

TRANSCRIBED DECEMBER 18, 1967.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN HAROLD WEISBERG AND HARV MORGAN,
KCBS RADIO, ON DECEMBER 14, 1967, AT APPROXIMATELY 4:00 A.M.

RE: MAFIA CONTRACT

A. ... you know, it's 4:00 in the morning so, you know, I ... let me kind of spell this out for you chronologically about three hours I got a call from the station ... but, er, they got through to the news room and I just got, the news guy called me and said that there was a guy who urgently had to get ahold of me, a man frankly that I knew only by telephone conversation before and through a brief conversation about him with JOHN CHRISTIAN, you know. He left a number for me to call, I returned the number and, er, it sounded important enough in the brief sketch that he could give me and so I stayed awake and told him to come on out to the house. So he's sitting right here with me now. I hate to sound cloak and daggerish or anything.

Q. That's alright.

A. ... you know, all with no connection. But he was so much concerned about this knowing through the programs and through ... interest in this. And through his connection with HILL, the story is -- I'll fill you in a little more in a minute -- at 1:00 yesterday morning, that is Wednesday, 1:00 A.M., you know, past Tuesday midnight?

Q. Yeah.

A. There was a meeting held here in San Francisco in the 500 block of Washington Street.

Q. Washington?

A. Washington Street, yeah. Can't get a specific address yet, all we know is it's the 500 block of Washington Street. It, it was supposedly, as much as I can get now, three or possibly four high Mafia people involved in the meeting. One, at least, locally, whoever it is -- and San Francisco is not a town, you know, that has a noted Mafia headquarters, one of the few that hasn't -- but whoever the large guy is here and I don't, since this is the middle of the night, I don't, I don't have my files here so I don't know who it is, he was apparently among them with some others from out of town and the story which this man has, which he considers from excellent authority, and although he's sitting right here, I'll say I don't know him well enough to say for sure that he, he is a sure-fire authority.

Q. Yeah.

A. But, er, the story is anyway, that, er, at that meeting a contract was let for Garrison. And the person left today apparently for New Orleans. This is only sketchy and there're so many holes involved and the possibility exists, er, this guy's informant, a friend, knows the name of the

guy who got the contract. So, he's scared to death to give it because if it, you know, screws up in any way, this guy will know that he's the only, er, you know, that he gave it out.

Q. Right.

A. So I can't get it immediately but the possibility exists in getting it the next day or so but I'm afraid that might be too damned late, you know.

Q. Right. What you did was best, but also try.

A. Yeah. Here's something that may be filled in that certainly Garrison with his, er, does Garrison have any contact at all with HAL LIPSETT here in town? Do you know HAL LIPSETT?

Q. No.

A. He's a, a private investigator who, who has some notoriety to a great deal of work with bugging devices and all sorts of devious things, er, frankly, typically unscrupulous, but very successful, private investigator here in San Francisco.

Q. Yeah. I don't know.

A. If he has, if Mr. Garrison has any contact at all with him, LIPSETT may have some information as to who these people were in town at this meeting. I don't know that for sure, it's just a possibility. Surely, Garrison must know someone here. I do know that the Mafia is a, at least kept under surveillance by the FBI pretty aware of their movements, aren't they?

Q. I don't know. I suppose they are.

A. Somebody said they're aware of their movements. If a couple of them show up in town, you know...

Q. Yes.

A. So, it might be, it might be possible to find out who they were, you could get some names to fill in those blanks, and, er, who this character was who supposedly got the contract.

Q. Yes, HARV.

A. Now I had some hesitancy in calling about this.

Q. Oh, no, I'm glad you did.

A. I don't think it's worth taking a chance, even it is a one in a hundred chance.

Q. Right. Right. I'm glad you called. HARV?

- A. Yeah.
- Q. Would you do another thing?
- A. What's that?
- Q. Interview that guy on tape right away, in detail, and on tape?
- A. He won't do it.
- Q. He won't?
- A. No. You know the voice print thing?
- Q. Alright, then as soon as you get a moment by yourself, make a complete recording of the entire thing yourself, by yourself with all the details that you possibly have been able to give me.
- A. I frankly considered that, in fact, sitting in back of the man right now is a, my brief case tape recorder and I briefly considered just having that laying around when he came in so I could call back operate that way.
- Q. No, I, no, no, I don't mean that.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. I mean just so all the details, just so you would have a recording...
- A. Yeah, yeah.
- Q. At this time of the morning you're not going to sit down and type it all up.
- A. No, no, no.
- Q. That's what I mean. You understand?
- A. Yeah, absolutely.
- Q. I don't think he'd have any objections to that. You might even tell him what you're going to do.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. I think it, it will benefit everybody involved, HARV.
- A. Yeah. Let me see, I'm thinking, is there anything that I left out? What? (Pause)
That there was probably a preliminary meeting in the last few days prior to this, you know, final meeting at which the contract was determined.
- Q. In the past three or four days, you say?
- A. Yeah, yeah. I guess that would, with all the things

together, I guess that would constitute a negotiating period and then the confirmation came at this meeting at 1:00 Wednesday morning.

- Q. Does he have an idea of who is responsible for it, who wants to have it done?
- A. Apparently, the, the exact words he used was "very high Mafia". It was their idea.
- Q. Yeah.
- A. They're doing it for themselves. (inaudible conversation between HARV MORGAN and informant). He doesn't know.
- Q. I beg your pardon.
- A. He'll try to find out.
- Q. Very good. He will keep in touch with you, HARV?
- A. Pardon?
- Q. He will keep in touch with?
- A. Yeah, but in the meantime, I thought I'd call you and tell you, I don't know but I thought you could immediately get to Garrison for whatever, he wants to laugh about it or...
- Q. Let him do the laughing, I won't.
- A. Yeah. But he can, er, I'm sure he must have contact with BALLI or who here in San Francisco that he can do some checking on who these people were and any a speculation on who the contractee might be.
- Q. Right.
- A. Cause the 500 block of Washington does narrow it down somewhat. Now this is a street, er, of pretty much, er, small apartment type, in other words, three story houses that back in the old days used to be homes but now they're apartment houses, you know.
- Q. Yeah.
- A. You never know (inaudible) Just one second. And the guy that this man got his information from is a personal acquaintance of the guy who's in charge of the Mafia here in San Francisco.
- Q. Yeah.
- A. And that's about as much as I know now. We've been talking here for about an hour. I wanted to get as much as I could and then halfway convince myself and see what will develop in the next couple days.
- Q. Right. I'm glad to know that. Very glad to know that. Did you call my wife to find out where I am?

- A. Yeah, yeah. I talked to her a few minutes and she seemed wide awake. I don't know how she does it.
- Q. (laughter) How's yours?
- A. Oh, she's sound asleep upstairs, and the baby. Just great, just great. Oh, you wouldn't recognize him since you were here.
- Q. He's a marvelous boy.
- A. Not only that. He's grown a couple of inches already.
- Q. I'll be out there in February, HARV.
- A. You're coming back in February?
- Q. Yeah.
- A. Hope you take the same toom.
- Q. I'll be looking for it.
- A. Okay. Could you do this? When will you see Garrison in the morning?
- Q. I don't know. But I will take care of this as soon as I can, believe me.
- A. When you get to him and get his reaction, or maybe he already has some, er, some information from his own sources on this, could you give me a buzz back and let me know what the (1) reaction (2) attitude, (3) his own private information was, or how he intends immediately to find out.
- Q. HARV, I'll tell you, I think that with the conditions of the phones the way they are, it might be unwise.
- A. Oh, yeah? You mean your phone there in your room?
- Q. No, any phone that I might have access to or you might because we've been talking on both my home phone and this one.
- A. Why don't you call me on a pay phone to the station?
- Q. That's possible.
- A. Alright, if you do call, could you make it between say 2:00 and 5:00 my time tomorrow, which would be between, what time do you have now?
- Q. I've got five minutes to six.
- A. Yeah, two hours difference, so that would be between noon and 2:00 your time.
- Q. Right.
- A. If possible, you know. And from a pay phone to my office phone should be fairly safe. I'd like to know, you know, something about what the reaction is on that end.

- Q. Right. Can you also do this? Is there anybody out there that you might want to talk to?
- A. No, but what I was trying to make out was, you see, I haven't unfortunately, you know, been established here as I was in Cleveland but I had a couple of guys with the FBI that I could get stuff like this from. I don't know the first guy that I could trust with the FBI and say who, who was in town last Tuesday from the Mafia that probably is not in town, you know.
- Q. Well, could you talk to BELLI yourself?
- A. I could talk to BELLI, but, er, er, how could he, does he have any other with the FBI?
- Q. I don't know about the FBI, I'm thinking about other sources.
- A. I thought that if Mr. Garrison, you know, was out here with BELLI and all, well, probably Garrison could get more from BELLI can I could on this, you know?
- Q. Yeah, I, he, er, he would not likely want to talk about this by phone, unless he could find a phone that he is absolutely certain of.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. And he might not trust BELLI's phone for other reasons. Because of the kind of litigations he...
- A. maybe I could arrange just to have coffee with him or something, then there won't be a phone involved then.
- Q. I think that -- that's exactly what I had in mind.
- A. Besides BELLI, who might I...
- Q. That's what I was asking you, I don't know who is who out there. Is there any safe person in the Police Department?
- A. Yeah, there is, a couple of good guys on the Police Department but I, but they're in the, you know, wrong branches, wrong departments for this specific thing. But maybe they could put me in contact...
- Q. That's what I had in mind.
- A. Yeah. Let me explore it tomorrow.
- Q. Please do, HARV. His office phone, in case something develops and you want me to call you back on another phone...
- A. Whose, Garrison's?
- Q. Yeah. During the course of the day I can always be reached there. It's 822...
- A. What is it again?

- Q. 822.
- A. 822.
- Q. 2414.
- A. Okay.
- Q. And if you just, say, er, give a message saying that you want me to call you, er, just say you have a message from HARV, HARV wants you to call him .
- A. Okay.
- Q. And I'll understand.
- A. Good enough.
- Q. His office phone is very private, I mean very public.
- A. Okay, so you wouldn't talk on that phone but I can...
- Q. About this, unless it's urgent, I would not.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. I would then call you back reverse and I would know I would get nobody but you.
- A. Okay, just one more second (pause - inaudible conversation). You know, JONN's moved, and he hasn't got a new phone yet and we were trying to get ahold of him by Christmas. (inaudible)
- Q. Yes, he may know somebody.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. I haven't heard from him. Of course, I may have. I think Flo said there was a note from him. She said he was ill. That's right, she did say. His wife is, as you know, . Well, that seems to be under control. I mean the prospects for that seem to be okay.
- A. Yeah, yeah, after the operation, yeah.
- Q. Yes.
- A. Well, that's about it and I wish it weren't so sketchy.
- Q. Well, I think the important thing you've told me, HARV, and that's of the existence of it and that it apparently is underway now. My understanding was that after this happened, and this you're not sure of, that the man left for New Orleans today.
- A. He left for New Orleans today.
- Q. Yes.
- A. So, you know, whether this is planned over a period of time or going to be right away or, if there's any, anything to it at all, I don't know.

- Q. Do you think the man is from San Francisco?
- A. (Pause - inaudible conversation)
There again is something we'll have to find out tomorrow or the next day.
- Q. Does he think he might be able to get the identity?
- A. Yeah. Probably, maybe.
- Q. That could be important.
- A. Yeah. As you can see is the most important thing, this guy, as you can derstand, you know, if anything screws up and he gets out, the guy will be aiming for him.
- Q. If it gets out, which it doesn't have to, it certainly won't get out down here.
- A. Yeah. Yeah, I know. But he doesn't know me well enough to take my assurance for the fact that it won't get out and since I'm two removed from the man who knows the name he certainly has no reason to take my word for it.
- Q. Yeah. Is the man from San Francisco who has the contract?
- A. This, this, this gentleman here with me doesn't know, the other guy does.
- Q. Yes. I'm looking for clues, you know.
- A. Yeah, yeah.
- Q. And I'm sure you've exhausted all of this.
- A. Yeah, yeah. I have.
- Q. Well, thank you very much, HARV. Thank you very much.
- A. Let me know as soon as you possibly can.
- Q. If I have, if I have anything at all to tell you, HARV, and I can find a safe way of doing it, I certainly will.
- A. Okay, now.
- Q. HARV, will you please also thank him?
- A. Will do.
- Q. It's a very important thing that he had done and I think he should know that I appreciate it .
- A. Well, let me get him on for a second.
- Q. Right.

CONVERSATION BETWEEN HAROLD WEISBERG AND INFORMANT:

- A. Yes, hello.
- Q. Hello, I want to thank you very, very much for what you've done. You've done an important thing, I think, for your Country, too.
- A. I'm aware of that possibility because I'm quite interested in, er, er, seeing things go well there.
- Q. Yes. Well, I do want to thank you. And if there's anything else you can find out, it will be handled very carefully as I'm sure you are sure, as I'm sure you know. Any other thing that you can add could be very important, especially the name of the man.
- A. Right, I understand that.
- Q. Yes.
- A. I'll do everything possible to get the information (inaudible) and yet I can't compromise my source's position.
- Q. Correct. And if you can't get a name, if you could get a description, anything at all.
- A. Yes. Well, I'll try.
- Q. Right.
- A. It was nice talking to you.
- Q. Same here. And again, thank you very, very much.
- A. Okay.
- Q. Okay. Let me say good night to HARV.
- A. Yes.

HAROLD WEISBERG AND HARV MORGAN:

- A. HAROLD?
- Q. I just wanted to thank you again.
- A. Okie doke. Now keep in touch.
- Q. Will do.
- A. Okay, HAROLD.
- Q. Bye.
- A. Bye-bye.