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CRIMINAL ELEMENT IN BUSINESS FIELD RACE TRACKS NY
DIVISION
SALVATORE GRANELLO

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During the Fall of 1953, the Algam Corporation came under investigation by the state appointed Moreland Act Commission, which was investigating harness racing tracks. After numerous hearings, the Old Country Trotting Association, Incorporated was ordered to sell its Yonkers stock under a common ruling which banned interlocking directorates in the harness racing industry.

Other New York hoodlum interests in race tracks was reported on September 10, 1958, by PCI SEYMOUR POLLACK. On that date POLLACK advised that SALVATORE GRANELLO and his partner and associate GEORGE LEVINE are the present owners of the Oriente Park Race Track in Havana, Cuba. The informant advised that these individuals also operate gambling casinos at the track site and obtain most of their revenue from this latter activity.

Regarding the Oriente Park Race Track, an interview with well known hoodlum MEYER LANSKY by Bureau agents in 1939 indicated, according to LANSKY, that he and FRANK ERICKSON, nationally known New York gambler, had in 1938 obtained a six year contract to operate the track. LANSKY at that time failed to indicate the exact degree of ownership that he and ERICKSON exercised in the operation of the track.

C. Degree of Influence

No additional information is known concerning the amount of influence exerted by the above individuals in the operations of the tracks involved, other than that set out above.

It is also noted that although NICHOLAS RATTENNI holds a large block of voting stock in Roosevelt Raceway, there was as of August, 1958, over six and one half million shares of stock outstanding in that corporation.

It would appear, however, that in sizing up the degree of influence exerted by these individuals on the entire industry in the New York Division that it could be considered negligible.