

Conversations relative to the pressure of the federal law enforcement effort against organized crime during the administration of John F. Kennedy.

Page 1

F.B.I. electronic surveillance of Sam Giancana, in discussion with Gus Alex and Edward D. Vogel, two associates. January 31, 1962.

Conversation indicates that the Chicago syndicate, insofar as its gambling activities are concerned, for all practical purposes has come to an end, primarily from the intense pressure placed upon the organization by the "G", meaning the Federal government.

This fact, coupled with the fact that the state and local police have been forced to move against the syndicate, has brought Giancana et al. to the realization that for the time being "everyone is on his own", meaning that they will no longer receive support from the organization nor can anyone expect influence to be brought to bear on their behalf.

La Cosa Nostra File      January, 1962

Sam Giancana and John D'Arco, (Sam's political henchman), discuss the fact that Mayor Daley wants to put a former F.B.I. man named Spencer in as a candidate for Sheriff of Cook County on the Democratic ticket against Ogilvie, the Republican candidate.

Giancana: (of Spencer) He's like Kennedy, he'll get what he wants out of you, but you won't get anything out of him.

Tells D'Arco that it may have been a tactical error for him to have let his antipathy toward spencer made known.

D'Arco: I had to Moe, I was desperate. You told me to get the guy out. You gave me a (obscene) order.

Giancana: Well, the Mayor.....

D'Arco: Well, this guy (Daley) is the Almighty. As powerful as you are with us, he's as powerful with them. You say, 'Do this!' What the (obscene), we don't even ask 'Why?' we just do it, right? It's the same thing with him (Daley). When you gave me that order to get him off, I got desperate.

Giancana: Well, it's happened, so there's nothing you can do about it. Well, as far as the city is concerned we're out, and as far as the county is concerned, we're out, so it looks like we'll just have to go into Indiana and run this thing from Hammond. We'll put up whorehouses and everything else.

Feb. 27, 1962      Frank Ferraro and Hy Godfrey, two members of the Chicago criminal organization, discuss Special Agent August Kempff and another F.B.I. man who are giving them a hard time in the Top Hood Program and the Criminal Intelligence Program.

Ralph Pierce (a high-ranking member of the Chicago criminal organization) "is closed down and he is going to be closed down from now on".

Jan. 15, 1963.      Airtel from SAC Chicago to The Director.

Chuck English bemoans the fact that the Federal government is closing in on the organization and apparently nothing can be done about it. Makes various and sundry inflammatory remarks about the Kennedy administration.

F.B.I. La Cosa Nostra Summary, January 31, 1963.

Permission is being sought for retaliation against Federal investigators, newsmen and politicians who expose La Cosa Nostra.

N.Y.C. Police Department Intelligence Bulletin #10  
June 7, 1963

An analysis of police intelligence work. A conversation between 2 Brooklyn hoodlums. They curse the police.

"They know a lot...they know everything. They put everything together, lots of things. Where we take it for granted it don't mean nothing.

"These people (the police) have been gathering and gathering. They go here! They go there! See, before it was a different story. If you had the locals, they knew the information, but they kept it for themselves. Today, they are all working together. We got a big problem.

"These people are united. Everything they collect, they concentrate. And now everything goes into one office. Before, every squad kept the information for themselves. You take this cop on the corner, you've been paying him for 20 years, maybe. They get the information. Someone comes in from New York and asks if he knows so and so. 'Oh, he's a bookmaker'. And you've been paying him for 20 years!!! That's the condition you got today".

Buffalo Div. Elsur on Stefano Magaddino June 11, 1963.

He is talking to an underling from Syracuse, Anthony deStefano.

"You see, the Cosa Nostra. The other day they made me become frightened. They know our business better than us. They know the heads of the families, the Capodecina, the F.B.I. does.

"Therefore, that's why, the other day, I say, 'Be careful before you open your mouth'.

"Because sometime somebody could be a spy (law officer) and you might think he is an amico nostro (a friend of ours and a member)."

Page 8

Airtel August 7, 1963

Gus Alex, a Giancana henchman in Chicago, states that the F.B.I. has been following Giancana everywhere he went, even on a golf course. Alex stated that no one can contact Giancana because of the F.B.I. surveillance.

La Cosa Nostra File August 8, 1963

Joe "Beck" DiPalermo asked Vito Genovese for permission to retaliate against Federal narcotic agents that he claimed were framing members. Vito said something would be done about it.

Page 10

La Cosa Nostra File October 15, 1963

Buddy Jacobson and Pat Marcy, political front men for Sam Giancana.

Jacobson stated that he had never seen conditions so bad

F.B.I. electronic surveillance in the residence of Charles Costello in Florida. Costello is a relative and associate of Angelo Bruno, L.C.N. leader in Philadelphia, Penna. Bruno is a frequent winter visitor to this residence.

Oct. 24, 1963      Madeline (Mrs. Charles) Costello in conversation with Unidentified Male.

Madeline:      "I won't talk in this house, that's the way things are, alright? I want to talk, I'll take a walk outside. You know there's got to be something in this house".

Continues, saying the house is vacant so much there is ample time and opportunity for installation of a "mike". She has expressed similar thoughts in the past.

Madeline:      "I'll tell you the things they are doing to that man (Angelo Bruno) are awful, just terrible...."

U.M.              "They are crucifying him."

1963 Elsur on Santo Trafficante in a Miami restaurant.

Trafficante: "Let me tell you this. This is what happens to me. Now, I don't give a (obscene) about the S. & G. I know when I'm beat, you understand?

"I got a numbers office in Orlando. They grab everybody, forty or fifty people. Forty or fifty thousand in bond. They have no evidence, but when they get through it costs thousands.

"I got another office in St. Cloud, Florida. You can't even find St. Cloud on the (obscene) map, but the (obscene) 'G' found it.

"Kennedy's right-hand man, he goes through the (obscene) nigger town. Must have been 2,000 niggers, and makes a (obscene) big raid over there.

"Just a start, any (obscene) place that they found a phone connection in there from Tampa....."



Miami, Fla. 1963

F.B.I. electronic surveillance on Johnny "Dee" Palmisano in Florida. He is in conversation with an associate, Ralph Petillo, discussing the F.B.I. and Attorney General's fight against organized crime.

Johnny Dee says that Hoover is not heard of anymore because of the Kennedys.

Page 14

F.B.I. La Cosa Nostra File 1963.

Angelo Bruno expected an I.R.S. indictment and was prepared to leave the country to live in Italy. He also recommended to Gerry Catena (of New Jersey) that he prepare to depart. Gerry said it would be very difficult for him to do so because of his family.