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11/26/63

Airtel

To: SAC, Detroit (29-1432)

From: Director, FBI (29-31889) -173

EX. 117

JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA
DOMINICK EDWARD BARTONE, AKA., ET AL.
FRA; ITSP; MF; FBW; CONSPIRACY
(OO: Detroit)

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(JFK)

ReDEairtel dated 11/22/63 with LHM enclosed.

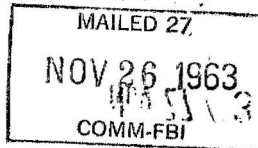
Dissemination of reLHM being withheld at the Bureau and
Detroit should do likewise pending clarification of the following:

Reairtel does not specifically indicate the date or
the person from whom information furnished by Robert C. Meissner
to Department Attorney William French was received. If Mr. French
made this information available to the Detroit Office, there
appears to be no need for concealing either his identity as the
person who furnished this information or the identity of
Meissner as French's source in reLHM inasmuch as this memorandum
is disseminated to the Criminal Division of the Department only.
If Mr. French requested that Meissner's identity be protected
in this manner, you should so state in your cover airtel as well
as indicating any reason he may have for such a request.

By return airtel advise Bureau clarification of above
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present form.

1 - Chicago (29-1999) (Information)

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DOMINICK EDWARD BARTONE, aka; ET AL
FRA; ITSP; MF; FBW; CONSPIRACY
(OO: DETROIT)

Remyairtel 11/12/63.

Enclosed herewith to the Bureau are four copies of an LHM containing information furnished to Dept. Attorney WILLIAM FRENCH by ROBERT C. MEISSNER, based upon a discussion between MEISSNER and JOSEPH F. VERHELLE at the Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C. on 11/18/63.

A copy of this LHM is being furnished to Chicago for information in view of the fact that MEISSNER resides there and reference is made to possible future developments in Chicago. A copy of this LHM also will be furnished to FRENCH at Detroit.

Dept. Attorney THOMAS J. MC KEON, Detroit, advised on 11/22/63 that FRENCH has returned to Washington, D.C., and it was not known definitely at this time whether VERHELLE still plans to meet MEISSNER in Chicago 11/25/63, as they had tentatively planned on 11/18/63.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
1 - Chicago (Info.) (29-1999) (Enc. 1)
1 - Detroit
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2 LHM Criminal Division - 060
Attention: Mr. Walter J. Sheridan
Room 2500

29-31889-173
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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Detroit, Michigan

November 22, 1963

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA; DOMINICK
EDWARD BARTONE; ET AL
FEDERAL RESERVE ACT; INTERSTATE
TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN
PROPERTY; MAIL FRAUD; FRAUD BY
WIRE; CONSPIRACY

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The following information was recently received by the Department of Justice from a confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past:

A conference of various persons including James R. Hoffa, two vice presidents of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and Joseph F. Verhelle, former president of Public Bank, Detroit, allegedly took place in Hoffa's office in Washington, D.C., on or about November 18, 1963. They discussed matters concerning the Teamsters Pension Fund, allegedly including the possibility of a loan from the fund for the purpose of purchasing the building at 130 North Franklin, Chicago, Illinois. Meissner Engineers, Inc. (MEI), formerly occupied the top five floors of this building and now is reportedly interested in purchasing the building, possibly in conjunction with Verhelle and/or other purchasers.

Verhelle reportedly felt that the above-mentioned loan could be made and that Robert C. Meissner, president of MEI, could be of assistance to Hoffa in view of business and political contacts of MEI in Nashville, Tennessee, and Chicago. Verhelle indicated he had received information that MEI had done work on a chemical plant in Tennessee about a year ago and also had contacts with the Tennessee Highway Department and various other agencies and political figures in Tennessee. Verhelle also conveyed the impression that Federal Judge Richard Austin of Chicago is an old friend

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JAMES RIDDLE HOFFA;
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of the Meissner family. To further explore the possibility that Meissner might be utilized for the benefit of Hoffa in connection with the cases pending in Federal courts in Nashville and Chicago, Verhelle indicated that he would soon confer with an attorney who was not identified by name but who was referred to as the "quarterback" of the team of more than 30 attorneys who reportedly are working on these cases for Hoffa. Verhelle anticipated that after so conferring, it would be determined whether Meissner might be able to help Hoffa through efforts directed toward one or more members of a jury or toward the judge himself.

Verhelle allegedly favored trying to make an "arrangement" with Judge Austin through Meissner on the basis of being an "old friend", and it was Verhelle's feeling that if Judge Austin were to make some rather minor procedural mistake that would cause a mistrial, such a "human error" on the part of the judge would not destroy his career but would be of great value to Hoffa. Verhelle indicated that in return for such favors to Hoffa, "they" would be happy to pay the persons responsible for the favors. Tentative arrangements were made for Verhelle to attempt to meet with Meissner in Chicago in the near future, to discuss the possibility of a Pension Fund loan to purchase the building at 130 North Franklin and also the possibility of Meissner being of assistance to Hoffa in regard to pending court cases.

Verhelle also intimated that he has a number of bank accounts in Switzerland and that he handles some of these accounts for Hoffa.

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