

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI  
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90110-10036  
RECORD SERIES : HQ  
AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CR 87-12304-29-26

Released under the John F. Kennedy  
Assassination Records Collection Act of  
1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW  
64578 Date: 12-14-2022

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI  
FROM : PRICE  
TO : ROSEN  
TITLE :  
DATE : 04/18/1958  
PAGES : 2  
SUBJECTS :  
JEWEL THEFT INVESTIGATIONS MIAMI  
JOSEPH RAYMOND MEROLA  
DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT  
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified  
RESTRICTIONS : 4  
CURRENT STATUS : Redact  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 08/06/1998  
OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE  
COMMENTS : MEMO

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. ROSEN

DATE: 4/18/58

FROM : F. L. PRICE

SUBJECT: JEWEL THEFT INVESTIGATIONS  
INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF  
STOLEN PROPERTY MATTER

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

This is to advise of current activities concerning jewel theft investigations in the Miami area.

A special squad has been set up including 26 Agents exclusively assigned to jewel theft investigations with 30 additional Agents contributing a major portion of their time to jewel theft matters. These investigations are under the personal supervision of the SAC.

The following special techniques have been and are being utilized: mail covers, trash covers, surveillances and lookouts. It should be noted that a mail and trash cover placed on Howard Russell Selander, a known Miami jewel thief, resulted in placing him in Memphis at the approximate time a theft took place and also developed pertinent information implicating him in the theft. Investigation in this case is continuing in an effort to establish a Bureau violation.

A New York informant familiar with Miami jewel thieves is presently on assignment in the Miami area for the purpose of developing information on the known jewel thieves and their current activities. Informants from other field offices as well as Miami informants are also being used to cover jewel thief activity in Miami.

In this connection, Miami Agents were instrumental in obtaining evidence in a local theft against one Fred Schreier on 2/27/58. Thereafter Schreier was developed as an informant and is furnishing valuable intelligence information.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

An informant advised on 4/2/58, that Robert Ashe, Jack Kalinka and Randall Kalinka left Kansas City by plane to "pull a job." It was noted that their luggage included an almost empty brief case and suitcase evidently intended to be used in transporting the loot. These thieves returned to Kansas City without perpetrating a theft.

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TWC:AAS:FWA:bap  
(6)

2-26-78 JSG/ATK REC- 69

For review at FBIHQ by - 126

HSCA re 7-20-78 request.

(See Bufile #62-117290)

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Memorandum for Mr. Rosen

An informant on 3/24/58, advised that John Charles Herrmann and John Eder, known jewel thieves, left Chicago on 3/22/58. All offices were notified and Miami undertook investigation to locate the thieves if they were in the Miami area. On 4/4/58, both thieves returned to Chicago and again no theft was perpetrated. I III  
F 101

Joseph Merola, a known <sup>F 12</sup> Miami jewel thief, was reported as having stated he is afraid to leave Miami because of the FBI.

Chicago informant, Kenneth Gordon, who has been in close contact with many of the nation's jewel thieves has advised that these thieves have recently indicated the Chicago area was too "hot" for fencing stolen property and that outlets for stolen jewelry are being sought in Cuba. The Legal Attache, Havana, has been instructed to develop sources which may be of assistance in locating stolen jewelry.

All phases of this matter are being closely followed and vigorously pursued.

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