

Dear Sam and Joe,

9/1/88

The enclosed follows a phone call from a researcher working on a Jack Anderson TV special from whom I've heard from time to time. Anderson plugs the dead horse that Castro and/or the Mafis killed JFK. Nothing to it. She went into a number of things. One not referred to in my letter was a transcript of an FBI wiretap of some mafiosi. I figure in it because I'd given some records to the lawyer for Carlos Marcello. But there are two Weisberg's mentioned in that tapped conversation. The other is the late Willie Weisberg, black sheep of a respectable Phila. family and a distant cousin. I do not recall ever seeing him. One of his brothers got to be the top man in Frank & Seder's Pittsburgh branch and another, as I now recall, had a medical supply house in Wilmington some years after I left there, on I think Orange at 7 or 8. Wiccie got to be one of the top hoods in Phila.

What turned him to a life of crime is that his father's life taught him that nothing else paid. His father, Shimon, related as I now do not recall to my father's father, had a furniture store on Frankford Ave., under the elevated. As soon as his store did some business he was robbed and the robbers were never caught.

We called Shimon uncle and he may have been a great-uncle or great-great uncle, I now don't recall. It may have been only respect. ~~Wiccie~~ He and his wife Bopstie were usually at my grandfather's for the seders and often on other occasions. Fine, ~~warm~~ warm, affectionate people and Shimon always visibly happy, whatever was invisible.

I wonder how many young people turned to crime for such reasons? In particular those who were first generation or those who were very young when they got here.

As I now recall, despite being robbed so often and thus being held back, Shimon was the jolliest adult I knew when I was very young.

There are some elements of this with recent immigrants, particularly Cubans, Vietnamese and to my surprise, Chinese. The Bay of Pigs remnants got to be big, real big, in narcotics, especially on the east coast. There were earlier with other peoples, like the Italians, Poles, Germans, etc. I guess that getting a new start with all the problems of a new country was always tough. For some, that is. I suppose with most peoples, a very small minority.

Best,

Harold

Ms. Jill Haggard
Saban Productions
11724 Ventura Blvd.,
Studio City, CA 91604

9/1/88

Dear Ms. Haggard,

Here is the FBI record I mentioned. As it happens, this also illustrates an explanation I gave you about FBI records and filing. But first another explanation.

As I told Eric Norden, I consider that FOIA makes me surrogate for the people and thus anyone has access to the records I get under FOIA, including those I do not agree with. Which happens to be most. My own study is different than most in this field in that rather than pursuing a whodunit I have made a large study of how our basic institutions worked in time of crisis and thereafter. Thus, as I do not agree with Jack's line I am willing to help him and you and thus as I did not regard Marcello as an upstanding citizen I was willing to help his lawyer.

The first of the two pages enclosed is what I told you is always with an FBI record that is attached to it, as your transcript was attached to something. In this instance the "main" file and the "record" file is, at FBIHQ, 92-2771 (approx). This particular copy, a duplicate, is from 62-109060, when it is "not recorded" or is a duplicate. It happens that in making this copy I noted that it is from Section 127, which facilitates search for the original to me of which I copied for duplicate filing these two pages only that relate to Marcello. I keep all the records I get under FOIA exactly as I get them and made duplicates for subject filing, of which this is one. To the best of my recollection, "92" is the classification for bank robberies. This originated at Tampa (TP in FBI abbreviations) and I am inclined to think that 92-1 is a special file because it is impossible that the first bank robbery record was in 1987. No, 91 is bank robberies. 92 is anti-racketeering. If anyone wants to see the entire record the file as disclosed to me and that section will have to be read. (62-109060 is assassination of President Kennedy at FBIHQ)

The McGuire/Martin bugger was Arthur J. Ballotti and that file, if anyone wants to examine it, is in my file cabinet #61.

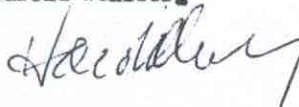
In this Marcello subject file I saw I have a copy of what I wrote Jack Wasserman together with duplicates of the records I sent him. I also saw something I know HSCA went into relating to Marcello, his alleged threat against the President. The source, not disclosed by HSCA, was Ed Becker, an informant for Ed "eid", who considered him dependable, and I'm pretty sure also an FBI informer. The FBI records I got I'm sure note that it interviewed Becker immediately after he was with Marcello and he didn't tell the FBI any of the things HSCA said he said. My recollection is that he was not at all trustworthy or dependable and was an only source.

Come to think of it, there was a tap disclosed by the FBI that has Willie Weisberg making some sort of threat vs JFK. Jack should have it.

When you phoned me after speaking to Gerry Hemming, who suggested that you call me, I said that Loran Hall would be a better person than the one you were looking for. The second page of the enclosure refers to Trafficante in jail in Cuba. Hall claims he was then with Trafficante. I didn't make notes on this but a reporter who I took along did and if it is of interest I can ask him if he will share that information. The source of the information that Ruby was cozy with Castro is wrong. Ruby knew a gangster named Willie, McWillie, rather. I think McWillie had been connected with Cuban gambling.

If it interests you, the FBI disclosed a long list, or a number of them, of HSCA requests for mob tapping information.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg



FBI

Date: 4/11/67

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (92-2781)

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (92-1)

SANTO TRAFFICANTE, JR., aka
ANTI-RACKETEERING

*C. P. [unclear]
T. [unclear]
R. [unclear]
W. Frank [unclear]
Mrs. [unclear]
Recs. as
put copy
of this
in [unclear]
file
[unclear]
[unclear]*

ReBuairtel 3/31/67 instructing that I contact Attorney FRANK RAGANO and acknowledge receipt of his letter of March 27, 1967, to Director HOOVER.

As indicated by intervening communications, RAGANO was not available since he was out of town. On the morning of April 10, RAGANO was interviewed in my office, on his choice, in the presence of ASAC PHILIP R. SHERIDAN.

Transmitted herewith are a memorandum covering various phases discussed during the interview, and for New York and New Orleans a Xerox copy of letter of March 27, 1967, from Attorney FRANK RAGANO to Director HOOVER.

All offices note:

- (1) Contacts with TRAFFICANTE through his attorney;
- (2) TRAFFICANTE, on instructions of Attorney RAGANO, to utilize recorder on his person.

- 3 Bureau (enc.-3)
- 1 Miami (enc.-1) (92-28)
- 1 New York (enc.-2)
- 1 New Orleans (enc/02)
- 3 Tampa (92-1) (92-218) (92-234)

*med. d.
Plan
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]*

JFS:KH
(9)

REC-41

62-109060-10

13 APR 1967

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NOT RECORDED
199 APR 25 1967

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

2 MAY 4 1967

S. [unclear]

Serial

RAGANO stated that some of the allegations involving TRAFFICANTE have been ridiculous, and he related the following to illustrate TRAFFICANTE's attitude:

While driving through New Orleans in MARCELLO's car, MARCELLO was driving and TRAFFICANTE was seated in the front seat and he (RAGANO) was in the back, when a radio broadcast related events concerning District Attorney GARRISON's escapades revolving around the assassination of President KENNEDY. SANTO turned and remarked to MARCELLO, "Carlos, the next thing you know they will be blaming the President's assassination on us." RAGANO added that after his return to Tampa his office had received numerous calls from a newspaper reporter by the name of GREEN, associated with a Long Island, New York, daily. RAGANO called the reporter, who related that he had understood that when TRAFFICANTE was jailed by CASTRO in Cuba, some arrangements were made for JACK RUBY to be flown from Dallas to Cuba to expedite his release, since RUBY was friendly with CASTRO. The reporter exclaimed to RAGANO, "Don't you see the significance of this contact in connection with the Communists and 'La Cosa Nostra' being involved in the presidential assassination?" RAGANO stated he told the reporter he was completely off base because he (RAGANO) had been involved in attempting to get TRAFFICANTE back to Florida from the Cuban prison, and that this was done through an individual in Miami who was close to CASTRO before the revolution. RAGANO said he later told this story to TRAFFICANTE, pointing out that he was not very far from wrong since he had told MARCELLO he would some day be blamed for the assassination.

c. Weapons

RAGANO indicated that TRAFFICANTE at no time carries a gun with him and that he does not even carry a pen knife.

d. TRAFFICANTE's feelings

Mr. RAGANO said that TRAFFICANTE has expressed the belief that eventually he will be the victim of a "frameup" on the part of law enforcement agencies anxious to put him in jail. He said that TRAFFICANTE leaves his car unlocked and very frequently his home unlocked and he has told him on numerous occasions that he should not do this, but TRAFFICANTE has said that if they want to get into the house or the car, whether locked or not, they can get in without any trouble.

ENCLOSURE

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Vertical text on the left margin, possibly a file number or date, partially obscured and difficult to read.