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4. Meyer Lansky

Background

Meyer Lansky was born July 4, 1902 at Grodno, Russia. He is also known as Morris Lieberman, Meyer the Bug, Bugsy Meyer, Bugs Meyer, "The Bug" and Little Meyer. He first entered the rackets as a sub-lieutenant of the notorious Dutch Goldberg and worked as an alcohol runner for Goldberg along with Benjamin "Bugs" Siegel. Later, Siegel and Lansky formed the well-known "Bugs-Meyer" gang. This group with headquarters in New York City was reported to have been the head of the organized racket syndicate in that area. In 1939 Lansky was engaged with Frank Erickson in the operation of the Oriental Race Track and Nacionale gambling casino in Havana, Cuba.

Associations

During July of 1946 Lansky was in the vicinity of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Los Angeles, California, in contact and conference with Benjamin "Bugs" Siegel, who at the time was engaged in the erection of the Flamingo Hotel at Las Vegas. Information has been received from time to time that Lansky was one of Siegel's financial backers. Moe Sedway has identified Lansky as one of the group, including Siegel, Frank Costello, Joe Adonis and the remnants of the Capone gang, who were attempting to take over the Continental Press Service, which was engaged in furnishing race track information throughout the United States. This informant also indicated that Siegel, Costello, Adonis and Lansky controlled the numbers racket in New York City and in Philadelphia. Adonis is also reported to have been a partner with Lansky in the ownership of the Colonial Inn at Miami.

During the incarceration of Charles "Lucky" Luciano at Sing Sing and Great Meadows Prisons, New York City, Lansky was one of his most frequent visitors. Lansky also visited Luciano at Ellis Island when the latter was awaiting deportation proceedings.

Financial Interests

Confidential informant Moe Sedway has stated that Meyer Lansky of the so-called "Jewish group" and Joe Adonis of the so-called "Italian group" are the two men who control the joint activities of racketeers and mobsters in what is referred to as the "Eastern Criminal Syndicate." This same informant has mentioned that Meyer Lansky in conversation had confirmed the newspaper reports that he had recently gone to Italy to visit Charles "Lucky" Luciano. Another item mentioned by this informant concerning Meyer Lansky was the fact that Lansky was quoted as making a statement that he intends to get his son Paul into the United States Military Academy

at West Point and that he has the necessary political influence to make this effort successful.

Lansky's chief business connections apparently are with the Emby Distributing Company, Incorporated, with offices in New York and Philadelphia. The company controls the "juke box" industry in these cities and reportedly has used gangster tactics to prevent the use of "juke boxes" obtained from sources other than their own organization. Unconfirmed reports state that the Emby Distributing Company has been succeeded by the Consolidated Television Company. This latter company is reportedly engaged in the manufacture of television sets for sale to bars and grills as well as to distributors and dealers. Lansky also has connections with a produce and fruit company, a food company, a realty corporation, and a retail grocery organization.

Carol Huber, a New Orleans informant, who is employed in the Auditing Office of the Beverly Country Club, made available a list of owners of that club. An ownership interest of \$60,000 was indicated for one Lansky, first name not shown. It was believed that this person was Meyer Lansky although Jake Lansky, his brother, could be acting as a front in this instance. It is noted that Frank Costello's ownership interest in this club was shown on this list as \$60,000 also.

Informants of the Miami Office have advised that Meyer Lansky is one of the leaders in the so-called National or Eastern Syndicate which includes Frank Costello, Frank Erickson and Joe Adonis. This group is presently believed to control gambling in a large area of Miami Beach. This same syndicate is also believed to control the Club Greenacres and the Club LaBoheme, the two largest gambling casinos in Broward County, just north of Miami, Florida.

Criminal Record

Confidential informant Ira Sample of the Los Angeles Office reported that Frank Erickson suspected Meyer Lansky of arranging for the 1947 murder of Bugsy Siegel without conferring with either Erickson or Frank Costello.

Lansky's criminal record shows arrests for felonious assault on two occasions, for homicide, for violation of the National Prohibition Act, for violation of Penal Law No. 1752 (nature of charge unknown) and "suspicion." There is no indication that he was ever convicted on any of these arrests. At the present time Lansky resides at 211 Central Park West, New York City.