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MICHAEL MCLANEY

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Attached airtel advises that DeWitt Coffman requested Miami Office to furnish "FBI clearance" on Michael McLaney who was being considered for the position of manager of a new hotel and gambling casino in Haiti being built by Coffman's associates. When informed the FBI does not furnish "clearances" on anyone and was unable to comment concerning McLaney, Mr. Coffman stated he was a friend of Mr. Tolson's and perhaps he would contact Mr. Tolson for information about McLaney.

Bureau files show Mr. Coffman knew the Director and Mr. Tolson when he was formerly employed at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D. C. He was also Vice President and General Manager of Schine Hotels in Miami, Florida, in 1958. Mr. G. David Schine, who is on the Special Correspondents' List, at that time was President and General Manager of the Schine Hotels.

McLaney, born 2-1-15 in New Orleans, Louisiana, has a long reputation of being an inveterate gambler and associate of high-stakes bettors. He was part-owner and operator of the casino in the Hotel Nacional, Havana, Cuba, in 1959, when members of the Meyer Lansky group had an interest in it. From 6/4/65 to 3/7/67, he was an approved Top Echelon criminal informant and provided valuable information about hoodlums and gamblers. He was discontinued when he became involved in political activities in the Bahamas. The Commission of Inquiry, Bahamas, in 1967, severely criticized McLaney for his efforts to buy Premier Lynden Pindling and become head of gambling enterprises in the Bahamas.

ARW:dlb

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