

[MARY CARTER BECOMES RESORTS INTERNATIONAL]

In 1969 Mary Carter—now called Resorts International—reluctantly "rejoined" one Dino Cellini, claiming that while he "had a relatively unsavory background, he had no criminal record, no criminal associates," Cellini hopped across the water to Miami, where, according to Dade County Sheriff Intelligence Reports, he continued to work in conjunction with Paradise Island Casino. The reports allege that Cellini was an almost daily visitor to Resorts International's Miami office, where he checked credits and worked with a company booking junkets to the Paradise Island Casino.

There are those who maintain that Cellini's connections with Resorts International symbolize the influence of Lansky. In a 1971 editorial, the Las Vegas Sun concluded an eleven part series on organized crime—some of which centered on Resorts International—by charging that "however cloaked and cleverly concealed by the guardians, gambling in the Bahamas is controlled by Meyer Lansky and it has been established in police intelligence reports that the fee is fifteen percent of the gross income." The now-defunct Toronto Telegram reported in 1970 that "observers believe that the resourceful Lansky is still managing to get his cut from the Bahamas."

Resorts International, through its ninety-one percent owned subsidiary, Interjet, has denied all allegations of involvement with organized crime. It was interjet that ITT hired in 1972 to snoop on columnist Jack Anderson. The latest and possibly most damaging charge in the Resorts International battle came this past June in an IRS inspired indictment of Meyer Lansky and Dino Cellini. The indictment reads in part:

"On or about May 17, 1966, undicted co-conspirator Vincent Teresa met with defendants Meyer Lansky and Dino Cellini in Miami and had a discussion wherein defendants Lansky and Cellini gave Teresa permission to conduct gambling junkets to the Paradise Island Casino."

Thus government agents allege that in 1968 Lansky maintained at least some control in running junkets to Resorts International's Paradise Island Casino. The junket racket is an integral part of the casino operation, and as recently

[ENTER NIXON AND REBOZO]

It was in 1967—with Lansky still okaying junkets and Cellini still running the Paradise Island Casino—that Richard Nixon and Bebe Rebozo became friends with the head of Resorts International. It should be no surprise that James Golden, the recently (1969) hired

"deputy director of security" for Resorts International is a good friend of Nixon's. As a Secret Service guard for Nixon when he was Vice President, Golden made a good enough impression to be appointed staff security chief for Nixon in 1968. Golden was also security director of Nixon's convention headquarters in Miami that year, and was security director for his subsequent inauguration. Later that year he moved to Resorts International. Golden is just one of a long string of interesting Nixon security appointees, among them Watergate indictees James McCord, Gordon Liddy, and Howard Hunt.

There are rumors, some of which have been aired in the press, that Richard Nixon owns stock in Resorts International. Former Republican Presidential candidate Thomas E. Dewey does own stock in the company, and, according to organized crime investigator Hank Messick, among others, there are reports of Lansky buying stock as well. Nobody has proved anything one way or another about the stock connections, but that Nixon is connected to Resorts International, at least through Golden, is indisputable.

Perhaps more disquieting than rumors of Nixon stock ownership in an underworld holding company for Bahamian casinos are the reports of his meddling in Bahamian affairs. In 1969 a proposed tax increase on gambling profits to provide money for Bahamian schools was slashed in half by the Minister of Finance. The Minister refused to explain the cut, and told opposition members to "use your imagination" for an explanation.

The advice was taken literally by some Bahamian papers who speculated that pressure came from "outside sources connected with casinos." One Bahamian paper asked openly if "a telephone call from the White House was not responsible?"

Enter William Rogers

Two men with histories both in Bahamian politics and in the finances of organized crime have made frequent use of the legal services of a firm whose most prominent partner is Richard Nixon's old friend William P. Rogers, now Secretary of State.

The two men are Mike McLaney, charged by the Royal Commission in 1967, and a business cohort of his named William Colusardo. McLaney and Colusardo were investigated in 1967 by the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with a blueberry plantation that McLaney sold to a company controlled by Colusardo. The subsequent corporate jugglings implicated (among others) newly elected Bahamian Premier Lyndon Pindling. Among Colusardo's "favors" for Pindling were the use of his airplane during the election campaign, and a \$127,000 contribution in the form of an "interest payment." The law firm that defended McLaney and Colusardo against the SEC was that of William P. Rogers. Rogers had been a close friend and political associate of Nixon's for twenty-five years. He accompanied Nixon on many of his Bahamian jaunts and also made frequent stops with him at the Key Biscayne Inn and Villas. In addition to being an "R & R" sidekick, Rogers was the man Nixon turned to for counsel amidst his personal crises in the Checkers affair and Eisenhower's serious heart attack.

Rogers served the Eisenhower/Nixon team for eight years in the Department of Justice, first as Deputy Attorney General, and then, by 1957, as Attorney General. The Justice Department's record against organized crime in the years following the Kei-lu-wei Commission was lackluster, to say the least. It was Rogers who personally rejected the recommendations of the

the on of organized crime set up in the wake of the notorious Appalachian raid in upstate New York that revealed a Mahanese dominance. The Committee's proposal for a centralized and coordinated war on organized crime were only implemented some years later by Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

A footnote in the Justice Department files was a report by IRS Special Agent Joseph DeLine, dated October 19, 1953. The IRS recommended to the Justice Department that "criminal proceedings be instituted against Meyer Lansky in the Southern Judicial District of New York for the willful attempt to defeat and evade a large portion of his income taxes for the years 1945 and 1947 under section 145b of the Internal Revenue Code." The Justice Department—with William Rogers second in command at the time—respectfully declined to prosecute.

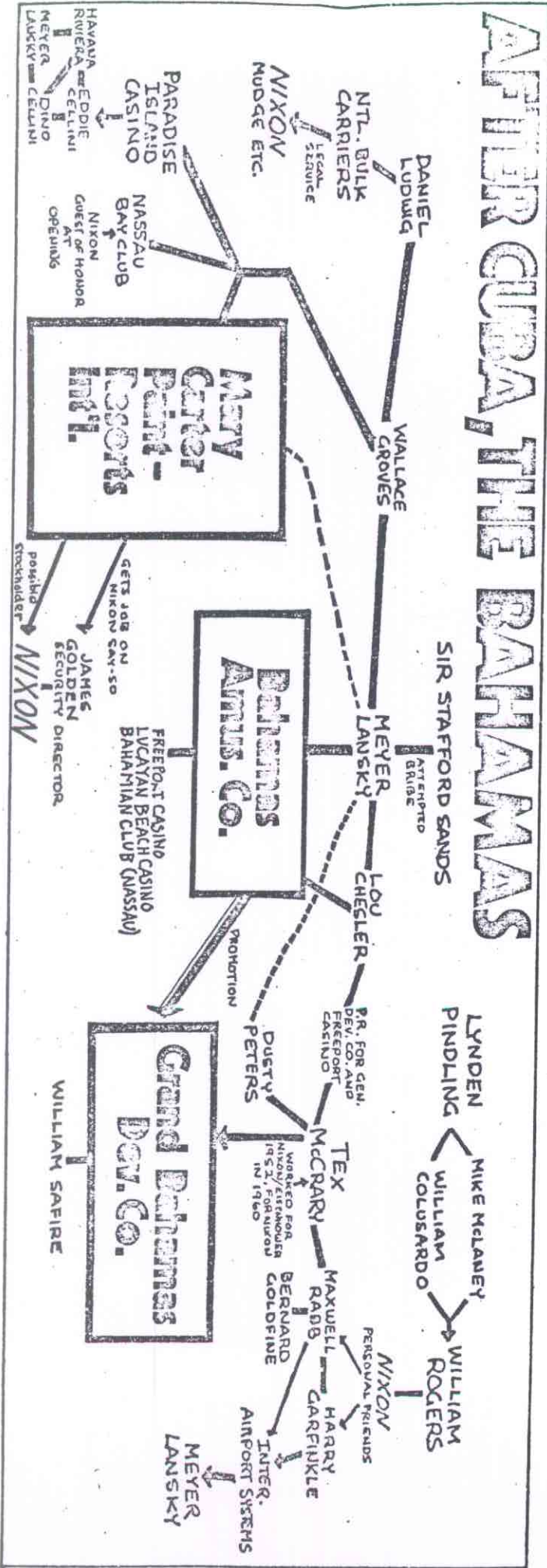
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HAKELEU IN THE BAHAMAS]
By the middle Sixties, there was a boom brewing. Internal friction had receded out a few people like Lou Rebozo, while a wave of public investments were blaring the role of under-rid figures like Meyer Lansky. The 67 Royal Commission of Inquiry also edged up another familiar name—Richard Nixon.
Testimony before the Royal Commission by Max Courteney, a Lansky lieutenant, detailed a long bookmaking career and brought out the names of large clientele, including the then-ex-
President Richard Nixon.
[MARY CARTER PAINT]
The Royal Commission also bared a which implicated Richard Nixon far deeper than passing mention by underground bookie.
In 1967 Lyndon Pindling became the st black premier ever to serve the most one hundred percent black rily a revolutionary, however, forcing the people instrumental in putting him in office was a gambler close Lansky named Mike McLaney. The Royal Commission branded McLaney a thoroughly dangerous person, and cursed him of maneuvering Pindling to at least one deal involving a questionable gambling concession.
Part of the post-election controversy is a company based in Tampa which re the innocuous name of "Mary Carter Paint Company."
In 1965 Lansky's front-man (and former Key Biscayne landowner) Walter Groves, filed a joint application with the Mary Carter Company to open a casino on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. The ubiquitous Sir Stafford hands handled the legalities. Know-ridgable observers looked for the system man, and a Justice Department memo dated January 18, 1966 predicted "the atmosphere seems ripe for a nsky skim."
After Pindling's election, Groves was reced out and the Mary Carter Paint company had itself two new casinos. t the 1967 opening of one of them—the Nassau Bay Club—the honored guest was Richard Nixon.
The following year—1968—the other Mary Carter Club, the Paradise Island casino, opened for business. The owners felt close enough to Nixon to offer use of their facilities during the 1968 Republican Convention. Nixon felt ore comfortable at Key Biscayne, but at his staff took up the offer.

"The shift of organized crime from Cuba to the Bahamas is symbolic of the major underworld realignments that took place after the Cuban revolution. Among others who found the Bahamas a suitable substitute for Cuba was our old gambling friend, Richard Nixon."

"The penetration of business and government by organized crime has been so complete that it is no longer possible to differentiate 'underworld' gangsters from 'upper-world' businessmen and government officials."

AFTER CUBA, THE BAHAMAS



CARL MUECKE