

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
8/20/75

Mr. Les Whitten
c/o Jack Anderson
1401 16 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Les,

The today's column as it appears in the Frederick Post opens with a Samoza item.

The founding father of that dictatorship called the Italian ambassador in during the World War II period. His purpose was to get a personal account from Mussolini of the way to do it as Il Duce did.

Dutifully the ambassador wrote the letter.

We captured it in World War II. In the Italian Foreign Office. It reached Washington on film. The film was also printed. I don't know whether the original documents ever came here.

The State Department may have released this letter but unless on release it got no attention it didn't. I believe that with the time lapse it can't any longer be withheld under Executive Order 11652.

The only FOIA exemption that might be invoked of which I can think is that which does give the right - not as broadly as the government pretends - where there can be an influence on foreign relations.

This one I did see. It passed through my hands.

What I saw records of but could never find is 25 reels of microfilm of what the partisans captured with Mussolini. Maybe it was 25 suitcases the contents of which that could be copied were microfilmed. I traced them to the Pentagon. And never could find them although I remember trying.

Those trusting partisans turned the stuff over to the U.S.Army.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

P.S. JFK could not have faked that ambassador's letter. He was busy in another part of the world.

Jack Anderson

WASHINGTON — In an earlier column, we named Anastasio Somoza, the Big Banana of Nicaragua, as the world's greediest ruler.

Our conclusion was based on documents, written in Spanish and smuggled out of Nicaragua, which we compared with secret U.S. records.

The Somoza family has acquired, incredibly, half the private property in this little nation. Their farm acreage alone is roughly equivalent in size to the entire republic of El Salvador.

Their enormous wealth has been squeezed out of impoverished subjects, whose average pay is a meager 30 cents an hour. Nicaraguans can't turn around without contributing to the Somoza fortune. The dictator rakes off a profit from the food they eat, the clothes they wear, the houses they live in, the banks they borrow from.

No enterprise is too small to escape Somoza's grasp. He has an interest in distilleries, sugar mills, cement factories, meat packing plants, hog and cattle farms, cigarette and cigar production, professional sports, recreation spas, recording companies, travel agencies, the national airline, hotels, houses of prostitution, salt plants and shoe factories.

The dictator even takes blood from his countrymen at \$5 for half a liter and sells it abroad for \$35 a liter. He made a personal visit to Haiti in 1971 to see how the bloodsuckers there operate.

In 1955, the family was granted the "rights" to every television channel in the country. For five years thereafter, they held exclusive rights to import television sets. They also own a number of radio stations.

Their properties range from teeming slums to a metal company, which produces galvanized steel, round iron and metal structures. Another Somoza plant makes the cement that is used to pave the streets of Managua.

Each year the dictator raises about \$4 million for his political party, the Nationalist Liberal Party, through forced donations from government employees. They don't have to worry about the paperwork; the payments are automatically deducted from their paychecks.

Many are also compelled to cough up donations for banquets in Somoza's

honor and, each December, they "contribute" about \$100,000 in gifts for his birthday.

The dictator has also planted relatives in choice jobs, where they, too, have grown rich. His brother, Jose, is the Army's powerful Inspector General. An uncle runs the nation's power and light company.

A cousin is president of INFONAC, a national development institute set up to funnel foreign aid and commercial loans into family enterprises. Another cousin is editor of the family newspaper, which all state employees are required to subscribe to.

Somoza's brother-in-law, Guillermo Sevilla - Sacasa, is the Nicaraguan ambassador in Washington where he is widely regarded as the most pompous person in town. He also holds the world record, no doubt, for attending parties.

The dictator's wife, Hope Portocarrero de Somoza, is an American citizen. This hasn't prevented her from holding down two top government positions. It is strictly against U.S. law

for American citizens to hold office in foreign governments, but she has managed somehow to get around it.

Like his wife, Somoza's mistress, Dinorah Sampson, is also a power in Nicaragua. She controls the nominations to various public offices and does a thriving business on the side in contraband clothing and jewels.

Footnote: We have made repeated attempts to reach a responsible official at the Nicaraguan embassy for comment and rebuttal. We were told that no one was available to talk to us.

NIXON'S MEMOIRS: Richard Nixon has completed the first 100,000 words of his memoirs. He is writing the final draft himself.

The big question is: what will he say about Watergate? Sources who have talked to him have found him bitter and defensive on the subject. From remarks he has made, they expect him to accept the responsibility for Watergate but then blame everyone else for what happened.

The visitors report Nixon looking

With LES WHITTEN

tanned, fit and healthy. The limp from his phlebitis operation is gone. After a year in exile, his friends report, Nixon seems to be accepting his fate and looking hopefully toward the future.

WYMAN'S OFFICE: The General Services Administration has given favored treatment to Louis Wyman, the Republican candidate, in the disputed New Hampshire Senate election.

The photo-finish campaign between Wyman and Democrat John Durkin has been sent back to the state for a re-run.

But while the two candidates were in Washington, fighting it out in the Senate chamber, Wyman was operating two federal offices back home — one in Portsmouth and one in Manchester. Durkin was given no equivalent space.

The GSA generously provided Wyman with \$12,365.84 worth of office space and another \$3,857 worth of furnishings. A GSA spokesman told us the space was vacated August 7. It was merely a coincidence, he said, that this happened to be the day after our first inquiry.