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# The Black Vault

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The image shows a close-up of a heavy, metallic vault door. The door is partially open, revealing a complex internal mechanism with multiple locking bolts and a central handle. A bright blue light emanates from the gap between the door and the frame, creating a strong glow and casting shadows on the surrounding metal. The overall aesthetic is industrial and mysterious.

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CHARLES TOURINE

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5/8/63

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
SAC, BALTIMORE

FROM : SAC, WFO (166-93)

CARBON COPY.

JOSEPH FRANCIS NESLINE, aka  
ITAR  
(OO:WFO)

ReBulet dated 4/10/63, instant caption.

For information of all offices a case was opened under instant caption by referenced letter based upon information developed by WFO and Baltimore that NESLINE, GEORGE ROHANNA, JOHN RALPH "BILLY" MITCHELL and CHARLES TOURINE (CHARLIE WHITE) were operating a large dice game in the vicinity of Ripley, Maryland, during March, 1963. Information was subsequently developed that this game was closed after a brief period due to the pressure of local law enforcement officers.

On 4/26/63, WF 1108-C advised SA JOHN R. BUCKLEY that TOURINE, MITCHELL and ROHANNA had established a dice game

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/13/94 BY SP8MAC/GAT  
(JFK)

- ⑧ - Bureau  
(1- 92-2989) (CHARLES TOURINE)  
(1- 92-3108) (JOHN RALPH MITCHELL)  
(1- 92-304) (GEORGE ROHANNA)
- 3 - Baltimore  
(1- 92-101) (JOHN RALPH MITCHELL)
- 2 - Miami (Info)  
(1- 92-106) (CHARLES TOURINE)
- 2 - Norfolk (Info)  
(1- 92-14) (GEORGE ROHANNA)
- 1 - Philadelphia (Info)
- 2 - Richmond (Info)  
(1- ) (GEORGE ROHANNA)
- 4 - WFO  
(1- 92-98) (MITCHELL)  
(1- 92-166) (ROHANNA)  
(1- 92-105) (TOURINE)

JRB:kmm  
(22)

Bureau designates WFO  
as office of origin. Copies  
transmitted to offices indicated.  
Former office of origin furnish  
all pertinent serials to new  
office of origin.

AIRTEL

ORIGINAL FILED IN 166-10311-3

on 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Informant advised that NESLINE was staying away from this operation because he did not want to draw the attention of law enforcement officers to the existence of the game.

On 5/1/63, WF 1108-C advised SA BUCKLEY that the dice game mentioned above was located at 19th and Biltmore Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C., in a large residence and that NESLINE, although he had an interest in the operation, was not participating in the game as yet. Informant stated that TOURINE, MITCHELL and ROHANNA were running the game but that the action was small due to a lack of players.

On 5/1/63, WF 1469-C advised SA EDWARD N. WILLS that he had heard that there was a large dice game recently started at 1915 Biltmore Street, N.W. On 5/3/63, informant advised SA WILLS that he had been to 1915 Biltmore Street, N.W., the previous evening (5/2/63) and that ROHANNA and TOURINE were present. ROHANNA indicated that there was not to be a dice game on that evening because of a lack of playing customers. Informant advised that CHARLIE WHITE (TOURINE) appeared to be in charge of the establishment and that on at least one occasion ROHANNA referred to TOURINE as "boss". Informant advised that the following individuals were present at the establishment: JOSEPH GORDON, aka BROOKLYN; ERIC EDMONSTON, aka TOM MIX; and two or three other individuals that he only knew by first name, "LARRY", "BILL" and "SMITTY".

WF 1469-C described the residence at 1915 Biltmore Street as a large three story structure which was in the process of renovation of the interior. He said that there were expensive furnishings and a gold wall-to-wall carpet on the main floor. Informant was told by ROHANNA that the dice game would be held on the second floor of the building. Informant said that in addition to the entrance door there was an additional door which appeared to be now located eight or ten feet inside the entrance. It was necessary for the doorman to unlock the second door with a key.

On 5/6/63, WF 1469-C advised SA WILLS that JOE GORDON told him on 5/5/63, that there had been a fairly large dice game at the Biltmore Street establishment on the evening of Saturday, 5/4/63.

On 5/7/63, [ ] PCI, advised SA CARLTON GIOVANNETTI that he had been to 1915 Biltmore Street, N.W., on the night of Saturday, 5/4/63, and that there was a fairly large dice game held that night. PCI said that the dice game was held in a large room on the second floor and that the following individuals participated: TOURINE; MITCHELL; EDMONSTON, JIMMY LUBIN and others whom he could not identify.

On 5/6/63, Deputy Chief ROY E. BLICK, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), advised SA ROBERT L. SHACKELFORD that he had received information that there was a gambling operation located at 1915 Biltmore Street, N.W. According to Chief BLICK he sent two Morals Division personnel (not named) to the establishment Saturday evening, 5/4/63, at approximately 10:45 p.m. Chief BLICK advised that the establishment was a large three story structure and that the interior was lavishly furnished. According to Chief BLICK there was no gambling activity during the period that the MPD representatives were there and he advised that JOSEPH GORDON and "BILLY" MITCHELL were the only ones present.

In connection with information furnished by Chief BLICK it is likely that the MPD officers were at 1915 Biltmore Street prior to the time PCI [ ] participated in the dice game the same night.

In view of the above developments it appears that the dice game at Ripley, Maryland, has been abandoned for the present. Inasmuch as the operation at 1915 Biltmore Street involves substantially the same individuals as were involved in the Ripley, Maryland, operation, it is likely that the site for the game has been moved. Accordingly it is recommended that the office of origin be changed from Baltimore to WFO since it appears that the operation has been moved from Ripley, Maryland, to the District of Columbia. Extra copies are provided for the Bureau for notification to Baltimore and WFO of the change.

Information copies of instant communication are being directed to all offices who have an interest in the subjects involved.