



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Castro Rigging the Numbers?

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(Drew Pearson's column is written today by his associate, Jack Anderson.)

Washington.

The Justice Dept.'s crimebusters will open a grand jury investigation later this month into organized crime in Miami. They hope not only to trap some of the underworld's big birds who fly south for the winter but to determine whether Cuban dictator Fidel Castro obtains precious U.S. dollars by rigging the largest quarter-and-dime lottery now operating in this country.

William G. Hundley, the modern Elliott Ness who heads the Justice Dept.'s special unit on organized crime, will go to Miami personally to kick off the investigation.

He is disturbed over the fact that Castro has absolute control over the 57-year-old Cuban National Lottery, long a favorite source of numbers for the numbers racket in this country. This puts him in a position to pick the pockets of hundreds of thousands of American citizens, who wager their small change on the fall of the numbers each week in Havana.

The drawing is broadcast, supposedly live from Havana, at 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Persistent reports have reached federal authorities, however, that Castro "fixes" the lottery and relays the winning numbers in advance to his agents in the U.S.

By scattering their bets discreetly from Key West to Boston, they could clean up an estimated \$500,000 a week—enough to finance Communist revolution throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Internal Revenue agents, who have tried to track down evidence that Castro is rigging the lottery, have uncovered enough to arouse their suspicions, but no positive proof. The federal grand jury will attempt to dig deeper.

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Hundley's crimebusters are also eager to break up the crime syndicate which controls the numbers racket in southern Florida. They have evidence that it is run by the old Cleveland mob.

One of the bosses, Morris Kleinman, now owns

a home on fashionable Bay Harbor Island outside Miami.

The day-to-day operations are directed by Hyman Martin, who in his leaner days was known as Pittsburgh Hymie but is now more appropriately called Fat Hymie.

He has an arrest record dating back to the roaring twenties when he was once picked up for highway robbery. He was convicted in 1931 of killing Cleveland Councilman William Potter. But lawyers wangled a new trial, several witnesses changed their stories, and Hymie went free.

Only a minor racketeer, Solly Hart, ever served a sentence in the famous murder case. Caught with a pistol, he went to jail for carrying a concealed weapon. He is now in Miami, too, working with his old pal, Fat Hymie.

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President Johnson is keeping a careful count of every conversation held and every overture made in his present peace drive. He is preparing to quote these statistics to anyone who calls on him in the future, crying peace.

The President wants to give the peacemakers their chance. He is sincerely exploring every path, knocking on every door that might possibly lead to peace. Yet he is known to have little faith in the outcome. The most he hopes to accomplish is to convince the world that it is the Communists who are obstructing peace in Viet Nam.

The President plans to lay the story of his peace drive before Congressional leaders. He will plead that nothing short of military defeat will compel Hanoi to accept a meaningful peace. Therefore, he will ask for a vote of confidence in the form of a Congressional resolution authorizing him to take whatever military action he considers necessary to continue the war.

Of course, the pressure for peace from the people of the world may force both sides to the truce table. But the North Vietnamese response to the peace feelers has indicated little interest in settling the Viet Nam war except on their own harsh terms.