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SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

v.21, 1961

BACKGROUND

MANNARINOS are targets for
early prosecution.

DIRECTOR, FBI (92-2914)(92-2918)

1/3/62

SAC, PITTSBURGH (92-236)(92-228)

GABRIEL MANNARINO, aka
AR

SAMUEL MANNARINO, aka
AR

On 12/18/61, PG 615-C advised SA THOMAS G. FORSYTH, III
as follows:

In his opinion, the raid at the Mannarino gambling casino -
horse room in New Kensington, Pa., on August 24, 1961, by IRS,
Pittsburgh, was ill-advised, shortsighted and poorly planned.

For two years, PG 615-C has been attempting to obtain increasingly
better information about the Mannarinos, their illegal
activities, their associates and their future plans. He
has done this without any thought of, or desire for monetary
compensation, simply because of his firm conviction that
the MANNARINO "strangle-hold" on all phases of life and
activity in the New Kensington area had to be broken.
In spite of the obvious dangers to his professional reputation
and personal safety, he commenced a process of infiltration
due to his belief that such things cannot be left to
"somebody else."

By frequenting gambling establishments, PG 615-C met many
of the MANNARINO employees, and by performing small favors
for them, professional and otherwise, he became friendly
with most of them and the confidant of some of them.
They furnished considerable information, some more valuable
than others, but a compendium of their bits of information
was forming a gradually clearing picture of the entire
MANNARINO operation.

- 4- Bureau
- 6- Pittsburgh
 - 1- 137-941
 - 1- 137-1139
 - 1- 137-1264
 - 1- 137-1017

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Through political and business friends and acquaintances, PG 615-C was able to meet the MANNARINOS. Being careful to make his personal contacts with them casual and seemingly innocuous, PG 615-C was slowly accomplishing his plan to have the MANNARINOS, after doing their normal check on him, accept him into that group of prominent, local business and professional people with whom they associate on a social basis. PG 615-C had reached the point where he could visit SAM MANNARINO's restaurant, the Bonfire, near Leechburg, Pa., and talk with MANNARINO rather openly about such things as MANNARINO's use of narcotics. He had also reached the point where he had been invited to sit in on small friendly card games at GABRIEL MANNARINO's new cottage near Leechburg.

From this so far limited proximity to the MANNARINOS and their employees, it became apparent to PG 615-C that the obtaining of a complete understanding of their operations was going to be painfully but necessarily slow.

When the August 24, 1961 raid occurred, the result was that the MANNARINOS ordered a moratorium on all illegal activities and ordered that their associates and employees should, insofar as was practicable, have no contact with them or with each other, until advised to the contrary. All of these people are under instructions not to "talk" if called before the FGJ in Pittsburgh, and PG 615-C is convinced none of them will assist the Federal Government because of fears of physical and economic reprisals.

Because of the raid and the ensuing instructions from the MANNARINOS, PG 615-C has temporarily lost many of his contacts, and in addition, there is just so little happening in the New Kensington area that there is very little information that he can obtain and furnish to the Pittsburgh Office.

PG 615-C is certain, in his own mind, that the "big guys" will once again escape indictment and that the most that can be expected is that more "little fish" will be prosecuted. If this happens, the MANNARINOS will maintain their self-created, self-serving reputations as being "untouchable" by prosecutive action, and the populace of New Kensington will sink back into despair.

In view of the above, PCI HERBERT LEE RAY, RD#3, Leechburg, Pa., GABRIEL MANNARINO's neighbor, was contacted on 12/18/61, by SA FORSYTH, and PCI RAY was asked why he had furnished so little information in recent months. PCI RAY advised:

Prior to the "Federal raid on the MANNARINO gambling joint in New Kensington towards the end of summer," 1961, he observed some activity around GABRIEL MANNARINO's cottage near Leechburg. While there were never any groups of visitors, except for one family-type outdoor picnic, occasionally individuals would visit the cottage. Also, GABRIEL MANNARINO was observed to leave the house almost daily at varying hours. Since "the raid," GABRIEL MANNARINO has developed what amounts almost to a predictable pattern. He leaves the cottage on most days shortly before noon, always alone, and he returns to stay at about eight o'clock in the evening. Visitors are extremely rare and never stay more than a few minutes. PCI has not been able to obtain any information of recognizable pertinence and, therefore, has not contacted SA FORSYTH.

On 12/18/61, PCI ANTHONY JOHN WISE, JR., Pittsburgh, Pa., employed as Manager of the MANNARINO-owned Ken Iron and Steel Co., New Kensington, was asked by SA FORSYTH why he has not been furnishing and pertinent information during the recent past, and he advised:

Even before the "Government raid" in New Kensington in August 1961, he was not taken into the confidence of the MANNARINOS as regards anything but their scrap metals and gas well businesses. They put him in charge of these two ventures because of his education and prior experience. However, on occasion he overheard conversations involving some of their other interests and observed them meet some of their associates and/or employees. Since the raid, he has not seen GABRIEL MANNARINO more than three times and understands that GABRIEL MANNARINO is spending most of his time at his cottage near Leechburg, Pa., while SAM MANNARINO spends the largest portion of each day at his restaurant, The Bonfire, "located a few miles from Leechburg." From what he has been able to observe and learn, SAM MANNARINO and GABRIEL MANNARINO see very little of each other or of their erstwhile associates. PCI does not feel that he can probe for information from either MANNARINO without arousing their suspicions, because it has been his habit to observe and listen but not to ask questions.

PG 92-236 PG 92-228

On 12/19/61, PG 612-C, who is an experienced numbers writer in the MANNARINO operation in New Kensington, was asked about the dearth of pertinent information being received, and informant advised:

The town (New Kensington) has been closed down almost completely, as regards gambling, since the "Federal raid last summer" and since the commencement of the FGJ inquiry. Besides the numbers racket, which is down in volume by at least half, there are only three card games in the city, only one of which is operating on any given night. Horse bets, sports bets and dice games have been eliminated, allegedly by orders of the MANNARINOS. Men who have been for years employed in one phase or another of the MANNARINO gambling set-ups are now loafing about town, and their principal topics of discussion concern the FGJ hearings, their belief that the newly-elected reform administration in New Kensington will not allow resumption of open gambling, and their "fears" concerning their own futures. With regard to the numbers racket, elaborate security measures have been put into effect, and only those possessing the Federal Wagering Tax Stamp are permitted to participate. In view of these facts, pertinent information has been scarce and unreliable.

Spot surveillances at residences, legitimate business sites and at known hangouts during the past four months have been wholly unproductive and tend to substantiate the comments of the above mentioned informants.

Due to the situation created by the IRS raid on August 24, 1961, and the resultant FGJ probe, as it affects receipt by the Pittsburgh Office of positive information concerning the MANNARINOS and their activities, the Pittsburgh office has found it impossible to comply fully with Bureau instructions concerning submission of a daily teletype summary of pertinent developments.

As matters now stand, the only readily discernible method of collecting current positive information concerning either MANNARINO is by establishing highly confidential sources.

By airtel 12/20/61, the Bureau refused to authorize such a source at the Pines Motel near Leechburg, Pa., where SAMUEL MANNARINO and his secretary-paramour, JENNIE MORENO, spend from one to three evenings each week. Since it has been established by surveillance and informant information that SAMUEL MANNARINO is not in contact with associates or employees at any place except his restaurant, and there infrequently, there is little likelihood that a highly confidential source will be established concerning his activities until he changes his daily pattern. Pittsburgh sound SAS have not been able, after due consideration of all factors, to determine a possible method for installation at SAM MANNARINO's restaurant. With regard to establishing such a source on GABRIEL MANNARINO's activities, informant and surveillance information discloses only two places where he is known to meet with associates. One is the Holiday Ticket Agency, New Kensington, Pa.; and the other is at J & L Cigarette Services, Wilmerding, Pa., owned and operated by JOSEPH and LOUIS VOLPE. The former is a travel-entertainment ticket reservations agency housed in a street-level office. GABRIEL MANNARINO has been observed to enter this office at about 9 or 10 o'clock on several mornings and to proceed to a rear private room where he undoubtedly met with Lieutenants THOMAS ANTHONY CIANCUTTI, ANDREW MANGINI and DANIEL HANNA, who have also been observed entering this office. They do not meet there every day, however, and although their meetings generally last from 1 to 2 hours, the nature of the conversations is not known. As regards the J & L Cigarette Service, it is noted that informants have advised that JOSEPH and LOUIS VOLPE have controlled all forms of gambling activities in the Turtle Creek Valley section of Allegheny County, Pa., which includes Wilmerding. While it has been alleged for some time that GABRIEL MANNARINO and, to a lesser degree, SAMUEL MANNARINO have paid frequent weekly visits to the VOLPES, purpose not known, it has not been until just recently that the site of these meetings was known. Even though the cigarette vending machine company has a large, uncluttered parking lot beside it, GABRIEL MANNARINO's car has been observed to enter the building, after which the large door is closed.