his opinion being additional members of "the outfit" in Ohio:

LOUIS "BABE" TRISCARO of the Teamsters Union

JOHN NARDI of the Teamsters

SAM "SWEETS" POLEOFICO, who works for a Cleveland bookmaker

ANGELO LONARDO, brother-in-law of JOHN SCALISH

TONY and JAMES LA FATCH of Akron, Ohio

TONY "THE DOPE" DELSANTER of Warren, Ohio, who answers to JAMES LICAVOLI, aka., Jack White

ANTHONY "WHITEY" BESASE of Toledo

ANGELO AMATO, a cement contractor of Cleveland

CHARLES CASSARO, formerly of Buffalo and now of Cleveland, and possibly CHARLES CASSARO, JR.

Informant mentioned that he felt that JAMES LICAVOLI, who controls Trumbull County through TONY DELSANTER, and "WHITEY" BESASE of Toledo answer to PETE LICAVOLI in Detroit.

DATE: 11-14-2017

CV 92-748; CV 137-1130

Informant further revealed that in his opinion, SAM "SWEETS" POLEOFICO has been on the payroll of "the outfit" for years and would be the type of individual used if they wanted somebody "knocked off." He revealed that POLEOFICO "gets respect and has a good standing in the outfit," in addition to which he is very close to JOHN T. SCALISH.

With regard to ANGELO LONARDO, informant advised that while he feels ANGELO is definitely a member of "the outfit," his two brothers, DOMINIC and FRANK LONARDO, who are engaged in the bail bond business in Cleveland, are not members although it is entirely possible they have "the outfit's" money behind them through their brother, ANGELO. Informant stated that ANGELO, who operates the Frolics Club, a "girlie joint" on Vincent Avenue in Downtown Cleveland, has plenty of money and is highly respected by "the outfit." He revealed that ANGELO, FRANK and DOMINIC LONARDO are sons of the late "BIG JOE" LONARDO, old-time Cleveland bootlegger who was murdered in 1927.

With regard to LOUIS "BABE" TRISCARO, President of Teamsters Local 436, Cleveland, Ohio, informant stated that he grew up with TRISCARO, who was nothing but a punk fighter and who is not too bright. He stated that "the outfit" put "BABE" in his current position with the Teamsters and that "the outfit" controls the Teamsters, as well as the Laundry, Dry Cleaning and Dye House Workers International Union Local #1, Cleveland, Ohio, JOHN ZITTELLO, JR., President. Informant stated that JOHN T. SCALISH was able to place his son, FRANK SCALISH, in a good job in this latter union.

Informant stated that "the outfit" also controls the Bartenders Union Local #108, ANDY KUMP, President, of which union informant is a member. He stated that they also control the Hotel Service Workers and Miscellaneous Restaurant Employees Local 274, Cleveland, Ohio, President JOE POLO, aka., Joseph Poliafico, Business Manager JACK LUBIN, who is the brother-in-law of the wife of JOHN T. SCALISH, and who is very close to SCALISH. With reference to LUBIN, informant revealed that LUBIN also works as a pari-mutuel clerk at the Cleveland area race tracks, and both LUBIN and NICK DI NARDO, aka., "Nicky D.," do some "shylocking" at the tracks on a "six for five basis."

CV 92-748; CV 137-1130

Informant stated that "the outfit" also controls the Vending Machine Service Employees Union Local #410, JOSEPH FONTANA, President, and JOHN NARDI, Business Agent. Informant feels that JOHN NARDI is a member of "the outfit," but does not think FONTANA is. He stated that NARDI is "the real strength in this union" and commands a tremendous amount of respect among the Italian hoodlum element.

With regard to JAMES LICAVOLI, aka., Jack White, informant revealed that WHITE and PETE DI GRAVIO, who until recently operated "Toys," the after-hours liquor spot on Mayfield Road in "Little Italy," used to hate each other but now are on speaking terms. Informant revealed that DI GRAVIO and JOHN "CURLY" MONTANA are operating a prosperous "loan shark" business and it is possible that JACK WHITE might have a piece of this. Informant stated that DI GRAVIO and MONTANA also have a piece of the Doan Machinery Company, which is a legitimate outfit in Cleveland. Informant also mentioned that ROCKY MARCIANO, a former heavy-weight champion of the world, likewise has an interest in this Doan Machinery Company and is a close friend of DI GRAVIO.

Informant stated that he does not feel that DI GRAVIO is a member of "the outfit." He stated that "CURLY" MONTANA, who was extremely close to DI GRAVIO, has plenty of "guts" and would "kill you in a minute."

With further regard to JACK WHITE, informant mentioned that WHITE plays cards in the evenings in a spot near the Roman Gardens Restaurant in "Little Italy" and frequently plays golf in the daytime with an individual named "CHICKEN" (LNU), who drives a cab in Cleveland Heights. He stated that other close associates of LICAVOLI are PAUL LISH, aka., Paul Ciricillo, who is a carpenter by trade, and NICK JOHN RAMEY, aka., "Slush" (Cleveland Police Department #84685), whom he described as "WHITE's towel boy."

When asked if he thought "the outfit" had any control over the numbers racket in Cleveland, informant stated that while this definitely was true a number of years ago, he does not feel that it is true today. He stated that the only Italian he can think of offhand currently in the numbers

DATE: 11-14-2017

CV 92-748; CV 137-1130

business in Cleveland is TONY PANZARELLA, who is closely associated with ALEX SHONDOR ~~BIRNS~~ in the numbers business. He added that the numbers business in Cleveland is operated almost exclusively by Negroes, except for the clearing-house layoff which has been handled by BIRNS. He stated that in his opinion the Negroes would not stand still for any payoffs to "the outfit" in the Cleveland area since business has been bad for a number of years and they just could not afford it. He added that another reason, in his opinion, "the outfit" is not in the numbers business in Cleveland is the fact that they do not need it and they do not want the headaches it would cause since apparently JOHN T. SCALISH, through his interest in the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, gets enough to take care of himself and his associates in Cleveland without resorting to the numbers business.

With regard to TONY and JIMMY LA FATCH, who he feels are definitely members of "the outfit" in Akron, Ohio, these individuals used to control the numbers business in the City of Akron and today probably exert some control over bookmaking in that city.

With regard to Trumbull and Mahoning Counties in Ohio, informant stated that in his opinion this is the territory of JAMES LICAVOLI, aka., Jack White. He stated that in his opinion, WHITE inherited this territory from FRANK CAMMARATA, who was ordered deported several years ago. He stated that it has always been his impression that WHITE answers to PETE LICAVOLI in Detroit rather than JOHN T. SCALISH in Cleveland.

He added that WHITE is never seen with SCALISH. He stated that WHITE does, however, make occasional trips to Florida and Hot Springs, Arkansas.

He stated that it was his understanding that WHITE was given the Warren and Youngstown, Ohio, territory by PETE LICAVOLI, and that TONY "DOPE" DELSANTER is WHITE's lieutenant in that territory and is probably a member of "the outfit."

DATE: 11-14-2017

CV 92-748; CV 137-1130

In this regard, he stated "the outfit's" man in Toledo is ANTHONY "WHITEY" BESASE, who likewise, he feels, answers to PETE LICAVOLI. He stated that it has always been his understanding that "YONNIE" LICAVOLI was the real boss in Detroit, but that PETE is only acting for "YONNIE" since "YONNIE" is currently in the Ohio State Penitentiary serving a life term for murder.

Informant revealed that a number of years ago, MIKE DE ANGELO, whom he described as "the outfit's" man in Columbus," and JACK WHITE put up the money for a firm in Cleveland called "I. Lite Furs," which company was run by IRVING LICHTERMAN, aka., Irving Light, who is a nationally known fence. In connection with this concern, there was a finance company known as the Domestic Loan Company. He stated that neither of these firms is any longer in business.

Informant revealed that GEORGE GORDON, formerly of Cleveland and who is currently residing in Miami Beach, Florida, and who spends a good deal of his time in Las Vegas, Nevada, put money into the E & A Sales Company about ten years ago in Cleveland. He stated that IRVING LICHTERMAN and EDDIE WIGODSKI were associated with this firm, which ostensibly was to be a large appliance discount house, but which handled hot merchandise and merchandise out of bankruptcies.

With regard to Lake County, informant stated that "the outfit's" man there is LOUIS CARRIERE. It should be noted that Lake County is the next county to Cuyahoga wherein Cleveland is located, and according to informant there is not too much activity in this county at the present time, although ten or fifteen years ago there were a number of active gambling establishments.

Informant mentioned that approximately ten years ago, he used to get down to Wheeling and Weirton, West Virginia. He stated that he has always felt that "BIG BILL" LIAS, who is in control of all rackets in the Wheeling area, was under the jurisdiction of the LICAVOLIs in Detroit inasmuch as when the informant was in the Wheeling area ten years ago LIAS made weekly trips to Detroit to report on his activities in Wheeling.

DATE: 11-14-2017

CV 92-748; CV 137-1130

Informant stated that he has heard from more than one source of late that "the outfit" wants nothing to do with either narcotics or prostitution.

Informant revealed that a number of years ago around Cleveland there was considerable difficulty between the Italians and the Jews and a number of murders and beatings resulted in the fight for control of the rackets. He stated that finally MOE DALITZ, who is currently in Las Vegas, was credited with making peace with "the Dagos" and, in informant's opinion, this is the way SCALISH got his "piece" of the Desert Inn in Las Vegas.

In this regard, informant stated that he has always felt that FRANK BRANCATO, who he feels is definitely a member of "the outfit," gets money regularly from SCALISH.

* * * * *

CV-553-PC was interviewed on August 29, 1963, at Cleveland, Ohio. This was the initial interview with this individual and because of certain circumstances, no effort was made to conduct an exhaustive interview with this informant. This informant was contacted at this time in an effort to obtain information concerning JAMES LICAVOLI, aka., Jack White, subject of an Anti-Racketeering investigation of the Cleveland Division.

Informant related that he is the owner of a restaurant in Cleveland and he has been losing money regularly in this restaurant.

In May, 1963, he went to the Ohio State Penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio, and visited THOMAS "YONNIE" LICAVOLI, who is serving a life term for murder in the State of Ohio. The purpose of this visit with "YONNIE" was to try to get approval for borrowing some money in an amount between \$5,000 and \$10,000. He said he related his problems to "YONNIE" and "YONNIE" said he would approve the loan and instructed the

MCH
- 7 -

DATE: 11-14-2017

CV 92-748; CV 137-1130

informant to contact his cousin, JAMES LICAVOLI, in Cleveland to obtain \$5,000.

Informant said that he subsequently contacted JAMES LICAVOLI, who told him he would not make the loan to him even though "YONNIE" had given his approval. The informant returned to Columbus, Ohio, and informed "YONNIE" of the decision of JAMES LICAVOLI. At this point of the interview, the informant displayed a letter written on official prison stationery from "YONNIE" dated May 17, 1963. The letter was addressed to the informant and in the letter "YONNIE" said he was sorry that the money could not be obtained, but that he, "YONNIE," would make further effort to see that the informant did get some financial help. Also mentioned in this letter was the fact that "YONNIE" was glad that the informant was able to meet with PETE and LEO.

Informant was questioned as to the identity of PETE and LEO, and he said that PETE, referred to in the letter, is PETE LICAVOLI from Detroit, and LEO is LEO MOCERI from the Cleveland-Akron area. Informant said that he met these individuals at the time of his visits with "YONNIE" in Columbus at the residence of MIKE DE ANGELO, in Columbus, who is "Mr. Big" in the Columbus area. He said LEO MOCERI had this meeting with PETE in an effort to obtain money to invest in gambling in the Bahamas. PETE claimed not to have the money and told that it was necessary for him to sell his ranch in Arizona, properties in Mexico and in Detroit in order to obtain money to meet his financial needs.

In connection with the attempt to borrow money, referred to above, informant said he also contacted LOUIS "BABE" TRISCARO, President of Local 436, Teamsters Union, in Cleveland. He said TRISCARO likewise turned him down.

The informant also related that about eight or ten years ago he had contacted "YONNIE" LICAVOLI at the Ohio State Penitentiary in Columbus in an effort to borrow some money. He said at that time "YONNIE" told him to return home and he would be contacted. Following this visit, informant said he was contacted by NICK SATULLO and TONY or TOMMY BONTEMPO (both well-known Cleveland racket figures).

CV 92-748; CV 137-1130

They questioned informant as to his financial means and told him they would make a report to "YONNIE." "YONNIE" subsequently told the informant that he had received a report that the informant had money and did not need any more. "YONNIE" said he would not approve the loan in view of this report.

Informant remarked that he had read the recent article in the "Saturday Evening Post" concerning La Cosa Nostra and he said he always referred to the nation-wide organization as the "Commission." He said that years ago in Cleveland, Ohio, FRANK MILANO was the head man of the "Commission" but that he is sickly now and lives in either Mexico or Los Angeles. He said FRANK MILANO has a brother, TONY MILANO, who lives in Cleveland, but that TONY has no power and might be considered on the fringe. He said TONY is an old man who still commands a good deal of respect because of his brother FRANK. He said that at the present time, JOHN SCALISH is the top man in the Cleveland area and that JOHN DE MARCO is his lieutenant. He commented that these two attended the Apalachin meeting in 1957, and that the reason there were so many in attendance at the Apalachin meeting was because each "Commission" member brought along bodyguards because they always fear for their lives and wanted somebody along for their own protection. Informant said that the "Commission" consists of about 20 members and they are located clear across the United States.

With regard to JAMES LICAVOLI, aka., Jack White, informant said he first met him in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1922 when LICAVOLI came to Cleveland as a "killer." He said that FRANK MILANO brought LICAVOLI to Cleveland and subsequently was given certain powers in the Youngstown, Warren and Cleveland areas. He said LICAVOLI does not come under SCALISH but that SCALISH certainly holds more power than LICAVOLI. He said he also met LICAVOLI while the informant and LICAVOLI were serving terms in the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth many years ago.

During the interview, the name AL POLIZZI was mentioned and informant said that POLIZZI is now living in the Miami area and he has severed all relations with contacts with racketeers. He said he is extremely active in

DATE: 11-14-2017

CV 92-748; CV 137-1130

church affairs and contributes heavily to the church. He said that according to recent information he obtained, POLIZZI is presently visiting in Sicily.

Informant related that he was in contact on August 28, 1963, with LOUIS CARIERRI, who is the racket boss of Lake County, Ohio. Informant related that CARIERRI in about 1955 operated a gambling joint named the Martinique Club, and the gambling was wide open. He said that JAMES LICAVOLI moved in on CARIERRI and took a piece of the action at the Martinique. Informant mentioned this as an example of the "special powers" of JAMES LICAVOLI. He said that LOUIS CARIERRI at the present time is on the outs with JAMES LICAVOLI and also that CARIERRI is having financial difficulties in that he has little or no action going for him. He said that CARIERRI discussed with him the contemplated purchase of a large restaurant at Mentor-on-the-Lake and CARIERRI told the informant that if he had any money to invest, he would take him in on the operation of this restaurant.

During the interview with this informant, he related that he was born in 1904 in Italy and came to the United States when he was 15 years old. He said he was in Detroit from about 1924 to 1930. He discussed an incident which occurred in Michigan in about 1928 to 1930 in which two policemen were killed and that his car was observed at the murder scene. He said he was not involved in the murders but knew he was hot and so went to Canada to hide out. He said later the individuals responsible for the murder were identified and all were apprehended, except one ANGELO ANGELICA (ph). He explained that he had loaned his car to an individual and he does not know how it came to be used on the murders. He felt that ANGELICA was responsible for implicating him in the murders and heard he was hiding out in Brooklyn so he went from Canada to Brooklyn, New York, looking for ANGELICA to "gun him down." He said he almost got killed in doing this since one of the individuals he contacted in Brooklyn was a compare of ANGELICA. He said he was not aware of this relationship and the compare informed ANGELICA and efforts were made to set up the informant to be killed; however, he avoided this. He casually mentioned that while in the New York area he met VITO GENOVESE. He did not discuss the extent of this relationship.

DATE: 11-14-2017

CV 92-748; CV 137-1130

He said that while in New York City, he was involved in a robbery for which he claimed to be innocent. He said he was sentenced to 25 to 40 years on this robbery charge and served a considerable amount of time at Sing Sing Prison.

He said that in about 1928 or 1930, while in Detroit, he had opened a bar. He said the second day the bar was open he was arrested for possession of narcotics for which he served a sentence of 2½ years. He mentioned that while in Detroit he met ANGELO MELI. He did not discuss the extent of this relationship with MELI.

From the above information furnished by this informant, it is obvious he has tremendous potential in furnishing information concerning La Cosa Nostra and particularly information concerning the LICAVOLI family, information concerning top Italian hoodlums in the Cleveland area, and possibly information concerning the New York City area.

The files of the Cleveland Division show that this individual had numerous criminal contacts in the Buffalo, New York, area.

The above information was obtained in an initial interview under circumstances which prohibited any further interrogation for details of the information set out above. It is believed this individual can be developed into a Top Echelon informant and every effort will be made to develop him along these lines. Any information obtained from this individual will be furnished to the Bureau and disseminated to pertinent offices.