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LESTER BENJAMIN BINION

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SAC, Salt Lake City (94-253)

11/19/58

Director, FBI (92-3241)

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LESTER BENJAMIN BINION
TOP HOODLUM PROGRAM
SALT LAKE CITY DIVISION

Re San Diego airtel dated 11/7/58 captioned "Top Hoodlum Program - AR, Weekly Summary," wherein information was set forth regarding one Maurice Mickey Mandel, was., who had recently been discharged from the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas. According to information furnished by SD 968-C Mandel named Benny Bennion (phonetic), Las Vegas, as owing him a favor and described him as a person who would bank roll him if he needed it. It is considered most likely that Mandel was referring to Top Hoodlum Lester Benjamin Binion. In view of efforts being made to cultivate Binion as a Bureau informant, Salt Lake City should consider questioning him during next regular contact regarding his connections with Mandel. Any significant information should be promptly furnished to the Bureau with copies for the San Francisco and San Diego Offices.

For the information of the Salt Lake City Office, Mandel approached CI to rob bank in area and requested CI to obtain firearms. He told CI he had appointment to meet 2 fellow prisoners from Leavenworth in San Francisco in January, 1959. Mandel was subsequently identified as a Conditional Release Violator Fugitive and was arrested in Oakland, California, by Agents of the San Francisco Office on November 5, 1958. Sufficient discretion must be employed in the approach to Binion in this matter so as not to compromise the original informant.

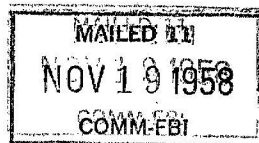
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