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Is CIA Financing
the Cosa Nostra,
or Vice Versa?

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BURIED beneath the welter of disclosures about the Central Intelligence Agency was the news that the Justice Department had assembled a file of more than 200,000 individuals and businesses in some way associated with the crime empire of America known more familiarly as the "syndicate," Mafia, or Cosa Nostra. The reason the release was buried is because the network that 3000 crooks have established is no longer news.

Every taxi driver knows the syndicate owns Las Vegas, every housewife that it controls the dry-cleaning industry, every blue collar worker that it has infiltrated the unions, every teen-ager knows Cosa Nostra runs the juke boxes, and every movie-goer that the Mafia runs the studio.

I have yet to hear of anything the syndicate did not own, including several banks. Why the Justice Department spent six years running this information down, I do not know. It would seem agents' time would be better spent arresting Mafia members for the bad things they do like running the policy racket, selling dope, and fixing the horse races.

WHY NOT?

The interesting thing about the Justice Department release was that it came along with the news that the CIA also owned just about all the colleges, philanthropic institutions and religious organizations and was funneling money into each to fight the world-wide communist conspiracy. It wouldn't surprise me if they weren't also financing those motorcycle desperadoes in California, Hell's Angels. After all, they were financing Norman Thomas.

Neither the CIA or Cosa Nostra in the last few years have shown any facility in keeping their respective names out of the paper. Omerta, the vow of silence, is more myth than actuality for both.

Which suggests a shocking conclusion to me. Could it be that the CIA is financing the Cosa Nostra or could it be that Cosa Nostra owns the CIA?

Why not?

They are both in trouble at the same time which is always what happens when the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing. All we have to do now is figure which one is financing the other.

The answer is obvious. Cosa Nostra owns the CIA. It is to the syndicate's interest to take over the country. The Cosa Nostra wants to take it over because all the Cosa Nostra-eers are anti-communists. Gangland's leaders are more than rugged individualists, they are grasping, selfish, men unwilling to share anything.

FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY

Having read all the books which prove conclusively that Lee Harvey Oswald acted in concert when he killed John F. Kennedy; having followed with avid interest the Kennedy-Look magazine-Manchester embroglio; realizing, too, that the Kennedy half-dollars are at a premium, I have come to one of two conclusions, either the country is more neurotic than I suspected; or, the country was not prepared for the assassination.