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CONSPIRACY!

RICHARD M. NIXON - IS MAFIA HIS MIDDLE NAME?

"There is one indisputable fact about Richard Nixon's career - his ascendancy to the pinnacles of American power has required twenty-five years of care and feeding by some very wealthy and very reactionary men, and an extraordinary number of them have maintained connections with the world of organized crime." - Jeff Geath, SUNDANCE '73

part one: THE NATIONAL CRIME SYNDICATE.

MAFIA/SCHMAFFA

One of the oldest myths around is that the minions of organized crime are all Italians. THE GODFATHER, J. Edgar Hoover, and the Kefauver Commission on Crime in the early fifties all helped perpetuate this myth. Bobby Kennedy thought that the public could more easily understand a sinister, secret ethnic "family", complete with rituals, handshakes, and dark symbols, than they could the vast complex of the organized crime cartel that was operating behind and in front of the scenes in the US. This National Crime Syndicate, with boards of directors in every major city, with no ethnic or racial boundaries, with investments - if not control - in every major capitalist concern, and with an icon termed by its head, Meyer Lansky, as "two times General Motors" (and a lot less overhead), might well pass understanding in the general public at first. But with a little effort, we can all come to comprehend the organization behind our political and economic institutions. At least we may be able to understand the parallel between the New York Syndicate that collects \$1 million a day in heroin sales in Harlem, and the coffers filled by a local dope trade. Big dealers everywhere have gotten the message; maybe some heads can too. Want to try?

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The mob has its roots in two distinctly ghettoized ethnic groups, Italians and Jews. The Mafia, as a secret society, did flourish at one time. They were an honored society, and as such kept their fingers out of the till of heroin and prostitution. Gambling, vice, political corruption, extortion, and protection rackets were clean enough for them, though. In the early '20s, when Harry Anslinger and the newly formed Federal Bureau of Narcotics forced heroin into a black market status, it was the Jewish gangsters who saw its potential for both profit and social control in the black ghetto. "Legs" Diamond, Dutch Schultz, and other Jewish mob leaders cornered the market in the late twenties. The Mafia was resolute in refusing to participate. But two events forced their downfall. One was financial, the other somewhat political. Left with a good-sized coffer after war racketeering in WWI, and some left-overs from the "reckless" twenties' bootlegging, their market was closed off when Prohibition ended. Worse yet, they couldn't even invest in legal liquor sales, because the stranglehold on licensing liquor was already held by a wily politician who had inside information that the era was ending. This politician, Joseph P. Kennedy, sired two historically important mob-fighters and antagonists who rose to political heights later on - read Bobby Kennedy's book, *ENEMIES WITHIN*, and you'll see where they were headed. Crimbousting and public opinion began to eat away at their financial stronghold too, even back then. The political event was a meeting of three people who eventually formed the groundwork for a cross-ethnic, national syndicate of crime. They developed the idea of laundering money (Watergate made it a household word), investing in "legitimate" interests like real estate and hotels, and combining the good and bad traits of the Jewish, Italian and other mob groups. The idea had promise, a little too much. Only the hard core dons of the Mafia held out, a bitter resistance that cost them everything. On the now famous "Night of the Forty Dons" (confusedly depicted in the movie "The Godfather"), forty Mafia heads were killed almost simultaneously. The FBI knew something was coming, since the new leadership had purchased a thousand dollars worth of flowers the day before. Too bad they didn't know what. The three who gave birth to



the National Crime Syndicate, vaulted the mob into banking, real estate brokerage, and hotelery. They set up a network of city syndicates across the land, and started the foundation for an international syndicate financial cartel, extra-national getaway resorts, and the world wide heroin traffic.

It grew. Income estimates ranged from \$50-200 million a year. The organization sprouted its own attorneys and accountants. Early investments in fast-growing resort areas (Florida, Texas, California, Nevada) led to huge profits from Las Vegas Casinos, Miami Beach hotels, New York Supermarket chains, entertainment industries, and many distribution systems. Their illicit gains centered in such tidbits as military PX frauds, black market currency manipulations, secret stock and banking deals, gambling, drugs, prostitution, and extortion or blackmail. But their above ground investments provided cover, and their secret control of dummy fronts, mutual arrangements, silent partnerships, skimming profits, and shadowy corporate structures gave them a political influence commensurate with their size. Once started, they sank into real estate near Miami, bought a set of hotels (Woodford, Sands, Grand) that served as their capital buildings, got control of several banks, and by the time Kefauver convened a commission on them, they had control over almost every politician in office in Florida. Not to be left out on "clean" capitalist gains, they dipped their fingers into the visible pie. In 1971, the IRS reported that 85% of the major syndicate figures invested in legitimate business. Ronald Cressy, a consultant to the Presidential Commission on Violence, said recently that it is "no longer possible to differentiate 'underworld' gangsters from 'upperworld' businessmen and government officials". With roots in Miami, they spread easily into a mobster hideaway and illicit operations set-up in Havana. Dope, gambling, hotels, casinos, racetracks, prostitutes - a businessman's paradise. The revolution in Cuba forced them to shift their seat in the Caribbean to the Bahamas in the '60s, where they added smuggling and gun-running to the agenda. Secret foreign bank accounts and international cooperation from Sicilian, Corsican and other national gangster groups, rounded the operation out.

(to be continued next issue) - John Judge

Those who wish further information on this subject of fascist conspiracy to overtake the US, can write to me at Box 1625, Dayton, OH 45401. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for reply. Contributions accepted. My apologies for the delay on this crucial article to any subscribers or regulars. I'm back.