

Agency Information

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TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-9)

DATE: 12/29/60

FROM : SAC, Pittsburgh (92-407)

SUBJECT: ORGANIZED CRIME AND RACKETEERING
CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM

REVIEWED BY IRS FBI/JFK TASK FORCE

7-20-98

RELEASE

RELEASE

TOTAL

ReBulet to Albany, 12/13/60.

Attached are the original and five copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning the nature and extent of the LaRocca-Genovese Organization for dissemination to the Department, together with original and 5 copies of PD-323.

The sources utilized in the attached memorandum are identified as follows:

PG T-1 is [redacted] a PCI of the Pittsburgh Office who is intimately acquainted with both GENOVESE and LA ROCCA through association with them when they began their racket careers in Pittsburgh's East Liberty Section. He was contacted initially by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on 2/27/58, and has been utilized on a continuing basis in the Pittsburgh Top Hoodlum Program.

PG T-2 is information received from the Internal Revenue Service through Bureau liaison on Bureau letter dated 12/20/57; letter of SA JOHN C. SCHWARTZ, Pittsburgh, Pa. Internal Revenue Service dated 12/5/57 and photostatic copies of the income tax reports of MIKE GENOVESE from 1951 through 1956.

PG T-3 is PG 612-C who was contacted by SA RICHARD GORDON DOUCE on 10/14/60.

CG T-1 is CG 6343-C who was contacted by SAS of the Chicago Office of the FBI on 9/8/59, and whose information was subsequently furnished to the Pittsburgh Office on 9/9/59.

- 2 - Bureau (Encls 4)
- 3 - Pittsburgh
 - (1 - 92-226)
 - (1 - 92-235)

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PG T-4 is PG 585-C who was contacted by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on 2/19/58 and has been utilized on a continuing basis in the Top Hoodlum Program of the Pittsburgh Office.

PG T-5 is the report of G. WILSON STITELER, Reviewer-Conferée, Intelligence Division, Internal Revenue Service, dated 4/18/55.

PG T-6 is PG 514-C contacted by SA JOHN S. PORTELLA on 11/25/57.

The Special Agent to whom SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA explained his business at the North Star Cement Block Company in Pittsburgh on 4/30/59 is SA ROBERT A. VOEGE of the Pittsburgh Office.

The Special Agent who interviewed ARTHUR D. NELSON on 9/1/59 in connection with the Phoenix Motel at Monroeville, Pa. is SA ROBERT A. VOEGE of the Pittsburgh Office.

PG T-7 is ROBERT GANLEY of the Intelligence Division, Internal Revenue Service, Pittsburgh, Pa., who was contacted by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on 10/29/59.

The Special Agent to whom Mrs. ELIZABETH LOUTSENHIZER talked about the operation of the Toll Gate Motel at Monroeville, Pa. on 4/25/60 is SA ROBERT A. VOEGE of the Pittsburgh Office.

PG T-8 is JFK Act 6 (4) a PCI of the Pittsburgh Office, who was contacted by SA ROBERT A. VOEGE on 9/12/60, and who is being utilized for continuing information in the Pittsburgh Top Hoodlum Program.

913-109973



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
December 29, 1960

JFK Act 6 (4)

THE LA ROCCA-GENOVESE ORGANIZATION

I. CHARACTERIZATION AND ORIGIN OF THE ORGANIZATION

The most complete understanding of the origin and background of the LaRocca-Genovese Organization can probably be obtained from information relating to the early activities of SEBASTIAN JOHN LA ROCCA and MIKE GENOVESE furnished to the Pittsburgh Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation as follows: JOHN LA ROCCA

On February 27, 1958, [redacted] advised that he had been in the numbers writing activity since about 1928 and is still active in this regard. He said that most of Pittsburgh's present day "big racket men" once depended on him solely for protection purposes since he knew local and state police figures and recalled that JOHN LA ROCCA was one of these racketeers. [redacted] stated that LA ROCCA became acquainted with him in about 1941 or 1942 when LA ROCCA was handling all the numbers activity in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh and had set himself up as a "little God." When LA ROCCA became dissatisfied with his financial gains, he left Pittsburgh on a trip to Chicago to see friends about paste reel machines with which he felt he could make more money. [redacted] said a paste reel was similar to a "one-armed bandit" with the exception that a small paper-wrapped mint was dispensed after the coin was placed in the slot and the play was registered. The Chicago manufacturer of this machine circumvented the "strictly for gambling purposes" phraseology in the law in this manner.

While LA ROCCA was in Chicago, [redacted] said he moved into the East Liberty section and took over the entire numbers operation. He turned in his numbers returns to one GEORGE CHRISTY (now deceased) in Pittsburgh. When LA ROCCA returned to Pittsburgh he became angry with [redacted] and his move and had someone drive a car over [redacted] one night as he was crossing a street. [redacted] said when he was discharged from the hospital he found out that

PA
ONE
CHRIST JAMES GENOVESE
6325 SHETLAND AVE
PITTSBURGH
PENNSYLVANIA

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ENCLOSURE

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his automobile had numerous bullet holes in it. JFK Act 6 (4) said that because he thought he would make money in the East Liberty section, he stayed in the business of writing numbers and actually forced LA ROCCA out of the numbers business.

JFK Act 6 (4) advised that in about 1943, he and LA ROCCA became friendly and LA ROCCA invited him to share equally in the ownership of the Coin Machine Distributing Company which later set up offices at 5746 Baum Boulevard in Pittsburgh. JFK Act 6 (4) recalled that LA ROCCA was completely bankrupt at that time because of numbers setbacks but managed to raise enough money to put up his share. JFK Act 6 (4) said he personally travelled to Chicago to arrange for the purchase of machines to be distributed by this company and had a verbal agreement with ART ROONEY who allowed him to place these machines throughout the East Liberty, Homewood and Garfield sections of Pittsburgh where ROONEY was not operating. According to JFK Act 6 (4) ROONEY, who is the present owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers, professional football club, was the only man who could get paste reels before LA ROCCA tried, and controlled the entire Pittsburgh vicinity in this regard. JFK Act 6 (4) said that the government placed a \$100 tax stamp on each machine and the City of Pittsburgh put a \$50 tax stamp on each machine. He said that other owners of the company, in addition to himself and LA ROCCA, were FRANK AMATO, BARNEY MC GINLEY, SAMUEL MANNARINO and F. W. ZOGG, the latter from Chicago. PA. ILL. PA. PA. ILL.

JFK Act 6 (4) advised that the company was doing well financially before Allegheny County authorities raided establishments where the machines had been placed and forced it out of business. He recalled that although each of the six aforementioned individuals owned an equal share in the company, SAM MANNARINO and LA ROCCA seemed to run everything and held meetings at which important subjects were discussed in Italian, which he did not understand. He advised that he realized that LA ROCCA was only using him for his proven protection methods and JFK Act 6 (4) did not mind as long as he got his cut of the profits. He recalled that during 1946 or 1947, MIKE GENOVESE came on the scene. He stated that this individual had been a pickup man for LA ROCCA in the East Liberty-Homewood section of Pittsburgh and was a tough kid who, according to JFK Act 6 (4) "was almost begging to go to jail." He said LA ROCCA turned GENOVESE over to him and asked JFK Act 6 (4) to "keep him clean" because he had him in mind

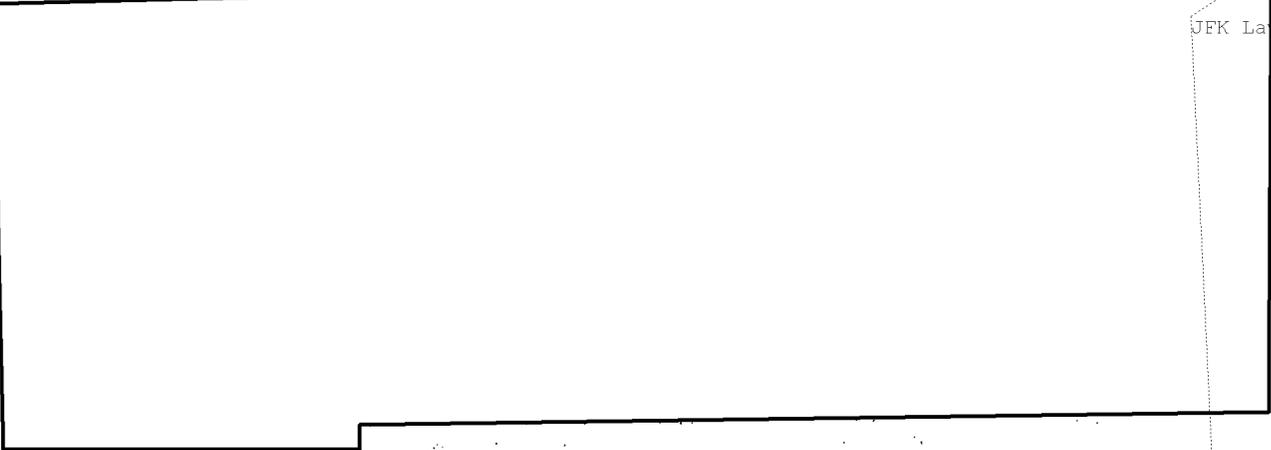
for future plans. He recalled that FRANK VALENTI, who was present at the Apalachin conference of hoodlums, and ANTONIO RIPEPI, a Pittsburgh hoodlum, visited the offices of the Coin Machine Distributing Company regularly and always took orders from MANNARINO and LA ROCCA. He said RIPEPI was a more important racket man than VALENTI but that LA ROCCA seemed to be the key man in the Pittsburgh area. He said he would place LA ROCCA and MANNARINO as the two men controlling the rackets in Western Pennsylvania and he sees MIKE GENOVESE as the logical successor to the top position. } PA.

PG T-1, who has expressed an unwillingness to appear before any future Federal or State proceedings, advised that in about 1947 Pittsburgh labor leader NICHOLAS STIRONE visited the offices of the Coin Machine Distributing Company and asked SAMUEL MANNARINO to get some "gorillas" to handle some men who were giving STIRONE labor trouble on a highway being built in the Monroeville, Pa., vicinity and more specifically to give the dissenters a "going over" at the same time they were upsetting their equipment. According to the informant, this job was carried out by SAMUEL MANNARINO for STIRONE but MANNARINO became incensed when he learned his "gorillas" had hurt some older Italian men. The informant said that MANNARINO had been under the impression that the men who had defied STIRONE were young punks. PA.

The aforementioned informant advised that the term "Mafia" was never used when he was closely associated with LA ROCCA, AMATO and the MANNARINO brothers. He said that everyone knew these individuals during the late 1930s and early 1940s as "blackhanders" and that this term was bandied about without fear at the offices of the Coin Machine Distributing Company when LA ROCCA held sway. He said that the aforementioned individuals hired groups of "toughs" to do their work for them and that these hoodlums of low intelligence and poor Italian background carried no knives or guns. He said that he recalls that they were armed with cue sticks which they had ostensibly stolen from poolrooms throughout the Pittsburgh area and which had been sawed off to 12-15-inch lengths. He explained that the heavy end of the cue stock was used as the business end and that a hole was bored into the bottom and lead used as a further weight. He said that after

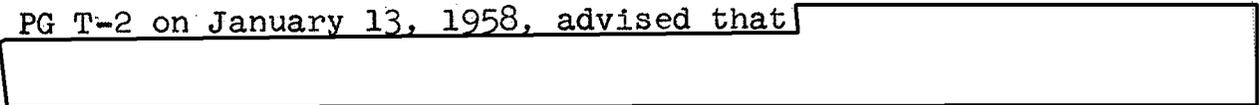
III. POSSIBLE ACTIVITY OF OPERATIONS

PG T-5, another government agency conducting intelligence investigations,



PG T-6, who has expressed an unwillingness to appear before any future Federal or State proceedings, stated that he was with PAT TIANI, described by the informant as a used car salesman on the afternoon of November 25, 1957, when TIANI met MIKE GENOVESE and they entered the Genovese Cocktail Lounge together. He said he met TIANI two hours later and was told that GENOVESE had been discussing the meeting at Apalachin, N. Y. According to TIANI, GENOVESE remarked that "They'll never find out what went on in New York and when they do no one will ever believe it." The informant explained that according to TIANI, GENOVESE said the meeting in New York took place in order to plan legitimate enterprises in which the group might make an investment and it was agreed that motels should be built throughout the country and be operated legitimately. The informant said that according to TIANI, GENOVESE said the local representatives were to begin the construction of a motel in their territory and if they encountered any financial trouble the group meeting at Apalachin would be called upon for assistance.

PG T-2 on January 13, 1958, advised that



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11(a)
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

December 29, 1960

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