

Organized crime conversations
relative to the testimony of
Joseph Valachi before the Senate
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.
September-October, 1963

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May 22, 1963 F.B.I. interoffice memo from Courtney
Evans to Al Belmont discussing the
Saturday Evening Post article on
Joseph Valachi that is being written by Peter Maas.

"The foregoing clearly indicates that the
Department is motivated strictly by political
considerations. While they have apparently
yielded to our view that Valachi should not
be interviewed by the magazine writer, they
are, nevertheless, exploiting this whole
situation for their own benefit.

"Under the circumstances, we should not get
involved, but you will be advised of any
further information we can develop as to
Departmental action."

Handwritten: "I concur. I never saw so much skulduggery,
the sanctity of Department files, including
Bureau reports is a thing of the past."

"H" (for Hoover)

F.B.I. Elsur on James Lanza, leader of the L.C.N. Family in San Francisco. August 12, 1963. Lanza is in discussion with an associate Vito Bruno.

V.B.:-- Talks about reading of Cosa Nostra in the paper.

Lanza: Yeah, this guy Joe Valachi is the guy who is telling about it.

V.B.:--- Cosa Nostra. Cosa Nostra.

Lanza: This guy is in jail. Vito Genovese is in jail too. This guy gave information to the federals. He attacked a man with a rock and killed him, and the prison officials didn't know why he killed him. Anyway, this guy thought the Mafia, the Cosa Nostra had sent the guy in to kill him.

This thing has come out now in the papers but he has been telling about it for the past year.

V.B. They know everything.

Lanza: Yeah.

Buffalo Div. Elsur on Stefano Magaddino Sept. 17, 1963

After a lengthy discussion about Joseph Valachi, Magaddino states, "we passed laws that this guy has got to die".

N.Y.C. Police Dept. Elsur on John Masiello

(Masiello has since been convicted of defrauding the U.S. government when he was a contractor to deliver the U.S. mail. He later testified against Congressman Frank Brasco when that worthy was convicted of accepting bribes from Masiello).

Sept. 27, 1963. John Masiello and his close associate Anthony "Hickey" DiLorenzo are talking about Joseph Valachi's testimony.

Masiello is upset because Valachi mentioned the secret code.

DiLorenzo believes Valachi is going to scramble up a lot of people because he is speaking so freely. Says that Steve Buffalo, one of the names mentioned, is a friend of theirs.

Masiello: He is going to make it hot for everybody.

DiLorenzo: They (Law enforcement) are going to harass people and are definitely going to try to pass that wire tapping law. If they ever get that law passed, forget about it. They probably have miles of tape that they put together. They'll say well, this is what we got, then they'll start indicting guys.

Masiello: It isn't a free country anymore.

Oct. 4, 1963 Al Chieco asks John Masiello if he is going to be sucked into this Valachi testimony, and if he knew Valachi.

Masiello states he knew Valachi but will not be sucked into anything. Chieco suggests Valachi should have been killed years ago, for having an affair with his sister-in-law

Masiello says it is bad enough he mentions all those names but he should not have mentioned how a guy is made, how a guy is proposed, because those are things you die with.

They both hope that Valachi cracks up because then everything can be charged off to his insanity.

Oct. 1, 1963. Listening to Joseph Valachi's testimony on T.V.

F.B.I. Florida Elsur in restaurant operated by
Vincent James Palmisano, alias Jimmy Dee.

Palmisano states facetiously that they should go to the Army-Navy store and buy up all the Italian and American flags they can find and put them around the restaurant to counteract slurs on Italians.

Discuss the present administration, saying it is setting up a Nazi type government, seizing control of television and radio stations. Discuss Sam Giancana's association with Frank Sinatra.

Palmisano: "Robert F. Kennedy will never get ALL the bookmakers. Valachi is living like a king, he has his own army. They are probably furnishing him his own woman".

Oct. 7, 1963 Jimmy Dee says, "There's going to be a lot of killings as a result of this hearing".

F.B.I. La Cosa Nostra File.

October 9, 1963 Sam Giancana (LCN leader in Chicago) is extremely apprehensive of being subpoenaed before the McClellan Committee hearings on organized crime.

October 16, 1963 Sam Giancana has issued instructions to all political associates to discontinue their practice of attending weddings and funerals of hoodlum families.

La Cosa Nostra File, F.B.I.

October 25, 1963. Joseph Zerilli has ordered all Detroit Italian Syndicate numbers operations closed and as of December 13, they are still closed. This order came as a result of the Valachi Hearings testimony and an I.R.S. raid in Toledo, Ohio.

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Autumn, 1963.

S.F. T-1 (who is a "live" informant of the San Francisco Division of the F.B.I. indicates:

There will be a change in the initiation ceremony of La Cosa Nostra as a result of Valachi's testimony and the publicity concerning it.

March 2, 1964 Director John Edgar Hoover speaks on
the telephone to Senator John McClellan.

Tells him that the Valachi Hearings, "shook them all up".

Senator McCellan suggests that Mr. Hoover write him a letter
to that effect.

March 6, 1964. Lettter from Director Hoover to Senator
McClellan states in part:-

"In pursuing this purpose your committee has placed
on the record information concerning conditions
most citizens did not realize existed. There is
no doubt that attention across the Nation was
focused on Joseph Valachi's testimony regarding
La Cosa Nostra as well as on the testimony of
other witnesses who appeared at these hearings.
Public opinion was moved against the forces of evil."

F.B.I. Intelligence Bulletin, March 11, 1964

Charles Locicero (Counselor of a Brooklyn L.C.N. family) tells an F.B.I. informant that money was being gathered to fight Valachi's testimony and the Senate hearings. They are getting in touch with people in the news media and political figures to hold up any legislation which may result.