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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (92-6054)

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (92-429)

SUBJECT: LA COSA NOSTRA  
DETROIT DIVISION

DATE: 4/25/67

Re Detroit airtel to Bureau dated 3/3/67.

On 3/23/67 SF 2745-C-TE was contacted and the matter set forth in Detroit airtel to Bureau dated 3/3/67, entitled "LA COSA NOSTRA, DETROIT DIVISION", was discussed with him.

Informant advised that it has been many years since he has been close to anyone in the Detroit Division, since he came to California about 1940. However, he stated that from conversations with his brother, JOHN MISURACA, and others, he understands that JOE ZERILLI is currently the "big man" in the Detroit area in the LCN. He advised that he has no knowledge of current membership in the Detroit area, but understands that ZERILLI took over there sometime in the 1930s.

Informant advised that at one time he heard the name of the "big man" in Detroit, prior to ZERILLI's taking over, but he could not remember it now. He advised the circumstances of this knowledge on his part were that he was dating a girl, who lived on a farm outside of Flint, Michigan, in approximately 1925 and was planning to marry her through family arrangements; but that at this time arrangements were made for her to marry this "big man". He advised at this time he could not recall the girl's name, who was involved, but stated that at that time she was 18 years old and married the "big man" the following year, moving to Grosse Point, Michigan, where they lived in a large mansion. He advised that subsequent to this, in the early 1930s, this man (he was told) died of ulcers; but he had no further contact with either the girl involved or the man. However, he understands that she is still living in Grosse Point; has not remarried, and is very wealthy.

2 - Bureau  
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2 - San Francisco  
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Informant advised that, while he was not a member during the time he was living in Detroit in the 1920s and 1930s, he was aware that the three CUSENZA brothers, PAUL, JOE, and TONY, of Flint, Michigan, were members, as well as a man named SAM RICCA. These men were all involved in the killing of informant's brother, SAM; and TONY CUSENZA allegedly was quite high up in the organization, and was supposed to have been in charge of the group at the time informant's brother was killed. Because of the mistake made at the time of the killing, TONY CUSENZA was murdered while eating dinner at his home approximately one year later. PAUL CUSENZA, according to the informant, later died of natural causes; and JOE CUSENZA moved to Modesto, California, area and was subsequently killed in an automobile accident. However, his son, LEO CUSENZA, is currently residing in the Modesto area and is the Subject of a San Francisco AR investigation.

Informant advised that JOHN MISURACA married JENNY VENTIMIGLIA from Detroit, and it was his understanding that her father and uncles were members of the organization; and, during the 1920s and 1930s, were active in bootlegging, as well as having a number of businesses. He advised he does not know where any of these VENTIMIGLIAS are still living, but stated that, whenever JOHN MISURACA visited in the Michigan area, he stayed with the VENTIMIGLIAS in Detroit.

The name PETE CORRADO was not familiar to the informant. With regards to WILLIAM "BLACK BILL" TOCCO, he advised that he was not acquainted with this individual; however, he did know a JOE "ONE EYE" TOCCO, who was an associate of JOHN MISURACA in Detroit and who, he believed, was subsequently convicted of a narcotics' violation and died while serving time at Alcatraz. He advised that JOE TOCCO was a close associate of JOHN MISURACA and JOHN would frequently make trips from New Jersey to Detroit to visit TOCCO.

Informant advised that he did not feel under any circumstances that anyone would inherit membership in the LCN, but that, if a prominent member's son desired membership, it would certainly be easy for him to obtain same and certain requirements might possibly be waived; however, initiation would still be necessary.

SF 92-429  
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Informant advised, regarding the phrase, "He is his father's son", that he could attach no special significance to this statement, remarking it was a common expression among the Italians. He said that, if there was any particular significance attached to the phrase concerning membership in the LCN, it would probably depend entirely upon who was making the statement.

Informant advised that he would attempt to recall the name of the "big man" in Detroit prior to ZERILLI, and the name of his wife, and would advise this office at a later time concerning them, in the event they came to mind. It is noted that informant advised, regarding not being able to recall the girl's name, that he had actually only seen the girl twice, and the family arrangement previously made, concerning marriage, was called off when the arrangements were made for her to marry the "big man".

On 3/30/67, SF 2354-C-TE advised that informant had no information concerning the identity or activities of the Detroit LCN family.

LEAD:

SAN FRANCISCO

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA: Will contact and interview SF 2550-C-TE concerning requests wanted in referenced Detroit airtel to Bureau dated 3/3/67.