
Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-90149-10079

RECORD SERIES : DE

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : CR 92-914-4

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : DE
TO : HQ

TITLE :

DATE : 04/27/1962
PAGES : 26

SUBJECTS :
ANTHONY ZERILLI
THE CRIMINAL COMMISSION

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Unclassified
RESTRICTIONS : 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 10/20/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE

COMMENTS : RPT; INC ADMIN PAGE

Released under the John F. Kennedy
Assassination Records Collection Act of
1992 (44 USC 2107 Note). Case#:NW/
68262 Date: 09-22-2022

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE DETROIT	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW YORK	DATE 4/27/62	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 3/30 - 4/26/62
TITLE OF CASE THE CRIMINAL "COMMISSION"; ETAL; DETROIT DIVISION		REPORT MADE BY HARVARD E. HEYSTEK	TYPED BY fmp
		CHARACTER OF CASE AR - CONSPIRACY	

REFERENCES: Bureau airtel to New York, 3/29/62.
New York airtels to Bureau, 4/3/62 and 4/6/62.

- P/Plu -

ENCLOSURES: TO BUREAU:

Original and one copy of a letterhead memorandum characterizing informants utilized in instant report.

LEADS:

DETROIT

At Detroit, Michigan:

1. Will follow and report evidence of personal meetings or communications by JOSEPH ZERILLI or WILLIAM TOCCO with members of the "Commission" in other areas.

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE:		92 - 914 - 4	
3 - Bureau (Enc. 2)		SEARCHED	<i>[Signature]</i>
2 - New York (92-2316)		SERIALIZED	<i>[Signature]</i>
3 - Detroit (92-914) <i>[Signature]</i>		INDEXED	<i>[Signature]</i>
		FILED	<i>[Signature]</i>
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT		NOTATIONS	
AGENCY			
REQUEST REC'D			
DATE FWD.			
HOW FWD.			
BY			

DE 92-914

INFORMANTS:

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>Location</u>
CG T-1 is CG 6843-C*	9/8/59	—	—
DE T-1 is DE 370-C	10/21/55	PALMER M. WEE	137-7-69
	11/30/55	"	137-7-71
	1/23/58	"	137-7-126
	1/21/59	"	137-7-153
	12/12/59	"	137-7-170
	11/20/60	"	137-7-193
	11/23/60	"	137-3-134
	1/14/61	"	137-7-193
	3/11/61	"	137-7-200
	6/24/61	"	137-7-205
	8/5/61	"	137-7-206
	9/10/61	"	137-7-210
DE T-2 is DE 713-C	1/8/58	JOSEPH E. ISEMAN	137-711-69
DE T-3 is former PCI EDWARD NIEWINSKI	3/24/58	JOSEPH E. ISEMAN JAMES L. SHANAHAN	92-218-535-334
DE T-4 is PCI CHARLES SHERMAN	3/31/58	JOSEPH E. ISEMAN	137-32-37
DE T-5 is DE 878-C	9/27/61	ROBERT N. FITZPATRICK	137-2879-13
	10/11/61	"	137-2839-17
	10/25/61	"	137-2839-26
	11/22/61	"	137-2839-59
	11/30/61	"	137-2839-43
	1/10/62	"	137-2839-53
	2/28/62	"	137-2839-81
DE T-6 is PCI CARMEN MITCHELL	1/15/58	GEORGE L. BLUE	137-8-26

- C -
COVER PAGE

UNIT STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA HARVARD E. HEYSTEN
Date: April 27, 1962

Office: DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Field Office File No.: 92-914

Bureau File No.:

Title:

**THE CRIMINAL "COMMISSION";
ETAL,
DETROIT DIVISION**

Character:

ANTI-RACKETEERING - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis:

Chicago source furnished information describing JOSEPH ZERILLI of Detroit as a member of the "Commission". Detroit sources advised ZERILLI is the final authority in matters involving the Detroit "Syndicate". Identities and addresses of past and present "elder statesmen", their sons, and individuals identified with the Detroit "Syndicate" set out. No present information available from Detroit sources as to membership in "Causa Nostra" or identities of "button man", "caporegima", or "consulero". Activities of the Detroit "Syndicate" include numbers operations, racing information service, barbut, crap games, card games and shylocking. JOSEPH ZERILLI admits being in vicinity of JOSEPH BARBARA's home on date of Apalachin meeting, 11/14/57, but denied having knowledge of meeting or intention of attending. Detroit sources report highly organized and disciplined criminal operation dominated by ZERILLI and "elder statesmen" who received a share of the proceeds.

- P -

rebuffed by the Jewish gamblers who had ties with Cleveland and East Coast Sicilians, but might be afraid of losing control to the Sicilians. The source expressed the opinion that it might be necessary to "clip" one or two of those Jewish gamblers in order to convince them that the younger men meant business. The source added that there appeared to be a closer liaison between the Detroit Sicilians and those in Chicago and other cities than there had been in recent years.

Source advised on September 10, 1961, that the "outfit" was aware that MIKE RUBINO was then a "hot package", (being under investigation in a National Bankruptcy Act case). Source said that for that reason RUBINO no longer had any specific duties and had assumed about the same position as ANGELO MELI, JOHN PRIZIOLA, and other "elder statesmen".

Source: DE T-2

10-718 - C. Person

Source advised on January 8, 1958, that in his opinion, there existed a "Mafia controlled" group generally known as the "Syndicate". He said JOE ZERILLI was regarded as the top man and that next to him would be WILLIAM TOCCO. Source said that he was convinced that ZERILLI had the final word in settling local disputes, was a top policy maker, in Detroit, and was a man of influence among "Mafia members" throughout the country.

Source: DE T-3

*Former P.C.T.
Edward Niewinski - Shonahan*

Source advised on March 24, 1958 that gambling in Detroit was controlled by the "Italian Syndicate" and added that the top men were JOSEPH ZERILLI, ANGELO MELI, WILLIAM TOCCO, JOHN PRIZIOLA, MIKE RUBINO, JOE "SCARFACE" BOMMARITO, and PETE LICAVOLI. Source advised that this syndicate controlled the numbers racket to a large extent, as well as handbooks, barbute, and football pools. Source added that none of the top men named performed any duties to his knowledge that would link them to gambling, but said that they had trusted lieutenants to do the day to day work, maintain accounts, and split up the proceeds.

Source: DE T-4

Source advised on March 31, 1958, that he had been employed by the "Syndicate" and that, in his opinion, it consisted of PETE LICAVOLI, WILLIAM TOCCO, JOE ZERILLI, ANGELO MELI,

DE 92-914

JOHN PRIZIOLA, and possibly JOE BONMARITO. Source said that as far as he knew most of these were wealthy men who had no direct connection with any of the active gambling operations. He identified the men who did the work and operated on a daily basis for the "Syndicate" as MIKE RUBINO, MAX STERN and TONY GIACALONE.

Source: DE T-5 De 92-914 TE 2178

Source advised on September 27, 1961, that without question the "top guy" in Detroit was JOE ZERILLI. Source said that more or less in a direct line under ZERILLI were "BLACK BILL" TOCCO, "PAPA JOHN" PRIZIOLA, ANGELO MELI, JACKIE TOCCO, TONY ZERILLI, MIKE POLIZZI, and TONY TOCCO. Source said that he had recently learned "reliably" that all the Italian numbers houses in Detroit were then connected. Source said that RAFFAELE QUASARANO met with other representatives of each of the Italian numbers factions at the end of the month, at which time each house must bring its tapes which are tabulated and then the proceeds are divided. The source expressed the opinion that such a monthly division could only have been ordered by an individual with the power and stature of JOE ZERILLI, and that the move was made necessary in order to stop the frequent raids made by various numbers houses in recruiting successful numbers pick up men from other houses, the overlapping of bettors, and the aggravating in-fighting prevalent in such business operations.

~~Tapes follow~~

Source gave a list of the names, residences, and identification numbers, where known, of the "elder statesmen", a list of prominent sons of present and former "elder statesmen", and names, addresses and identification numbers of individuals identified by Detroit Sources as being connected with the LICAVOLI-BONMARITO group, the CORRADO group, and the PRIZIOLA-POLIZZI group in the Detroit area.

"ELDER STATESMEN"

Name and Identification
Number

Residence

JOSEPH ZERILLI
Detroit Police Department
#11413

702 Middlesex Road
Grosse Pointe Park,
Michigan

WILLIAM "BLACK BILL" TOCCO
Detroit Police Department
#13517

781 Middlesex Road
Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan