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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: SAC, DETROIT (137-2879) Date: 12/9/63

FROM: SA ROBERT N. FITZPATRICK /x/ CI // SI

RE: DE 878-C-TE // PCI // PSI

Dates of Contact

October 31, 1963

Titles and File Nos on which contacted

HYMAN "LINDY" NISKAR, aka, ITSP	87-8561 (R. F. O'Neil)
PETER AMORMINO, aka, UFAP - B&E n/t	88-5838 (Archer)
PETER LICAVOLI, aka, AR	92-217 (Montefiore)
JOSEPH ZERILLI, aka, AR	92-218 (Churchill)
ANTHONY "TONY" GIACALONE, aka, AR	<u>92-228</u> (Lunt)
MATHEW "MIKE" RUBINO, aka, AR	92-229 (Montefiore)
JOHN JUDSON WHITE, aka, AR	92-433 (Moseley)
WILLIAM "BLACK BILL" TOCCO, aka, AR	92-490 (Shirley)
MITCHELL RAHAAL, aka, AR	92-585 (Montefiore)
SAMUEL JOSEPH GIORDANO, aka, AR	92-660 (Fitzpatrick)
LOUIS LA HOOD SARKIS, aka, AR	92-672 (Fitzpatrick)
JOSEPH "HOOKS" MIRABILE, aka, AR	92-771 (Moseley)
NICK DITTA, aka, AR	92-833 (Transeth)
CURTIS LEWIS, aka, AR	92-872 (Moseley)
CRIME CONDITIONS IN MICHIGAN	92-876 (Montefiore)
ELIAS "RIP" KOURY, aka, AR	92-925 (Arnett)
ODUS TINCHER, aka, AR	92-963 (Walters)
PETER "BIG TIME PETE" AMORMINO, aka, AR	92-1007 (Montefiore)
PETER CAVATAIO, aka, AR	92-1140 (Camarota)
EDWARD "TARZAN" CHRISTOPHERSKI, aka	157-62 (Carroll)
NUMBERS CONTROL FILE	162-19 (Camarota)
GAMBLING IN NATIONAL SPORTS, FOOTBALL	162-45 (Shirley)
PETER LICAVOLI, aka, ITWI	165-247 (Montefiore)

Purpose and Results of contact

// Negative

/x/ Positive

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Informant advised that he has been in frequent contact with NICK DITTA throughout the previous week. He stated that DITTA claims to him to be in "bad shape" financially. He said that he and DITTA have occasionally talked about "burn jobs" but that DITTA claims that he has been unable to come up with a "score". Informant advised that DITTA gets "so much" money "in front" for a "burn job" and then he also gets a percentage of the "burn insurance". He revealed that DITTA told him that he was interviewed by the FBI the other day and that DITTA apparently considered himself "real clever" when he complained to the FBI Agent that he wished it was true that he was "backed" by the Detroit criminal syndicate as then he (DITTA) would not have all the bills that he does. Informant said that DITTA told him that he put on a good "cry act" about his bills and that he even got them out to show the FBI.

Informant advised that, to his knowledge, NICK DITTA does not have any checking or savings account. He said that he does not believe that DITTA has an account at any bank covering financial transactions of his car lot either. He revealed that DITTA has "nothing but iron" i.e., junk cars, on his lot and that all of DITTA's business is "out of pocket" anyway. Informant advised that DITTA occasionally uses the Public Bank at Van Dyke and Seven Mile Rd. for some type of banking transaction involving his lot, DITTA AUTO SALES, 10400 Gratiot Ave., however, he does not believe that DITTA carries an account at Public Bank.

Informant advised on 11/1/63, that he was with NICK DITTA most of that day. He said that he bought a car from DITTA at DITTA's used car lot and that he gave DITTA his Cadillac as a trade-in. He added that DITTA bought this car lot, which is located at 10400 Gratiot Ave., from NICK LUCIDO and that LUCIDO continues to hang around the lot every day.

Informant advised that NICK DITTA told him that he has a "mooshine still" that he wants to sell. He revealed that DITTA has this "still" hidden in his garage and that it is crated. Informant related that DITTA told him that his "still" is actually worth \$4200.00 but that DITTA only wants \$500 for it. He claimed that DITTA desired that Informant attempt to sell this "still" and that he (Informant) could keep any amount of money he made for it over \$500.00.

Informant advised that during the time of year when the night harness tracks are running around the Detroit area there

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exists in Detroit a gambling operation known as "night numbers". Informant stated that the Detroit Italian syndicate has nothing whatsoever to do with "night numbers", which betting is confined solely to the Negro Numbers operators in Detroit. He added that the payoff in "night numbers" is still the same, 500 - 1, however, there is only one winning number each night and this number is taken from harness race results each Monday through Saturday evenings at Hazel Park, Wolverine, Northville and Jackson Park Harness tracks.

Informant advised that another form of gambling presently exists in the Detroit area which is controlled by the Detroit Italian syndicate. He identified this gambling game as the Italian lottery. He said that the Italian Lottery has been under the direct control of "BLACK BILL" TOCCO for many years and that the Italian Lottery was run by "the people" before they got into the numbers racket. Informant explained that the Italian Lottery sheet is sold every Monday and that the bettor picks six numbers. He added that the winning number each week comes out of Italy. Informant advised that there is no longer much "action" with Italian Lottery tickets in Detroit, however, PATSY CUVELLO, the barber for many years of the syndicate people, still has them in his barber shop in the Glan Gables Apt. building, 631 Selden Ave., Detroit.

Informant advised that during the years that he ran a "unit" for MIKE RUBINO in PETE LICAVOLI's numbers house he operated under some very strict business rules. He revealed that RUBINO allowed him, and others in his "unit", to pick up any numbers "business" or "stops" around town that he wanted to with the distinct exception of any numbers "business" belonging to JOHN WHITE's operation or to the Murphy House. Informant advised that just prior to the time that he went to work for RUBINO he and SAMMY GIORDANO were "in partners" in their own independent numbers operation. He said that he and "SAMMY G." were doing about \$3500.00 a day "action" too. He stated that they used to "turn in" around \$700.00 to \$800.00 a day numbers layoff to a Negro numbers man named CURTIS LEWIS. Informant related further that in the early 1950's he used to be "in partners" with ODUS TINCHER in an independent numbers house operation and that, even then, they "turned in" numbers "layoffs" each day to CURTIS LEWIS.

Informant advised that each Friday morning prior to 8:00 a.m., EDWARD "TARZAN" CHRISTOPHERSKI leaves his apartment in the Glen Gables Apts., 631 Selden Ave., Detroit, and he drives to Lansing, Michigan, in his 1963 blue Ford convertible. He stated that he does not know any details regarding "TARZAN's" strange Friday morning trips, however "TARZAN" either is picking up a

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"package" of money from some individual who lives in the Lansing area who he has blackmailed or else "TARZAN" is picking up football pool ticket bets from the Michigan State University campus.

Informant advised that in the numbers business in Detroit it is customary that all big numbers "hits" are paid off in \$100 and \$50.00 bills. He furnished the following recent winning numbers in Detroit:

	First Race	Second Race
Thursday 10/31/63	420	045
Wednesday 10/30/63	413	368
Tuesday 10/29/63	712	263

In regards to this office's investigation into allegations regarding PETE LICAVOLI and the range of LICAVOLI's activities in the numbers business in Detroit, Informant advised specifically as follows:

The "green sheet" is peculiar to the Detroit numbers business and it has never been distributed in any other city in the United States except Detroit. He explained that the "green sheet" would be useless anyplace but Detroit because Detroit is the only city which gets its winning numbers from daily race results of various tracks, which are selected, in fact, by PETE LICAVOLI and "RIP" KOURY. Informant emphasized that LICAVOLI has handled the "green sheet" deal and the "service" for almost twenty-five years in the numbers in Detroit and that LICAVOLI has employed "RIP" KOURY, whom Informant refers to as "The Old Man", as the "general superintendent" of both of these lucrative operations.

Informant stated that the "dago numbers houses" ceased activity in the numbers on Friday, October 25, 1963, however, Detroit still received the winning numbers each day even though the syndicate "went out of action". He stated further that such numbers gambling is operated differently throughout the country and that he knows of no other city which has such a sophisticated numbers operation as does Detroit. Informant said that Toledo, Ohio uses the daily U.S. Treasury balance to select their winning number; Cleveland uses stock exchange results; Chicago has the policy "wheel"; and New York has, what he termed "one in the pocket", where "you bet two numbers and you got four going for you." Informant, in expanding his comments about the syndicate

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control over gambling in Detroit stated generally "if you think JOE ZERILLI or MIKE RUBINO is a fool, forget it." He emphasized that "they" have dominated the Italian "working stiff" all their lives in this town. He said that "a RUBINO cannot dominate the intelligent, he dominates the ignorant."

Informant advised that THOMAS FRANCIS "BOO BOO" DAVIS, who is LOUIE LA HOOD's uncle, is selling narcotics around town. He said that "BOO BOO" is selling black morphine tablets and that he "headquarters" his sales of "junk" out of the Strathmore Hotel, 70 W. Alexandrine St., Detroit. Informant added that he has also learned that "BOO BOO" DAVIS is using KOZANI's Tavern as his "drop".

Informant advised that he continues to hear the story around town that JOE "HOOKS" MIRABILE "took a beating" from MIKE RUBINO recently. He stated that "JOE HOOKS" has been employed for years in the numbers with RUBINO and that he has been stealing from RUBINO throughout that time. He said that "JOE HOOKS" "knows the rules of the game" and if he had a beating coming he will take it and "keep his mouth shut" about it. Informant revealed that, on the other hand, "JOE HOOKS" MIRABILE has a younger brother who is about twenty-six years old and who is called "LITTLE HOOKS" MIRABILE. He claimed that "LITTLE HOOKS" is a "real vicious kid" and that he hates the "syndicate Dagoes" and will go out on his own to "avenge" his brother's beating if need be. He added that "LITTLE HOOKS" MIRABILE usually hangs around the Field and Jefferson area.

Informant advised that about a year or so ago MITCHELL RAHAAL saved "JOE HOOKS" from a beating. He explained that TONY GIACALONE and his brother, BILLY, were looking for "JOE HOOKS" one day around the Field and Jefferson area to set him up for a beating. He stated that they grabbed a little guy named "GAIDO", who is a close friend of JOE CORRADO, and who the GIACALONES believed would know "JOE HOOKS" whereabouts. Informant advised that TONY GIACALONE gave "GAIDO" twenty minutes to call around town and find "JOE HOOKS". He added that apparently "GAIDO" knew MIRABILE's location but that he telephoned MITCH RAHAAL instead and that RAHAAL came over immediately, met TONY GIACALONE, and talked him out of carrying out his intentions upon "JOE HOOKS".

Informant advised that he has not seen "BIG TIME PETE" AMORMINO around town in the last four or five months. He claimed that AMORMINO is supposedly "on the lam" from the FBI and is in hiding out of town. He stated that AMORMINO knows the Tampa, Florida area very well and could be located there. He added that SAM RUBIN an attorney in Detroit who owns the Chateau Frontenac Apts. at

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10410 E. Jefferson Ave., where AMORMINO lived for years, would be one individual who ought to know "BIG TIME PETE's" whereabouts.

Informant advised that PETE DI LORENZO owns the DiLorenzo Imported Foods store at 13227 Mack Ave., telephone VA 2-7454 and also DI LORENZO's Pizzeria, 13231 Mack Ave., telephone VA 1-4951, which are adjacent business places. Informant stated that DI LORENZO is about 50 years old and that he has three sons, AUGIE DI LORENZO, age 24, JIMMY DI LORENZO, age 22, and JOEY DI LORENZO, age 18 years. He said that PETE DI LORENZO lives at 4874 Kensington Ave., Detroit, telephone TU 5-0317, and that DI LORENZO's mother and father-in-law live with them. Informant advised that it is his belief that PETE DI LORENZO is the source of the counterfeit \$20.00 bills which have recently been flooding the Detroit area. He claimed that earlier this year PETE DI LORENZO had disappeared from town and that in conversation with DI LORENZO's wife he (Informant) was told that PETE was visiting in Italy. Informant advised that a month or so later when in company with PETE DI LORENZO he had learned, through a "slip" on PETE DI LORENZO's part, that DI LORENZO had actually visited in Montreal, Canada, rather than Italy. He added that over the years he has often heard that there is an expert printer of counterfeit U.S. bills who lives in Montreal. Informant recalled that he had once been given \$60,000.00 in counterfeit \$20.00 bills by JOHN JACOB SAMARIN of Cleveland, Ohio, from a "batch" of one million dollars which SAMARIN told him had been printed up by a "contact" of his, a printer, in Montreal, Canada.

Informant mentioned that PAULIE LEGO, who is now in Milan Prison having been sentenced in USDC Detroit for passing these counterfeit 20's, is a close friend of PETE DI LORENZO's and that LEGO used to hang around DI LORENZO's Pizzeria all the time. He revealed also that LANEY COBB, "DUCKY" DIETZ, JOSEPHINE FOUREZ, and "PIXIE" IMBRUNONE used to frequent DI LORENZO's Pizzeria and that all four of them were arrested for passing counterfeit \$20.00 bills and, at present, COBB and DIETZ are on probation. Informant added that PAULIE LEGO had earlier told him that LANEY COBB had "signed a statement" against him (COBB) with the U.S. Secret Service and that COBB had also appeared as a Government witness against him at his trial.

Informant advised that early this past summer he was in company with JIMMY DI LORENZO and he brought DI LORENZO into the Master Realty to introduce him to some friends of his in this real

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estate office. Informant stated that Master Realty is located at 13331 Mack Ave., which is just in the next block east of DI LORENZO's Pizzeria. He advised that, on this particular day, he introduced JIMMY DI LORENZO to HYMAN "LINDY" NISKAR, DAVE EDWARDS, "MCPS" LICAVOLI and "JOCKO" LOWE, all of whom were employed at Master Realty. Informant said that he had heard that "LINDY" NISKAR had recently been picked up out of town for passing these counterfeit \$20.00 bills. He said too that JOHNNY JARJOSA's former girl friend, SANDRA (LNU), who uses the name "SUNNY" SMITH and who used to work at the Kismet Lounge, was also arrested for passing these same counterfeit twenties. Informant commented that this past summer LINDY NISKAR lived on the 12th floor of the Royal Palms Hotel, 2305 Park Avenue, in a room just down the hall from "SUNNY" SMITH, who is a prostitute.

Informant advised that he has recently been with PATRICIA HEDGES, whom he has known as a neighbor and friend for many years, and that HEDGES is a prostitute. He stated that HEDGES is married and has a family and that she lives at 1432 Seyburn Ave., Detroit, with her husband, EDDIE HEDGES. Informant revealed that EDDIE HEDGES' brother, JIMMY HEDGES, is a "legitimate kid" who fancies himself to be an inventor but who works in a printing shop on Van Dyke Ave. near the Conant Heating and Supply Co., 18409 Van Dyke Ave., Detroit. Informant advised that last night at his home he was contacted by PAT HEDGES and that, during the course of conversation, she asked him if he (Informant) knew anyone who wants to pass any counterfeit money or counterfeit payroll checks. He said that apparently PATRICIA HEDGES is being used as a "passer" and that, on her own, she is attempting to recruit other "passers" of counterfeit to assist her. He stated that HEDGES assured him that the individual from who she can get counterfeit will check closely on any "passer" before he is given the actual counterfeit and that, if need be, "phony" identification "can easily be provided." Informant added that he is personally curious about all this and he will endeavor to gain additional information from HEDGES regarding this operation. He stated further that PATRICIA HEDGES has four children and that she occasionally operates as a prostitute for JOE CORRADO out of the Motor City Bar, 235 Bagley Ave., Detroit. (It is noted that JOE CORRADO is presently being sought as a fugitive by the Secret Service being charged with passing these counterfeit \$20.00 bills.)