

UNITED STATES GOV

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Rosen  
FROM : G. H. Scatterday

DATE: December 13, 1963

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Casper	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
DeLoach	_____
Evans	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

SUBJECT: SAM BRODY; JOE TONAHILL  
ATTORNEYS FOR JACK L. RUBY

Dallas teletype 12/10/63 indicated that Brody, Tonahill and Melvin Belli are attorneys who will represent Jack L. Ruby. Memorandum Mr. Rosen to Mr. Belmont dated 12/11/63 set forth information in our files concerning Melvin Belli.

We have not investigated Sam Brody, Los Angeles attorney. Our files show that he is associated with the Los Angeles, California, office of Belli, Ashe and Gerry. In connection with the Meyer Harris "Mickey" Cohen investigation in 1958, we received information that Brody was with Mickey Cohen when he, Cohen, was arrested at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by the Philadelphia Police Department in the latter part of October, 1958. Brody's room was searched at that time by the police although he was not arrested. As a result of the publicity involved, a confidential source of the Los Angeles Office advised that he had learned that Brody's father-in-law, who is well acquainted with the hoodlum element in Detroit, Michigan, had informed Cohen that Brody would no longer represent him. The confidential source further advised that Brody's father-in-law (not identified) had called Brody at Philadelphia and told him to leave early and not to travel with Cohen. Brody is alleged to have stated that he would no longer represent Cohen in any legal matter. (92-3156-123)

In August, 1958, another Los Angeles informant advised that Sam Brody had become connected with Cohen in connection with Cohen's trial for assaulting a Federal officer. The case in question concerned Cohen's assault on Howard Chappell (not further identified). The source advised that during the month of August, 1958, in connection with this trial Brody had gone to the Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., allegedly to consult with unknown persons. As a result of this, Brody stated the case would be retried because of the identity of the persons involved.

This same informant advised in December, 1958, that Sam Brody was dropping his connections with Cohen because of the unfavorable publicity that such association was bringing him and indicated that Cohen was indebted to Brody for approximately \$8,000 for legal services. (92-3156-195)

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

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Memorandum to Mr. Rosen  
Re: Sam Brody, Et Al.

In 1945 the Bureau conducted an applicant-type investigation at the request of the Department of Justice concerning Joe Halbert Tonahill. At that time he was under consideration for the position of attorney with the Department. No derogatory information was developed during the course of this investigation. (77-31910)

In 1950 John Crooks, <sup>Attorney</sup> Commander of the American Legion for the 16th District of the State of Texas, advised that Joe Tonahill, attorney in Jasper, Texas, had made a statement in a meeting of the executive committee of the American Legion that he had in his possession evidence in the form of over 100 affidavits certifying to various types of misconduct by members of the executive committee. Tonahill gave two examples by stating that one affidavit accused a district commander of being seen coming out of a disorderly house in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the 1949 national convention. A second example was an affidavit to the effect that one district commander had issued an insufficient funds check.

Crooks indicated that one "Bill" Cummins had been dismissed as director of the youth activities of the American Legion for the State of Texas. Tonahill threatened the departmental commander of the American Legion of Texas with exposure of the entire 100 affidavits unless Mr. Cummins was reinstated. Crooks further indicated that he felt even though Joe Tonahill, who acted as spokesman for the group in favor of reinstating Cummins, was a good American he was under the influence of one Vincent Terrell [REDACTED] (94-1-17998-91E)

In July, 1961, the Bureau received information that Joe H. Tonahill was a subscriber to "Athletic Publications, Inc., also known as the Minneapolis Line," which publication was subject of interstate gambling activities and wire service investigation. The Houston Division advised that Tonahill was a practicing attorney in Jasper, Texas, who is considered to be highly successful and a respected attorney primarily engaged in negligence cases and as of that time city attorney in Jasper, Texas. It was indicated that he had little criminal practice but was regarded as the leading attorney in the town. Tonahill reportedly was previously associated in practice with now U. S. District Judge Joe J. Fisher. Both are still close friends and jointly own an airplane. (102-6-70)

**ACTION:**

This is for information.